

## What is blue carbon and why is it important?

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems are important for addressing climate change and securing social, economic and environmental outcomes. We use the term 'blue carbon' to refer to the carbon that is stored, sequestered or released in the biomass or sediments of coastal ecosystems. Mangrove, tidal marsh and seagrass ecosystems sequester two to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests<sup>1</sup>.

Improved management of these ecosystems can enhance food security, secure livelihoods, increase resilience and contribute to delivering Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through carbon sequestration and adaptation.

When degraded or lost, blue carbon ecosystems can become significant emission sources. Mangrove deforestation is estimated to be around as much as 10 per cent of emissions from deforestation globally<sup>2</sup>.

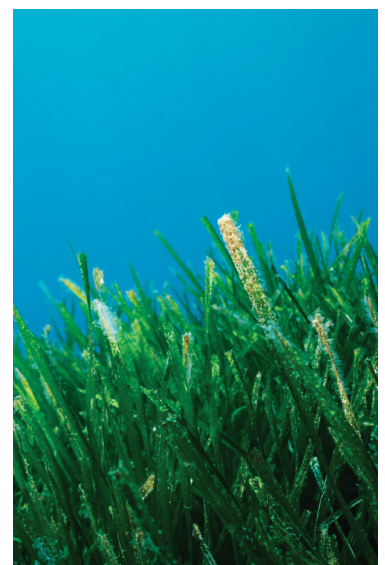
### What can the Partnership do?

We aim to protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems by:

- building awareness
- exchanging knowledge, and
- accelerating practical action.

The Partnership is not a funding body, but instead aims to better connect the efforts of governments, research organisations and non-government organisations. It also aims to build on the significant initiatives already under way in this area.

About 50 countries have recognised the value of blue carbon in their NDCs to the Paris Agreement. The Partnership, over time, will build awareness and capacity to enable additional countries to include blue carbon in their NDCs. Future actions will include catalysing project development at larger scales in priority regional 'hotspots' and linking blue carbon projects with climate finance.



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<sup>1</sup> Murray et. al, (2011), Green Payments for Blue Carbon Economic Incentives for Protecting Threatened Coastal Habitats, Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions Report, NI\_R\_11-04.

<sup>2</sup> Donato et. al, (2011), Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics, Nature Geoscience 4, 293-297.

## Building awareness

Blue carbon ecosystems are increasingly becoming a part of the international dialogue in adaptation, mitigation, wetlands preservation and biodiversity conservation discussions. More needs to be done to ensure the role of these important coastal ecosystems is recognised in broader discussions about the blue economy, fisheries, reef health and anthropogenic impacts on oceans. This focus area captures the Partnership's potential to elevate the profile of blue carbon internationally, in the private sector and on national government agendas.



## Exchanging knowledge

There is an extensive range and depth of knowledge and expertise on blue carbon among members of the Partnership. The multi-stakeholder nature of the Partnership is a fundamental strength and offers an opportunity to establish networks across different actors – including from both the technical and policy side. This pillar aims to advance our global understanding of these ecosystems and leverage the scientific knowledge that exists in various fora. It builds on the Partnership's ability to catalyse action by bringing the 'right players' to the table to discuss barriers to action and lessons learned on how to overcome challenges. These lessons could support enhanced management of blue carbon ecosystems.



## Accelerating practical action

Leveraging the expertise held within the Partnership, this pillar aims to develop and share approaches to protect and enhance coastal blue carbon. Drawing from the other pillars, the Partnership aims to share knowledge, expertise, and experience in implementing blue carbon-relevant management strategies. The Partnership also plans to identify opportunities for synergies with existing projects and programs. In particular, it intends to seek to identify opportunities for scaling blue carbon solutions.



## Who is involved?

Australia launched the *International Partnership for Blue Carbon* at the Paris climate change conference in December 2015. Partners include governments, international organisations, NGOs and research institutions. The full list of partners is available on our website.



Go to [BlueCarbonPartnership.org](https://www.BlueCarbonPartnership.org) to find out more about the *International Partnership for Blue Carbon* or to get in contact.

The site offers resources about blue carbon activities, policies and projects, and updates on what the Partnership is doing.