

### Box 2.2 Terrestrial Storage of Carbon

Carbon stored in terrestrial ecosystems plays a large role in the global carbon cycle. To map the distribution of terrestrial carbon storage, PAGE researchers combined recent satellite maps of Earth's vegetation with estimates of how much carbon various types of vegetation and soil store. As the map shows, the highest quantities of stored terrestrial carbon are located in the

tropics and in the boreal region. In the tropics, a larger portion of the carbon is found in the vegetation, while in boreal regions, especially peatlands, most carbon is stored in the soils. Boreal peatlands are especially important carbon storage areas. Unforested lands generally store less carbon than forested ecosystems.

Global Terrestrial Storage of Carbon



Sources: Matthews et al. [PAGE] 2000. The map is a combination of two maps: a map of carbon stored in above- and below-ground live vegetation based on USGS/EDC (1999b) and a map of carbon stored in soils based on Batjes (1996) and Batjes and Bridges (1994).