



## **Working Group on Climate Change and TBPA**

*International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in  
Transboundary Tropical Forests  
Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 July 2010*

# Key points



- **Climate change is a threat to ecosystems, including TBCAs but the growing political will to address CC is an opportunity for the establishment and management of TBCAs.**
- **TBCA have unique potential to help address CC, but also a set of unique challenges, concerning their location straddling borders**
- **Other protected areas, and other sectors of mitigation and adaptation can learn from TBCAs**

# Mitigation



- **Many carbon rich and biodiverse ecosystems are transboundary ecosystems e.g. tropical peatlands, boreal forests and the Amazon basin**
- **Existing TBCAs can help ensure carbon permanence and ongoing sequestration by protecting large enough areas to ensure ecosystem resilience and avoid tipping points**
- **New TBCAs can be established in carbon-rich habitats to reduce emissions from land-use changes**

# Mitigation



- **TBCAs involving multiple zones of land-use can provide lessons on management of threats to biodiversity and carbon stocks**
- **Monitoring (including of REDD-plus biodiversity and social benefits) can be improved through transboundary collaboration**

# Mitigation



- **TBCAs can catalyze international research for finding solutions**
- **There is a need to establish a prioritized inventory of existing and potential TBCAs that can contribute to mitigation**

# Mitigation



- **TBCAs can involve the full range of PA governance types, but also to utilize the full range of experience of indigenous peoples and traditional knowledge**
- **TBCAs can ensure high social acceptance and stability of the area through strong local ownership, especially if areas bring together indigenous peoples divided by borders.**
- **There is a need for recognition of ILCs tenure and participation in this context, and a need to build understanding of CC among ILCs**

# Mitigation



- **TBCAs can lead the way for accessing climate finance, including from carbon credits**
- **Applying market-based mechanisms for REDD in transboundary areas would work best when both countries are involved (to avoid displacement of land-use changes or disparities in levels of management)**

# Adaptation



- **Adaptation and mitigation are inextricably linked, and TBCAs that involve forest protected areas and other carbon rich habitats will provide benefits for both**
- **Increasing connectivity across the landscape is an important overall adaptation response, and TBPA are key tools to achieve this**

# Adaptation



- **TBCAs can ensure large scale ecosystem resilience, thereby ensuring continued flows of ecosystem services, e.g. water, agricultural productivity**
- **TBCAs can be fundamental to manage shared river basins and shared watersheds for water security; they can also be a good model for non-protected shared water management areas**

# Adaptation



- **TBCAs offer opportunities for joint research a, monitoring and learning across a wide range of situations globally**
- **TBCAs can improve data flow and modeling for regional adaptation in similar ecosystems which are transboundary (e.g. Amazon basin)**
- **TBCAs can also improve education and exchange of information and knowledge e.g. on effects of land use practices**

# Adaptation



- **TBCAs can improve monitoring and transborder controls of IAS and pests**
- **TBCAs can lead to joint research, broadening the knowledge base for decision making and improving policies and governance**
- **TBCAs can increase incentives for countries to have the similar positions in international negotiations (UNFCCC, CBD)**

# Adaptation



- **TBCAs that maintain ecosystem integrity can mitigate disasters and reduce risks to societies from extreme environmental events**
- **There is a lack of capacity to maintain existing TBCAs and PA systems, but TBCAs offer an opportunity to make a more convincing case for use of adaptation and other funding**

# Adaptation



- **People are already adapting in and around TBCAs, and the knowledge could be harnessed for transnational cooperation and transfer of knowledge to other areas**
- **TBCAs can help to focus attention on education and towards building unified solutions, instead of conflict**
- **Research collaboration and data exchange can be facilitated by TBCAs**

# Adaptation



- **TBCAs, by contributing to an ecoregional approach and large scale protected areas, can provide an opportunity for natural adaptation, by allowing natural dynamics and evolution**
- **Need to increase capacity of TBCAs to adapt to climate change: improving management; exchanging data; technology transfer; restoration and rehabilitation of natural systems**

# Adaptation



- **People living in and around TBCAs are often marginalized and therefore sensitive and vulnerable to cc, thereby an important focus for adaptation action by countries**
- **TBCAs can help avoid conflict caused by resource limitations, but a much better understanding of CC impacts on ecosystem services and human livelihoods is necessary**

# Recommendations



- **There is an urgent need to undertake an inventory of existing and potential TBCAs to optimise the potential to maintain ecosystem resilience and carbon storage in shared ecoregions**
- **Coupled with this is an urgent need to understand the socio-economic dependence of IPCs on transboundary ecosystems and the customary approaches to managing these ecosystems**

# Recommendations



- **Evidence needs to be compiled and presented regarding the linkages between ecosystem integrity in large scale TBCAs and the health, well-being and livelihoods of dependent communities**
- **Evidence needs to be compiled on the economic impact of CC on transboundary communities and the cost-effectiveness of TBCAs in avoiding losses (e.g. services and tourism economies)**

# Recommendations



- **TBPAs should be prioritized for both adaptation and mitigation financing, and in particular to maintain large intact carbon-rich ecosystems, and for shared watersheds and river basins (to maintain services including disaster and risk reduction)**
- **‘Bigger is better’ and more cost-effective, and investments in bigger areas, and connectivity, should be prioritized**

# Recommendations



- **A transboundary protocol needs to be developed for complementary REDD investments in TBCAs to maximise permanence and avoid national and international transboundary leakage**
- **Better understanding needs to be built among affected communities/ authorities on the impacts of CC on TBCAs and best practice guidance for ensuring participation and benefit by affected communities developed**

# Recommendations



- **To UNFCCC: parties should be encouraged to ensure that the role of ecosystems and particularly TBCAs in climate change adaptation and mitigation are effectively enabled in a new post 2012 climate agreement**
- **To CBD: parties should be encouraged to ensure that the particular value of TBCAs for climate change adaptation and mitigation is emphasized in relevant programmes of work**