



# Omissions and Emissions:

The need to consider new science on rainforest ecosystem services within climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies:

Global Canopy Programme Side Event - UNFCCC SB28, Bonn

Location: MoT, TRAM

13.00-15.00, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008

Omitting the ecosystem services of standing forests from the REDD mechanisms, and deforestation feedbacks from the IPCC climate models, risks underplaying the importance and economic value of tropical forests in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Treating trees as sticks of business-as-usual carbon under the UNFCCC risks perverse outcomes, and the potential release of far more forest carbon in the mid to long term.

We will report on new results from research into the impact of large scale loss of tropical forests on ecosystem services such as rainfall generation and carbon storage, which will have impacts at local to continental scales. We will also report on the recent innovative purchase of forest ecosystem services in Guyana by Canopy Capital Ltd, the first time risk capital has been deployed for forest conservation in this way.

## **Professor Roni Avissar, Duke University**

Roni will highlight the impact of tropical deforestation on the water cycle at regional and global scales. He shows that losses in the Amazon could affect rainfall in the American Mid-West through the hydrological 'teleconnections' of deforestation.

## **Dr. Mandar Trivedi, Global Canopy Programme**

Mandar will present recent work on the valuation of regional to global services such as rainfall generation and carbon sequestration - preliminary results will highlight the costs of their loss. He will also present recent work kindly contributed by **Dr Richard Betts**, Head of Climate Impacts at the UK Met Office's Hadley Centre, and **Dr. Yadvinder Malhi**, Professor of Ecosystem Science at Oxford University, to highlight omissions in the current climate policy toolkit.

## **Andrew Mitchell, Director, Global Canopy Programme**

Andrew will outline new initiatives to create positive incentives for the regional scale ecosystem services provided by standing forests. He will report on the Iwokrama Reserve in Guyana, the ecosystem services of which have recently been purchased by Canopy Capital an investment company in London.

The speakers will be joined for an open discussion on omissions and emissions by **Ian Redmond**, Chief Consultant for UNEP GRASP and a representative of **Wetlands International**.