

# Background Document for Stakeholder Involvement in the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force

The Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) is a unique multi-jurisdictional effort between 14 states and provinces - representing a significant share of the world's tropical forests - that is promoting technical cooperation, building capacity, and developing policy recommendations for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). Stakeholder involvement is a critical component of the development and implementation of robust REDD programs and activities. This short paper presents a general overview of the GCF, highlighting the structure and goals of the GCF and providing additional relevant information for stakeholders interested in collaborating with the GCF to implement a more effective stakeholder involvement process in GCF activities.

## 1. THE GOVERNORS' FORESTS AND CLIMATE TASK FORCE

The Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force grew out of November 2008 Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed at the First Governors' Global Climate Summit in Los Angeles<sup>1</sup>. The GCF is responsible for making executive decisions on recommendations to implement the MOU forest sector provisions<sup>2</sup>. This represents the first attempt (at any level of governance) to move into what might be called the "proof of concept" stage in the effort to bring REDD into existing and emerging GHG compliance regimes<sup>3</sup>. As such, the MOU implementation effort of the GCF carries global significance in the context of REDD Readiness.

1.1. JOINT ACTION PLAN. The MOUs expressly call for a Joint Action Plan to guide implementation efforts. The GCF finalized the Joint Action Plan in 2009. It is available at <http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/GCTF-1000-2009-031.pdf>.

1.1.1. OBJECTIVES. The Joint Action Plan identifies three primary objectives for 2009-2010. The first objective is to establish the Governors' Climate & Forests Task Force (also known as the GCF) as the primary body responsible for developing recommendations for implementing the MOU forest sector provisions. The second objective is the establishment of a stakeholder participation process in the implementation of the MOU. At the GCF Belém 2009 meeting, it was determined that the primary formal mode of stakeholder participation in GCF activities would be through the three working groups established at the meeting and at joint GCF-stakeholder meetings held twice each year. The third objective is to develop recommendations regarding the regulatory and institutional infrastructure necessary to generate compliance-grade offsets from REDD and other international forest carbon activities in Brazil and Indonesia (and other tropical forest countries) that could be considered for recognition in emerging GHG compliance systems in the United States and elsewhere, focusing on the following three areas (around which the GCF formed working groups):

- Working Group 1/Project-level standards and criteria for REDD activities  
Current Lead : Rodrigo Freire, [rodrigo.freire.floresta@gmail.com](mailto:rodrigo.freire.floresta@gmail.com) (Amazonas)
- Working Group 2/Forest carbon accounting frameworks and coordination mechanisms  
Current Lead: California (TBD); Aceh (TBD)
- Working Group 3/Needs assessment (technical, legal, institutional, financial needs for moving toward compliance-grade REDD activities)  
Current Lead: Luis Meneses, [lcl.meneses@gmail.com](mailto:lcl.meneses@gmail.com) (Acre);  
LeRoy Hollenbeck, [hollenbecklf@uncapsa.org](mailto:hollenbecklf@uncapsa.org) (Aceh)

The working groups report to the full GCF at plenary and regular GCF meetings throughout the year.

