



International policy framework for blue carbon ecosystems

Recommendations to align actions across international policy processes
for the conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems



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Contents

Acknowledgements	iv
Introduction	1
International policy framework for blue carbon ecosystems	2
Enhance ambition for coastal ecosystems	3
Accelerate implementation	5
Measure collective results and innovate	7
Annexes	
Annex 1: Specific entry points in international processes for blue carbon action	9
Annex 2: Resources	19
Annex 3: Acronyms	23

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Contacts

Jill Hamilton

Director, Blue Climate Strategy
Conservation International (CI)
jhamilton@conservation.org

Anete Berzina-Rodrigo

Project Manager, Ocean Team, Centre for Conservation Action
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
anete.berzina@iucn.org

Introduction

Coastal blue carbon ecosystems¹, including **mangroves**, **seagrasses** and **tidal marshes**, are some of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on Earth, and are vital to mitigating the impacts of climate change. They are also critical for coastal biodiversity, food security, livelihoods and human well-being, in addition to climate adaptation – protecting millions of people globally from the impacts of storms, coastal flooding and erosion. However, these ecosystems are threatened – half of global mangrove forests have already been lost – and once these ecosystems are degraded or destroyed, their carbon stores are released as carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change. The effects of climate change further threaten coastal ecosystems through the impacts of sea level rise, extreme weather events, and ocean acidification. Addressing these threats is essential to successful conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.

This policy framework, developed by CI and IUCN, provides an overview of the intersections and opportunities for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration in the relevant international policy processes. It includes recommendations for Parties to support synergies across international policy processes to enhance ambition for blue carbon action, accelerate national-level implementation, and streamline reporting efforts, and provides examples of specific actions Parties can take to achieve these goals, including within upcoming policy windows of opportunity in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) revision cycles. It also identifies entry points for blue carbon action within each policy process ([Annex 1](#)), and a list of resources to support Parties in implementing this framework ([Annex 2](#)).



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¹ The term 'blue carbon ecosystems' will be used throughout this framework for consistency, however the policy processes discussed in this paper may reference these ecosystems using different terminology (e.g., 'coastal wetlands').

International policy framework for blue carbon ecosystems

Increased action at the international level – via aligned and strengthened international policies – is needed to achieve high-quality blue carbon conservation and restoration outcomes globally.²

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) and the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are key international policy processes for accelerating the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems and are the focus of this framework.³ Shifting from traditionally siloed approaches to integrated approaches across these international policy processes holds the potential to enhance ambition, accelerate implementation and deliver high-quality conservation and restoration outcomes for blue carbon ecosystems and the people that directly depend on them (Figure 1).

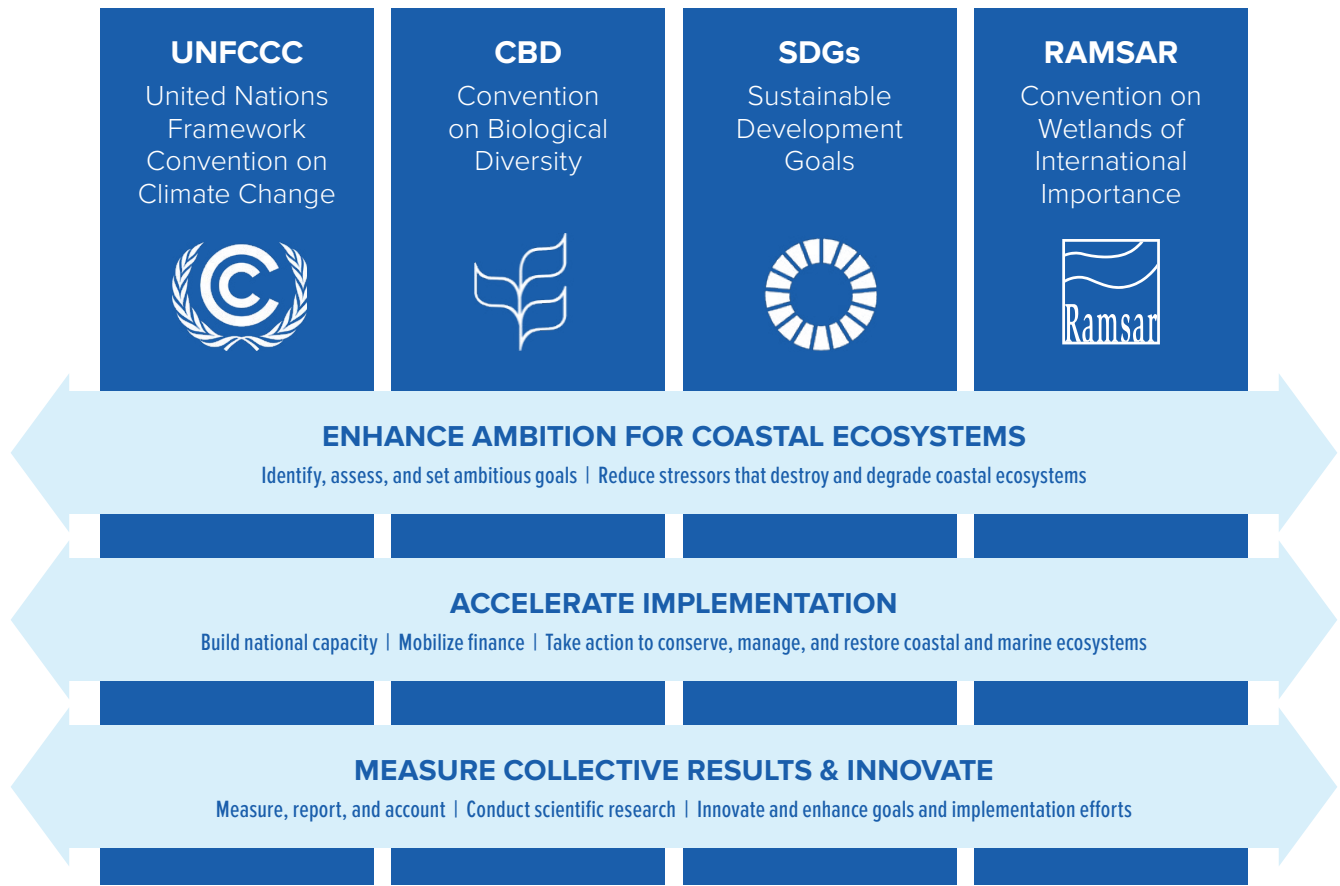


FIGURE 1. Aligning commitments and actions across international policy processes can enhance ambition, accelerate implementation, and streamline reporting for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems.

² This framework is focused on the steps Parties can take across relevant international policy processes to support blue carbon action. It does not focus on actions needed to strengthen national-, regional- or local-level blue carbon policy. Additionally, the term 'blue carbon ecosystems' will be used throughout this framework for consistency, however policy processes often reference these ecosystems using different terminology (e.g., 'coastal wetlands').

³ The international policy processes included in this framework do not represent an exhaustive list of potential opportunities to accelerate action for blue carbon ecosystems. For more information, please refer to the IPBC resource, [Coastal Blue Carbon Ecosystems in International Frameworks and Conventions](#).

Enhance ambition for coastal ecosystems

IDENTIFY, ASSESS AND SET AMBITIOUS GOALS | REDUCE STRESSORS THAT DEGRADE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

KEY ACTION

As countries update their NBSAPs by 2024 following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and as countries update their NDCs by 2025 in support of Paris Agreement goals, they should ensure commitments and national targets related to blue carbon are aligned. Countries should also acknowledge linkages and contributions to relevant goals and targets of the Paris Agreement, GBF (Goals A, B; Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 11), SDGs (Goals 1, 6, 13, 14), and wetlands, including Ramsar sites. See [Table 1](#) for additional details on goals and targets relevant to blue carbon ecosystems.

See [Annex 1](#) for additional actions countries can take to enhance and align ambition of blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration.

Aligning and strengthening commitments for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration across relevant international policies can support streamlined implementation and increase ambition for blue carbon action at the national level. Supporting and capitalizing on synergies across international policy processes can help address potential trade-offs, ensure consistency and avoid contradictory incentives. It can support countries to set more ambitious targets that recognize the numerous co-benefits of blue carbon ecosystems. [Table 1](#) on the following page highlights some of the key entry points to enhance and align ambition for blue carbon ecosystems.

Recommendations for countries to enhance and align ambition for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration:

1. **Recognize and integrate the role of blue carbon ecosystems in achieving globally agreed-to climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals.** Countries should strive to increase recognition of the importance of conserving blue carbon ecosystems and restoring degraded ecosystems in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, GBF, Ramsar Convention and SDGs.
2. **Strengthen inclusion of, attention to, and action on blue carbon ecosystems in processes and negotiations related to scaling ambition and implementation.** Including the potential contributions of blue carbon ecosystems in ambition-setting conversations – such as the UNFCCC’s Work Programme to Scale up Mitigation Ambition and Implementation – can help ensure that these ecosystems receive sufficient financing and support needed for capacity building, scientific research and implementation efforts.
3. **Include blue carbon ecosystems in new and updated commitments, and align commitments across policy processes, to the extent possible.** In new or updated commitments, including NDCs, NBSAPs, national frameworks and strategies for achieving the SDGs, and national goals for the wise use of wetlands, countries should seek to develop ambitious, quantifiable, area-based, sectoral-based, or emissions reduction targets for blue carbon ecosystems that take into account national climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals. Countries should align blue carbon commitments across policy processes, to the extent possible, to strengthen recognition for the co-benefits of blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration and streamline implementation and reporting efforts.

TABLE 1. Key entry points to enhance and align ambition for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration (non-exhaustive list). See [Annex 1](#) for specific actions countries can take to enhance and align global ambition.

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
<p>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)</p> <p>Long-term low emission development strategies</p> <p>Work Programme for scaling Mitigation Ambition and Implementation</p>	<p>National Biodiversity, Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)*</p> <p>Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity</p> <p>* Relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF): Goals A and B and; Targets 1, 2, 3, 8 and 11</p>	<p>National frameworks and strategies for achieving Goal 14 (Life Below Water) and other relevant goals*</p> <p>* Relevant SDGs include, but are not limited to: 1 (No Poverty), 6 (Clean Water), 13 (Climate Action) and 14 (Life Below Water)</p>	<p>Designating and managing wetlands of international importance</p> <p>Wise use of wetlands</p> <p>International cooperation on transboundary issues</p>



Accelerate implementation

BUILD NATIONAL CAPACITY | MOBILIZE FINANCE | TAKE ACTION TO CONSERVE, MANAGE AND RESTORE COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

KEY ACTION

Countries should encourage the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme (NWP), the CBD Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, and Ramsar's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) to collaborate and provide advice and guidance on blue carbon restoration and conservation encompassing all potential co-benefits, including adaptation, mitigation, social, and biological diversity benefits. The advice provided by the work programmes should seek to address the specific questions and capacity needs expressed by the countries in achieving their blue carbon commitments through existing dialogues (such as the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue) and consultative processes.

See **Annex 1** for additional actions countries can take to accelerate implementation of blue carbon restoration and conservation goals.

Implementing actions to achieve ambitious goals, including those outlined in NDCs, NBSAPs and national development plans requires robust national capacity and financing. The conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems is often hindered by lack of information, technical capacity, collaboration between Ministries and agencies, and financing. These can be solved through strengthened synergies across policy processes; national implementation for blue carbon restoration and conservation efforts can thus be accelerated in alignment with global goals and targets. There are multiple opportunities to enhance action through Work Programmes and Thematic Groups including across processes related to finance, Indigenous peoples knowledge and engagement, and capacity building. [Table 2](#) on the following page highlights some of the key entry points to accelerate implementation for blue carbon ecosystem actions.

Recommendations for countries to accelerate and align implementation of blue carbon commitments and targets:

1. **Align implementation of blue carbon related targets and commitments across policy processes.** Aligning NDC implementation, NBSAP implementation and implementation of national frameworks and strategies for achieving the SDGs to the extent possible can help countries to meet climate, biodiversity and sustainable development goals, maximize available capacity and streamline reporting processes.
2. **Call for and provide increased financing for blue carbon projects across policy processes, and for guidance on new potential sources of funding.** In addition, countries can work to develop blue carbon programmes and projects that achieve multiple co-benefits and are eligible for diverse financing options, including blended finance (from government and the private sector).
3. **Ensure inclusion of Indigenous peoples and local communities in blue carbon project design, implementation and monitoring.** Countries can use the guidance developed by the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP), the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the CBD Ad-Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) as well as other resources (best practice guidelines from IUCN etc.) to support these efforts and call for additional guidance that builds upon existing resources.
4. **Increase capacity building for implementation of blue carbon related commitments and targets and ensure that capacity building efforts complement and build upon existing efforts across policy processes.** Building capacity to act upon existing guidance – including from the IPCC Wetlands Supplement and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Handbooks – can help to accelerate implementation efforts.

TABLE 2. Key entry points to build national capacity, mobilise finance and conserve, sustainably use, manage and restore coastal ecosystems within existing international policy processes (non-exhaustive list). See [Annex 1](#) for specific actions countries can take to accelerate action in these areas.

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
WORK PROGRAMMES, AGENDA ITEMS AND THEMATIC GROUPS GUIDANCE			
<p>Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)</p> <p>Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM)</p> <p>Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)</p> <p>The Work Programme to Scale Up Mitigation Ambition and Implementation</p> <p>Research and Systematic Observation (RSO)</p>	<p>Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity</p> <p>The Programme of Work and SBSTTA agenda item on Biodiversity and Climate Change</p> <p>Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)</p> <p>Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) agenda item on marine and coastal biodiversity</p> <p>Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) monitoring framework</p>	<p>Interactive Dialogues</p>	<p>Wetland Inventories</p> <p>2016–2024 Strategic Work Plan</p> <p>STRP</p> <p>Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)</p>
MOBILIZING FINANCE			
<p>COP Guidance to the COP</p> <p>Guidance to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)</p> <p>COP Guidance to the Global Environment Facility</p> <p>Ad Hoc Work Programme on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance</p> <p>Article 6</p>	<p>Global Environment Facility (GEF)</p> <p>Global Biodiversity Framework Fund</p> <p>COP Guidance to the GEF</p>	<p>Financing for Sustainable Development Forum</p> <p>Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)</p> <p>Sub-Fund of the UN Peace and Development Trust Fund</p>	<p>Grant Program, Funding Database, Finance guidance</p> <p>COP and Standing Committee identify needs and actions</p>
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
<p>Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP FWG)</p>	<p>Ad Hoc working group on Article 8(j)</p>		<p>Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p>
CAPACITY BUILDING			
<p>Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB)</p> <p>Technology Mechanism</p>	<p>Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)</p> <p>Sustainable Ocean Initiative</p>	<p>SDG Integration</p> <p>Technology Facilitation Mechanism</p>	<p>Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)</p>

Measure collective results and innovate

MEASURE, REPORT AND ACCOUNT | CONDUCT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH | INNOVATE AND ENHANCE GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION EFFORTS

KEY ACTION

Call for the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems in the UNFCCC Global Stocktake (GST) process, and consider, where relevant and as appropriate, existing National Reports on Implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, NBSAPs, and national reports under the CBD as part of other sources of inputs to inform the GST process.

See **Annex 1** for additional actions countries can take to enhance alignment for measuring results and innovating to achieve blue carbon goals.

Measuring results and accounting for progress and current gaps is essential to inform the processes of achieving international goals and targets relevant to blue carbon ecosystems. Assessing enabling national policies, capacity needs, and scientific gaps for the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems is needed to support national planning and to enhance programme and project implementation. Parties can work to align their reporting and utilize guidance across policy processes to streamline a comprehensive assessment process and identify remaining capacity needs to proceed with blue carbon conservation and restoration efforts. [Table 3](#) on the following page highlights some of the key entry points to measure collective results and innovate for blue carbon ecosystem actions.

Recommendations for countries to strengthen activities to measure results and promote innovation for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration:

1. **Use the same datasets and methodologies, where possible, for measuring, reporting and accounting for outcomes related to blue carbon ecosystems across policy processes.** Countries could call for the development of a shared list of indicators and measures to help countries report across multiple international commitments with the same methods and data.
2. **Include blue carbon ecosystems in global reviews of progress.** Countries should provide and advocate for the inclusion of inputs relevant to blue carbon ecosystems in global reviews of progress, such as the UNFCCC Global Stocktake process and the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the GBF under the CBD.
3. **Advance blue carbon science and innovation across policy processes and ensure that efforts complement and build upon existing work to avoid duplication of efforts.** Utilize scientific guidance across policy processes to synthesize information related to blue carbon ecosystem restoration, conservation and management to accelerate implementation efforts and the development of more ambitious goals.

TABLE 3. Key entry points to measure, report and account for progress, conduct scientific research and innovate and enhance goals and implementation efforts for blue carbon ecosystems within existing international policy processes (non-exhaustive list).

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	CBD Convention on Biological Diversity	SDGs Sustainable Development Goals	The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
MEASURING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING			
Global Stocktake National GHG inventories Biennial Transparency reports National Communications Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation	Biodiversity Stocktake and review mechanisms* National Reports Global Biodiversity Outlook Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) * Relevant proposed indicators in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) include A.2, B.1, A.2, 1.1, 2.2, 3.1, 10.1, 10.2, and B.1.	Sustainable Development Goal Report Voluntary National Reviews	Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Wetlands National Wetland Inventories Global Wetland Outlook Ramsar Sites Information
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION			
IPCC Assessments	IPBES Assessments Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA)	Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)	STRP

Annexes

Annex 1: Specific entry points in international processes for blue carbon action

The below tables outline the intersections and opportunities for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration in the UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar and SDGs.

Enhancing ambition

TABLE 4. Specific entry points for action on enhancing ambition (non-exhaustive list):

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<p>Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update blue carbon commitments in NDCs in a participatory manner, integrating National Focal Points and relevant stakeholders of other policy processes, to support synergies and better align commitments. Incorporate and align future blue carbon NDC commitments with the relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal A (Recovery of species & ecosystems), Goal B (Sustainable use & nature's contributions to people), Target 1 (Spatial planning), Target 2 (Restoration), Target 3 (30x30), Target 8 (Climate Change), and Target 11 (Nature's contributions to people); and the relevant SDGs, including but not limited to SDG-1 (No Poverty), SDG-5 (Gender Equality), SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG-13 (Climate Action) and SDG-14 (Life Below Water). Future NDCs can also refer to wetland inventories under the Ramsar Convention to identify suitable restoration sites to meet mitigation and adaptation targets.
<p>Long-term strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems in long-term national climate mitigation and adaptation strategies such as LT-LEDS, carbon neutrality and/or decarbonization targets, thus ensuring recognition and alignment with national biodiversity targets under the CBD, national frameworks and strategies for achieving the SDGs, and the designation of future Ramsar sites.
<p>Work Programme for scaling Mitigation Ambition and Implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During development of the Work Programme's scope, call for activities that include knowledge exchange and capacity building for how to develop commitments related to blue carbon ecosystems in NDCs, including how to incorporate the co-benefits, such as biodiversity, adaptation, and livelihoods into these commitments.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals and targets:

- Wetland inventories, including those from the Ramsar Convention, can also be used to identify suitable sites for restoration, conservation and for developing sustainable management measures, thereby helping to meet the various GBF goals and targets, such as all area-based targets, including Target 2, Target 3, and Target 8 and those related to Nature's Contributions to People, including Targets 8, 10, and 11.
- Ensure that the goals, targets and monitoring framework include coastal ecosystems and territorial sea conservation, restoration and sustainable use, including the provision of means of implementation, and build upon existing agreed-upon goals and targets of the UNFCCC, SDGs, and Ramsar Convention. Relevant NbS indicators could be developed for Targets 8 and 11.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs):

- Update NBSAPs in a participatory manner, with the involvement of all relevant sectors (environment, agriculture, finance, etc), IPLCs, civil society and relevant stakeholders of other policy processes, to support synergies and better align targets and commitments related to blue carbon ecosystems.
- Include marine and coastal biodiversity in the national targets that countries must include in their updated NBSAPs, particularly, for the national targets on how countries will contribute to the achievement of GBF Goals A and B and Targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11. Ensure that targets are aligned with national goals and commitments under the UNFCCC, Ramsar Convention and SDGs.
- Develop and use wetland inventories to identify priority wetland restoration and adaptation sites important for biodiversity, local communities, and climate adaptation and/or mitigation.

Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity:

- Update the Programme of Work to build on previous work, such as The Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction⁴, IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions, and on existing work and guidance from ongoing processes, work programmes and bodies of the Ramsar Convention and the UNFCCC.
- Ensure that the update of the programme of work on Biodiversity and Climate Change takes into account relevant information from the updated Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

Sustainable Development Goals

National frameworks and strategies for achieving SDGs:

- Wherever possible and appropriate, integrate biodiversity and climate goals related to blue carbon ecosystems into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, and poverty reduction strategies across all sectors of the economy. Include blue carbon ecosystem restoration and conservation actions within national strategies for achieving the SDGs, including but not limited to SDG-1 (No Poverty), SDG-5 (Gender Equality), SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG-13 (Climate Action) and SDG-14 (Life Below Water), and recognize, in commitments under the UNFCCC, CBD, and Ramsar, how actions contribute to achieving the SDGs.
- Utilize the recommendations from Ramsar Resolution XIV.16: Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies to inform national updates.
- When revising national frameworks and strategies for achieving the SDGs, include planned or potential Ramsar sites and other protected areas (UNESCO) to meet overlapping targets.
- Reference and account for SDG contributions in national blue carbon project planning and implementation.

⁴ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2019): *Voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction and supplementary information*. Technical Series No. 93. Montreal. 156 pages. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Fifth Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention:

- The global goals and targets of the GBF should inform the development of the Fifth Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, as well as the update or creation of new NDC targets so positive feedbacks for blue carbon are anticipated.

Designating and managing Wetlands of International Importance:

- Recognize and consider the multiple co-benefits of blue carbon ecosystems – including climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity potential – in planning for current and future Ramsar sites.
- Use wetland inventories to identify priority areas of wetland restoration, including their potential to advance the adaptation needs of coastal communities and meet CBD biodiversity targets and SDG goals.

The wise use of wetlands:

- Develop ambitious national goals and policies to conserve and restore blue carbon ecosystems and integrate socioeconomic needs and circumstances in national planning.
- Ensure wetland conservation, restoration and management policies are aligned with the goals and targets of the GBF and the SDGs and promote cooperation with international processes.

International cooperation on transboundary issues:

- Identify transboundary blue carbon ecosystems through an assessment of wetland inventories and urge neighboring nations to cooperate to conserve and restore these ecosystems. Incorporate the GBF, SDGs, and national climate mitigation and adaptation targets into project planning and implementation.

Accelerate implementation

TABLE 5. Example entry points for action on accelerating implementation (non-exhaustive list):

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WORK PROGRAMMES, AGENDA ITEMS AND THEMATIC GROUPS GUIDANCE
<p>Nairobi Work Programme (NWP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work of the NWP could be strengthened through collaboration with expert groups within the UNFCCC and across policy processes, such as the CBD's Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity or Ramsar's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA), to provide advice and guidance on blue carbon conservation and restoration that focuses on adaptation, ecological, social, and biological diversity benefits. The results of this work could also support future discussions at the UNFCCC's annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue on enhancing synergies for ocean-climate action across policy processes.
<p>Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties can use WIM guidance, such as the policy brief on Technologies for Averting, Minimising and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones,⁵ to inform the implementation of their CBD Target 1 (Spatial planning) and Target 2 (Restoration).
<p>Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the LEG to provide technical guidance and support to Least Developed Countries to incorporate coastal and marine NbS approaches, including blue carbon, into the formulation and implementation of NAPs. Utilise guidance from across policy processes, including Ramsar's CEPA, in this process.
<p>Research and Systematic Observation (RSO):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest that future dialogues focus on topics such as the inclusion of blue carbon metrics in biodiversity targets and SDGs, and exchange of NbS-relevant scientific information and data between the UNFCCC, CBD, and Ramsar Convention. Develop opportunities to exchange relevant scientific information, research, and observation data on blue carbon ecosystems across policy processes.
MOBILISING FINANCE
<p>COP Guidance to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the annual COP guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, call for the GEF and GCF to scale up blue carbon programme and project funding and provide further guidance on accessing funding for the co-benefits of blue carbon programmes and projects. Call for the GCF and GEF to enhance financial support of Indigenous- and local community-led blue carbon programmes and projects.
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
<p>Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP FWG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize the guidance developed by the LCIPP FWG, the Ramsar STRP and the CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) to include Indigenous peoples, local communities and traditional knowledge in blue carbon project creation, implementation and monitoring.

⁵ Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage. (2020): *Policy Brief Technologies for Averting, Minimizing and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones*. Bonn: UNFCCC https://unfccc.int/ttclear/misc_/StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/2020_coastalzones/b9e88f6fea374d8aa5cb-44115d201160/3863c9fabdf74ea49710189acbf6907a.pdf.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB):

- Request that the PCCB engage with the relevant bodies of the CBD and Ramsar (including the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative and Ramsar Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) in an effort to take a holistic and comprehensive approach to capacity development for conservation and sustainable use of oceans and coasts, as part of its workplan priorities to enhance coherence and coordination of capacity-building under the Convention to avoid duplication of efforts, including through collaboration with bodies outside the Convention.

The Convention on Biological Diversity

WORK PROGRAMMES, AGENDA ITEMS AND THEMATIC GROUPS GUIDANCE

Programme of Work on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity:

- Support the implementation of the GBF through the provision of tools and guidelines for conservation, restoration and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity while highlighting its contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the relevant goals and targets of the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) agenda item on marine and coastal biodiversity:

- Request that the SBSTTA promote synergies and collaboration with other international bodies, such as the UNFCCC SBSTA and Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to address cross-cutting issues such as adaptation and resilience in blue carbon ecosystems.
- In conducting the scientific review of the implementation of the GBF, SBSTTA should consider in its recommendations the outcomes of the research carried out under the SBSTA (Research and Systematic Observation) of the UNFCCC, especially that concerning climate change impacts and risks for the ocean and cryosphere, and related ecosystems as well as the work of Ramsar's STRP.

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- Utilize the guidance developed by the LCIPP FWG, the Ramsar STRP and the CBD Ad-Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) to include Indigenous peoples, local communities and traditional knowledge in blue carbon project creation, implementation and monitoring.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Sustainable Ocean Initiative:

- Consider thematic capacity-building and development strategies or action plans on conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.

Sustainable Development Goals

National frameworks and strategies for achieving SDGs:

- Incorporate actions and prioritise investments that simultaneously achieve the SDGs, the goals and targets of Ramsar's Strategic Plan for 2016–2024, NBSAP targets and NDC targets related to blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration when designing and executing local and national-level implementation plans for sustainable development.

High Level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC and the SDG Summit under the auspices of the UN General Assembly:

- Highlight the role of blue carbon ecosystems in achieving the SDGs under review when possible.
- Negotiate political declarations that foster actions for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, focusing on those that help achieve the SDGs, the goals and targets of Ramsar's Strategic Plan for 2016–2024, and NBSAP and NDC commitments related to blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration.

MOBILISING FINANCE

Financing for Sustainable Development (FfD):

- In light of the adoption of the GBF, a future FfD forum or the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development could place greater emphasis on the environmental pillar of Sustainable Development – investing in nature and in implementing the GBF as a motor for economic recovery and growth, for climate change adaptation and mitigation and for human well-being.

CAPACITY BUILDING

UNDP SDG Integration:

- Request that SDG integration focus on the co-benefits of coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration, including for blue carbon ecosystems. Request new resources and support to develop strategies that help communities implement projects to achieve these co-benefits.

Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (RPTC)⁶:

- Governments could request support for inclusion of blue carbon conservation and restoration actions in their national development strategies. Through the RPTC, Governments can request support for developing capacity to formulate and implement policies for sustainable economic and social development that integrate climate change and biodiversity considerations.

Technology Facilitation Mechanism:

- Request that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism explore possibilities to support blue carbon conservation and restoration efforts in achieving the SDGs, as well as national climate and biodiversity goals.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

WORK PROGRAMMES, AGENDA ITEMS AND THEMATIC GROUPS GUIDANCE

Wetland Inventories:

- In designating new Ramsar sites, consider and identify sites that promote sustainable development, biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation co-benefits and integrate SDGs, GBF and targets and climate mitigation and adaptation commitments under the UNFCCC into project design and reporting.

2016–2024 and future Strategic Work Plans:

- Incorporate goals and targets from the Strategic Work Plan into national policies and blue carbon projects and align targets across the CBD, UNFCCC, and SDGs.

Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA):

- Use CEPA guidance to disseminate knowledge and understanding on blue carbon ecosystems co-benefits to coastal communities, local, state and national governments, and other stakeholders.
- Integrate the guidance developed by the LCIPP FW, CBD Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j), the Ramsar STRP, and CEPA to promote participatory approaches to natural resource management and integrating Indigenous peoples and knowledge into blue carbon projects.
- Promote World Wetlands Day and disseminate information on the importance of coastal ecosystems to sustainable development, biodiversity, and combating climate change through the tools and resources provided by Ramsar.
- Consider the long-term strategic framework developed under the CBD when designing capacity-building and development strategies, action plans, work programmes and mechanisms, as appropriate, to foster synergies and avoid duplications. Specifically, following the adoption of the GBF, consider thematic capacity-building and development strategies or action plans on conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.

⁶ Available for developing countries, least developed countries, and countries in economic transitions/emerging from conflict.

Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):

- Develop tools to assess the suitability of wetlands to meet national mitigation goals and recommendations on how to develop and use wetland inventories to guide blue carbon project placement. Additionally, develop tools to assess the suitability of potential project sites to protect biodiversity, enhance livelihoods, and provide adaptation benefits.
- Mobilise existing guidance and recommendations on scientific research and blue carbon project design, implementation and management to help identify suitable conservation and restoration sites and implement projects that are equitably designed and managed.
- Utilise scientific guidance across policy processes – including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Wetlands Supplement and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Handbooks – to synthesize information related to blue carbon ecosystem management to accelerate the implementation of coastal blue carbon restoration and conservation.

Measure collective results and innovate

TABLE 6. Example entry points for action on measuring collective results and promoting innovation (non-exhaustive list):

The United Framework Convention on Climate Change
MEASURING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING
<p>Global Stocktake (GST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for the inclusion of coastal and marine NbS, including blue carbon ecosystems, in the Global Stocktake process, and consider, where relevant and as appropriate, existing National Reports on Implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, NBSAPs, and national reports under the CBD⁷ as part of other sources of inputs to inform the GST process.⁸
<p>National GHG inventories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harmonize metrics, methodologies, and approaches in national wetland inventories (Ramsar Convention) to the data required to conduct GHG inventories for coastal wetlands in the IPCC Wetlands Supplement⁹ to assess data gaps and promote consistency in national efforts. Use available data from the formulation of national GHG inventories¹⁰ and national wetland inventories to identify priority blue carbon conservation and restoration sites for adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development. Identify areas to promote a network of sites, including through transboundary cooperation.
<p>Biennial Transparency reports and National Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include in UNFCCC reporting mechanisms relevant information already provided by designated Ramsar sites and other Ramsar national reports, in Voluntary National Reviews to track implementation of the SDGs and relevant information included in National Reports under the CBD. Include additional, new information about the need for conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems as a national development and/or biodiversity protection priority, including existing and updated information on national conditions, and ongoing or new areas of implementation which need additional financial and capacity building support.
<p>Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for the inclusion of coastal and marine NbS for adaptation, including blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration actions, in the different workshops under the GGA work programme through submissions that inform the themes of the workshops (methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, etc.). Request that workshops consider available resources and tools from other policy processes, including the Ramsar STRP and the CBD's work on Marine and Coastal biodiversity.
SCIENCE AND INNOVATION
<p>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use scientific guidance across policy processes – including from the IPCC Wetlands Supplement¹¹ and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Handbooks – to synthesize information related to blue carbon ecosystem management, to measure baselines and account for results.

