

Blue Carbon in NDCs with Pew's *Protecting Coastal Wetlands and Coral Reefs Project*

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Pew

— The Pew Charitable Trusts

- Non-partisan, data-driven non-profit
- Founded in 1948
- Headquartered in United States with domestic and international work

“Pew is committed to generating research, providing technical assistance, and building relationships to advance powerful, positive change.”

www.pewtrusts.org

— Pew's Coastal Wetlands team

- Project launched in 2019
- Incorporate coastal wetlands into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement
- Mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes
- Adaptation, mitigation, resilience, livelihood, and biodiversity co-benefits



Photo: Alamy Nature Picture Library

— Pew's Approach



Measure

In-country scientific research using IPCC methodologies



Empower

In-country partnerships to enhance local capacities and develop long-term financing models



Scale

Policy to action and knowledge sharing

— Phase 1 Partnerships and NDC Commitments



Photo: Gianfranco Vivi

Belize committed to double existing mangrove protection by safeguarding 12,000 new hectares by 2030; restore an additional 4,000 hectares of mangroves; and develop a National Seagrass Policy to help end the net loss of wetlands by 2025.

Seychelles committed to map the full spatial extent and carbon stocks of its seagrass ecosystems using cutting-edge technologies and locally led field validation, as well as protect all its seagrass and mangrove ecosystems by 2030.

Costa Rica committed to protect all its coastal wetlands recorded in the national inventory, restore priority mangrove areas, and develop a national mangrove restoration target by 2025. The country will also create new financing models to support implementation.

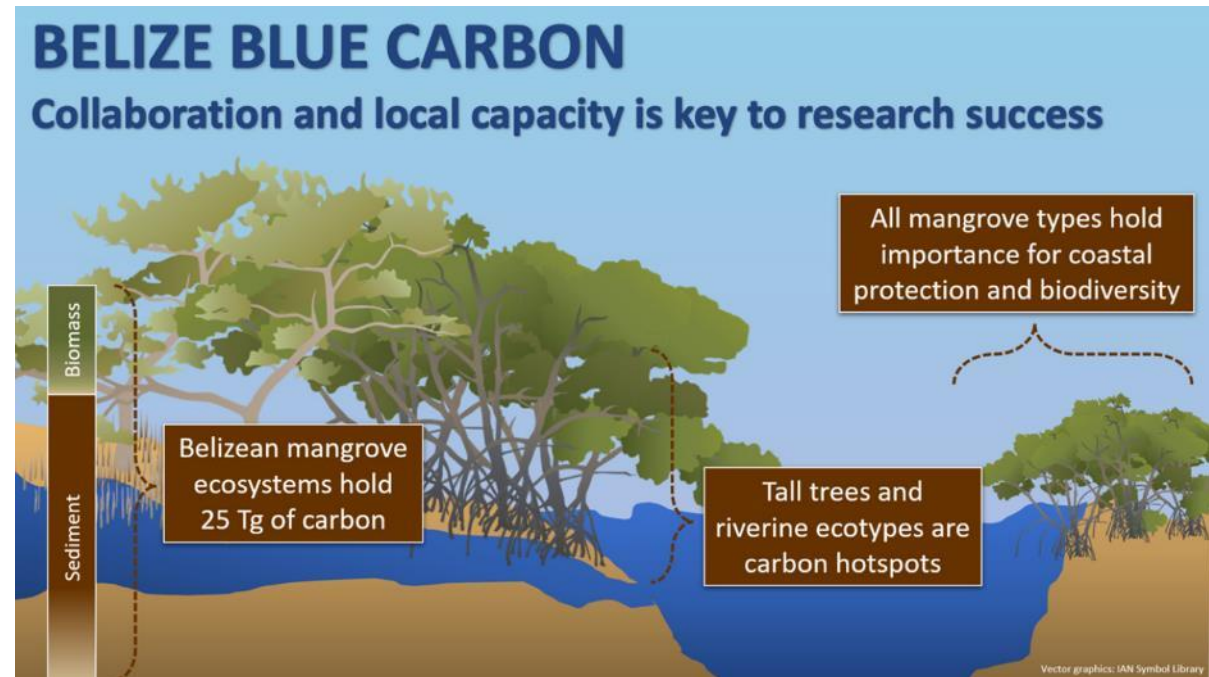
Belize

NDC:

Committed to double existing mangrove protection by safeguarding 12,000 new hectares by 2030; restore an additional 4,000 hectares of mangroves; and develop a National Seagrass Policy to help end the net loss of wetlands by 2025.

Research and policy support with partners:

- First national mangrove carbon stock
- Results to be integrated into Belize's national greenhouse gas inventory
- Published results: *Belize Blue Carbon: Establishing a national carbon stock estimate for mangrove ecosystems* by Morrissette et al. 2023



Graphical abstract from Morrissette et al., 2023



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Belize Blue Carbon: Establishing a national carbon stock estimate for mangrove ecosystems



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— Seychelles

NDC:

Committed to map the full spatial extent and carbon stocks of its seagrass ecosystems using cutting-edge technologies and locally led field validation, as well as protect all its seagrass and mangrove ecosystems by 2030.

Research and policy support with partners:

- First field-validated map of all the country's seagrass, with accompanying carbon stock assessment
- Grassroots campaign led by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) to add relevant and culturally appropriate words for seagrasses to the Seychellois Creole dictionary

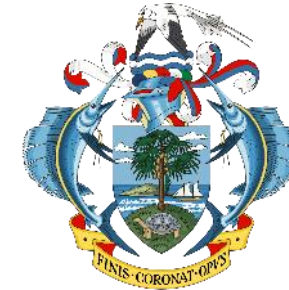
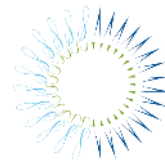


Photo: Seychelles Seagrass Mapping and Carbon Assessment Project

— Costa Rica

NDC:

Committed to protect all its coastal wetlands recorded in the national inventory, restore priority mangrove areas, and develop a national mangrove restoration target by 2025. The country will also create new financing models to support implementation.

Policy support with partners:

- Institutional and financial analyses for the development of the Payment for Marine Ecosystem Services program, the “Blue Carbon Community Development Model”

National Blue Carbon Strategy:

- Announced February 6, 2023
- Provides a mechanism to implement NDC commitments
- Calls for the Central Bank to develop methodology for the economic valuation of blue carbon ecosystems



Photo: Kryssia Campos

— Looking Forward



Photo: Octavio Aburto

- Continue to work with Belize, Seychelles, and Costa Rica to support NDC implementation and ambition
- Begin work with at least 5 additional countries in the Western Indian Ocean / East Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean
- Map seagrass in the entire Indian Ocean, with field verification in the Western Indian Ocean

Thank you!

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