

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR BLUE CARBON ACTION IN COSTA RICA THROUGH NDCS AND NATIONAL BLUE CARBON STRATEGY

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THE OBJECTIVES

- Connecting with IPBC partners, to share information and exchange on activities and plans-
- Create opportunities for regional and local exchange
- Share the vision that all coastal blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses) are protected, sustainably managed or restored, contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities.
- Cross-cutting focus: regional activities/ adaptation and resilience/ financing activities/ science

COSTA RICA'S MAIN CHARACTERISTICS

Mangroves in Costa Rica:

All mangroves are public land in CR.

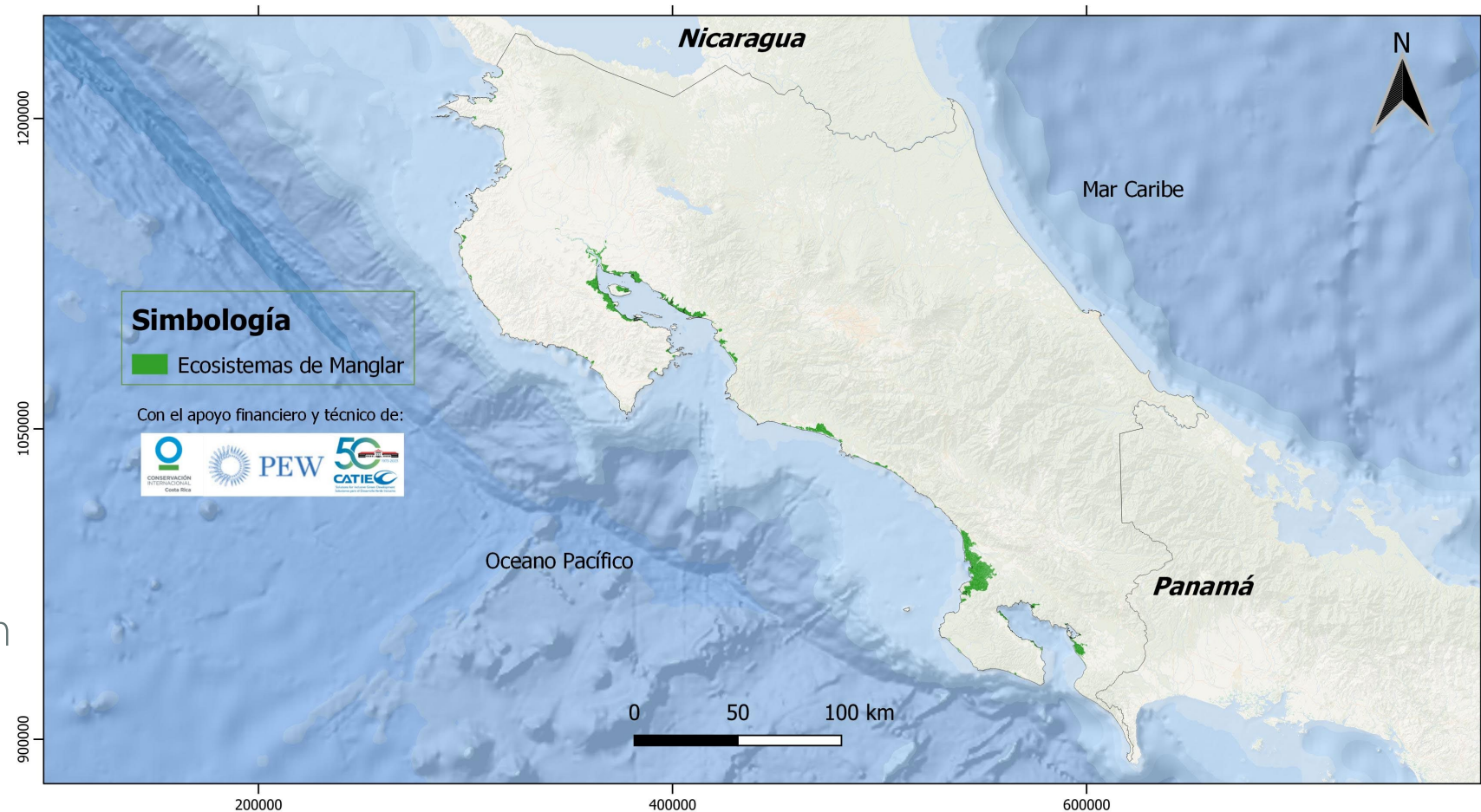
Total area: 41.243 ha (412.43 km²), 0.8% of the country's area.

