

PRESS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release
March 5th, 2010

More Governments Use Markets to Protect Species

Cash-strapped governments around the world are turning to market-based schemes that preserve endangered species by creating an economic incentive to preserve biological diversity, according to a new report compiled by Ecosystem Marketplace and slated for general release March 5th.

Entitled “State of Biodiversity Markets: Offset and Compensation Programs Worldwide”, the report documents 39 “compensatory mitigation programs” around the world and 25 others in the works.

These programs cover a wide spectrum of biodiversity markets that are designed to reduce development impacts to biodiversity, ranging from rigorous and measurable biodiversity offsets to less direct efforts to compensate for impacts through financial contributions and land protection.



Each of the 39 active offset programs surveyed contains numerous individual offset sites, including over 600 mitigation banks worldwide. The global annual market size is \$1.8-\$2.9 billion at a minimum, and likely much more, as 80% of existing programs are not transparent enough to estimate.

The report offers a region-by-region breakdown of existing and impending projects in North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as an analysis of the unique legal framework within which each scheme is being implemented and the means of incentivizing private-sector investment.

The reliable, consistent and transparent information provided in this annual report will enable both experienced and new market participants to make more informed decisions and learn from the experience of others; ultimately allowing fair, stable and transparent conservation markets to develop.

About Ecosystem Marketplace

Ecosystem Marketplace is dedicated to providing information on markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services. The Ecosystem Marketplace believes that by providing reliable information on costs, regulation, science, and other market-relevant factors, markets for ecosystem services will one day become a fundamental part of our economic system, helping give value to environmental services that, for too long, have been taken for granted. Ecosystem Marketplace is a project of Forest Trends, a non-profit organization that works to create and capture market values for ecosystem services.

Sponsors

This report is public and freely available due to the financial contributions from Ecosystem Marketplace Donors: the United Nations Development Program and the Global Environment Facility; as well as our Premium Sponsors: Commission for Environmental Cooperation, New Forests; and Sponsors: USDA Forest Service – International Programs, Markit, Grantham Foundation, eftec, and the Nature Conservancy.

Further Reading

Biodiversity Banking: A Primer

http://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/pages/dynamic/article.page.php?page_id=5617§ion=home&eod=1

Conservation and Biodiversity Banking: A Guide to Setting Up and Running Biodiversity Credit Trading Systems (Environmental Markets Insight Series) by Nathaniel Carroll, Jessica Fox, Ricardo Bayon (Eds.)

http://www.amazon.com/Conservation-Biodiversity-Banking-Setting-Environmental/dp/1844078140/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1259175674&sr=8-1

Contact

Becca Madsen

Biodiversity Program Manager, Ecosystem Marketplace

bmadsen@ecosystemmarketplace.com

202.446.1976

DC Launch Event

March 9th, 4:30-7:30pm

Please join us for the debut of the 'State of the Biodiversity Markets' report at our DC launch event on March 9th, 2010. We will be showcasing highlights from the report and presenting the perspective of a panel involved in biodiversity markets, with a reception following. Thank you to Hunton & Williams, LLP for hosting the event.

There will be limited seating at the event. Please RSVP here:

<http://www.katoombagroup.org/signups/sbmr/>.

Event Details:

March 9th, 2010, 4:30-7:30PM

1900 K Street NW, 12th Floor, Washington, DC

**HUNTON &
WILLIAMS**