



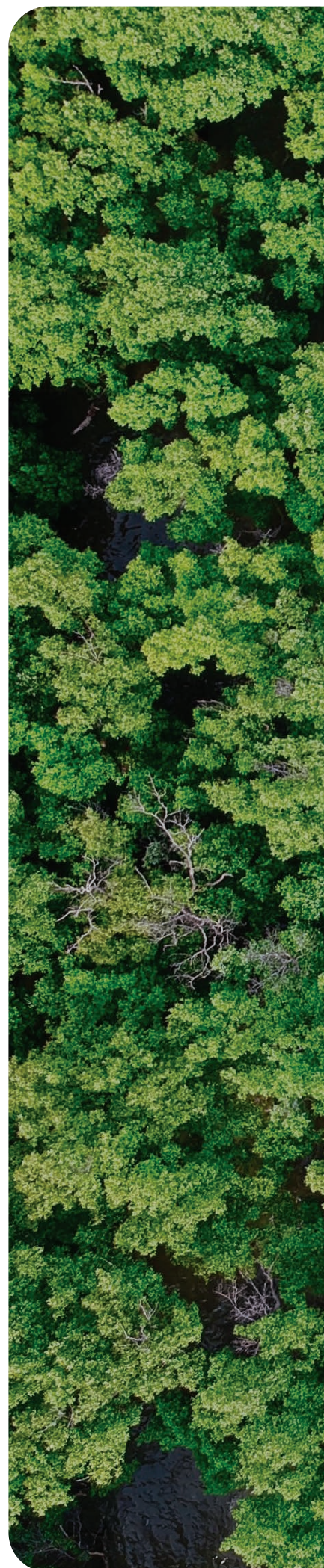
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
BLUE CARBON

STRATEGIC PLAN



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COASTAL BLUE CARBON
ECOSYSTEMS ARE
ENVIRONMENTS THAT
SUPPORT MANGROVES,
TIDAL MARSHES AND
SEAGRASSES. THEY
ARE PREVALENT ALONG
MOST COASTLINES IN
THE WORLD.

INTRODUCTION

Blue carbon ecosystems provide habitat for marine species, support fish stocks and food security, sustain coastal communities and livelihoods, filter water flowing into our oceans and reef systems, and protect coastlines from erosion and storm surges. In addition, blue carbon ecosystems are a significant carbon sink, holding large pools of carbon in their soils, roots and plants. Scientific assessments show that they can sequester two to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests, and thereby can make a significant contribution to global action on climate change. Blue carbon ecosystems are now considered a key component of Natural Climate Solutions and Nature-based Solutions.

Despite their importance, coastal blue carbon ecosystems are some of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth. Mangrove forest exploitation, urban and industrial coastal development, pollution, and pressures from agriculture and aquaculture are some of the common causes for coastal ecosystem damage and destruction. Due to their high carbon content, blue carbon ecosystems can turn into significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions when degraded or lost. The ongoing carbon losses from blue carbon ecosystems are estimated to account for up to 19 per cent of emissions from global deforestation.

The International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC) connects government agencies with non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations and research institutions from around the world, with a joint vision to protect, sustainably manage and restore global coastal blue carbon ecosystems contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities. The Partnership was launched at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in 2015 by nine founding Partners and has since expanded to 43 Partners in 2020.

The Partnership recognises that government commitments under global conventions, such as those made under the UNFCCC, are a key driver for countries to develop and implement national policies. Raising awareness of the climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits of protecting blue carbon ecosystems, and of the opportunity for countries to enhance their international climate change commitments through blue carbon protection is one of the

Partnership goals. Through sharing of expertise, guidance and capacity building, the Partnership endeavours to assist governments to make plans and commitments based on credible data and well-informed decisions. Blue carbon ecosystems, sometimes under the umbrella of Nature-based Solutions, are also being increasingly recognised under global conventions and related initiatives focused on biodiversity, oceans and Agenda 2030. Partners interact with these forums raising awareness of the biodiversity, livelihood and climate adaptation benefits stemming from blue carbon protection.

Frameworks for reporting on international climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement established by the UNFCCC together with technical guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on national greenhouse gas accounting, provide a structure against which countries can establish national blue carbon policies. However, gaps in science and data, missing technical capacity for measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), or complex institutional arrangements can present barriers for countries developing national policies. The Partnership provides engagement opportunities for Partners to collaborate on identifying gaps, developing strategies to overcome barriers, and sharing tools and guidance for developing and implementing blue carbon protection policies, regulations, management plans or projects.

