



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF PARÁ OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC
OF BRAZIL
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA
CONCERNING WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE, FOREST HEALTH, AND
SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT**

The Government of the State of Pará of the Federative Republic of Brazil (“Pará”) and the Government of the State of California of the United States of America (“California”), hereinafter referred to as “the Participants,” declare as follows:

WHEREAS Pará and California are deeply committed to ambitious climate action, recognizing the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance climate resilience, and achieve carbon neutrality;

WHEREAS California and Pará face shared opportunities in balancing economic development with environmental stewardship, including the protection of critical ecosystems, the promotion of renewable energy, and the advancement of climate-resilient infrastructure and inclusive green economies;

WHEREAS the increasing frequency, intensity, and scale of wildfires pose severe threats to public health, biodiversity, water security, and economic stability in both California and Pará, underscoring the need for coordinated action to strengthen wildfire preparedness, enhance forest resilience, and safeguard vulnerable communities and landscapes;

WHEREAS both states have suffered the devastating impacts of climate change, including record-setting forest fires in California—such as the Camp Fire in 2018, August Complex in 2020, and the Dixie and Caldor Fire in 2021—and forest fires in Pará’s Amazon region in 2024, which have threatened biodiversity, displaced communities, and exacerbated greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS California and Pará have previously collaborated through multilateral initiatives such as the Governors’ Climate and Forests Task Force, sharing technical expertise and policy innovations to advance forest-based climate action;

WHEREAS both states recognize the ongoing processes of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Brazil and California Native American tribes, and the importance of traditional ecological knowledge, and the full and meaningful representation and participation of Indigenous peoples in forest management and environmental protection;

WHEREAS California and Pará have complementary experiences and capacities that can be leveraged to enhance wildfire prevention and response

WHEREAS California and Pará have complementary experiences and capacities that can be leveraged to improve forest health through restoration and monitoring, and promote sustainable land management practices that reduce deforestation and land degradation;

WHEREAS the state of Pará has established the “Vale Bioamazônico” as a strategic territorial platform for the promotion of sustainable development, climate action, and bioeconomy, integrating science, technology, and innovation to enhance forest conservation, social inclusion, and green economic transformation;

WHEREAS the participants recognize that the “Vale Bioamazônico serves as an important model for integrated territorial management and a center for cooperation, knowledge exchange, and innovation in the Amazon region;

Therefore, the Participants have reached the following understanding:

SECTION I **Objective and Areas of Cooperation**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to establish a flexible framework between the Participants in order to collaborate on enhancing wildfire prevention and response capabilities and improving the protection of our forests and communities.

The Participants intend to enhance wildfire prevention and response through initiatives focused particularly on, but not limited to, the following areas of cooperation:

- a) Improve our ability to track the health of forests and identify areas most at risk of wildfire;
- b) Exchange experience and expertise on technology and intelligence to reduce risk of wildfire;
- c) Support firefighters and emergency managers make faster and better decisions during wildfires;
- d) Explore opportunities to support one another prescribed fire efforts including training, strategies, and planning processes; and
- e) Support and exchange community wildfire preparedness and mitigation strategies and processes and public education enhancing the safety of our communities including responder safety.

In addition, the participants intend to collaborate through the Vale Bioamazônico platform to promote bioeconomic development, research exchange, and innovation in sustainable land management and forest restoration. This collaboration will seek to strengthen and advance nature-based solutions that reduce fire risks and enhance climate resilience.

SECTION II **Coordination**

The Participants respectively designate the State Secretariat for Environment, Climate, and Sustainability of Pará (SEMAS-PA) and the California Natural Resources Agency to establish the creation of an action plan to implement the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding.

