ASSESSING THE REDD+ FRAMEWORK'S POTENTIAL FOR MANGROVE CONSERVATION IN INDIA

SAROJINI K

A project report submitted

in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

IN

ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

May 2024

MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Chennai- 600025

ABSTRACT

Mangrove ecosystems, vital for coastal resilience and biodiversity, face significant threats from land-use changes and deforestation, contributing to substantial greenhouse gas emissions. This dissertation investigates the integration of the REDD+ framework into mangrove conservation strategies in India, leveraging insights from global experiences. Through a comprehensive analysis of REDD+ projects worldwide and their relevance to India, the study illuminates the multifaceted benefits of this integration. Emphasizing opportunities for carbon sequestration, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable development, the research underscores the significance of incorporating REDD+ principles into mangrove conservation efforts. By contributing to the growing literature on REDD+ and mangrove conservation, the study highlights the necessity of aligning climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation agendas. This dissertation also advocates for the integration of REDD+ principles into mangrove conservation strategies to achieve synergistic outcomes, including climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. The outlined practical recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness and equity of REDD+ initiatives in mangrove ecosystems, thereby fostering environmental sustainability and resilience on a broader scale.

Keywords: REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), Mangrove conservation, Carbon Sequestration, Carbon credits.

JEL Codes: Q15, Q23, Q56, Q57