The Partnership recognises the urgency for climate action and the multiple outcomes that blue carbon protection and restoration projects can deliver against biodiversity and livelihood objectives, and the 2030 Agenda and its



Photo: Courtesy Blue Ventures

Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, in parallel with building MRV capacity and assisting national policy development, Partners also support on-the-ground actions to protect blue carbon ecosystems that can be taken right now, including community driven projects. The Partnership provides collaboration pathways for project managers, investigates potential sources of blue carbon financing and engages with potential funding stakeholders to communicate the benefits of blue carbon protection.

Together, Partners hold an extensive range and depth of knowledge and expertise on blue carbon science, policy development and program implementation. Government Partners especially benefit from being directly connected with global blue carbon practitioners, enabling them to gain insights into the latest blue carbon science, international policy developments and creating opportunities for action. The diversity and expertise of Partners is a fundamental strength of the Partnership. It enables the Partnership to be recognised as a source of credible information, tools and guidance which is made available to all countries, organisations, governments or individuals that wish to make a difference in blue carbon protection and restoration.

Being a Partner means getting involved in a forward-thinking international community that interacts openly and shares expertise freely to help each other contribute to the joint vision of protecting coastal blue carbon ecosystems across the globe.

CONTEXT FOR THIS STRATEGIC PLAN

Purpose of the Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan sets out the vision, mission and goals of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, and how the Partnership is operationalised through governance arrangements. It describes the global context and how Partners collaborate and contribute to addressing the Partnership goals.