Number of patches: 1058

Average patch area: 38 ha

Percentage of mangrove within Protected Wildlife Areas (ASP): 48%

Ecosistemas de Manglar de Costa Rica 2021





BLUE CARBON IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

1. Ramsar Convention
 - Promote policies: enable the development of a national wetland inventory, identification of the important wetlands, and the determination of priorities for wetland sites
2. Inclusion of blue within the process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):
 - International treaty that seeks to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
 - REDD+
 - NAMAs
 - NDC + Paris Agreement

CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR BLUE CARBON ACTION

The three IPBC Goals:

1) Increase international commitments to protect coastal blue carbon ecosystems



NDC

2) Improve national policies to protect coastal blue carbon ecosystems



National Wetlands Policy

National Blue Carbon Strategy

3) Accelerate on-the-ground implementation of blue carbon protection and restoration activities



Ecological restoration projects in mangroves

Science

COSTA RICA CASE STUDY



Contribution 9. Ocean and water resources

- An overall ambition of Blue Carbon Target was established
- Lead conservation, responsible use and restoration of coastal wetlands.
- Protection and enhanced conservation of existing blue carbon ecosystems (priority areas)
- **100%** of coastal wetlands in the national wetland inventory protected and increased by 10% by 2025
- Coastal wetlands: managed and monitored
- Reversing net loss of coastal wetlands (deforestation and degradation)

Contribution 11. Transparency and continuous improvement

- GHG inventory integration of fluxes (emissions and removals) from coastal wetlands and harmonisation with other REDD+ MRV systems, IPCC





NATIONAL BLUE CARBON STRATEGY.

Launch in Feb 2023: August 2024, 22.5% progress in the implementation of the National Blue Carbon Strategy.

Less progress is identified in the third strategic objective: "Implement an agile, efficient, robust, transparent and sustainable financial mechanism for blue carbon."

The Action Plan responds to this strategic objective and its four strategies established in the ENCA.

The focus of the Action Plan is on mangroves because it is the most technically and scientifically known blue carbon ecosystem in Costa Rica. The Action Plan represents a pilot plan and concentrates on the mangroves of the Gulf of Nicoya, which is where there are more active conservation actions in conjunction with user communities.



Action Plan Phases

Capacity building

Generate and enable the technical conditions to work interinstitutionally in the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems

Preparation and financial mechanisms

Develop the pre-feasibility of the Mangrove Carbon Project, and set up an environmental account to record the contribution of blue carbon ecosystems. Link efforts with the inventory of greenhouse gases and other existing mechanisms.
Create technical and financial tools for mangroves and other blue carbon ecosystems.

Launching of the mangrove carbon project

- Establishes actions for education, awareness, integration and participation of user communities.
- Links efforts with existing mechanisms.
- Promotes the distribution of benefits from ENCA-related actions.

Costa Rican Enabling conditions: Legal framework & Institutionality



National Wetlands Programme

- Adaptation Processes
- NDCs: restoration
- Blue Carbon = restoration



National Meteorological Institute

- INGEI
- BUR (BTR)
- Blue Carbon Report



REDD+ Strategy

- Mitigation processes
- NFMS (+ NFMS)
- MRV
- Blue Carbon Inclusion



Climate Change Directorate

- INGEI
- BUR (BTR)
- Blue carbon report

← Linking information in a monitoring system: MNS-mangrove →



CONSIDERATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR COSTA RICA



Technical and comprehensive definition of mangrove ecosystem. Basis for mapping

- Definition of purpose
- Based on Costa Rican legislation and technically quantifiable.

Definition of methodology for the development of mapping for forest mangroves ?

- Baseline or reference line
- Land use map (UTCTC)
- International parameters for payment by results
- Degradation
- Emission factors
- Reservoirs and Stock Changes

Mapping needs of mangrove ecosystems at the national level

- NDC
- Mapping and restoration

National Forest Monitoring System

- Identify the tools that already exist or are being developed in the country.



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GRACIAS

Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, with support from the IOC-UNESCO (IPBC Coordinator Team), and the Fiji Ministry of Climate Change and Environment.

