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Blue Carbon and Marine World Heritage

Elle Gillard, UNESCO World Heritage Marine Programme



50 Flagship Marine Protected Areas of Outstanding Universal Value



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Beacons of Hope in a Changing Ocean



World Heritage Marine Sites host:

- **At least 21% of the global area of blue carbon ecosystems**
- **15% of global blue carbon assets**
- **Carbon stores that are equivalent to about 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2018.**

Note: This is likely an underestimate.

More information at: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/blue-carbon-report/>

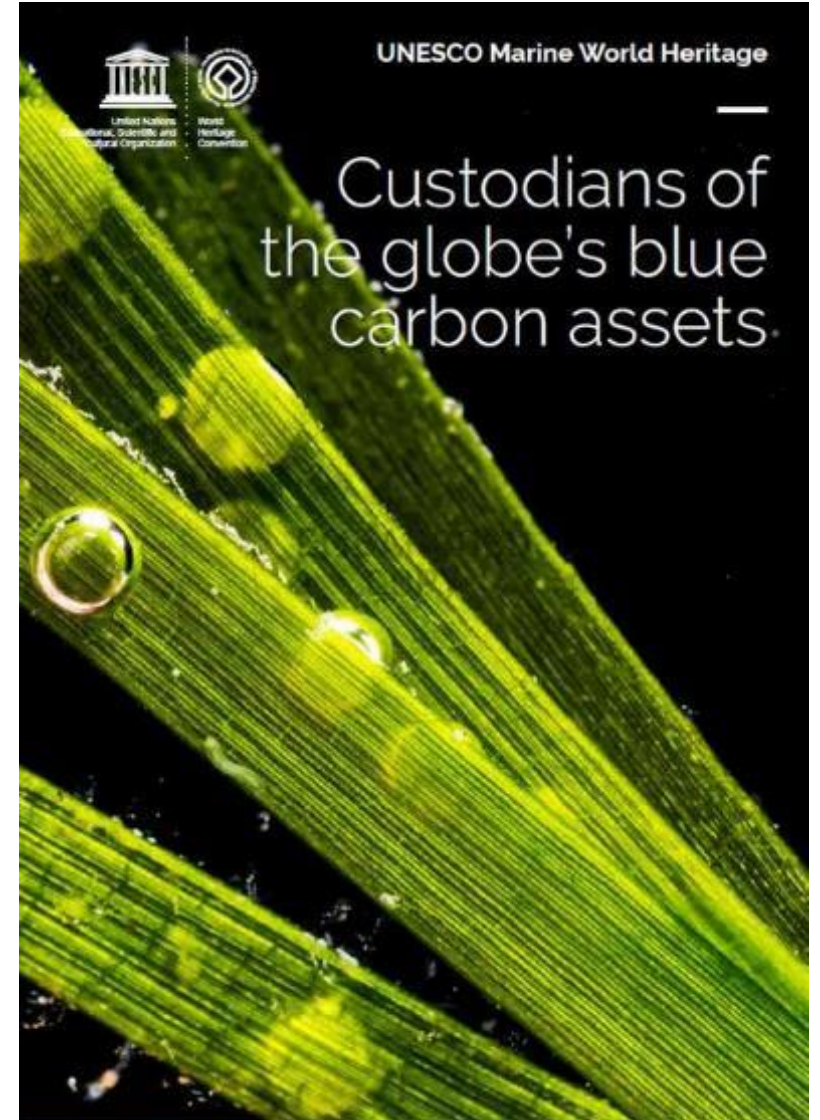
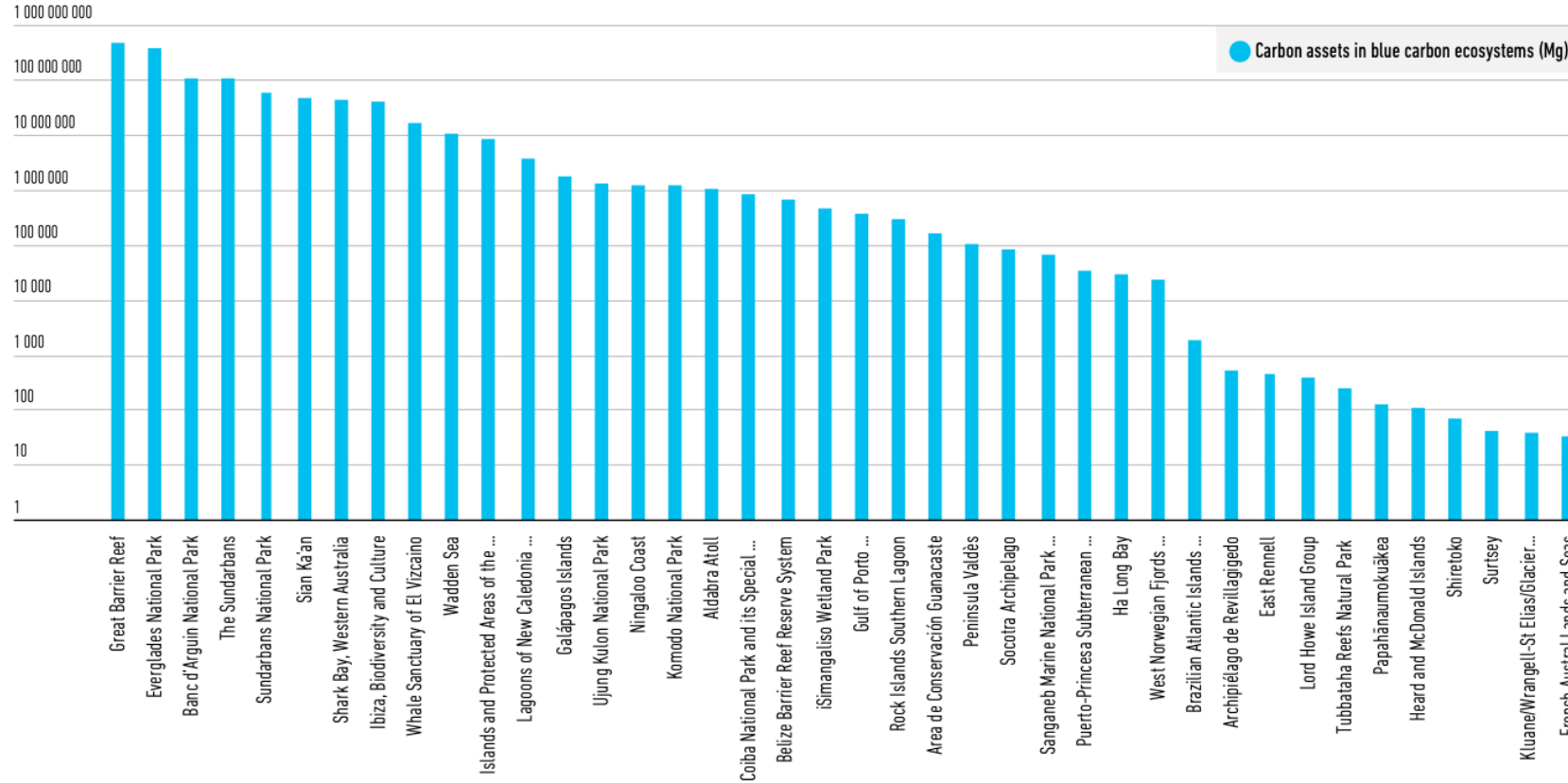