7 Schindler Murray, L., Romero, V. and Herr, D. (2021). *Unpacking the UNFCCC Global Stocktake for Ocean-Climate Action*. IUCN, Rare, Conservation International, WWF, and Ocean & Climate Platform.

8 Ocean & Climate Platform, IUCN, Conservation International, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Plymouth Marine Laboratory. (2022). *Identifying and accounting for ocean specific topics in the Global Stocktake*. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/202202281809---GST_ocean_submission_final.pdf

9 IPCC (2014, 2013). *Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*. Hiraishi, T., Krug, T., Tanabe, K., Srivastava, N., Baasansuren, J., Fukuda, M. and Troxler, T.G. (eds) Switzerland: IPCC.

10 Green, et al. (2021). *Coastal Wetlands in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Advice on reporting emissions and removal from management of Blue Carbon ecosystems*. <https://bluecarbonpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Coastal-Wetlands-in-National-Greenhouse-Gas-Inventories.pdf>.

11 IPCC (2014, 2013). *Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands*. Hiraishi, T., Krug, T., Tanabe, K., Srivastava, N., Baasansuren, J., Fukuda, M. and Troxler, T.G. (eds). Switzerland: IPCC.

Convention on Biological Diversity

MEASURING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING

National Reports:

- Include in national reports information already provided by designated Ramsar Sites and other Ramsar national reports, Sustainable Development Goal Voluntary National Reports and UNFCCC national communication, NAPs and other documentation.
- Include additional, new information to support the need for conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems as a national development priority, including existing and updated information on national conditions, and ongoing or new areas of implementation which need additional financial and capacity building support.

Global Biodiversity Outlook:

- Assess global progress towards blue carbon conservation and restoration and utilise recommendations to help achieve future goals and targets by referencing available information produced by the UNFCCC, the Ramsar Convention and SDG 14 processes during the global analysis of NBSAPs at COP16 and global review of collective progress at COP17 and COP19.

Review mechanisms:

- Appropriately account for blue carbon ecosystems with efforts such as the UNFCCC's GST during the global analysis of NBSAPs at COP16 and global review of collective progress at COP17 and COP19 ..

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) monitoring framework:

- The Ad Hoc Technical Expert group and SBSTTA should use relevant SDG indicators in the monitoring framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as relevant indicators developed under other Conventions.

Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI):

- Ensure that future assessments are comprehensive and take consider contributions from marine and coastal ecosystems, including blue carbon ecosystems.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA):

- Invite the IPBES to continue collaborating with the IPCC to examine the synergies and potential trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and strengthen their means to achieve this.

Sustainable Development Goals

MEASURING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING

Sustainable Development Goal Report:

- Identify blue carbon-related goals that need further action and address inequalities in action across international and regional scales by examining national implementation status reports from other conventions.
- Include in relevant SDG reporting mechanisms information provided already by designated Ramsar sites and other Ramsar national reports, Sustainable Development Goal Voluntary National Reports and UNFCCC national communication, NAPs, NBSAPs and other documentation.

Voluntary National Reviews:

- Include blue carbon ecosystems in progress reviews of all relevant goals and draw from member submissions to facilitate information exchange, lessons learned and policy recommendations for blue carbon-related goals and targets.
- Use relevant UNFCCC, CBD and Ramsar Convention indicators and available assessment reports to do so.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum):

- Request the STI Forum to include a theme and discussion on SDGs in national action for blue carbon. Use recommendations and actionable steps to utilise science, technology and innovation to inform future policies to build back “blue” with the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems, building on recommendations provided by other forums and efforts under the UNFCCC, CBD and Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

MEASURING, REPORTING AND ACCOUNTING

Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):

- Request the STRP to guide the integration of carbon mitigation action and innovative financing opportunities into current and future Ramsar sites. Use reports, guidance, and recommendations on scientific best practices and needs that are available from the CBD, UNFCCC and SDG processes and can inform the acceleration of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

National Report on Implementation of the Convention on Wetlands:

- Include blue carbon in future Ramsar reporting efforts and assess previous reports to identify the status of current blue carbon ecosystems. Review the respective national reporting efforts under the UNFCCC, CBD and SDG to identify means to improve and simplify Ramsar reporting. Find means for the inclusion of inputs from the Ramsar Convention and related efforts in the Global Stocktake process, NDCs, NAPs, and national reports, NBSAPs, and more¹².

National Wetland Inventories:

- Compare metrics, methodologies, and approaches in national wetland inventories to the data required to conduct GHG inventories for coastal wetlands in the IPCC Wetlands Supplement to assess data gaps and promote consistency in national efforts.
- Align data requirements with the IPCC Wetlands Supplement when evaluating or developing national inventory programs.

