

Declaration of San Francisco

Commitment of the Amazonian Governors to implement actions against the climate change and deforestation in their jurisdictions

We, the Governors of

- Pastaza, Ecuador
- Zamora Chinchipe, Ecuador
- Caqueta, Colombia
- Loreto, Peru
- San Martin, Peru
- Ucayali, Peru
- Huanuco, Peru
- Amazonas, Peru
- Acre, Brazil
- Tarija, Bolivia

meeting in the city of San Francisco, California, on September 12, 2018, for the Annual Meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force):

Excited by the unwavering desire to continue working and raising the level of ambition to reduce tropical deforestation, protect the global climate system, improve rural livelihoods, and decrease poverty in our jurisdictions;

Highlighting the importance of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force (GCF Task Force) with the participation of 38 members from 10 countries with tropical forests, has become the largest global network working to promote subnational leadership in tropical forests;

Recalling that the GCF includes states and tropical provinces leading the way in building strong jurisdictional programs to protect forests and the climate, while improving rural livelihoods;

Recognizing that the GCF Task Force provides critical opportunities for policy innovation and leadership along with other international organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society;

Welcoming the Global Climate Action Summit that starts on September 12, 2018, and during four days will bring together local and international leaders from the states, regions, cities, companies, investors and civil society with leaders of national governments, leaders and representatives of indigenous peoples, scientists, students, nonprofits and others in a new wave of mobilization to "take ambition to the next level";

Recognizing the Rio Branco Declaration, signed in 2014, which aims to reduce deforestation in states and provinces up to 80% by 2020, and formalizes the GCF's commitment to reduce deforestation and to foster the development of alliances that contribute to building jurisdictional programs that allow large-scale, integrated transitions to sustainable development;

Recalling that Roraima (Brazil), Caquetá (Colombia) and Pastaza (Ecuador) signed the Rio Branco Declaration during COP23 at the UN Climate Change Conference held in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017;

Highlighting the Balikpapan Challenge, launched in 2017 as a GCF initiative to find real and practical ways to reduce deforestation and fight climate change;

Appreciating the support and joint work of the Earth Innovation Institute (EII), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Naturaleza y Cultural Internacional (NCI), Mecanismos de Desarrollo Alternos (MDA) and Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation to materialize ambitious initiatives in our territories to put the commitments to fight climate change and deforestation in action;

Reiterating, as mentioned in the Declaration of Tena signed by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of ACTO (Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization) in 2017, the strategic importance of the Amazon Basin, with the greatest biodiversity in the world, representing 6% of the planet's surface, occupying 40% of Latin's America and the Caribbean's territories; a basin containing approximately one quarter of all terrestrial species, 20% of all freshwater flowing into the oceans, considerable renewable and non-renewable natural resources, and a water system that provides natural modes of transport, as well as an important source of energy, a place where approximately 420 indigenous and tribal peoples live, 70 of them in voluntary isolation, constituting a territory of extraordinary beauty, natural and cultural heritage;

Highlighting the responsibility of subnational governments with jurisdictions in the Amazon Basin to ensure that biological diversity and environmental services are maintained;

Recognizing local actors, especially indigenous peoples, their cultural heritage and the role they play in the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, to reduce tropical deforestation, to protect the global climate system, and to ensure biological connectivity;

Recognizing with concern that this global strategic region of biological and cultural diversity is under great pressure as a result of mineral and hydrocarbon extractive activities, large infrastructure projects, monoculture, livestock, expansion of agricultural frontiers, among others;

We declare our intention to work together to:

- 1) **Promote** the implementation and fulfillment of the commitments of the Rio Branco Declaration and a transition to low-emission rural development;
- 2) **Promote** the recognition and management of protected areas and the implementation of complementary conservation strategies;
- 3) **Develop, implement and share** lessons learned with innovative policy instruments to combat deforestation, including economic (market and financial) incentives for forest conservation and sustainable agricultural production;
- 4) **Encourage** the creation of public-private partnerships for the implementation of policies and strategies to stop deforestation in the Andean Amazon, increasing productivity to generate greater benefits without affecting forests and reducing carbon emissions;
- 5) **Design and implement** low-emission rural development strategies, and their jurisdictional plans to develop public and private policies to reduce deforestation, conserve forests, biodiversity, ecosystem services, promote mitigation and adaptation of climate change;

- 6) **Incentivize** deforestation-free business models and value chains for agricultural and livestock production, agroforestry, timber and non-timber forest products, restoration of landscapes for products, among others;
- 7) **Promote** transparent governance schemes that facilitate the participation of key actors in reducing deforestation and transition towards low-emission jurisdictional development; especially indigenous peoples, local communities and rural women;
- 8) **Create** a collaborative agenda with representative organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities in our jurisdictions, addressing issues such as the security of their lands, the fair and equitable participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in value chains, bio-business with environmental and social safeguards, community forest management, among others;
- 9) **Promote** strategies for the use of renewable energy to reduce emissions on a jurisdictional or national scale. Exchange experiences for sustainable, low-emission mineral production;
- 10) **Make use of** land planning as a tool for social construction of the territory with the participation of various social actors, in particular of the indigenous populations and local communities.

If any other Amazon Government decides to accede to this declaration in the future, it will be possible by sending an official letter to the GCF Secretariat.

San Francisco, California, September 12th, 2018.