**Synergies and Tradeoffs between Mitigation and Adaptation of Coastal Climate Risks**

Coastal climate policy makers shall pay more attention to the synergies between adaptation and mitigation. IPCC report 2014 defined trade-offs between mitigation and adaptation as the balancing of adaptation and mitigation whistle it is constraining to perform both activities fully simultaneously.

Adaptation appears as the predominant approach to reducing climate risks to coastal communities, resources and activities over the 21st century since large increases in sea level rise might not be ruled out due to the time lag between emission reductions and temperature changes. Successful adaptive coastal management of climate risks shall involve assessing and minimizing potential trade-offs with other policy goals (economic development, enhancement of coastal tourism).

Currently, various coastal management strategies involve emissions of greenhouse gases. Attention of policy makers is drawn on the relocation of infrastructure or development out of the coastal floodplains and upgrading of coastal protection structures or ports that lead to increase of greenhouse gas emissions.

Recent studies highlighted that coastal vegetated habitats (seagrasses, saltmarshes, macroalgae or mangroves) contribute to almost 50% of the total organic carbon burial in ocean sediments leading to the *Blue Carbon* (coastal carbon stocks) strategies. These strategies aim at exploring and implementing the necessary mechanisms enabling *Blue Carbon* to become part of emission and mitigation protocols along with other carbon-binding ecosystems such as rainforests.

Besides, marine vegetated habitats provide additional functions including the buffering of impacts on storm surges, waves and soil preservation. Thereby, a positive and valid approach consists of restoring the marine vegetated areas. This is the best alternative in the portfolio of measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Restored seagrass meadows are expected to accumulate carbon at a rate comparable to ranges measured in natural seagrass meadows within 12 years of seeding. Reduction or cessation of some of them may have positive implications for both mitigation and adaptation. Limiting offshore oil production implies not only a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, but also a reduced risk of oil spills, stresses on coastal eco-systems and variable socio-economic impacts on human and public health. This results in reduced vulnerability or increased resilience.

***The article is contributed by Alex E. GBAGUIDI with the coordination of Environmental Division.***