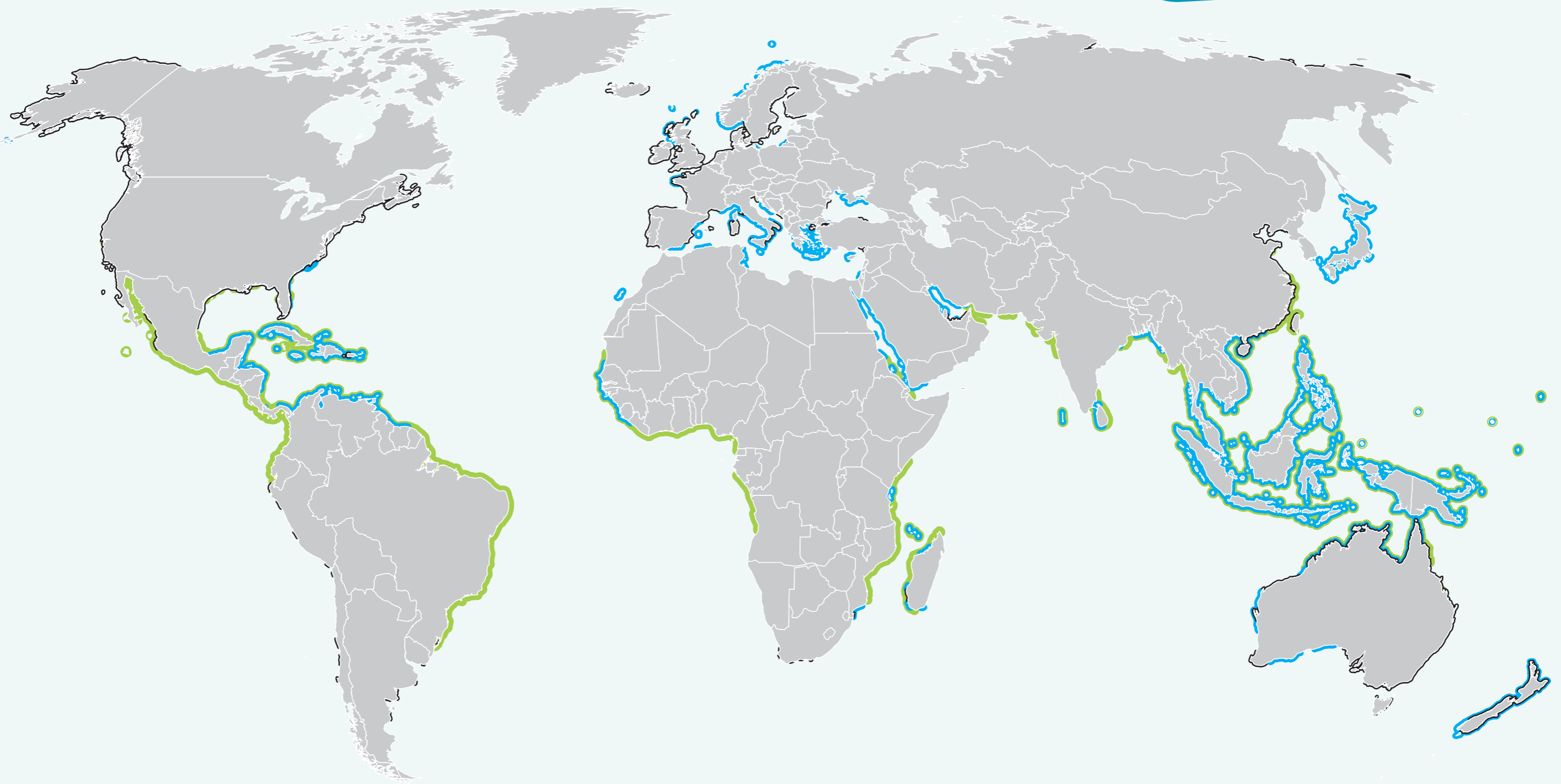
Revisions from the 2016 Strategic Plan

The initial strategy for the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and its governance model was established at the Partnership's first workshop in Indonesia in August 2016. The 2016 Strategic Plan and Foundational Document which describes early governance arrangements are available on the [IPBC website](#). Partners agreed to review the strategy, governance and activities on an annual basis.

At the Partnership's second workshop, in Abu Dhabi in July 2017, participants discussed the Partnership's governance, leading to the Governance framework and Terms of Reference adopted from 2017 to 2020 ([IPBC Governance Terms of Reference](#)).

This Strategic Plan 2020 is a revision of the 2016 Strategic Plan. Key changes between the two versions include: adoption of a mission statement; new description of partnership goals (shifting the focus of Partnership activities to work towards goals, rather than under activity pillars); minor amendments to the governance sections to provide clarity on roles and responsibilities; and a process for engagement on Partnership activity planning.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF MANGROVES, SALTMARSHES AND SEAGRASSES



■ Saltmarsh ■ Seagrass ■ Mangroves

Figure 1: overview of the global distribution of mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrasses (source: The United Nations Environment – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC13) datasets).

02

VISION

The Partnership's vision is for all global coastal blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses) to be protected, sustainably managed or restored – contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities.

03

MISSION

The mission of the Partnership is to provide an open forum for government agencies, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations and research institutions to connect, share and collaborate to build solutions, take actions, and benefit from the experience and expertise of the global community.

04

IMPACT

The Partnership's desired impact is for all countries with blue carbon ecosystems to have established policies for the long-term conservation of blue carbon ecosystems and to be implementing management plans or restoration projects.

05



GOALS

To achieve the Partnership's impact, Partnership Activities are directed towards contributing to three goals:

- 1. Increased international commitments to protect coastal blue carbon ecosystems**
- 2. Improved national policies to conserve, protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems**
- 3. Accelerated on-the-ground implementation of blue carbon conservation, protection and restoration activities**

The goals are built on the recognition that to achieve long term global coastal blue carbon conservation there is a need for international commitments by governments, national policies and local on-the-ground actions.

The Partnership is operated by Partners and through voluntary Partner contributions (it is not a funding body, funded initiative or organisation). Partners are government agencies, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations and research institutions. Partners contribute their experiences and capabilities in blue carbon science, policy or advocacy to activities that build awareness, share knowledge and accelerate action for global blue carbon protection. Partners collaborate to identify barriers, address challenges and build solutions within countries, regions and globally.

The success of the Partnership relies on active engagement by all.

GOAL 1

INCREASED INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TO PROTECT COASTAL BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS

To achieve Goal 1, Partners undertake actions that (a) raise awareness of the importance of protecting coastal blue carbon ecosystems, and (b) provide data, information and guidance that can assist governments in making international commitments based on well-informed decisions.

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems are a key component of Natural Climate Solutions. Natural Climate Solutions are defined as conservation, restoration and improved land management actions that increase carbon storage or avoid greenhouse gas emissions in landscapes and wetlands across the globe. They offer greenhouse gas mitigation potential and adaptation benefits. In addition, coastal blue carbon ecosystems provide habitats for marine species, support fish stocks and food security, sustain coastal communities and livelihoods, filter water flowing into our oceans and reef systems, and protect our coastlines from erosion and storm surges.

Raising awareness of the importance of coastal blue carbon ecosystems and the multiple benefits achievable when protected, elevates the profile of blue carbon in the international community, across national government agendas and the private sector, and can stimulate commitments and actions for national and local protection.

To support increased international commitments on blue carbon the Partnership plays a role in demonstrating that such commitments are feasible and achievable, and that the technical and policy impediments to making such commitments can be overcome. Country Partners benefit from seeing how challenges are being managed by more advanced country Partners, understanding the processes that these countries undertook, and the tangible benefits that can result. Much of this is achieved through knowledge sharing sessions and practical communication pathways established between Partners.

