

Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems

International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems Making a vital resource for achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement

As a matter of urgency, we, the 272 participants from 25 countries attending the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems, held on 18–21 April 2017 in Bali, Indonesia, urge policymakers, land-use planners, mangrove practitioners and scientists, international organizations, the private sector, donors and coastal communities to redouble their work to ensure the conservation, restoration, protection and sustainable management and use of the world's remaining mangrove forest ecosystems.

Mangroves provide many goods and ecosystem services essential for the livelihoods of coastal communities, including sustaining fisheries, conserving biodiversity, and storing among the highest densities of carbon of any ecosystem globally. Mangroves cover about 15 million hectares but are under threat worldwide, with the total area declining by at least 20% since 1980. At least one-quarter of surviving mangroves are moderately to severely degraded.

Evidence and case studies presented at this conference demonstrate that, with adequate investment, sustainable mangrove management can play a significant role in conserving and enhancing carbon sinks, enabling adaptation to climate change, and achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 5, 13, 14 and 15.

The conference has also shown the leading role of women in the restoration and rehabilitation of mangroves worldwide and the importance of involving local communities in sustainable mangrove management.

Greater national and international efforts should be made and more funding provided, therefore, for mangrove conservation, restoration and sustainable management and use. Countries and those responsible for mangrove resources are invited to consider and implement the following key measures, if appropriate, to help ensure that mangrove ecosystems are protected, expanded and managed sustainably for the benefit of coastal communities, countries and the global environment.



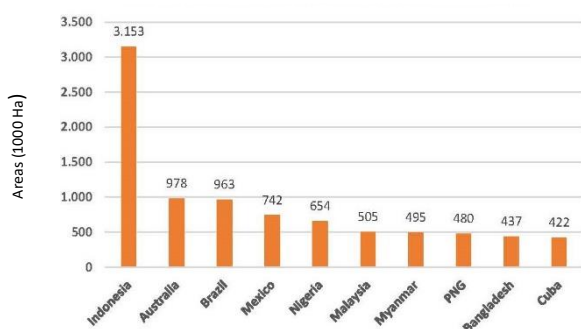
Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia
International Tropical Timber Organization
International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems



Key Messages

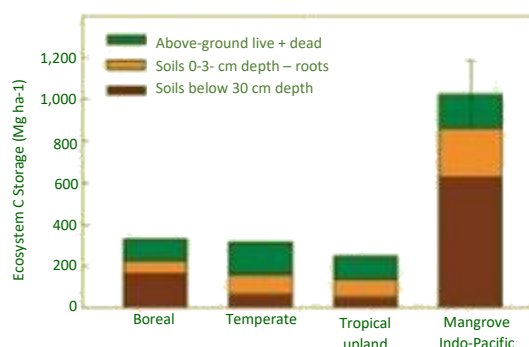
- Prioritizing the conservation and sustainable management and use of mangrove ecosystems** in national policies, laws and regulations at all levels of government, and strengthening law enforcement to reduce the continuing loss and degradation of mangrove ecosystems.
- Promoting sound land-use planning, clarifying land tenure and user rights for communities** with consideration for cultural sensitivity, and ensuring the effective involvement and empowerment of local communities, especially women.
- Promoting effective mangrove restoration** through the improved assessment of degraded and deforested mangrove ecosystems, science-based decision-making to identify the best restoration strategies and practices, and long-term monitoring and management to determine and improve the overall success of restoration programmes and increase productivity.
- Facilitating access to international financing mechanisms as well as national public and private-sector sources** to scale up mangrove-based climate-change mitigation and adaptation and enhance the resilience of coastal regions and communities.
- Generating and disseminating knowledge** on the causes, patterns and consequences of change in mangrove ecosystems at the local to globe scales, reporting on the status of mangrove management worldwide, and raising awareness of the vital importance of mangrove ecosystems to planetary well-being.

10 Countries with the largest mangrove forest in the world



Source: Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia

Comparison of Mangrove C Storage



Source: Donato et al. (2011). *Nature Geoscience*.



We thank the government and people of Indonesia and the Province of Bali for their kind hospitality in hosting the conference which was organized jointly by ITTO, MoEF of Indonesia and ISME with the support of many partners including CIFOR, FAO, USFS and AFoCo as well as proactive mangrove related civil society groups and the private sector in Indonesia. We also thank the governments of Japan and the USA for their generous contributions to ITTO that allowed the conference to take place.

This document is not a negotiated document but rather a compilation of views and ideas put forward during the conference and does not necessarily reflect the views and/or agreement of the governments or entities that provided funding for this conference.



Presentation materials delivered at the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems can be found at <http://www.itto.int/mangrove2017/>