

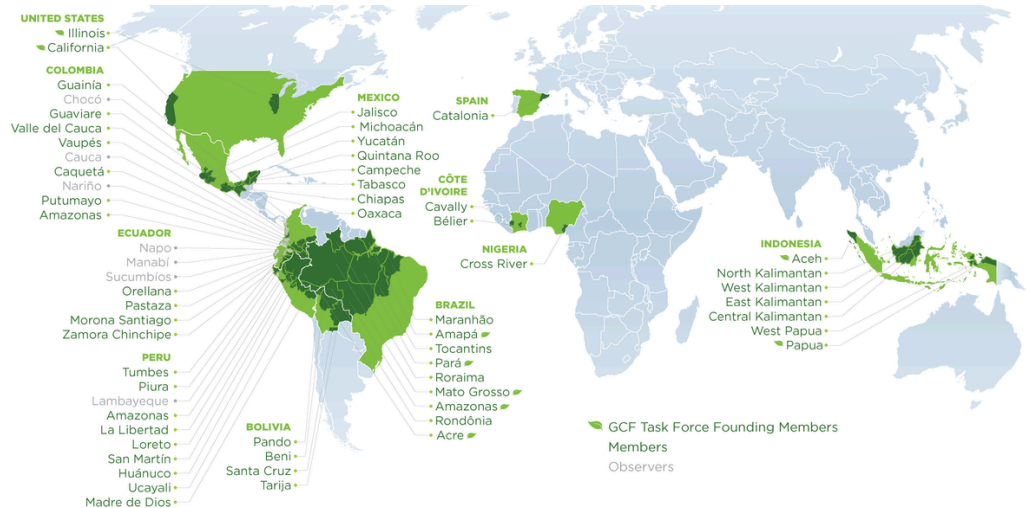


Build a New Forest Economy with Us

Building a New Forest Economy, one that protects intact forests, restores degraded lands, and promotes sustainable commodity production and livelihoods, is one of the most important challenges of our time. It is critical for the climate. It is critical for biodiversity. And it is critical for the economic security of billions of people all over the world. **Join the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force as we build a New Forest Economy!**

About Us

The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force) is the world's largest subnational governmental network dedicated to protecting forests, reducing emissions, and enhancing livelihoods across the tropics. The GCF Task Force was established in 2008 under the guidance of the former Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger. **Our 54 member states and provinces span 11 countries and cover more than one-third of the world's tropical forests.**



The GCF Task Force is supported by a global Secretariat housed at the Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at UCLA School of Law, in partnership with the Institute of Behavioral Science at the University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder).

What We Do

For nearly two decades, the GCF Task Force has played a key role in supporting subnational governments as they build jurisdictional programs to reduce emissions from deforestation and land use and to promote sustainable pathways to economic development. With its broad network of partners from civil society, academia, the private sector, international organizations, donor governments, and Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), the GCF Task Force provides a **unique platform for political mobilization and cooperation, learning and exchange, and technical support.**



Technical Exchange, Peru (2025)
(Mancomunidad Regional Amazónica)



GCF Task Force Women for Forests and Climate Townhall at COP30
(Gil Silva/KYVO for GCF Task Force)



Govs. Barbalho and Newsom at COP30
(The Office of the California Governor)



GCF Task Force Annual Meeting (2025)
(Gil Silva/KYVO for GCF Task Force)

A New Forest Economy is an economic system that values standing forests and the services they provide over cleared land. It is a system designed to protect intact forests and restore degraded lands while promoting sustainable commodity production and livelihoods, especially for IPLCs living in or near forests. A New Forest Economy combines good governance and public policies with local wisdom and knowledge, and modern science and technology, in order to harness the power of private enterprise and public action. Building a New Forest Economy requires a long-term economic transformation away from an extractive approach into a more sustainable one that recognizes that we are all forest-dependent peoples.

The GCF Task Force has already laid the foundation for a New Forest Economy. In 2022, all GCF Task Force members signed the *Manaus Action Plan for a New Forest Economy* and renewed commitments to reduce deforestation by at least 80% by 2030. In 2024, we developed a detailed *Blueprint for A New Forest Economy* outlining four building blocks with key activities and funding mechanisms.

Building Blocks for a New Forest Economy



NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Protect forests as natural infrastructure. Leverage international financing and domestic budgets (e.g. carbon markets, PES, local development banks) to sustain life-essential services that underpin the other building blocks.

SUSTAINABLE COMMODITIES

Scaling productivity of commodities to increase value and meet demand without further land clearing. Join producers, commodity companies, transparency organizations, and researchers with private sector investments to benefit regional economies.



BIOECONOMY

Attract investments into community-based enterprises and startups that value standing forests. Drive local innovation and create sustainable livelihoods that can be scaled up.

RESTORATION

Pair large public and private upfront investments with repayment based on ecosystem benefits and cost savings stemming from restoration results, including carbon storage, increased resilience to wildfire, lower water purification costs and improved biodiversity.



Join Us

The GCF Task Force has time and again successfully demonstrated that “targeted funding for initiatives at a subnational level can have an outsized impact.”¹ **In order to replicate our successes, scale up, and make the New Forest Economy a reality, we urgently need at-scale investments to provide flexible, transparent, and targeted funding. Join us - our forests, our people, and our world depend on it.**

¹ United Nations Development Programme. 2024. *Subnational Success: Lessons from Tropical Forest Jurisdictions*. <https://www.undp.org/publications/subnational-success-lessons-tropical-forest-jurisdictions>



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