Photo by Daniel Murdiyarso

Friday

10 June 2011
18.15 – 19.45
RAIL room,
Ministry of Transport

Tropical wetlands initiative for climate change adaptation and mitigation

Recent studies demonstrate that carbon stocks in peatlands and mangroves of Southeast Asia are almost five times higher than carbon stocks in upland tropical and temperate forests. However, methodologies are lacking for countries to assess and communicate their greenhouse gas inventories. Even IPCC guidelines are not readily applicable to such ecosystems in the tropics, which could very well benefit from REDD+. Emissions factors associated with land use change and activity data in these ecosystems need to be revisited so that peatlands and mangroves are included in mitigation schemes.

Climate change is already affecting these wetlands and the people whose livelihoods depend on them, through rising sea levels, increasing soil salinity, changing temperature and rainfall patterns, increasing number and severity of cyclones, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events. These stressors require adaptation strategies. Bundling adaptation and mitigation strategies would enhance the benefits to communities that have relatively low capacity to adapt and yet most vulnerable to and hard hit by climate change.

This side event will present a conceptual framework, what we know to date and lessons learnt to enhance the roles of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Programme

Chair:
Daniel Murdiyarso, CIFOR

1. **Stocks and fluxes of carbon associated with land use change in Southeast Asian tropical peatlands: A review**
   Louis Verchot, CIFOR
2. **Targeting tropical wetlands for climate adaptation and mitigation**
   Matthew Warren, US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service
3. **Development of IPCC guidance on wetlands**
   Simon Eggleston, IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
4. **Challenges of climate change adaptation in Sundarban mangrove forest of Bangladesh**
   S.M. Munjurul Hannan Khan, Government of Bangladesh

Discussion

Refreshments will be served.

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