



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 11, 2007

### **Forests Vital Role in Curbing Climate Change Officially Recognized**

BALI, Indonesia – Officially recognizing the vital role that forests have in addressing climate change, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the California Climate Action Registry (California Registry) Forestry Project Protocols. This is the first time a government agency in the United States has adopted protocols for voluntary carbon reduction projects.

The California Registry Forestry Protocols are designed to address forest's unique capacity to both store and emit CO<sub>2</sub> and to facilitate the positive role that forests can play to help solve climate change.

"The Forestry Protocols are helping to lay the groundwork for the infrastructure of how we deal with forests not only in California, but nationally," said Anthony Brunello, Deputy Secretary of Climate Change and Energy for the California Resources Agency."

Representing the culmination of over four years of hard work, the protocols were developed in an open, stakeholder-driven public process that included representatives from a diverse range of interests including forestry, science, environmental, government and business organizations.

The protocols provide guidance on measuring the carbon which can be captured and stored by forests, as well as how to maximize the carbon a forest can capture by focusing on three primary methods: sustainable forest management; preservation of forest lands; and reforestation of lands that have been deforested. The accuracy, integrity, conservatism and transparency that are hallmarks of CCAR are demonstrated in the protocols.

CARB's decision adds even more credibility and economic value to forest carbon reduction projects in California and provides increased certainty to an emerging carbon market. It also positions California as a leader in sustainable forestry and in the growing global carbon market, a market that is estimated to exceed \$30 billion in revenue this year.

Approximately 20% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions – more emissions than all the world's cars, trucks and planes combined – is released each year through the clearing of forests. With economic tools and technical assistance to protect forests, they are positioned to play an increasingly vital role in the challenge of curbing climate change.

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**The California Climate Action Registry** is a non-profit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions. Over 300 major companies, cities, government agencies and NGO's measure and publicly report their GHG emissions through the Registry. [www.climateregistry.org](http://www.climateregistry.org)

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