

REDD for Ecosystem Values

Side Event

UNFCCC Climate Change Talks
Accra, 26 August 2008, 13:00-15:00,
CCTV



Background Information

REDD will not only contribute to mitigate climate change but also might emerge as a major tool to conserve ecosystem value. In the side event we explore new ways on how to build in 'ecosystem services' to the carbon economy. In fact, forests are important refuges for terrestrial biodiversity and a source of ecosystem services essential to human wellbeing. They provide the habitats for between 50 to 90% of the world's known terrestrial plants and animals, are the source of three quarters of the world's accessible freshwater, provide timber and non timber products essential in the economic life of hundreds of millions of people (Byron 1997), and play important cultural, spiritual and recreational roles in many societies. This broad societal dependence on forests, as well as intimate reliance of 300 million people (mostly poor) for their subsistence and survival, has been recognized through several recent UN conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, CCD and United Nations Forum on Forests). Understanding that biodiversity, ecosystem services and the opportunity costs of avoided deforestation are not distributed evenly across the forests of the world, we will provide a new understanding whether there are areas where one might get biggest ecosystem service bang for one's avoided deforestation buck. In the search of these global priority areas for avoided deforestation we find that high ecosystem values tend to coincide with areas of low cost avoided deforestation activities highlighting potential co-benefits of avoided deforestation policies. These are broad brush global findings prompting the question if it would be possible to increase the level of co-benefits even further in actual implementation. In order to increase the precision of carbon policy instruments with respect to ecosystem services provision it will be necessary to map with higher precision and more compressively the ecosystems per se and agree on the international political level how to quantify ecosystem services such that they could be incorporated into an avoided deforestation mechanism. Such mechanisms could range from introducing a minimum ecosystem service level to participate in a trading mechanism all the way to auctioning of fixed price avoided deforestation credits based on maximum ecosystem service provision. In the side event we will provide details on various implementation mechanisms and policy instruments including costing of the associated REDD observation systems.

(For more information see www.iiasa.at and www.geo-bene.eu)

Side Event Agenda

- **Introduction** (all)
- **IIASA's Modeling Background/Cluster on REDD** (Florian Kraxner, kraxner@iiasa.ac.at)
- **REDD Policies and Costs** (Michael Obersteiner, oberstei@iiasa.ac.at)
- **REDD Monitoring Systems and Costs** (Hannes Böttcher, bottcher@iiasa.ac.at)
- **Avoided Deforestation and Ecosystem Services: Targeting Win-Win Solutions** (Steffen Fritz, fritz@iiasa.ac.at)
- **Roads to REDD Policy implementation** (Florian Kraxner, kraxner@iiasa.ac.at)
- **Discussion/plenary** (all)

