**GOVERNMENT OF CAQUETÁ**

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Florencia Caquetá, October 24, 2018.

**California Air Resources Board**

**1001 | Street**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**USA**

Dear Board Members,

From the department of Caquetá we congratulate you for the leadership of California in addressing one of the most important challenges of our time: the threat of irreversible climate change and its impact on our communities, economy and environment. As a member and current president of the Governors’ Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force the world's largest network of subnational governments for climate and forests, we recognize that the cohesive leadership in a state level on climate and forest issues is more important than ever. Tropical forest conservation really has a global power, impacting the droughts and forest fires that come true in California. We are with you and we are prepared to do our part fighting this global battle against the climate changes.

We are following and learning from the California example in many ways. The Under2 MOU led by California, that many GCF governors have signed is challenging us to search for long-term low-carbon development paths in our states and provinces in the Tropical Forests. California's partnerships with indigenous peoples, such as the Yurok Tribe, show how state and tribal governments can work together to conserve forests, promote economic development, and respect indigenous peoples' history, lands, livelihoods, knowledge, and culture . Recently, at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the GCF Task Force in San Francisco, we take advantage of the leadership that California has shown in backing the Guiding Principles for Collaboration and Partnership between Subnational Governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Through these principles, we commit ourselves to work in a partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, demonstrating our commitment to ensure that our efforts to reduce tropical deforestation will improve the livelihoods of local communities and recognize the rights of indigenous peoples.

California's cap-and-trade system has also worked as an inspiration for governors around the world, like us, to commit on conserving forests in all our jurisdictions as our economies continue to grow. California is proving how a well-designed carbon market can reduce emissions across all the sectors ensuring that industries will innovate and participate in the collective fight against climate change.

We are aware that this is a critical moment in California's cap-and-trade program. The work of the California Air Resources Board has also shown us the importance and power of consulting with partner jurisdictions, local communities, civil society, and regulatory experts on the development of standards. The inclusion of forestry sector offsets would send an important message to the world about the power and potential for an innovative leadership in the climate at all levels of government.

We urge you to take a next step highlighting the relevance of the release of the draft version of the California Tropical Forest Standard. This draft establishes a gold standard to ensure that forest sector reductions will be achieved through a process that ensures environmental integrity and protects the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities. The standard draft is based on a solid science and would provide an example for the emerging markets around the world on how compensation in the forest sector can be recognized through a rigorous process. We enthusiastically encourage you to move forward with the pattern, recognizing that, as a global community, we can’t address climate change without addressing tropical deforestation.

We look forward to collaborating into the future as we show the world that subnational governments are leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting sustainable livelihoods and bringing much-needed environmental, as well as economic benefits to the states and provinces in general.

Best Regards,

**Álvaro Pacheco Álvarez**

Governor of the Department of Caquetá

GCF President – TF 2018-2019

Review: Hernán Mauricio Zapata T., Planning Secretary

Attachments:

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