SECTION III **Specific Activities**

Specific activities to achieve the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding for the key sectors and initiatives identified in Section I may include:

- a) **Improving Data and Monitoring:** California and Pará will work together to better track the health of forests and identify areas most at risk of wildfire through increased information sharing and aligning data collection and use. This collaboration will inform decisions about where to focus prevention efforts and improve how each jurisdiction monitors forests and responds to fires.
- b) **Strategic Resource Positioning:** Pará and California will work together to use technology to help firefighters and emergency managers make faster and better decisions during wildfires. This work will help track where

firefighters and equipment are in real time, improve communication and coordination in the field, and make operations safer and more efficient. This will help both regions learn from one another and continually improve wildfire response.

- c) **Prescribed Fire and Community Fire Prevention Planning and Guidance:** CAL FIRE will explore opportunities to support Pará on wildfire activities in the Amazon, including prescribed fire and community wildfire preparedness and mitigation.
- d) **Integrated bioeconomy and innovation through the Vale Bioamazônico:** The participants will develop joint initiatives under the framework of the Vale Bioamazônico to promote sustainable value chains, technological innovation in forest monitoring, restoration, and carbon management, as well as training programs in fire prevention and climate adaptation. This will include collaboration with research institutions, private sector partners, and community organizations.

SECTION IV **Points of Contact**

The State Secretariat for Environment, Climate, and Sustainability of Pará (SEMAS-PA) and the California Natural Resources Agency will also serve as the respective contact points for communication and information exchange, as well as any notice submitted under this Memorandum of Understanding.

State Secretariat for Environment, Climate and Sustainability of Pará (SEMAS-PA): Secretary of Environment, Climate and Sustainability of the State of Pará, or any successors or designees.

California Natural Resources Agency: Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, or any successors or designees.

SECTION V **No Legal Obligations, Rights, or Remedies**

This Memorandum of Understanding is a voluntary initiative. It does not create any legally binding rights or obligations and creates no legally cognizable or enforceable rights or remedies, legal or equitable, in any forum whatsoever. In addition, the commitments in this Memorandum of Understanding are not conditioned upon reciprocal actions by other Participants; each Participant retains full discretion over implementation of its commitments in light of the Participant's individual circumstances, laws, and policies; and each Participant is free to terminate the Memorandum.

SECTION VI **Availability of Personnel and Resources**

This Memorandum of Understanding does not involve the exchange of funds, nor does it represent any obligation of funds by either Participant. All costs that may arise from activities covered by, mentioned in, or pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding will be assumed by the Participant that incurs them, unless otherwise expressly stated in a future written arrangement in accordance with applicable laws. All activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum of Understanding are subject to the availability of funds, personnel and other resources of each Participant.

The personnel designated by a Participant for the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding will work under the orders and responsibility of that Participant and any other organization or institution to which the personnel already belongs, at all times maintaining any preexisting employment relationship only with that Participant and organization or institution, and not with any other Participant.

SECTION VII

Compliance with Applicable Laws

This Memorandum of Understanding will be construed consistent with all applicable laws, and activities undertaken in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding will be subject to, and will be undertaken in a manner consistent with, all otherwise-applicable laws.

SECTION VIII

Interpretation and Application

Any difference that may arise in relation to the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved through consultations between the Participants, which will endeavor in good faith to resolve such differences.

SECTION IX

Final Provisions

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of its signature, for a period of five (5) years, unless renewed or extended by the Participants in the same manner that the Participants may otherwise modify this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Participants. Any modification will be made in writing and specify the date on which such modification is to become effective.

Any of the Participants may, at any time, terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by providing written notice to the other Participant(s). A Participant that intends to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding will endeavor to provide notice of such termination to other Participants 60 days in advance.

The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding will not affect when activities initiated while this Memorandum of Understanding is in effect will conclude, unless a Participant expressly states otherwise. A Participant that intends to terminate a previously initiated activity will endeavor to reach an understanding with the other Participant concerning such termination.

Signed in Belém, Pará on November 11, 2025, in two original copies in English and Portuguese, both versions being equally authentic.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF PARÁ OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL**

**HELDER BARBALHO
GOVERNOR**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR**