

Integrating Oceans and Coasts into the UNFCCC Process

Coastal communities are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Loss of natural habitat, including mangrove forests, salt marshes, and seagrass meadows can increase vulnerability, as well as cause disruption to ecosystem services. Recent scientific evidence has drawn attention to the carbon sequestering capabilities of these ecosystems, and there has been progress in integrating some coastal ecosystems into the UNFCCC processes, including through inclusion as “forests” in the REDD+ and CDM programs, and through new protocols being developed to address carbon storage in wetlands. Challenges to the successful integration of coastal carbon will be presented. Sources of funding through the UNFCCC to address vulnerable coastal communities will also be discussed.