



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR

**BLUE CARBON**

# INVENTORY OF GLOBAL BLUE CARBON ACTORS

Disclaimer: The information in this document is complete to the best of the IPBC Coordinator knowledge as of September 2022. For any inquiry, please contact [ipbc@environment.gov.au](mailto:ipbc@environment.gov.au).

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More information on the International Partnership for Blue Carbon can be found at [bluecarbonpartnership.org](http://bluecarbonpartnership.org).

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# 1. DEFINITIONS

**Intergovernmental organization:** An intergovernmental organization or IGO is an organization composed primarily of sovereign states, or of other intergovernmental organizations. IGOs are established by treaty or other agreement that acts as a charter creating the group. Examples include the United Nations, the World Bank, or the European Union. (Source: Union of International Associations)

**Non-governmental organization:** While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of a non-governmental organization or NGO, this is typically a voluntary group or institution with a social mission, which operates independently from the government. (Source: NGOsource)

**Global initiative:** In the present document, the term global initiative encompasses a variety of organized efforts that may involve organizations, individuals and stakeholders of various nature around the world that collaborate towards the same goal.

## 2. SCOPE OF THE DOCUMENT

The [Inventory of Global Blue Carbon Actors](#) provides a list of the main actors in the blue carbon field, categorized by type of organization (intergovernmental organization, non-governmental organization or global initiative).

The organizations listed in this document work primarily at the global or regional level, i.e., organizations working in a specific country are not included.

For each organization, a short description of relevant blue carbon activities is provided. The name of the organization is linked to the organization's website, where available.

The organizations are listed in alphabetical order under each category.

An asterisk (\*) next to the name of the organization identifies current Partners to the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC). A comprehensive list of IPBC Partners is available at [this link](#).

### 3. LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

#### INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

[Convention on Wetlands\\*](#)

[Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#)

[Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#)

[Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(IOC-UNESCO\)\\*](#)

[International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)

[International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)\\*](#)

[Pacific Island Development Forum \(PIDF\)\\*](#)

[The Commonwealth Blue Charter\\*](#)

[The World Bank](#)

[United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)

#### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

[BLUE Marine Foundation\\*](#)

[Blue Ventures\\*](#)

[Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\)\\*](#)

[Conservation International\\*](#)

[GRID Arendal\\*](#)

[Mangrove Action Project\\*](#)

[Oceans 2050 Foundation](#)

[Plan Vivo Foundation](#)

[Project Seagrass](#)

[Rare\\*](#)

[The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)\\*](#)

[Wetlands International](#)

[The Pew Charitable Trusts\\*](#)

[Verra](#)

#### GLOBAL INITIATIVES

[Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund \(BCAF\)](#)

[Blue Carbon Buyers Alliance](#)

[Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility \(BNCFF\)](#)

[Friends of Ocean Action](#)

[Global Coalition for Blue Carbon](#)

[Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon \(GO-BC\)](#)

[Global Mangrove Alliance](#)

[International Partnership for Blue Carbon \(IPBC\)\\*](#)

[IORA Indian Ocean Blue Carbon Hub\\*](#)

[Kiwa Initiative](#)

[Mangroves for the Future \(MFF\)](#)

[Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#)

[Seascape Carbon Initiative](#)

[The Blue Carbon Initiative \(BCI\)\\*](#)

[The Gallifrey Foundation Fair Carbon](#)

[The Ocean Foundation \(TOF\)](#)

[World Mangrove Center](#)

## 4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Convention on Wetlands\*

#### Policy

The work of the Convention on Wetlands builds upon the principle that ‘wise use’ of wetlands, including designation and management of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), can protect carbon stock, sequestration capacity and other ecosystem services of coastal blue carbon ecosystems. The Convention’s Strategic Plan 2016-2024, Resolution XIII.14 and Resolution XIII.20 specifically address the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of blue carbon ecosystems.

### Green Climate Fund (GCF)

#### Finance

The GCF is the world’s largest climate fund dedicated to helping developing countries raise and realise their climate ambitions in line with the Paris Agreement. To date, the GCF has 26 climate action projects in wetlands across three continents, targeting at least 10 Ramsar sites.

