



## Experiences on implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change mitigation

1 December 2015, 17:00-18:15

Rio Conventions Pavilion<sup>1</sup> (Générations Climat, Red zone)

UNFCCC COP 21, Paris, France

### Introduction

Conserving biodiversity and restoring degraded ecosystems can contribute to the global climate, biodiversity and development agendas, and to achieving the multiple goals and objectives of the Rio Conventions.

Intact or recovering terrestrial ecosystems act as important carbon stores and sinks. At the same time, land use change, ecosystem degradation and soil disturbance are significant sources of carbon emissions.

Given the importance of ecosystems in the global carbon cycle, there is a wide range of sustainable management activities which can maintain and potentially increase carbon stocks, while also contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. While a large amount of the terrestrial carbon is stored in forest, significant carbon stocks, especially soil carbon, are found in other ecosystems including wetlands and peatlands.

### Description

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention Biological Diversity (CBD), in decision X/33, provided guidance to Parties for the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to mitigation, including by inviting Parties to implement ecosystem management activities, such as the protection of natural forests, natural grasslands and peatlands, the sustainable management of forests considering the use of native communities of forest species in reforestation activities, sustainable wetland management, restoration of degraded wetlands and natural grasslands, conservation of mangroves, salt marshes and seagrass beds, sustainable agricultural practices and soil management, amongst others, as a contribution towards achieving and consistent with, the objectives of the UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention and CBD.

The COP also invited Parties to implement a range of sustainable activities in the agricultural sector that may result in the maintenance and potential increase of current carbon stocks, and to promote biodiversity conservation, especially with regard to soil biodiversity, while conserving and restoring organic carbon in soil and biomass, including in peatlands and other wetlands as well as in grasslands, savannahs and drylands.

The side event will highlight the potential of ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation, including the multiple benefits that such approaches can provide. The side event will present some of the experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.riopavilion.org/>



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

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climate change mitigation in a range of biomes, and will discuss the opportunities for promoting synergies between policies addressing climate change and those addressing biodiversity.

**Draft Programme**

17:00- 17:05: *Welcome and introduction*

Sakhile Koketso, Programme Officer, Climate Change and Drylands, CBD Secretariat

17:05-17:15: Cordula Epple, Senior Programme Officer, Climate Change and Biodiversity, UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre

17:15-17:25: Dorothée Herr, Marine Programme Officer, IUCN

17:25-17:35: Marcel Silviu, Head of Program on Climate Mitigation, Wetlands International

17:35-17:45: Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa, tbc

17:45-17:55: UNREDD, tbc

17:55-18:05: ICRAF, tbc

18:05-18:15: *Question and answer session*

(Facilitated dialogue between panelists and audience)

*Closing*