



Reference: Office of the Secretary.  
Number: SEMA/DS/2832/2019.  
Re: Support for California Tropical Forest Standard  
Chetumal, Quintana Roo, México, 26 August, 2019.

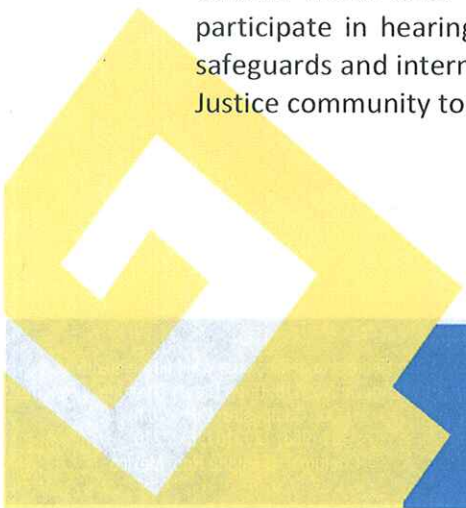
California Air and Resources Board,  
State Capital Suite 1173  
Sacramento California, 95814, USA.

Dear Members of the California Air Resources Board,

We reiterate here our support for the Tropical Forest Standard and its endorsement by the California Air Resources Board. California has been a global leader in addressing climate change and this standard is an urgently needed signal that can increase the impact of California's policy beyond its borders. As a tropical forest state, we *understand the importance of the fight to protect and sustainably manage forests, as well as their ecological and cultural value – locally and for the world.* We are working to partner with other jurisdictions to solve the challenges of stopping deforestation and California is an important actor in this discussion.

The need to address climate change is critical, and halting tropical forest deforestation is indispensable and one of the most significant steps the world can take to be on a safer path. The conservation of tropical forests has a global reach, affecting weather events such as droughts and wildfires that are increasingly affecting California and many other global jurisdictions. California's standard will be a robust example of how to set incentives for large-scale forest programs that address deforestation with environmental and social integrity. The standard is based on sound science; it will provide a needed model for emerging markets around the world for how forest protection efforts could be recognized by emerging markets, sustainable supply chain efforts and other climate protection programs.

For years, Quintana Roo state and California have been learning from each other and collaborating through the Governors Climate and Forest Taskforce and the California led Under2 MOU. Over the past several years, some of us have traveled to California to participate in hearings and workshops to insure respect and integration of appropriate safeguards and international tools. Some of us have also engaged with the Environmental Justice community to better understand their viewpoints and concerns.





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Quintana Roo has advanced considerably in creating and operating a robust MRV system; has set in place a safeguards task force (in relation also with the GCF principles for cooperation with indigenous peoples and local communities); and is currently working on governance, through the creation of an intermunicipal agency, and the interaction with several producers' organizations. All of these activities are part of the implementation of the State's climate and forest agenda, built in a tight coordination with México's National Forest Commission. The TFS would be the guide to consider on the type of requisites to expect from compliance markets, voluntary markets, and sustainable supply chains to recognize our sector based forest protection efforts.

We look forward to a continued collaboration and joint subnational leadership to address climate change, halt tropical deforestation and promote sustainable livelihoods. We urge you to take the next step and endorse the Tropical Forest Standard.

Sincerely,

**Alfredo Arellano Guillermo**  
Secretary of Ecology and Environment



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DESPECHO DEL C. SECRETARIO