To raise awareness, of the importance of blue carbon ecosystems, Partners attend, participate in, organise or host international, regional or national events and forums throughout the year. At these forums, Partners present information, showcase new advances, lead capacity building workshops and engage with other participants to influence moves towards blue carbon ecosystem protection. Some of these activities are undertaken by individual Partners or presented under the banner of the IPBC. The IPBC Coordinator works with Partners to arrange high profile side-events at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, organises an annual-biennial conference (the IPBC Dialogue) for all Partners to meet, and assists in coordinating or promoting other Partner-lead events throughout the year.

Government commitments under the Paris Agreement and through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are a key driver for countries to develop and implement national climate change policies for greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation. However, Partners also interact with other global conventions and related initiatives such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals which have long recognised coastal ecosystems as critical to biodiversity and livelihoods. Similarly, Partners are engaging in global oceans policy as related to the blue economy, fisheries, reef health and anthropogenic impacts on oceans, and are leading conversations on nature-based solutions. Raising awareness of coastal blue carbon ecosystems among these forums, strengthens the case for protection and can lead to international commitments by country governments.

Under Goal 1, Partners share their scientific and policy expertise to assist governments in making commitments based on credible data and well-informed decisions. Goal 2 further enhances the ability of governments to develop and implement procedures, policies and programs in order to meet their international commitments.

GOAL 2

IMPROVED NATIONAL POLICIES TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND RESTORE COASTAL BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS

To achieve Goal 2, Partners collaborate to identify barriers, find solutions and develop targeted guidance and tools that can assist countries in establishing policies, plans and measurement systems to meet their international climate change commitments and deliver their Nationally Determined Commitments to the Paris Agreement.

The Partnership was launched at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP23 meeting in Paris, 2015, in recognition of the opportunity blue carbon ecosystems provide for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, offer a globally accepted mechanism for countries to state their own climate change commitments, and are a key driver for countries to develop and implement national climate change policies for greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation.

Frameworks for reporting international climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement have been established through decisions of the UNFCCC and rely on the implementation of technical guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the 2013 IPCC Wetland Supplement provides methods on how countries should estimate emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from wetlands and drained soils, for reporting blue carbon in their national inventory. These guidelines and frameworks can be used as a solid basis for countries to develop their national emissions reporting procedures and mitigation policy settings.

However, gaps in science and data, missing technical capacity for reporting or complex institutional arrangements, and difficulties with governance arrangements including land tenure, can present barriers to credible greenhouse gas emissions reporting, which subsequently can hinder national policy development and implementation of emission reduction activities. These barriers can also create difficulties with the enforcement of blue carbon policies, which is critical to the enduring success of policy interventions.

As a group, Partners hold an extensive range and depth of knowledge and expertise on blue carbon science, emissions reporting and policy development. The Partnership takes a role in disseminating this expertise and assisting in identifying linkages for collaborative engagements. Through meetings, workshops, networking sessions and other forms of engagement arranged by the IPBC Coordinator, Partners work together to identify barriers to action, learn from previous experiences on how to overcome challenges, find solutions and collaborate to build tools related to blue carbon science, measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), and policy development.

The Paris agreement also requires countries 'as appropriate' to plan and implement adaptation efforts and encourages countries to report on these. The national adaptation plan (NAP) process, established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, enables countries to formulate and implement NAPs as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. Implementation of NAPs can provide direct and tangible benefits to the country and its people, and is not subject to the complexities of national carbon accounting. As such, for some countries, adaptation actions may be the most appropriate mechanism or the first step for including coastal blue carbon in their NDCs.

The Partnership works to provide countries with information, guidance and tools on how to include coastal blue carbon ecosystems in NDCs for both mitigation and adaptation outcomes, and how to report against these commitments. Partners collaborate to author policy and guidance papers, develop tools or deliver learning packages. The IPBC Coordinator helps broker some of these collaborations and assists in disseminating information with the view to support country Partners in their work to develop blue carbon reporting mechanisms, policies and management plans.

GOAL 3

ACCELERATED ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION OF BLUE CARBON CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

To achieve Goal 3, Partners (a) share their experiences in project development and implementation through participating in knowledge sharing session and contributing to case studies or other learning tools, and (b) collaborate to investigating opportunities or pathways for project funding.

Drivers for blue carbon protection and restoration activities can include: direct local livelihood needs for coastline protection; need for enhanced economic, social and ecological resilience by protecting coastal biodiversity for tourism and improved fisheries for food security; national policies or regulations that respond to international, national or regional government commitments; the potential to monetise benefits from carbon sequestration or emissions reductions through the sale of carbon units; or philanthropic and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) business investments.

Under Goal 3, the Partnership recognises that, if implemented effectively, local or community driven on-the-ground blue carbon projects have the potential to provide biodiversity, food security and sustainable livelihoods benefits, but are also crucial to achieving global climate change goals now and in the future. Importantly, the mitigation and adaptation outcomes resulting from these projects provide an immediate contribution to urgent action on climate change.