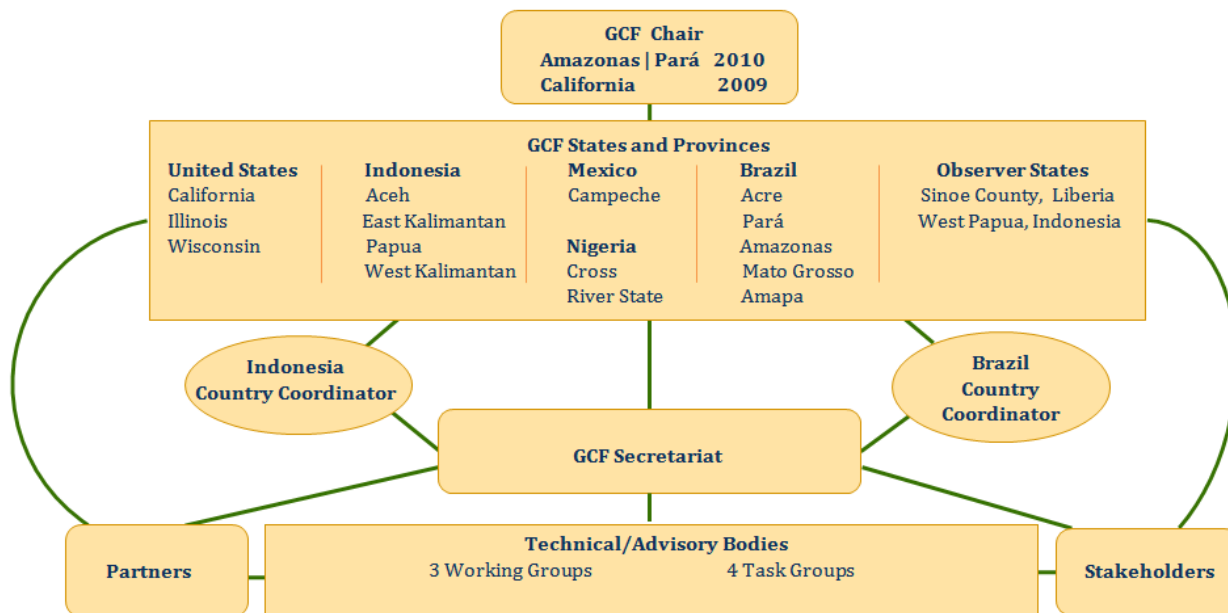
1.2. GCF AND REDD POLICY IN 2009. The GCF emerged in 2009 as an important focal point and resource for efforts around the world to bring REDD into ongoing subnational, national, and international policy discussions and development. For example:

- California - The California Air Resources Board (ARB) and other state agencies have actively participated in the work of the GCF. In turn, the GCF member states and provinces have provided input to California regarding the development of rules for international forest carbon offsets that will meet ARB’s requirements.
- U.S. - The work of the GCF has informed the development of federal climate legislation regarding international offsets for reduced emissions from deforestation, specifically the provisions for eligible activities in states or provinces in large emitting countries such as Brazil and Indonesia.
- Brazil - The Brazilian GCF members have used the GCF process as a forum for information-sharing and cooperation among themselves and with the Brazilian federal government on REDD, with which they have now formed a federal-state REDD Task Force.
- Indonesia - The GCF process has also been instrumental in providing information to Aceh, Papua, East Kalimantan, and West Kalimantan on the expected requirements in emerging compliance regimes in the U.S. The expectation is that the GCF will also provide a platform for engagement with the Indonesian federal government. The Indonesian provinces are currently exploring the formation of a GCF/REDD Subnational Coordination Board.

1.3. 2009 GCF IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT. The GCF convened two plenary meetings in 2009 (Belém, Pará, June 18-19, 2009; Los Angeles, California, September 28-29, 2009) and produced the Joint Action Plan. It created the three Working Groups and their respective work products<sup>4</sup>. Both of the 2009 GCF plenary meetings included a half day joint GCF-stakeholder meeting<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the GCF invited stakeholders to provide feedback to the Working Groups throughout the year. However, in 2009 and early 2010, it became clear that additional and more formal stakeholder outreach would be necessary to enhance the GCF’s activities and work products.

## 2. GCF GOVERNANCE

### 2.1. GCF Task Force Organizational Chart



## 2.2 GCF Bodies

### *PLENARY BODY*

The plenary body, which consists of the GCF state and province representatives, is the decisionmaking entity of the GCF. It renders decisions on all major strategic and governance issues of the GCF, including but not limited to the approval of new members, fundamental changes in the structure of functions of the GCF, and substantive GCF reports. It provides guidance and direction to the Secretariat and the GCF technical/advisory bodies. Each state and province has one (1) voting member and GCF decisions are made by consensus.

### *TECHNICAL/ADVISORY BODIES*

Technical/Advisory Bodies develop recommendations and reports for the GCF plenary on a range of technical, policy, informational, and other issues. GCF members, stakeholders, and private consultants may be recruited to produce and/or provide input on the work products of the technical/advisory bodies. The GCF currently has 7 Technical and Advisory Bodies: 3 Working Groups established in 2009 and 4 Task Groups established in mid-2010 (see pages 3 and 6, respectively). When active, they report to the full GCF at the bi-annual GCF meetings each year. Technical/Advisory Bodies are led by one person chosen by the GCF plenary body or by the Technical/Advisory Body (if delegated by the plenary) with the understanding that the lead will: guide the implementation and development of the agreed-upon outcomes and processes; dedicate time to completion of the outcomes; oversee any consultants hired to deliver specific work products for the Technical/Advisory Body; and encourage the participation of stakeholders and consider their input. The Technical/Advisory Bodies may also organize workshops and/or other ad-hoc meetings or sub-groups to produce specific work related to their objectives, for incorporation into the Technical/Advisory Body outcomes and ultimate presentation to the GCF.

