



Mangroves should be part of solution to climate change

mongabay.com

August 02, 2012



Mangroves are under-appreciated assets in the effort to slow climate change, argues a new *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* paper which makes a argument for including the coastal ecosystems in carbon credit programs.

The study, authored by researchers from Resources for the Future and University of California at Davis, estimated the cost of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by preserving mangrove

forests, which globally store 6.5 billion tons of carbon in their biomass and soils despite representing only 0.7 percent of global tropical forests. They found that most emissions from mangrove destruction and degradation could be avoided at less than a cost of \$10 per ton of carbon dioxide, roughly 20 percent above the current price for compliance-grade carbon offsets in Europe.

But protecting mangroves would offer further benefits beyond emissions mitigations. The ecosystems are known to offer a number of other important services, including buffering coastlines from erosions and storms, serving as a nursery for fisheries, and providing habitat for biodiversity. Mangroves thus form the basis for livelihoods in many parts of the developing world.


The authors note that despite their role in sequestering carbon and affording other ecosystem services, mangroves aren't currently a focus of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) program that aims to compensate tropical countries for safeguarding forest carbon stocks. Yet mangroves are being cleared at an even faster clip than tropical forests, according to data from the U.N., so opportunities to capitalize on their services is dwindling. The researchers thus suggest further study into whether mangrove conservation could be integrated into the REDD+ program.

"Mangroves may already fit within the general REDD architecture," the authors write. "Our results suggest the need for practical evaluations of mangrove-based carbon offsets, including rigorous local assessments of offsets as well as developing their robust verification and monitoring."



CITATION: Juha Siikamäki, James N. Sanchirico, and Sunny L. Jardine. Global economic potential for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from mangrove loss. PNAS July 30, 2012. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1200519109



Comments (0)




 Facebook social plugin


 Like  Sign Up to see what your friends like.

<http://print.news.mongabay.com/2012/0802-pnas-redd-mangroves.html>

Ethical Investments

Read Merrill Lynch's Tips For Values Based Investing Now.

 wealthmanagement.ml.com/



Mongabay.com seeks to raise interest in and appreciation of wild lands and wildlife, while examining the impact of emerging trends in climate, technology, economics, and finance on conservation and development.

Copyright mongabay 2009