

TROPICAL FOREST CHAMPIONS¹

FACT SHEET



WHAT IS “TROPICAL FOREST CHAMPIONS”? A set of tools (see below) for promoting the partnerships, market access, and investments that champion states and regions need to succeed. These tools are anchored in the principles and definitions of the GCF Task Force **“Call for Collaboration”** and the urgent need to recognize, publicize and support the many positive actions underway in subnational jurisdictions—actions led by governments, indigenous peoples and other local communities, farm organizations, and businesses. A “champion” jurisdiction is one that is committed to forest-, community- and climate- friendly development.

WHY WAS TFC CREATED? States and regions in the tropics are critical players in any successful strategy to slow the loss and speed the recovery of tropical forests at scale, but they are currently not developing the partnerships nor receiving the financial investments necessary to realize their potential, as described in the **State of Jurisdictional Sustainability** assessment.

IS TFC A NEW NETWORK OF JURISDICTIONS? No. It is designed to support jurisdictions that are already members of networks³ and those that are not members of networks. Its purpose is to enable jurisdictions to be recognized and rewarded for their leadership, providing critical support to the GCF Task Force, Verified Sourcing Areas, Commodities-Jurisdictions initiative, RSPO jurisdictional approach, “REDD for Early Movers”, the California Tropical Forest Standard and other networks and initiatives.

IS TFC A TYPE OF SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION? No. Certification establishes a high bar for what is “sustainable” for individual commodities, usually at the level of the farm or mill, according to international principles and criteria. TFC is designed to support *entire jurisdictions* at every stage in their transition to forest, community and climate friendly development.

HOW DOES TFC ASPIRE TO SUPPORT JURISDICTIONS?

There are several ways.

- **Find investors and markets:** Support jurisdictions to develop and publicize new low-carbon business opportunities, low-carbon product lines from farms, forests and fisheries, and opportunities for investment and donations, supported by a new version of the online platform GCfImpact.org
- **Value carbon:** Helping jurisdictions to monetize the carbon emissions reductions they are achieving in their jurisdiction, or that they hope to achieve, through voluntary offset markets, carbon-labeling, regulated carbon markets and climate finance.
- **Modernization & Efficiency:** Helping jurisdictions improve their “Ease of Doing Business” ranking (see GCfImpact.org) and find other ways to attract new corporate partners
- **Safe haven status:** Helping jurisdictions become “safe havens” where companies and investors can engage without fear of being attacked by environmental advocacy groups.

¹ Translated: Campeões de Florestas Tropicais, Campeones del Bosque Tropical, Juara Hutan Tropis

² These principles and definitions were developed by the “Balikpapan Challenge” process, coordinated by the Earth Innovation Institute and the Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force Secretariat.

³ For example, the Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force and the Indonesian LTKL Sustainable District network.

HOW CAN A TROPICAL FOREST GOVERNMENT BECOME A “CHAMPION”? Make a formal commitment to forest, community, and climate friendly development through the website [launch scheduled for early 2020]. To remain a “champion”, jurisdictions must take actions and achieve results. Note: All members of the Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force and the LTKL network, for example, have already made such a commitment and simply need to formalize their interest in participating in the Champions initiative.

HOW CAN TFC HELP COMPANIES? It can publicize their efforts to promote sustainable development and to find jurisdictions that address their needs. Companies that buy raw materials from tropical forest regions or that are partnering in champion jurisdictions in other ways can register and disseminate their interest, their commitments to sustainability, and their actions on the ground to promote sustainability.

HOW IS TFC GOVERNED? TFC is a decentralized initiative with a Global Advisory Committee that includes, alphabetically, Joko Arif (Packard), Morgan Gillespie/Sareh Farouzes (CDP), Willem Klaassens (IDH), Juliana Lopes (Grupo Amaggi), Dan Nepstad/Juan Ardila/Matt Williams (Earth Innovation Institute), Ruth Nussbaum/Sophie Higgins (ProForest), Wei Peng (COFCO), Charlotte Streck (Climate Focus), (CDP), and Bjørn Thomsen (Denofa).

WHAT GOVERNMENTS ARE ALREADY CHAMPIONS? Caquetá, Colombia; Pastaza, Ecuador, Amazonas, Loreto, Madre de Dios, Piura, Ucayali, Peru. Discussions are underway with several other jurisdictions.

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Tropical Forest Champions is an initiative of the Earth Innovation Institute



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