NATURAL COASTAL CARBON SINKS – POLICY OPPORTUNITIES

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Side-event, UNFCCC COP16, Cancun: Sequestration of Carbon Along Our Coasts: Are We Missing Major Sinks and Sources?
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Content

• **Nature-based Solutions** to Climate Change

• **Policy Opportunities**
  - REDD
  - REDD-similar approach
  - NAMAs
  - LULUCF
  - CDM

• Building a **Road Map**
Main Messages

• Coastal ecosystems are *unaccounted* natural carbon sinks and sources, if lost or degraded.

• Coastal ecosystems are *lost and degraded at high rates*.

• Management of coastal ecosystems is a complement to a *global approach to natural carbon management* for climate change mitigation, alongside other ecosystems.

• Some policy mechanisms for some coastal management activities are readily *available*; others need to be newly developed.

• Need for common *roadmap*. 
Nature-based solutions

- As an integral part of broader adaptation and mitigation plans and strategies;
Nature-based solutions

- Coastal and marine ecosystems are part of the UNFCCC mandate:

  Art. 4(d): All Parties […] shall ‘promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all GHG not controlled by the Montreal protocol, including […] oceans as well as […] coastal and marine ecosystems’.

- A global approach to natural carbon management for climate change mitigation.
Co-benefits

Carbon Sequestration

- Marine Biodiversity
- Coastal Water Quality
- Fish Nurseries
- Coastline and Beach Stabilization

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Sustaining Community Resilience and Coastal Livelihoods

Source: Forest Trend
Policy opportunities within the UNFCCC

>> Create disincentives to drain or damage coastal ecosystems; and

>> Create incentives for coastal conservation and restoration activities.
REDD +, REDD-like approach, NAMA

- Extending appropriate coastal ecosystems in **REDD+ activities** as well as related work undertaken by **SBSTA**

- Developing a financial, **REDD-like** coastal mechanism, including incentives for **soil-based** carbon storage and sequestration

- Identifying conservation and management actions as part of National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (**NAMAs**)
LULUCF, CDM

- Accounting for GHG emissions by sources and removals by sinks from **coastal management activities** under the Kyoto Protocol resulting from human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF)

- Expanding related SBSTA work programme towards **more comprehensive accounting**;

- **Coastal management activities** under the CDM
IPCC, challenges

>> Revision of IPCC guidance and guidelines and supplementary methodologies needed

> Alignment of definitions
> Improved ecosystem inventories
> Systematically collected carbon data for coastal wetlands
> Application of science at the local level
> Baselines, leakage, permanence and additionality
> Analysis of tenure, use and access rights
Blue Carbon Initiative

Goal: Mitigating climate change by conservation and restoration of coastal marine ecosystems

Immediate Objectives:
• Develop coastal marine conservation and management that maximizes sequestration of carbon;
• Develop roadmap for implementing economic incentives, policies or other payment mechanisms for coastal carbon;
• Establish a network of demonstration projects;
• Develop communication and capacity-building tools.

Partners: CI, IUCN, UNESCO-IOC, Restoring America’s Estuaries, UNEP-WCMC