Figure 5. Ranked carbon assets in megagrams of carbon (Mg C) of blue carbon ecosystems in UNESCO marine World Heritage sites (2020) using a logarithmic scale. For a list of full marine site names and respective countries see Figure 4.



World Heritage site name	Proportion of blue carbon assets across all sites
Great Barrier Reef (Australia)	37 %
Everglades National Park (USA)	29 %
The Sundarbans (Bangladesh) + Sundarbans National Park (India)	12 %
Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania)	8 %
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Investing in the conservation and restoration of UNESCO marine World Heritage sites offers significant opportunities to mitigate climate change and meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Custodians of the globe's blue carbon assets,
UNESCO 2021



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Next Steps



New project launched with the support of the Principality of Monaco in 2022 to help State Parties apply the results of the 2021 UNESCO report on marine World Heritage and blue carbon.

Key questions:

- **How can UNESCO assist States Parties to transfer knowledge on blue carbon assets into sustainable financial support?**
- **How can the UNESCO World Heritage status of marine protected areas be used to create blue carbon opportunities?**
- **How can UNESCO marine World Heritage assist in advancing the practical applications of blue carbon initiatives?**

Thank you

Elle Gillard
e.gillard@unesco.org

World Heritage Marine Programme
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<https://whc.unesco.org/en/marine-programme/>



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