



Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The GCF Announces New “GCF Fund” to Promote State and Provincial Economic Development and Environmental Protection with Initial Funding from the U.S. Government

Palangka Raya, 20 September 2011 – Today, the Governor of Central Kalimantan with other Governors of the Governors’ Climate and Forest Task Force (GCF) announced the creation of a new independent climate finance facility – the Governors Climate & Forests Fund or “GCF Fund” – to support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) implementation in GCF states and provinces. The U.S Department of State is providing initial seed funding of \$1.5 million of the multi-million dollar fund.

“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” said Governor Teras Narang from the Central Kalimantan Province. *“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 priorities of local forest-dependent people to improve their living standards, and their access to education and health services.”*

Currently, there are limited funding opportunities for states and provinces that are seeking to build innovative REDD+ programs. The GCF Fund was developed to address this gap by creating a \$6 million independent financing facility to promote the development of successful jurisdiction-wide REDD+ programs. In August 2011, the U.S. Department of State became the GCF Fund’s seed funder, with a commitment of \$1.5 million to support improvements in state-wide forest carbon stock assessments and enhanced stakeholder processes. The Fund is pursuing an additional \$4.5 million for its capitalization to support ongoing and planned activities for 2012-2013 related to improving forest carbon accounting, model benefit sharing programs and supporting REDD+ implementation activities.

“For investment to flow, investors require some understanding of the risks and some semblance of confidence. The GCF helps provide this and is the sort of initiative needed to channel private investment to reduce deforestation and promote local economic development,” said Ricardo Bayon, Partner at EKO Asset Management Partners.

William Boyd, GCF Senior Advisor, noted *“We see this as another example of the GCF leading the way in advancing not only innovative jurisdictional approaches to REDD+, but also in the area of climate finance.”*

The GCF also announced today the creation of the GCF Knowledge Database that will provide the most comprehensive data available on jurisdictional REDD+ programs being developed in GCF states and provinces. This database will provide a key tool to monitor the progress of GCF states and provinces in developing their REDD+ programs and to facilitate cross-jurisdictional learning.

The GCF is a unique subnational collaboration between 15 states and provinces from the United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Mexico that seeks to build REDD+ programs and link them with emerging market and non-market opportunities. Deforestation accounts for more than 15% of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. More than 20% of the world’s tropical forests are in GCF states and provinces (including approximately 75% of Brazil’s and more than half of Indonesia’s tropical forests). The Central Kalimantan GCF meeting is being hosted at the Luwansa Hotel in

GCF task force

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Palangka Raya September 20-22 between 8:00am – 5:30 pm and is open to all interested stakeholders.

For media information regarding all GCF events contact Keyvan Izadi, GCF Communications Director at keyvan.gcf@gmail.com / 0821 2561 3715 or Melda Wita Sitompul, Yayasan Perspektif Baru at msmelda@gmail.com / Tel: 0815 1103 9045.

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