### *GCF-STAKEHOLDER FORUM*

At each GCF meeting (to date held twice per year), there is a meeting of the GCF plenary and technical advisory bodies with stakeholders. This meeting provides a forum for stakeholders to offer input on the GCF Task Force's activities. The GCF is in the process of developing a formal stakeholder policy with input from stakeholders to formalize this and other opportunities for stakeholder input into the GCF's activities. The proposal will be up for discussion in Santarém, Pará at the 4<sup>th</sup> GCF meeting September 14-16, 2010, where for the first time, stakeholders have been invited to attend two full days of the GCF plenary meeting, during which the GCF will discuss its activities in depth and take relevant decisions on the future direction of the GCF.

### **3. DECISIONMAKING AND RULES OF PROCEDURE**

The following rules governing decisionmaking, composition, and other aspects of the GCF's activities were adopted by the GCF members at the Belém meeting:

- Each GCF state/province has two GCF representatives, which must be designated by the Governor.
- Only one representative from each GCF state/province has the authority to vote on behalf of the state/province.
- NGOs may be appointed by the Governor of a GCF state/province to serve as that state/province's representative to the GCF.
- Each GCF state/province can designate additional observer/non-voting governmental participants in GCF activities.
- Decisions of the GCF must be reached by consensus.
- Where there is no consensus on action items, alternative views will be specifically noted.
- The chairmanship of the GCF rotates annually and will be held by a different GCF state/province and country every year.
- The GCF membership at the time of the Belém meeting (June 2009) are to be referred to as the "founding members."
- New members will have the same rights as founding members and have been added as follows:
  - Current GCF members will submit suggestions for observer states/provinces to the Chair by the first week of August for attendance at the September meeting.
  - There is no limit on the number of observers that can be suggested, but there might be limited funding or no funding for non-founding member participants.
  - Founding GCF members can submit formal nominations to the GCF after the September meeting.
  - New members must be accepted by consensus.
  - New members must adopt all key GCF documents.
  - Announcements of new members will occur at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties and be effective at the first GCF meeting in the year subsequent to the announcement.
- The Chairs and Secretariat need to confirm with the current members that they wish to accept new members in the second half of 2010, and if so what the process will entail (similar or in addition to the process noted above).

### **4. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AND 2010 GCF ACTIVITIES**

4.1 THE 4 GCF TASKS OF 2010. While the GCF will pursue the larger objectives of the Working Groups in 2010, the GCF Task Force agreed in Aceh (May 2000) that the primary focus of the GCF Task Force Working Groups and members will be on 4 Work Tasks and their respective outputs. A key result of the Day 3 joint GCF Task Force-Stakeholder meeting in Aceh is that the enhanced and more formalized involvement of stakeholders will be a common thread pursued by the leads and members of each of the four Task Groups and the GCF in general. Stakeholder input within the scope of the 4 Tasks and 3 Working Groups

should be directed to the appropriate Task and Working Group Lead. For the contact information of the Working Group Leads see Section 2.1.1. above. A description of the 4 Tasks and the contact information for each Task Lead is provided below.

TASK 1	Goals/Activities	Lead Contact
<b>Subnational REDD Frameworks</b>	To develop GCF design recommendations for subnational (state- and province-level) REDD frameworks for review and approval at the GCF Task Force September 2010 meeting and circulation at COP16; and engage with third party standards (e.g. CAR, VCS, CCB+CARE, IPCC Good Practice Guidelines, and Plan Vivo).	William Boyd, <a href="mailto:william.boyd@colorado.edu">william.boyd@colorado.edu</a>

TASK 2	Goals/Activities	Lead Contact
<b>Financing for REDD Activities</b>	To identify, track, and attract financing opportunities for GCF state and province REDD activities and develop a concept note for a GCF Fund.	John O. Niles, <a href="mailto:jniles@tropicalforestgroup.org">jniles@tropicalforestgroup.org</a>