### Global Environment Facility (GEF)

#### Finance

The GEF is among the funding bodies of the **Blue Forests Project**, an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) managed by GRID-Arendal, aimed at achieving better coastal ecosystem management by harnessing the values associated with carbon and ecosystem services.

### Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC-UNESCO)\*

#### Science | Policy

The IOC-UNESCO is the United Nations body with a mandate in ocean science. IOC is engaged at the scientific and policy levels with the vision to protect, manage or restore global blue carbon ecosystems for addressing climate change. Since 2010, the IOC-UNESCO co-sponsors the Blue Carbon Initiative with Conservation International and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). In 2015, the IOC-UNESCO was among the founding Partners of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC), and since 2020, it supports the Australian Government with its coordination.

### International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

#### Science | Projects

IAEA scientists collaborate with a wide range of research institutions to assess carbon sequestration rates in coastal environments using nuclear techniques. The IAEA is involved in national and regional technical cooperation projects in Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, India, Myanmar, New Zealand, Sweden, Tanzania and the United States. The IAEA is also engaged in the Seaweed Carbon Farming Project of the Oceans 2050 Foundation.

### International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)\*

#### Science | Policy | Finance

Since 2010, IUCN co-sponsors the Blue Carbon Initiative with Conservation International and IOC-UNESCO. IUCN manages the Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF) in partnership with the Australian Government. The BCAF was inspired by the work of the Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF) – launched in 2018 to support the development of sound, investable Blue Natural Capital projects, and managed by IUCN – and addresses barriers identified by the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC).

## Pacific Island Development Forum (PIDF)\*

### Science

The PIDF in partnership with the University of South Pacific (USP) and the Pacific Green Business Centre (PGBC) supports the Seaweed Initiative, which includes a focus on carbon sequestration. The PGBC will promote ways to include seaweed production in blue carbon calculations and its potential to earn tradable carbon credits.

## The Commonwealth Blue Charter\*

### Science | Policy

The Commonwealth Blue Charter works through a set of Action Groups, each devoted to a particular ocean issue. The Mangrove Restoration Action Group, championed by Sri Lanka, shares best practices and organises mutual co-operation in the conservation and sustainable utilisation of mangroves in the Commonwealth through: developing a database on mangrove ecosystems in the Commonwealth; sharing technical know-how on valuing the economic contribution of mangroves to coastal livelihoods through fishing and ecotourism; creating strategies to strengthen legal frameworks for conservation of mangroves; strengthening community partnerships for the management and resource ownership of mangrove ecosystems; and declaring protected mangrove areas to ensure legal protection.

## The World Bank

### Finance

Through a multi-donor trust fund, PROBLUE, the World Bank supports governments to build capacity to manage marine resources, including nature-based solutions, and to mobilize private sector finance.

## United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### Science | Projects

UNEP promotes international cooperation on science-based and ecosystem-based management approaches to the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, by supporting regional and global assessments, developing best practice manuals and supporting conservation and restoration projects on the ground. To this end, UNEP works with a wide variety of stakeholders and partners, including GRID-Arendal, the International Seagrass Experts Network, Edinburgh Napier University, Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).



## 5. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### [BLUE Marine Foundation\\*](#)

#### Science

The BLUE Marine Foundation has a new unit on blue carbon that is conducting a discovery phase to identify blue carbon conservation opportunities that are feasible, verifiable and achieve benefits for the marine environment and local communities. It is also working to calculate additionality in carbon uptake and sequestration and deliver blue carbon offsets through the protection of whole ecosystems from destructive fishing practices. In 2021, Silvestrum Climate Associates, the BLUE Marine Foundation, the Blue Carbon Initiative and Oceans 2050 launched the Seascape Carbon Initiative, which aims to catalyse research on seascape carbon activities, develop carbon crediting methodologies to quantify and verify their impacts, and help drive critical finance to them.