Coastal communities are a core element of most on-the-ground blue carbon projects, especially as they strive for improvements to fisheries for food security, resilience of their coastline, and maintaining livelihoods from small-scale fisheries and eco-tourism. Community-based approaches for blue carbon projects can enhance the social, economic and ecological outcomes from the projects, protect project outcomes from reversal and thereby ensure long-term resilience. Local-level awareness raising and capacity building efforts to provide understanding and clarity about how local projects contribute to international climate goals, can create a sense of ownership of the local to global connection, and between the local projects and national or international policies and frameworks. To achieve good outcomes it will be imperative to involve local coastal communities and other stakeholders from the outset and to ensure that capacity building for government staff and village conservation groups includes the basics of blue carbon ecosystem biology and ecology and restoration.

There are many blue carbon programs, initiatives and projects established around the world, holding a plethora of expertise and generating new data and knowledge from project implementation. To accelerate and scale-up project implementation, the Partnership provides a platform for

Partners (and the communities they work with) to share knowledge, expertise, and experience in implementing blue carbon projects, and encourages collaboration between projects and programs.

Importantly, the Partnership also investigates potential sources of blue carbon financing. Partners engage in discussions and forums related to international carbon market mechanisms and non-market climate finance to seek opportunities for blue carbon. Partners engaging individually in these forums bring information back to the Partnership to discuss and seek solutions.

Private sector or philanthropic investors or funders of blue carbon projects have a variety of drivers for supporting protection or restoration activities. Some blue carbon projects may be financed for the benefits they provide to communities, food security, or biodiversity, with less emphasis on climate change mitigation. Others may finance blue carbon projects to benefit climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Some of such projects will be commercially viable, others will be funded with the knowledge that there may be no direct investment return in the short-term but future value via carbon units later.

The Partnership investigates the various drivers for funding and communicates the benefits of blue carbon protection to target audiences in line with their business case for investment. This may include direct engagement with private sector businesses or organisations to ascertain barriers and identify approaches for investment, or with international finance mechanisms.

PARTNERS

Partners are government agencies, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations, regional organisations and research institutions that share the vision to protect, restore or sustainably manage global blue carbon ecosystems - contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities.

Country Partners benefit from being directly connected with the broad skill set within existing blue carbon practitioner groups, enabling them to gain insights into the latest blue carbon science, international policy developments and creating opportunities for collaborative action.

Together, Partners hold an extensive range and depth of knowledge and expertise on blue carbon science, policy development and program implementation. The diversity and expertise of Partners is a fundamental strength of the Partnership. It enables the Partnership to be recognised as a source of credible information, tools and guidance which is made available to all countries, organisations, governments or individuals that wish to make a difference to blue carbon protection and restoration.

In 2020, the Partnership has 44 Partners.

JOINING THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership is open to all organisations and countries (government agencies) that have an interest in blue carbon protection and are willing to share their expertise or collaborate on global solutions.

Benefits for Partners

As a Partner, organisations or countries:

- gain access to a network of representatives from government agencies, NGOs, and inter-governmental and research organisations, to exchange information and build collaborative engagements
- can influence international blue carbon policy directions through participating in policy and technical exchanges on global best practice and international frameworks
- are invited to participate in regional and international events and meetings on blue carbon
- receive news and updates on blue carbon policy, program or scientific developments

- can be recognised for acting on climate change, ocean and biodiversity protection and support of sustainable development goals, and can shape or be part of joint public announcements
- can provide ideas and influence the priority setting for Partnership activities.

Expectations from Partners

There is no fee for joining the Partnership. However, Partners should have the capacity via in-kind resources to contribute actively to the goals of the Partnership. This may include allocating time to participate in policy or technical discussion groups, attend workshops, or contribute expertise and input to communication and guidance products.

Partners are not required to provide funding. However financial contributions are welcome on a voluntary basis and could include in-kind contributions such as the hosting of workshops or side-events at international climate change or environment meetings; contributions to communication and guidance products; or funding or staff resourcing support for Partnership administration and communication activities.

Partners are usually represented by people that hold blue carbon expertise or are responsible for advancing a blue carbon portfolio or policy development within their organisation or country. Partners must provide details of a primary and secondary contact to the IPBC Coordinator and inform the Coordinator when these contact details change.

Partners can take leading roles in the Partnership by becoming Coordinating or Focal Group members on a rotational basis or nominating to be the Coordinator.

Information on how to join the IPBC can be found at: bluecarbonpartnership.org.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES

The Partnership is not a funding body. Each Partner is responsible for the costs of their own participation in the activities of the Partnership, drawing on their own financial, human, technical or other resources, unless another Partner offers to contribute to these costs including, for example, the travel costs for delegates to attend activities.