TASK 3	Goals/Activities	Lead Contact
<b>GCF Knowledge Database</b>	To create a GCF knowledge database that will include the current REDD activities (programs, policies, and projects) of the member states and provinces and institutional, technical, financial, legal, and other needs.	Luis Meneses, <a href="mailto:lcl.meneses@gmail.com">lcl.meneses@gmail.com</a>

TASK 4	Goals/Activities	Lead Contact
<b>Communications &amp; Outreach</b>	To develop and implement a GCF communications and outreach strategy and enhance/formalize stakeholder involvement in the GCF process.	Ernesto Roessing, <a href="mailto:eroessing@gmail.com">eroessing@gmail.com</a>

4.2. COMMUNICATION AND THE GCF-STAKEHOLDER COALITION. In order to develop and cultivate a robust GCF-Stakeholder coalition, the GCF is committed to proactively providing GCF-related information to the stakeholder community. To this end, the GCF has allocated funding for the translation of key documents and communications into the GCF languages (English, Indonesian, Portuguese, and Spanish) and will circulate these documents to the GCF's stakeholder contact list. In addition, all event notices, GCF contacts, GCF documents, and other key information are regularly posted and updated on the GCF website, [www.gcftaskforce.org](http://www.gcftaskforce.org). The GCF seeks input from its active stakeholders on how to more effectively spread the word and generate interest in its activities. *Stakeholder input on the "GCF-Stakeholder Coalition" effort should be directed to the GCF Secretariat ([jorge.figueroa@colorado.edu](mailto:jorge.figueroa@colorado.edu)).*

4.3. GCF ACTIVITIES AND STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT AT HOME. The GCF states and provinces are responsible for outreach to the stakeholders in their respective states and provinces. Stakeholder input on GCF-related activities at the local-, state-, and province-level should be directed to the appropriate GCF country coordinators below, copying the state and province leads listed on the GCF website: <http://www.gcftaskforce.org/contact.html>

<b>Country</b>	<b>GCF Country Coordinator</b>
Brazil	Ernesto Roessing, <a href="mailto:eroessing@gmail.com">eroessing@gmail.com</a>
Indonesia	Marinah Embiricos, <a href="mailto:Marinah@embiricos.net">Marinah@embiricos.net</a>
US/Mexico/Nigeria	Julie Teel, <a href="mailto:julie.teel@colorado.edu">julie.teel@colorado.edu</a>

---

<sup>1</sup> On November 18, 2008, the U.S. states of California, Wisconsin, and Illinois, the Brazilian states of Amazonas, Amapá, Mato Grosso, and Pará, and the Indonesian provinces of Aceh and Papua signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) at the Governors' Climate Change Summit in Los Angeles, California. The GCF currently counts with the additional memberships of Acre (Brazil); Campeche (Mexico); Cross River State (Nigeria); East Kalimantan (Indonesia); and West Kalimantan (Indonesia).

<sup>2</sup> Article 2(b) of the MOUs establishes the overall objective of taking concrete steps toward developing rules for the forest sector that ensure that emissions reductions and sequestrations from subnational activities are (1) real, measurable, verifiable and permanent; and (2) capable of being recognized in compliance mechanisms of each party's state, provincial, regional, national or international programs.

<sup>3</sup> Louis Blumberg from the Nature Conservancy suggests that it is important to recognize the role that the State of California is playing in proof of concept with the development of REDD regulations for compliance grade REDD credits in its regulatory program. He states that this is happening with or without the GCF Task Force, and that in fact the GCF Task Force was formed with the expectation that California's program would be the first opportunity to establish standards for REDD in a regulatory program. Luis Blumberg, email communication to the GCF, August 26, 2010.

<sup>4</sup> See GCF documents under the following sections in the GCF website: *2009 Governors' Global Climate Summit 2 - Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, 2009*; *2009 GCF Deliverables*; and *Other 2009 Materials*. Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force. GCF Documents. <http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents.html> (accessed July 7, 2010).

<sup>5</sup> See section IV of the GCF Joint Action Plan for a list of some of the NGOs and stakeholder representatives who participated in 2009 GCF meetings and activities. Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force. 2009. Joint Action Plan (2009-2010). <http://www.gcftaskforce.org/documents/GCTF-1000-2009-031.pdf> (accessed July 7, 2010).