### [Blue Ventures\\*](#)

#### Projects

In 2019, Blue Ventures launched Madagascar's first blue carbon project, empowering communities to conserve and reforest over 1,200 hectares of mangroves. The project, known as Tahiry Honko (which means 'preserving mangroves' in the local Vezo dialect), avoids emissions of over 1,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. Registered with the Plan Vivo standard, Tahiry Honko will provide a regular income through carbon credit sales to support local conservation efforts over the next twenty years. Funds are also helping finance community development.

### [Center for International Forestry Research \(CIFOR\)\\*](#)

#### Science

CIFOR is a non-profit, scientific institution that conducts research on the most pressing challenges of forest and landscape management around the world. CIFOR is a CGIAR Research Center, and leads the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA). CIFOR headquarters are in Bogor, Indonesia, with offices in Nairobi, Kenya; Yaounde, Cameroon; Lima, Peru and Bonn, Germany. CIFOR has led groundbreaking research on wetlands, including a pivotal 2011 discovery that they store 3-5 times more carbon than other tropical forests, most of it in the soil.

### [Conservation International\\*](#)

#### Science | Projects | Finance

Since 2010, Conservation International co-sponsors the Blue Carbon Initiative with IOC-UNESCO and IUCN. Conservation International is working with countries for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of blue carbon ecosystems (Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, the Philippines). Conservation International also engages with companies that are helping to protect blue carbon ecosystems based on a list of Principles for Investments in Natural Climate Solutions. Another initiative of Conservation International is the creation of a Restoration Insurance Service Company (RISCO) to sustainably finance mangrove conservation and restoration through revenues from both blue carbon sales and insurance-related payments.

### [GRID-Arendal\\*](#)

#### Projects

GRID-Arendal manages the GEF Blue Forests Project on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). GRID-Arendal is also conducting research on oceanic blue carbon and provides communication and expert advice to initiatives such as the Norwegian Blue Forests Network, the Blue Solutions

Initiative, and the ResilienSEA project on seagrasses in West Africa.

### [Mangrove Action Project\\*](#)

#### Projects

Mangrove Action Project (MAP) is a US-based non-profit which collaborates with stakeholders from over 60 countries at all levels to preserve, conserve, and restore the world's mangrove forests. The focus of MAP's activities is on mangrove restoration training and schools' education programs.

### [Oceans 2050 Foundation](#)

#### Science

Oceans 2050 is coordinating the Seaweed Carbon Farming Project, a global 15-month study that will quantify carbon sequestration by seaweed in sediment across seaweed farms on five continents, with the aim to develop and submit for approval a methodology in the voluntary carbon offset market. In 2021, Silvestrum Climate Associates, the BLUE Marine Foundation, the Blue Carbon Initiative and Oceans 2050 launched the Seascape Carbon Initiative.

### [Plan Vivo Foundation](#)

#### Projects

Plan Vivo is a certification body that certifies projects against the Plan Vivo Standard – a tried and tested framework, developed with over 25 years of experience, for community and smallholder land-use and forestry projects. Plan Vivo's current blue carbon projects are Mikoko Pamoja (Kenya) – the world's first certified blue carbon project – Tahiry Honko (Madagascar) – the world's largest community-led mangrove carbon conservation project – and Vanga Blue Forest (Kenya).

### [Project Seagrass](#)

#### Projects

Project Seagrass is an environmental charity devoted to the conservation of

seagrass ecosystems through research, community outreach and capacity building.

### [Rare\\*](#)

#### Projects

Rare is an NGO working in coastal communities and with small-scale fishers to promote behaviour-centred solutions for sustainable natural resource management that enhance food security and community resilience, as well as action on climate change. Rare empowers local resource users to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural ecosystems, like mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds that reduce peoples' vulnerability to climate change's impacts, and design behaviour-centred climate solutions that benefit the community.

### [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)\\*](#)

#### Projects | Finance

TNC is working to conserve and restore coastal wetlands in the United States, Mexico, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. TNC is also helping build local capacity to identify and implement viable management options for increasing mangrove resilience and carbon accounting in Micronesia. With the Mapping Ocean Wealth initiative, TNC is using innovative technology and approaches to evaluate nature as an asset. The newest release of the Mapping Ocean Wealth initiative is the Mangrove Restoration Potential Map.