Human resources required for the administration of the Partnership and financial support for agreed Partnership activities (such as for communication products, tools and guidance materials, workshops and conferences, side-events, studies and analyses) are provided by Partners on a voluntary basis.

The Partner acting as Coordinator generally bears most of the costs for administration and on-going engagement activities.

The Partnership seeks to build a stronger enabling framework for on-ground blue carbon projects especially with a view to attract funding. Partners may collaborate to seek joint funding from investors or other sources.

Note: Nothing in this document is to be construed or interpreted as a commitment by any Partner to provide financial, human or other resources.



PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Partnership goals are addressed by Partners collaborating on, contributing to and participating in a range of Partnership activities.

- Partners engage with each other through various networks, such as technical and policy forums to share experiences and exchange knowledge.
- Partners collaborate to identify barriers, build solutions and coordinate capacity building activities.
- Partners raise awareness of blue carbon across the international community by attending and presenting at events and conferences.
- Partners use their own networks to build understanding and influence international policy and frameworks.
- Partners communicate and build connections with other stakeholders in communities and the private sector.
- Partners support each other to use only best practice science, reporting, policy and project implementation, and as a group provide assurance of the credibility of tools, guidance and resources disseminated across the Partnership.

The IPBC Coordinator takes a key role in supporting communication and engagement between Partners, by disseminating new information and sharing Partner news across the Partnership using IPBC communication channels, and by providing opportunities for Partners to directly interact. The IPBC Coordinator organises the IPBC Dialogue (a global event for all Partners), knowledge sharing sessions, and develops communication products that have cross-Partnership applicability.

THE ACTIVITY PLAN

The Activity Plan is a mechanism to enhance connections and collaborations between IPBC Partners. It is a live document, coordinated and maintained by the IPBC Coordinator for the benefit of Partners.

The Activity Plan works on the premise that mutual benefits will result for Partners when information and plans of activities are shared across the Partnership. This way Partners can gain an understanding of what others are working on and can identify opportunities for collaborating, contributing to the work of others, participating in learning activities, aligning initiatives for maximum impact, or proposing new initiatives and activities to fill gaps.

Process for the Activity Plan

- The IPBC Coordinator requests IPBC Partners to provide information on activities they plan to undertake over the next few years.
- The IPBC Coordinator collates this information, checks for relevance with the IPBC Goals and engages with the Coordinating and Focal Groups to identify opportunities to enhance alignment and complementarity of activities.
- The IPBC Coordinator disseminates the collated information back across the Partnership to enable connections and collaborations to be built.
 - The Activity Plan document is for IPBC Partners only and will not be posted on the IPBC website.
 - Only activities that Partners wish to promote such as events, webinars, achievements or publications will be disseminated by the IPBC Coordinator, and only with prior agreement from the lead Partner contact.

Partner input

The Activity Plan relies on the input by Partners sharing their plans for blue carbon work. Partnership activities could include, but are not limited to:

