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**Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force and Climate Change Summit of the Americas
Convene in Guadalajara, Mexico, August 31-September 1, 2016**

Leaders from across the Americas and other tropical forest regions around the world, including Indonesia, Ivory Coast and Nigeria, are at a two-day conference, [the GCF Annual Meeting and Climate Change Summit of the Americas \(GCF-CCSA\)](#). The conference—to be opened by host Governor Aristóteles Sandoval of Jalisco, Mexico and other high-level participants, including Patricia Espinosa Cantellano (Executive Secretary of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC))—will focus on political and practical strategies that unite governments, civil society, and the private sector around common goals that address climate change.

Governors from 15 states and provinces from California to the Amazon Basin to Indonesia—many of whom are members of one of the largest subnational governmental networks for climate action, the [Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force \(GCF\)](#)—will gather with civil servants, leading environmental organizations, and local indigenous peoples and community leaders who are working on the frontlines of climate change. As one United Nations Development Program study notes: 50-80% of emissions reduction efforts will take place at the subnational level, in the states and municipalities around the world that often most profoundly feel the effects of climate change. Recognizing this, the GCF-CCSA conference is a landmark opportunity to unite state and provincial governmental leaders with other strategic partners, including global networks like the [Climate Group](#) and leading donors and financing partners such as the Norwegian Embassy, the World Bank, The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), and the [GCF Fund](#).

Over the course of two days, participants will engage in public panels and interactive sessions that focus on how ambitious policies, coupled with on-the-ground programs spanning across regions, are critical for stopping deforestation, curbing emissions, and involving local communities in combatting climate change. The meeting will include a series of announcements about new partnerships and initiatives that meet these goals. *Follow the 2016 Annual Meeting on Twitter: @GCFTaskForce / #GCFJalisco*

About the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF)

Tropical deforestation accounts for approximately 15% of the world's carbon pollution. Tropical forests also play a major role in removing carbon pollution from the atmosphere and are home to more than half of the world's terrestrial species and many of its remaining indigenous cultures. Over 25% of the world tropical forests are in GCF states and provinces. The GCF includes states and provinces that are leading the way in building comprehensive, jurisdiction-wide approaches to low emissions development and REDD+, as well as jurisdictions, most notably California, that are considering options for including REDD+ as part of a greenhouse gas compliance system. www.gcftaskforce.org

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