### [Wetlands International](#)

#### Projects

Wetlands International is a science-based NGO working with civil society, government and the private sector to enable wetland conservation and restoration. As part of the action on Coasts and Deltas, Wetlands International works with some of the world's most populous and vulnerable coastlines including Java, Indonesia; the Rufiji Delta, Tanzania; the Saloum Delta, Senegal; the Parané Delta, Argentina, the Tana delta, East Kalimantan, and the Mahanadi Delta.

## The Pew Charitable Trusts\*

### Policy

Pew's Protecting Coastal Wetlands Project initially worked with Belize, Costa Rica, and Seychelles through in-country project partnerships to support the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted in 2020/21 that included robust commitments to protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems. The second phase of this work commenced in April 2022, focused on (i) continuing to work with these three countries as they move forward in implementing their NDC commitments, (ii) expanding country level partnerships to at least five further countries in the Caribbean Basin and Western Indian Ocean through to the next round of NDCs that will be submitted by 2025, and (iii) partnering with regional frameworks to help support and accelerate individual country goals.

## VERRA

### Projects

Verra administers the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), or Verra, formerly the Voluntary Carbon Standard, a standard for certifying carbon emissions reductions. In 2021, Verra registered its first blue carbon conservation project, the Blue Carbon Project Gulf of Morrosquillo in Colombia, developed by Conservation International with the technical support of South Pole, using a Verra methodology (VM0007) that was revised in 2020 to include tidal wetland conservation and restoration activities.

## 6. GLOBAL INITIATIVES

### Blue Carbon Accelerator Fund (BCAF)

#### Finance

Launched in 2022 by the Australian Government and managed in partnership with IUCN, the BCAF provides funds for readiness and implementation support for on-the-ground blue carbon ecosystem restoration or conservation projects. The BCAF currently supports projects in Benin, Peru, Madagascar and the Philippines.

### Blue Carbon Buyers Alliance

#### Finance

The Blue Carbon Buyers Alliance is a group of companies working together to catalyse the voluntary carbon market towards blue carbon ecosystem preservation and restoration. The Blue Carbon Buyers Alliance was announced at UNFCCC COP26 by Netflix, Salesforce, Disney, Microsoft, Apple, Google, Amazon and Workday.

### Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF)

#### Finance

The BNCFF supports the development of sound, investable blue natural capital projects with clear ecosystem service benefits, based on multiple income streams and appropriate risk-return profiles. The Facility is funded by Luxemburg and managed by IUCN.

### Friends of Ocean Action

#### Finance

Friends of Ocean Action is an informal group of over 70 ocean leaders, who, in collaboration with 1t.org, have created the Mangroves Working Group to raise ambition and deliver action towards the conservation and restoration of mangrove

forests. The group will enable companies and investors to contribute to the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests with support from non-profit actors that provide complementary expertise and networks. It will also build the capacity of the demand side of the blue carbon market and connect it to mangrove-related platforms and projects.

### Global Coalition for Blue Carbon

#### Policy

The Global Coalition for Blue Carbon is a new initiative announced by France and Colombia at the One Ocean Summit in Brest in 2022.

### Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon (GO-BC)

#### Science

GO-BC is a global programme of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) launched in 2022 with the aim to enhance understanding of the ocean-climate nexus and generate new knowledge and solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change.

### Global Mangrove Alliance

#### Projects

The Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) seeks to bring together NGOs, governments, scientists, industry, local communities, and funders towards a common goal of conserving and restoring mangrove ecosystems. The alliance utilizes the collective expertise of its members to connect and coordinate diverse initiatives into a global portfolio that leverages and amplifies best practices and pursues conservation and restoration opportunities.

