

Rio Conventions' ECOSYSTEMS PAVILION

Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management

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The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity involving the Rio Convention secretariats, with the Global Environment Facility and other important partners

Key role of protected areas in climate change - Day 2 Tuesday 19 October, Nagoya

"They paved paradise"— You don't know what you've got, 'til it's gone", a quote from Joni Mitchell's famous song 'Big Yellow Taxi' was used as a theme by Bill Jackson, Deputy Director General IUCN to launch day 2 of the Ecosystems Pavilion and as a call to action to keep paradise by building strong systems of protected areas. Although these areas now comprise an area almost the size of Australia, or about 13% of the Earth's surface, he said less than 20% of protected areas are managed and financed effectively.

Absorbing carbon—From forests to peatlands, sea grass beds to mangroves, protected areas store more than 312 gigatonnes of carbon, or 15 per cent of the global total. According to Claudio Maretti from WWF Brazil, the expanded coverage of protected areas in the Brazilian Amazon region over the last five years has allowed Brazil to substantially reduce the rate of deforestation.

Nik Sekhran from the UNDP says that in Tanzania, forest loss is eight times higher in unprotected sites than in protected areas. Protected areas not only get the job done, says Leon Rajaobelina from Conservation International, but are a far more cost effective method. In Madagascar, he says, the costs of restoring a forest were US\$700 per hectare, while avoided deforestation cost amounted only to 5-7 \$US per hectare. "The more diverse a forest system is, the more productive it is in term of carbon sequestration," says Ian Thompson of the Canadian Forest Service.

For peat's sake—Peatlands, extensively found in Indonesia, Canada and Russia, contain vast amounts of carbon. Alex Kaat from Wetlands International emphasized the need to protect peatlands. Degradation of a hectare of peatlands has the potential to release 1400 tonnes of CO₂, more than 3 times the amount released by forest conversion.



Matthew Cranford, Global Canopy Programme, and Bill Jackson, Deputy Director General, IUCN

Protected areas pay off— Pavan Sukhdev, who heads The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, says decision makers often rely on market-based financing and need to know the costs and benefits, which is why there is a major effort to show the value that ecosystems provide. When policy-makers know the true value, they act differently, says Carlos Rodriguez from Conservation International. In

Costa Rica, he says, bananas and coffee production were seen as key economic activities, while forest conservation was often seen as unproductive. But now, it turns out, protecting forests does pay the benefits from the National Parks to local economies in Costa Rica have been rising and are now bringing in an estimated US\$1.3 billion a year. "It's proven that you can grow economically while protecting nature."

Show me the money—It makes economic sense to invest in "natural capital," says Matthew Cranford presenting the Global Canopy Programme's new Little Biodiversity Finance Book, and it makes sense to invest now, rather than later. There are new financial instruments available, he says, and a proactive investment in natural capital, which could leverage additionally up to US\$141 billion every year for biodiversity. Warren Evans, Director of Environment at the World Bank, said it was time to think bigger and bring projects to scale. A smart approach, he says, is to rely on natural ecosystems as a cost effective way to

adapt to climate change. Ministers have to understand the real value of ecosystems and their co-benefits and invest in protection at a much larger scale.

Protecting the water supply— In Quito, Ecuador, says Andrea Michelson, from the IUCN Regional Office for South America, water availability for the capital city of about 1.5 million inhabitants and surrounding areas depends on the protection of upstream forests, with 80 per cent of the water supply originating from two ecological reserves. In fact, one third of the 105 world's largest cities get their drinking water from forested protected areas while another 10 per cent obtain water from sources that originate in 'protected' watersheds.

It's all about values—Protected areas are well known for protecting landscapes, wildlife and biodiversity, recreational values and tourism. In addition to their role in providing clean water, securing food supplies and mitigating disasters, Nigel Dudley, from Equilibrium Research, says they also have value in regard to health, wealth, sacred sites and culture. "We not only need to increase the number of protected areas, but also to maintain the commitment to protected areas, with regards to these overall values and benefits".

"Healthy Parks, Healthy People" —Research studies are increasingly finding that nature is good for human well-being says Kathryn Campbell, from Parks Victoria in Australia. That message underlines the philosophy of Parks Victoria's "Healthy Parks, Healthy People," a holistic approach that recognizes the vital role of protected areas in protecting not only the natural environment, but also in bringing social benefits in terms of the health and well-being of people, as well as economic benefits that create healthy communities.



Pamela Kraft and Erin Hinkle, Tribal Link, Tashka Yawanawa, Associaciao Sociocultural Yawanawa - ASCYAWANAWA

Preserving the natural food supply—According to Anura Wijesekara from Bioversity International in Sri

Lanka, wild relatives of crops, which are of great importance for food security, are particularly threatened by development. Some can be found in protected areas, he says, but often, they are not properly managed. Three protected areas were established in Sri Lanka exclusively for wild rice.

