



Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force

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GCF Governors and delegates from 16 states and provinces from Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, and the U.S. convene at COP-17 & Forest Day 5 to demonstrate how subnationals are leading the way on REDD+

The GCF member and REDD+ leader Forest Day 5 Media Briefing held today included:

- **Mary Nichols**, Chairman, California Air Resources Board
- **Fabio Vaz de Lima**, Secretary of Development, Science, Technology and Industry, Acre, Brazil
- **Odigha Odigha**, Chairman of the State Forestry Commission, Cross River State, Nigeria
- **Ana Euler**, President of State Institute of Forest, Amapá, Brazil

Durban, South Africa, December 4, 2011 – Today, the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF) member states and provinces encompassing more than 20% of the world's tropical forests, including approximately 75% of Brazil's and more than half of Indonesia's, convened at Forest Day 5 to promote innovative, subnational approaches to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

"GCF States and Provinces are the laboratories for REDD+ innovation," said Odigha Odigha, Chairman of the State Forestry Commission, Cross River State, Nigeria. *"We are implementing a people-centered understanding of REDD+. We are advancing the livelihoods of our people while also conserving our forests and facing the reality of our changing planet. We are implementing solutions that are shifting the way we look at the world around us, the lessons we learn from each other and the way we look at our children. GCF provides the vehicle for this transformation."*

Over the past three years, the GCF's member states and provinces have developed technical, legal, and institutional capacity, shared experiences and best practices, and provided input on the legal and regulatory design of emerging GHG compliance markets such as California, with the objective of generating compliance-grade REDD+ assets that could plug into various market and non-market opportunities--from pay-for-performance public finance to carbon markets to the ongoing efforts to de-carbonize agro-food supply chains.

"Any successful approach to REDD+ and low-carbon development cannot succeed without states and provinces. In this regard, the GCF continues to demonstrate the importance of state and provincial level programs in providing both the pathway to and the pillars of a successful national level approach to REDD+," emphasized Minister Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight, Indonesia.

"The GCF provides a key platform for leading states and provinces to share experiences and develop tailored solutions to the challenge of protecting forests and the climate system by promoting low emissions rural development," added William Boyd, GCF Project Lead. *"They are leading the world in advancing the 'art of the possible' through on-the-ground implementation of high-quality, jurisdiction-wide REDD+ programs. GCF member states and provinces are demonstrating that economic development can be achieved hand-in-hand with emissions reductions."*

Governor Sebastião Afonso Viana Macedo Neves of GCF member state Acre, Brazil, said, *"By valuing our environmental assets and developing fair and efficient programs that conserve our*

natural resources, we're advancing social equity and sustainable economic development for our indigenous communities who live in the forests and for our small rural producers, the 'Ribeirinhos'."

Incoming GCF Chair for 2012, Governor Sabines of Chiapas, Mexico noted, *"International REDD+ progress is slow and is stymied by politics. We're not waiting for the negotiating tables to develop our solutions. Chiapas and other GCF jurisdictions are working together to build the critical mass necessary to achieve sustainable and far-reaching solutions. We're not just talking about REDD+ anymore, we're laying the foundation for low-carbon development."*

To date, GCF states and provinces have imposed logging bans, wall-to-wall land-use zoning, and rural law enforcement programs and some are in the process of adopting comprehensive state-level REDD+ programs and enacting novel legislation that creates incentives for forest protection. *"Through working with other GCF states and province, we are putting structure to the potential of the green economy and are bringing that potential into an implemented reality for our people, state, country and beyond,"* said Governor Carlos Camilo Goes Capiberibe of GCF member state Amapá, Brazil .

"The GCF is an agile motor of innovation with great opportunities to shape not just REDD+, but also sustainable development," said Dan Nepstad, Director, International Program, Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM). *"The GCF is responding to jurisdictional needs with tangible out-of-the-box solutions."*

With limited funding opportunities for states and provinces seeking to support their innovative subnational REDD+ programs, in August 2011 the GCF announced the development of an independent climate finance facility – the GCF Fund – with an initial contribution of \$1.5 million from the U.S. Department of State to support improved forest carbon accounting and enhanced stakeholder processes in the GCF's tropical forest jurisdictions. The GCF Fund is seeking an additional \$4.5 million to support its first set of initiatives in 2012-2013, which will include model benefit-sharing programs and REDD+ program design, as well as additional resources for future activities.

"The GCF Fund is the first facility in the world where public and private donors and investors can directly fund state and provincial REDD+ efforts in multiple countries," explained Governor Teras Narang of GCF member province, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. *"Today the Governors of the GCF are providing a unique partnership opportunity to help us develop new pathways to low emissions development while also advancing the livelihoods and welfare of indigenous peoples and communities and their access to education and health services."*

Also developed in 2011, the GCF REDD+ Knowledge Database is the most comprehensive publicly available, transparent, and current source of information about REDD+ activities in the GCF's tropical forest jurisdictions. It serves as the primary vehicle through which the GCF is tracking and evaluating its members' REDD+ activities (policies, programs and projects) and capacities (legal, technical, and institutional) and, importantly, how the GCF is identifying the immediate and collective needs common to all GCF members. This critical information will directly inform the funding priorities of the GCF Fund. The GCF Knowledge Database will go public in early 2012.

For media information regarding the GCF and for scheduling interviews, contact Keyvan Izadi, GCF Communications Director at keyvan.gcf@gmail.com / 081 584 4736, William Boyd, GCF Project Lead at william.boyd@colorado.edu, or Julie Teel Simmonds, GCF Project Manager at Julie.Teel@colorado.edu. For general information, please visit: www.gcftaskforce.org.

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