



Guatemala August 26 , 2019

To the Members of the California Air Resources Board

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

As the last year ACOFOP keeps on supporting the endorsement of the California Tropical Forestry Standard. We are pleased to congratulate the California Air Resource Board on the development of a Tropical Forest Standard as part of the leadership of the State of California in sustainable sourcing mechanisms, commitments of deforestation "zero net", move towards nationally determined contributions and additional measures to mitigate carbon emissions. This standard is an effort that is already globally recognized.

The forest communities of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve (MRB) in Petén, Guatemala is made of more than 15,000 beneficiaries of the community forestry model of the Association of Forest Communities of Petén (ACOFOP) The MRB is composed of 2.1 million hectares of tropical forest of which around 25% is managed by forest communities, generating social, economic and environmental benefits, among which is the reduction of emissions due to avoided deforestation. Local communities carry out certified forest management (FSC) and have started the Guatecarbon REDD + pilot project committing to reduce deforestation. ACOFOP, in coordination with other groups of indigenous peoples and local communities in the region, is part of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB) with which ACOFOP has worked hand in hand in the Global Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of the Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force. This unique network of 38 subnational governments encompasses over one-third of the world's tropical forests.

We are very pleased that GCF Task Force as well as the California Tropical Forestry Standard included into their rules a set of Principles for Collaboration and Partnership between Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Principles that propose advance rights recognition, promote participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in decision-making, and commit to the co-design of benefit-sharing and appropriate finance mechanisms, among other guidelines.



Aware that national and subnational governments have increasingly recognized the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in realizing commitments to halt deforestation and promote sustainable development. We think that the California Tropical Forestry Standard will provide a rigorous alternative to unprecedented deforestation driven by demand for commodities and timber extraction, to specify solid criteria to evaluate programs at the jurisdictional level to reduce emissions from tropical deforestation and Include requirements for direct participation and benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities

We thank the government of California for the work carried out to develop the standard of Tropical Forests and we support the endorsement of this standard at the next public hearing of the Air Resources Council of California Air on September 2019.

Best regards


Carlos Alberto Crasborn Ojeda
Presidente y Representante Legal
ACOFOP



**Members of AMPB into the Governors' Climate and Forest Task Force Global
Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**