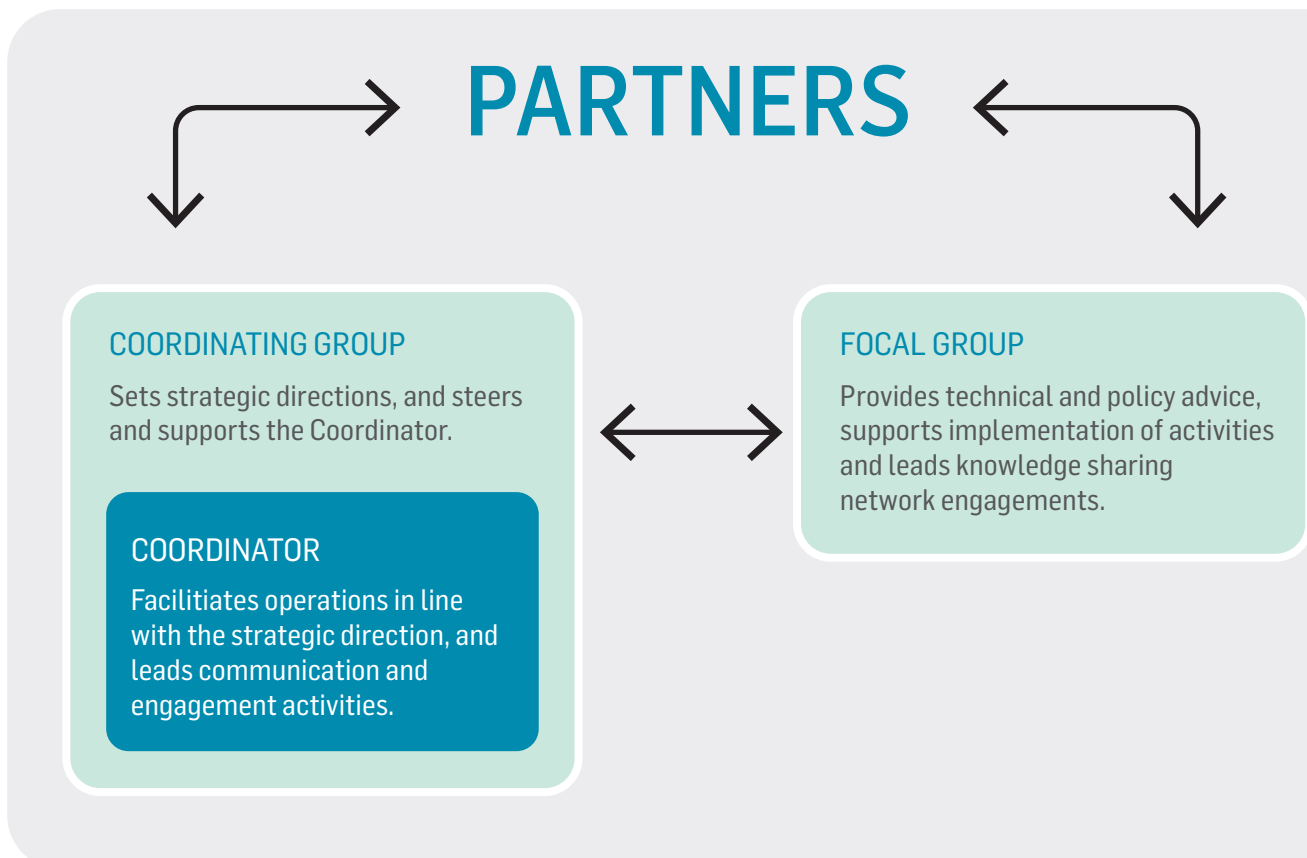
- Events, workshops or webinars on blue carbon science, MRV, policy development or project implementation.
- Communication or guidance products that Partners plan to develop and which could be shared more broadly across the Partnership.
- Knowledge sharing sessions on topics identified following country needs assessments.
- Tools that are being developed (in science, MRV, policy, projects or other) that can help countries make informed decisions on blue carbon commitments, or enable establishment of national blue carbon protection policies or project implementation.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

The Partnership is governed by 12 to 14 Partners who have taken voluntary positions to help guide the strategic directions of the Partnership and manage activities:

- The Coordinating Group sets the strategic direction of the Partnership, and steers and supports the Coordinator.
- The Coordinator facilitates the operations of the Partnership in line with the strategic direction and leads Partner communication and engagement activities.
- The Focal Group provides technical and policy expertise and advice, supports implementation of Partnership activities, and leads knowledge sharing network engagements.

Any Partner can take a position within the governance framework on a rotational basis. Current Partners with positions in the governance group can be found at bluecarbonpartnership.org.



ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

IPBC COORDINATOR

Purpose

The purpose of the Coordinator is to facilitate the operation of the Partnership, implement the strategic direction of the Partnership as directed by the Coordinating Group, and lead Partner communication and engagement activities.

Duties

The Coordinator is responsible for:

- facilitating and overseeing the day-to-day operations* of the Partnership including:
 - administration and coordination of Coordinating Group and Focal Group meetings
 - event organisation and coordination with Partners
 - engagement with Partners and other stakeholders
 - general communication and website maintenance
- maintaining and updating strategic documents (including revising the IPBC Strategic Plan as needed and as directed by the Coordinating Group)
- coordinating information on Partnership activities, including; seeking input from Partners on activities, collating the information provided by Partners into the Activity Plan, and disseminating the Activity Plan across the Partnership; and tracking progress of the Activity Plan to monitor success
- leading direct communication with Partners on administration matters.

*The Coordinator may outsource day-to-day operations of the Partnership to another organisation or contractor. However, responsibility for delivery of the operations remains with the Coordinator.

IPBC Coordinator terms and nominations

The Coordinator is a Partner, and a member of the Coordinating Group.

The Coordinating Group will nominate a Coordinator for agreement on a no-objection basis by Partners. The Coordinator will be requested to serve for a minimum of two years. A Partner may serve multiple terms as the Coordinator.

The Coordinator contributes human and financial resources to undertake the duties of the role.

COORDINATING GROUP

Purpose

The purpose of the Coordinating Group is to determine the strategic direction of the Partnership, and steer and support the work of the Coordinator.

