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Science 13 June 2008:  
Vol. 320, no. 5882, pp. 1456 - 1457  
DOI: 10.1126/science.1155458

PERSPECTIVE

## Managing Forests for Climate Change Mitigation

Josep G. Canadell\* and Michael R. Raupach

Forests currently absorb billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> globally every year, an economic subsidy worth hundreds of billions of dollars if an equivalent sink had to be created in other ways. Concerns about the permanency of forest carbon stocks, difficulties in quantifying stock changes, and the threat of environmental and socioeconomic impacts of large-scale reforestation programs have limited the uptake of forestry activities in climate policies. With political will and the involvement of tropical regions, forests can contribute to climate change protection through carbon sequestration as well as offering economic, environmental, and sociocultural benefits. A key opportunity in tropical regions is the reduction of carbon emissions from deforestation and degradation.

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