



July 13, 2010

VIA EMAIL

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Dear Interim REDD+ Partnership Co-Chairs Bietta and Kijima,

Thank you for your letter of July 6, 2010 regarding the first Technical Expert Meeting for the Informal REDD+ Partnership, to be held July 14 and 15, 2010 in Brasilia. The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) appreciates the opportunity to join this important discussion by providing written comments for your consideration.

The GCF is a unique subnational collaboration between 14 states and provinces from the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Mexico. The GCF and its members seek to integrate Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and other forest carbon activities into emerging greenhouse gas (GHG) compliance regimes. The GCF is sharing best practices in REDD+, developing rules for compliant REDD+ credits that link project and national accounting systems, raising awareness of the key role states and provinces play in land use, and identifying financial resources for states and provinces to pursue low-emission development pathways. States and provinces in many countries are at the forefront of the campaign to develop economic systems that reward conservation of forests over forest loss.

The GCF concluded its most recent meeting in Aceh, Indonesia where members noted progress already made and agreed on a work plan¹ for the balance of 2010. This work plan has four main components:

¹ GCF, 2010. Aceh Meeting Summary. On-line at:
[http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/GCF%20Task%20Force%20Aceh%20Meeting%20Summary%20%20\(June%2011%202010\)%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/GCF%20Task%20Force%20Aceh%20Meeting%20Summary%20%20(June%2011%202010)%20(English).pdf).

- Development of state/provincial frameworks to align projects, policies, state and federal REDD+ programs;
- Attracting finance to state and provincial REDD+ readiness, design, and implementation (including performance-based metrics);
- Developing a database of projects, programs and policies in member states and provinces and identifying remaining technical, financial, legal and other needs;
- Enhancing stakeholder engagement and communication.

Regarding your upcoming Technical Expert Meeting, the GCF respectfully offers a few points for your consideration.

- 1) States and provinces in many developing countries are at the forefront of developing the technical underpinnings of REDD+ design, implementation, and monitoring. States and provinces control much of the land use planning, forest governance and social programs essential to the ultimate success or failure of REDD+ in countries.
- 2) Coordination of state/provincial land use planning and governance with national systems will be a critical component of national REDD+ programs. Many countries are already advanced in this process.
- 3) The UNFCCC process recognized the importance of sub-national forests monitoring systems, as part of national systems, through 4/CP.15. The international community is actively discussing what are appropriate scales for sub-national systems. Many states and provinces already have sophisticated land use planning and forest monitoring programs. State and provinces also have experience nesting site-specific land use information (such as REDD+ projects) into larger monitoring systems.
- 4) Many states and provinces have begun combining carbon accounting, forest monitoring and state planning tools, often in Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Many of our members and partners have been docking remote sensing, fieldwork and allometry for years; we understand the challenges of providing credible, conservative and transparent terrestrial carbon accounting, at scale.
- 5) The GCF appreciates that many donor countries recognize the importance of state and provincial efforts in REDD+. We note that the Letter of Intent between Norway and Indonesia specifically calls for a Province-wide pilot. Other REDD+ donors have expressed interest in funding state and provincial REDD+ efforts². We encourage donor countries to contact members of the GCF and the GCF secretariat to facilitate discussions around needs and resources as the Interim REDD+ Partnership moves into an implementation phase.

² GCF, 2010. Funding Opportunities for REDD+ in GCF Member States/Provinces. On-line at: [www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/TFG%20GCF%20Report%20on%20REDD+_Funds_GCF_May%207%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/TFG%20GCF%20Report%20on%20REDD+_Funds_GCF_May%207%20(English).pdf)

- 6) The GCF' members are committed to a strong system of linking REDD+ support with REDD+ action. This must be done through a transparent measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system of both REDD+ financial support and REDD+ actions on the ground.
- 7) States and provinces need rapid access to substantial REDD+ readiness and REDD+ fast-track funds. States and provinces are connected to the individual stakeholders, communities and private sector on a daily basis. In countries like Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria and Mexico, with hundreds of unique cultural identities, states and provinces are often the government that most directly impacts these peoples' lives and responds to their needs. Funding is needed for states and provinces to continue helping various stakeholders understand REDD+ and its challenges and opportunities. States and provinces are in a position to invest new resources from the donor community on the ground and in the forests. New support will help GCF members scale and accelerate some of the groundbreaking REDD+ work they have already begun.
- 8) States and provinces welcome all opportunities to collaborate with donors, national governments and private participants on knowledge sharing, technical work, nesting issues and governance.

The GCF invites the Interim REDD+ Partnership to review our work plan and various tasks and to work together with GCF members and the GCF Secretariat to implement REDD+ equitably and efficiently across scales, as rapidly as practical.

On behalf of GCF members and Secretariat.

Sincerely,



Tony Brunello
Deputy Secretary for Climate Change & Energy
California Resources Agency
Communications Chair, GCF
2009 GCF Chair



Claudio Flores
Advisor to the Secretariat for Environment
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