Duties

Members of the Coordinating Group are responsible for making decisions on behalf of Partners, including on strategic directions, administration and governance. Core duties of the Coordinating Group are:

- providing advice and making decisions on the Partnership's strategic direction, including on the Strategic Plan, governance and engagement approaches with Partners and external stakeholders
- providing advice in the planning of Partnership activities or processes for Partner engagements on the Activity Plan
- making decisions on the work plan for the Coordinator and IPBC branded actions
- where required, approving the Partnership's endorsement of and by other activities or engagements to ensure any reputational risks to the IPBC brand are managed effectively, based on assessments of credibility, applicability and sensitivity of the activities/engagements
- steering and supporting the Coordinator in its duties.

The Coordinating Group seeks additional advice from the Focal Group or Partners where decisions are more far reaching or require specialised expertise.

The Coordinating Group members may also be required to undertake other additional duties based on their expertise and availability. Additional duties may include:

- promoting the Partnership and its work within their own networks (such as disseminating communication products broader than the Partners)
- contributing new connections and networks to the Partnership
- identifying and seeking opportunities for new linkages between the Partnership and other initiatives
- contributing to planning and logistics of events
- sourcing expertise required for activities.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

Coordinating Group terms and nominations

The Coordinating Group is composed of five Partners that reflect the geographic and sectoral diversity of the Partnership (i.e. representing governments, non-government organisations and research institutions). The five positions are filled by representatives from:

1. Government
2. Government
3. Government (or a regional organisation representing governments)
4. Research institution
5. NGO

Coordinating Group members are expected to provide their in-kind time to:

- prepare for and actively participate in 1.5-2-hour teleconferences or virtual meetings held four to six times a year
- actively engage and provide input to online discussions, emails and documents relating to the duties of the group.

Coordinating Group members serve for 12 to 24 months before new nominations are sought from all Partners. Membership is open to all Partners and voted by all Partners, with a decision made on a 'no objection' basis.

The same countries or organisations may be returned to the positions, or new countries and organisations introduced. There is no limit to the number of terms, however rotations and new members to the Coordinating Group are encouraged.



ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE (CONT.)

FOCAL GROUP

Purpose

The purpose of the Focal Group is to assist the Partnership to remain relevant and at the forefront of policy and technical expertise in blue carbon, and to enable Partners to benefit from the experience and expertise of the global community.

Duties

Members of the Focal Group are responsible for:

1. Providing policy and technical advice to the Coordinator and Coordinating Group, and acting as a sounding board for strategic directions in Partnership planning, including:

- providing advice on global developments and contexts affecting blue carbon policy and Partnership activities
- reviewing and providing advice on strategic planning documents or approaches being considered by the Coordinating Group
- contributing scientific, technical or policy advice to Partnership activities and directions so that the Partnership stays at the forefront of global blue carbon developments
- seeking broader views amongst their networks on existing and future Partnership activities
- providing ideas and assisting in identifying relevant and timely Partnership activities and deliverables
- assisting in setting agendas for Partnership events and meetings.

2. Supporting the implementation of Partnership activities and providing input to deliverables, including:

- leading, coordinating or providing input to the development of Partnership products or projects as time and capacity permits, or recommending other technical and policy advisors that can assist with Partnership activities
- providing views, advice or practical perspectives on proposed or drafted Partnership deliverables, such as communication products, tools and guidance materials.

3. Leading knowledge sharing networking activities across the Partnership, including:

- identifying and agreeing on relevant topics or timely issues for knowledge sharing amongst Partners. Noting, the Coordinator and Coordinating Group may assist in ascertaining and testing the demand for topics by Partners
- identifying and agreeing on the best engagement approach for sharing knowledge on agreed topics
- directly implementing or providing input to agreed knowledge sharing activities, such as by preparing materials and presenting to Partners at meetings or through other engagement mechanisms, identifying additional experts or speakers to assist on agreed topics, and actively participating in the knowledge sharing meetings.

Focal Group terms and nominations

The Focal Group is comprised of 6-8 Partners and represented by individuals that hold expertise or positions in blue carbon research, policy development or advocacy, and can represent key global blue carbon regions.

Focal group members are expected to provide their in-kind time to:

- prepare for and actively participate in 1.5-2-hour teleconferences or virtual meetings held four to six times a year.
- actively engage and provide input to online discussions on agreed topics or activities.
- consult with their networks to share information or seek broader input to policy discussions, technical tool development or other IPBC activities.

Membership in the Focal Group is by invitation of the Coordinating Group with input from Partners. The Coordinating Group identifies potential members by considering the individual's capacity to provide valuable input to the Focal Group's activities and their ability to represent key regions, technical or policy aspects of the Partnership.

Members will be expected to serve for at least twelve months.

bluecarbonpartnership.org