### International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC)

#### Policy | Projects | Finance

The IPBC is a global network of over fifty members, who share a vision to protect,

restore and sustainably manage blue carbon ecosystems, contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities. Launched in 2015 at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris, France, as an initiative of the Australian Government, the IPBC provides an open forum for government agencies, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and research institutions to connect, share and collaborate to build solutions, take action, and benefit from the experience and expertise of the global community. The IPBC is coordinated by the Australian Government with the support of the IOC-UNESCO.

### [IORA Indian Ocean Blue Carbon Hub\\*](#)

Science | Finance

The IORA Indian Ocean Blue Carbon Hub, with its secretariat hosted by CSIRO, aims to build knowledge about and capacity in protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems throughout the Indian Ocean, in a way that enhances livelihoods, reduces risks from natural disasters, and helps mitigate climate change. IORA currently operates in blue carbon science and blue carbon finance.

### [Kiwa Initiative](#)

Finance

The Kiwa Initiative is a multi-donor program that aims to strengthen the climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-Based Solutions (NbS). It is founded on an easier access to climate change adaptation and NbS funding for national and local authorities, civil society, international and local NGOs and regional organizations in Pacific Island Countries and territories. The Initiative is managed by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and brings together the European Union, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

### [Mangroves for the Future \(MFF\)](#)

Finance

Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is a partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development and is co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP. MFF builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It initially focused on the countries that were worst affected by the tsunami -- India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand. More recently it has expanded to include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Viet Nam. Mangroves are the flagship of the initiative, but MFF is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem.

### [Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#)

Finance

ORRAA work on blue carbon focuses on Resilience Credits, an innovation developed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and AXA XL to recognise the benefits of protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems in terms of adaptation to sea level rise.

### [Seascape Carbon Initiative](#)

Science

The Seascape Carbon Initiative was launched in 2021 by Silvestrum Climate Associates, the BLUE Marine Foundation, the Blue Carbon Initiative and Oceans 2050, with the aim to catalyse research on seascape carbon activities, develop carbon crediting methodologies to quantify and verify their impacts, and help drive critical finance to them.

### [The Blue Carbon Initiative \(BCI\)\\*](#)

Science | Policy

The Blue Carbon Initiative is a global program working to mitigate climate change through the restoration and

sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems. The BCI is coordinated by Conservation International, IUCN and IOC-UNESCO and works through an International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group and an International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group. In 2021, Silvestrum Climate Associates, the BLUE Marine Foundation, the BCI and Oceans 2050 launched the Seascope Carbon Initiative, which aims to catalyse research on seascope carbon activities, develop carbon crediting methodologies to quantify and verify their impacts, and help drive critical finance to them.

### [The Gallifrey Foundation Fair Carbon project](#)

#### Projects

The Fair Carbon project supports the development of blue carbon projects by developing clear, step-by-step guidance to the accreditation process, starting at the initial step of selecting a standard and methodology, meeting high ethical standards for inclusive project governance, and applying for seed funding. Once a project is established, the project will provide additional guidance on ongoing monitoring, reporting, verification, and marketing and retailing credits for the best available price.

### [The Ocean Foundation \(TOF\)](#)

#### Projects | Science

The Ocean Foundation has been involved in coastal restoration since 2008 and released the first-ever Blue Carbon Offset Calculator in 2012 to provide charitable carbon offsets for individual donors, foundations, corporations, and events through the restoration and conservation of coastal blue carbon ecosystems. Currently, The Ocean Foundation is supporting projects in Puerto Rico and Fiji. The Foundation is also active through its Blue Resilience Initiative, dedicated to restoring, conserving, and financing natural coastal infrastructure.

### [World Mangrove Center \(upcoming\)](#)

#### Science

The World Mangrove Center (WMC), headquartered in Indonesia, has the vision of having healthy and sustainably managed mangrove ecosystems that provide services for sustainable livelihoods, programmes for climate mitigation, adaptation and responses to other natural disasters. It is WMC's mission to become an international cooperation hub that promotes sustainable mangrove management by connecting different stakeholders at all levels, sectors and across nations. WMC will support its members in their ambition to serve and share experiences in mangrove rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management, as well as collaborate with global stakeholders to save the world's mangroves.





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