



Invitation to the SIDE EVENT

A Policy Brief Launch: Securing the Future of Mangroves

At the CBD COP 11, Hyderabad, India October 2012

Organized by **UNU INWEH** with **ITTO**, **FAO** and **UNEP**

Venue: Room 1.02 - Level 1 - HICC Building

Date & Time: 12 October 2012 from 18:15 – 19.15 pm

DESCRIPTION: Mangroves are extraordinary ecosystems that offer countless goods and services to the human population. Their importance and value both economically and ecologically are largely known; despite this nearly all mangrove nations have experienced net losses in mangrove cover in recent decades as a result of human activity and the remaining mangrove habitats are seldom pristine. These human activities continue to take their toll and if left unchecked will cause significant economic and ecological decline. Set against this is a growing realisation of the social and economic value of mangroves and a remarkable array of restoration efforts in many countries around the world. These are not sufficient to reduce overall rates of loss, but do provide a pointer to the changing attitudes in some places, and to the viability of restoration as a tool for reversing the losses associated with mangrove decline. Much of their fate is determined by high-level policy decisions and by the lack of enforcement of protection measures. Reversing this downward trend will require a real commitment by governments to develop and implement robust high-level policies that could positively affect mangroves.

This event will launch the **Policy Brief: Securing the Future of Mangroves** which is based on the **World Atlas of Mangroves (2010)**. The aim of this policy brief is to provide managers with lessons learned on the conservation and management of mangroves, and recommend policy measures that could be taken in order to protect them. We hope that this document will stimulate greater interest by policy makers in the fate of these valuable ecosystems, and promote a greater drive for their effective protection and management.

Citation: Van Lavieren, H., Spalding, M., Alongi, D., Kainuma, M., Clüsener-Godt, M., and Adeel, Z. 2012. Securing the Future of Mangroves. A Policy brief. UNU-INWEH, UNESCO MAB with ISME, ITTO, FAO, UNEP WCMC and TNC.

This Policy Brief is based on: Spalding, M., Kainuma, M., and Collings, L. 2010. World Atlas of Mangroves. A collaborative project of ITTO, ISME, FAO, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO-MAB, UNU-INWEH and TNC. Earthscan, London, 319 pp.

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SPEAKERS:

Hanneke Van Lavieren, Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Regional Coordinator, Coastal Zones Programme, United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment & Health (**UNU-INWEH**)

John Leigh, Conservation Office, Reforestation and Forest Management International Tropical Timber Organization (**ITTO**)

Oudara Souvannavong, Senior Forestry Officer, Team Leader (Biological Diversity), Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division Forestry Department, **FAO**

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