

Delivering Multiple Benefits from Forest Carbon Markets to Address Climate Change, Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation

***October 7th, 2008: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
IUCN World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain***

Abstract

Land use change and forestry contribute at least one-fifth of annual global greenhouse gas emissions. All major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation, must be dramatically reduced to stabilize atmospheric concentrations and avert catastrophic impacts on people and biodiversity due to climate change.

Policymakers have begun to recognize the importance of tropical forests in climate change mitigation and are exploring options to create incentives for reduced emissions and increased carbon sequestration from forests. The inclusion of forest conservation and restoration into existing carbon markets is seen by many as an important opportunity for achieving effective climate change mitigation while also optimizing biodiversity and livelihood benefits. To ensure that these incentives can effectively improve the resilience of forest ecosystems and their inhabitants, and respect the rights, needs and priorities of indigenous and other forest dependent peoples, it is important to design appropriate policies and measures in support of forest-based mitigation activities.

This workshop will explore the key elements necessary to ensure that forest carbon activities, including REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) and forest restoration, are designed to optimize biodiversity and human livelihood benefits. We will introduce the overall elements and principles of REDD and forest restoration in international policy frameworks and carbon markets, and examine key design issues required to ensure that these activities deliver biodiversity conservation as well as poverty alleviation benefits.

Outline of Event

- ***Kickoff and introduction by moderator***

Moderator: Charles McNeill, UNDP

- ***Introduction – “Opportunities and Challenges”***

H.E. Barnabas Suebu (Papua Governor, Indonesia)

- ***Benefitting Communities***

Johnson Cerda (Kichwa Indian from Comunidad de Limoncocha in the Ecuadorian Amazon)

- ***Optimizing Conservation Benefits***

Glenn Prickett, Conservation International

- ***Conclusions and propose questions***

Joshua Bishop, IUCN

- ***Audience question and answer session followed by interventions from expert discussants:***

Jill Blockhus, The Nature Conservancy

David Brown, Overseas Development Institute

Johannes Ebeling, Ecosecurities