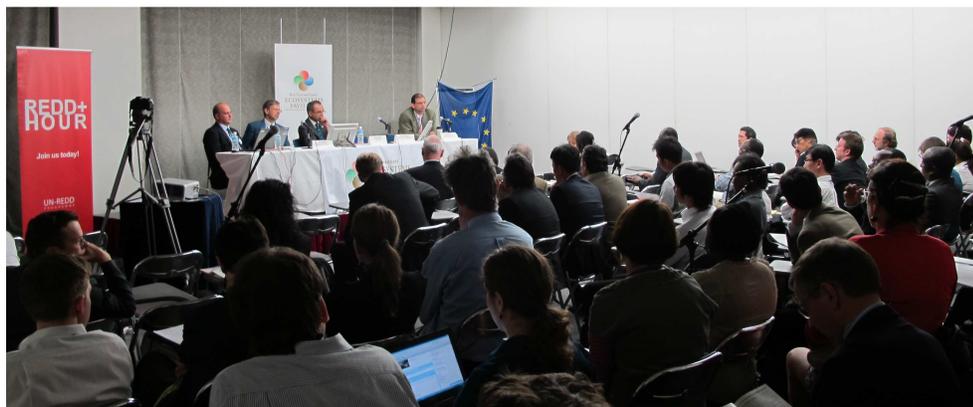
Balancing people and nature— Europe faces major threats such as rising temperatures, storms, floods and drought, says Karl Falkenberg, head of DG Environment European Commission. Keeping forests, soils, and rivers in a healthy state can help reduce the impacts of severe weather events. The Natura 2000 network, which covers about 18 per cent of European territory, focuses on conserving nature in healthy ecosystems, while, at the same time, supporting human activities. It is a difficult balance and conflicts do arise between traditional resource users and protected area managers, says Falkenberg, who adds that legislation is often needed to bring together traditional economic activities and ecological concerns.

Adapting to climate change— Mexican protected areas will have to adapt to the realities of climate change such as sea-level rise, increasing hurricane impacts, invasive exotic species, landslides, or catastrophic forest fires, says Hernando Cabral Perdomo, working with The Nature Conservancy in Mexico. A new programme for planning climate change adaptation is being piloted in protected areas and their surrounding landscapes in southern Mexico. The programme has been implemented in four areas on the Yucatan Peninsula.

Protecting the drylands—In arid regions such as Kuwait, the main impacts of climate change are extended drought, increase in dust storms, and severe sand encroachment. Dr Samira Omar Asem, from Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, said the Sabah Al Ahmad Nature Reserve, a large protected area that is home to a wide array of wildlife, still faces environmental degradation, particularly land erosion due to changes in precipitation and blowing sand.

Oceans 1.17—Only 1.17 per cent of the global oceans have been designated as protected areas, but the good news is double that from only a few years ago. According to Imèn Meliane from The Nature Conservancy, the focus of further actions needs to zero in on "climate-smart" marine protected areas, which can contribute to a reduction of societal vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, and not only to "climate-proof" marine protected areas.

<http://ecosystemspavilion.org>



REDD + Evening Session: Carlos Rodriguez, Conservation International, Ian Thompson, Canadian Forest Service, Pavan Sukhdev TEEB, Ravi Prabhu, UN REDD

Ecosystems Pavilion Programme Overview

18 October, Monday	<i>The linkages between biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change</i> With the European Commission and other partners	Evening Sessions – Reducing emissions from degradation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) <i>With UNEP and other UN REDD members</i>
19 October, Tuesday	<i>Key role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies</i> With IUCN WCPA and other partners	Session 1: Inter-linkages of biodiversity, carbon and economics
20 October, Wednesday	<i>Indigenous peoples and communities – benefits and livelihoods</i> With UNDP, Conservation International and other partners	Session 2: Traditional knowledge in conserving biodiversity and carbon
21 October, Thursday	<i>Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation – the linked benefits provided by forests</i> With members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners	Session 3: Environmental safeguards and REDD
22 October, Friday	<i>Water, Ecosystems and Climate Change</i> With SCBD and other partners	Session 4: Measuring and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services within REDD
23 October, Saturday	<i>UNCCD Land Day 3</i>	Session 5 (11am -1:30 pm): Empowerment of the biodiversity constituency in REDD processes
		Evening Sessions – Commitments and international cooperation for financing synergies, in partnership with CBD’s LifeWeb
25 October, Monday	<i>Economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change and land management</i> With TEEB and other partners	Session 1: Mesoamerican financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring Costa Rica Forever and other national initiatives
26 October, Tuesday	<i>Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation</i> With IUCN, ICLEI and other partners	Session 2: Caribbean and Micronesian financing synergies through protected-area solutions
27 October, Wednesday	<i>Promoting synergies for sustainable development and poverty reduction</i> With UNDP and other partners	Session 3: South American financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring the Pan-Amazonian Vision
28 October, Thursday	<i>Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Summit: Moving Towards Rio+20</i>	Session 4: West African Coastal and Marine financing synergies through protected area solutions

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