



**HIGH LEVEL
AMBITION GROUP**
ON BLUE CARBON

**Be part of the global
movement to protect
the world's blue
carbon ecosystems.**

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In line with the 2030 Agenda, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Paris Agreement, embracing blue carbon is not only an environmental imperative but a political pledge towards paving the way for a more sustainable world by 2030 and beyond.

Coordinated by:


**MINISTÈRE
DE L'EUROPE
ET DES AFFAIRES
ÉTRANGÈRES**
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With the support of:


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Commission

 **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
BLUE CARBON**

ABOUT BLUE CARBON

Blue carbon ecosystems are highly productive coastal ecosystems that are recognised for their capacity to store carbon within the plants and in the sediments below, and are thereby considered a key component of Nature-based Solutions to climate change.

PRIMARY TYPES



Mangroves



Seagrasses



Tidal Marshes

GEOGRAPHY

50% of the world's population lives within

200 km of the coast, drawn to the environmental and economic services provided by these ecosystems.

WHY DO WE CARE?

- They can sequester two to four times more carbon than terrestrial forests.
- They provide coastal protection.
- They support biodiversity.
- They support the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Estimated value:

US\$ 191 billion per year in social cost of carbon

INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS



COMMON CAUSES OF DEGRADATION INCLUDE

- Over Extraction
- Urban development
- Pollution
- Agriculture
- Aquaculture
- Climate change
- Waste disposal
- Hazardous fishing practices

LOSS RATES

An estimated **20-50%** of global blue carbon ecosystems have already been lost or degraded.

Mangroves: 0.11-0.13% annually

Tidal marshes: 1.0-2.0% annually

Seagrasses: 2.0-7.0%

CONSEQUENCES

Due to their high carbon content, when degraded or lost, they can turn into significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions. These ongoing losses contribute to up to **19%** of emissions from global deforestation.

- **141-466 million tons** CO₂ per year could be avoided by preventing the degradation of these ecosystems

HOW YOU CAN ACT



Governments can promote blue carbon projects and priorities by establishing clear policies, aligning funding, and offering financial incentives for action.



Empower local communities to participate in decision-making and benefit sharing arrangements.



Provide funding for ocean observation, research and knowledge development to address existing knowledge gaps.

WHY BLUE CARBON

Blue carbon ecosystems are critical for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, and people. In Montreal, parties to the CBD agreed to protect at least 30% of the seas, and to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems by 2030. It is critical to act quickly, and to equip countries with the necessary tools to implement these goals.

ABOUT HILAG

The **High Level Ambition Group (HILAG)** functions as a platform through which high level representatives from governments can state their ambitions and commitments to ongoing and future initiatives. It aims to build global impetus around blue carbon, launch more projects and ensure that the highest social and environmental standards are implemented.

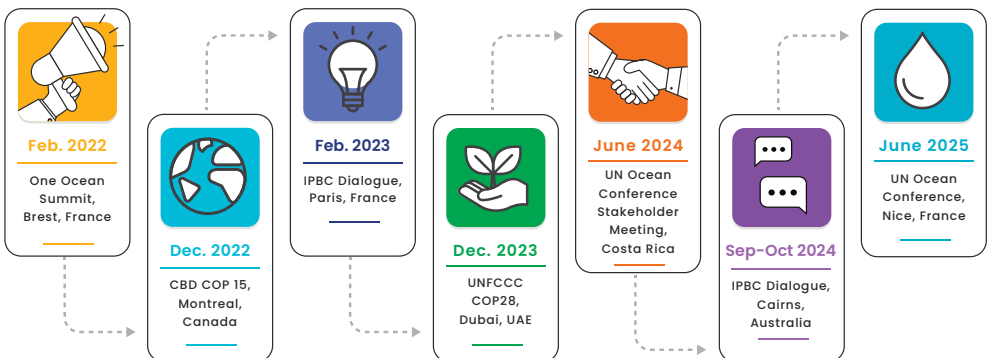
VISION

Allow countries to harness and maintain the momentum for coastal blue carbon action, to increase and achieve their ambitions for positive impacts on climate, people and biodiversity at the national and international level.

MISSION

Provide a platform for national governments to communicate and increase ambition to conserve, sustainably use and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems globally.

TIMELINE



HILAG'S LINES OF ACTION

- Drive and scale countries' international commitments to and investments in blue carbon actions.
- Facilitate alignment and collaboration between high-level commitments globally.
- Build the policy, science and finance enabling conditions for high-quality blue carbon actions and impact globally.
- Lay the groundwork for the development of public-private climate finance approaches for blue carbon projects.

WHAT DOES AMBITION LOOK LIKE?

HILAG members commit to increasing ambition for the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems for people, climate and biodiversity.

- Improving national policy, regulations and management plans.
- Implementing conservation and restoration projects, while involving local communities, and applying high-level standards.
- Supporting innovative finance mechanisms.
- Investing in blue carbon science in order to increase awareness and engagement.
- Improving ambition and coordination in NDCs.

Your participation accelerates the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of **blue carbon ecosystems**, aligning your national action with international commitments to **mitigate and adapt to climate change, biodiversity, and people.**



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