Global Wetland Outlook:

- Use the Outlook to identify drivers of change and degradation and integrate report recommendations into national planning and current projects which build on data and assessment efforts already undertaken nationally and/or for the purpose of reporting to the UNFCCC, CBD and on SDGs.

Ramsar Sites Information:

- Identify wetland distribution, ecosystem services and threats to regional and national blue carbon ecosystems to adapt national policies which can help inform countries efforts towards achieving the goals of the UNFCCC, CBD and SDG. Request that the Outlook contain mitigation and adaptation-specific recommendations on coastal wetlands for nations and stakeholders.
- Use designated Ramsar Sites to report on national progress, capacity gaps, financial needs, and future planning for blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration across policy processes. Include reporting in the Sustainable Development Goal Voluntary National Reports, the UNFCCC national communications, biennial transparency reports, and the CBD national reports and SDG reports.

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):

- Request the STRP provide policy, scientific, economic and social recommendations to include mitigation and adaptation goals in Ramsar site management. Use scientific guidelines and recommendations to account for progress, identify scientific needs, collect data and pinpoint national limitations and ensure such information is made easily available for national reporting requirements to the UNFCCC, CBD and SDG.

¹² Ocean & Climate Platform, IUCN, Conservation International, WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Plymouth Marine Laboratory. (2022): *Identifying and accounting for ocean specific topics in the Global Stocktake*

Annex 2: Resources

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Coastal Wetlands in National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Advice on reporting emissions and removal from management of Blue Carbon ecosystems

This resource provides insights to countries who chose to include coastal wetlands in their National Greenhouse Gas Inventories to measure and report coastal wetlands' benefits.

2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands. Methodological Guidance on Lands with Wet and Drained Soils, and Constructed Wetlands for Wastewater Treatment

The Supplement provides scientific guidelines for countries to account for GHG emissions in wetlands, including for mangroves, seagrass, and tidal salt marsh to include in national greenhouse gas inventories.

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

The Platform outlines recent activities, workplans, and provides resources, workshops, and trainings to increase capacity and engage Indigenous peoples.

Nairobi Work Programme Policy Brief on the Ocean: Scaling up Adaptation Actions and Co-Operation to Build Climate Resilience of the Ocean Coastal Areas, and Ecosystems

The brief summarises knowledge gaps and necessary collaboration to scale up ocean-climate action in four key areas: governance and participation, data, protection and restoration, and facilitating reporting.

Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs: Considerations for GCF proposal development

The Supplement clarifies entry points to access funding for ocean and coastal opportunities and the requirements for GCF funding.

Policy Brief: Technologies for Averting, Minimising and Addressing Loss and Damage in Coastal Zones

The Policy Brief discusses technologies to address loss and damage through determining risk, protecting coastal zones, and building resilience.

Policy brief: Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation: Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions

The Policy Brief provides recommendations to achieve multiple benefits for communities, people, and the environment through innovative approaches.

Unpacking the UNFCCC Global Stocktake for Ocean-Climate Action

The paper provides an overview of ocean and coastal nature-based solutions within the GST and a list of actions to ensure ocean and coastal action inclusion in the GST process.

Identifying and accounting for ocean specific topics in the Global Stocktake

This resource is intended for use by technical assessors of the GST to identify the inputs and sources relevant to ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Options for strengthening action on the ocean and coasts under the UNFCCC

The paper summarizes the key entry points within the UNFCCC programmes and ongoing negotiations to promote conservation actions related to ocean-climate action. Key areas include finance, science, loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation, Indigenous Peoples Knowledge and engagement, capacity-building, the global stocktake, and the technology mechanism.

Blue Carbon: Integrating Ocean Ecosystems in Global Climate Action

The policy brief provides an overview of blue carbon ecosystems and how they contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

The Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions: Guidelines on Enhanced Action (2nd edition)

This guidelines support countries seeking to promote and preserve the climate benefits of blue carbon ecosystems by providing technical guidance on the multiple avenues for including these ecosystems within updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Climate Agreement. Given the multiple justifications for including coastal blue carbon in NDCs and the varying levels of relevant national capacity, this guidance describes a range of options. The document recommends a “tiered approach”, similar to that employed by IPCC guidance, to demonstrate how a variety of motivations and starting points represent viable pathways for the inclusion of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in NDCs. This resource has been updated from the initial 2020 publication with additional case studies and recommendations incorporated from the 2020 NDC update cycle, looking forward towards the 2025 NDC update cycle and beyond. These updated guidelines were developed by the Blue Carbon Initiative, International Partnership for Blue Carbon, Conservation International, IUCN, IOC- UNESCO, the International Blue Carbon Institute, NDC Partnership, Silvestrum Climate Associates, The Nature Conservancy, Ocean & Climate Platform, Rare, and The Pew Charitable Trusts with the generous support of Fondation Erol and the Oceankind.

THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Final text of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels

The Sourcebook discusses cooperation and collaboration between biodiversity-related conventions with case studies at national and regional levels.

CBD Technical Series No. 93: The Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Climate

The Report outlines the policy strategies to achieve effective ecosystem-based management strategies at the local, regional, and national levels.

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Ecosystem Service Assessment Support Tool

The assessment tool provides easy navigation and assistance to design an ecosystem assessment process with clear objectives, resources, and tools to begin the assessment.

Guidance on Mangrove Indicators in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

This guidance provides scientifically robust data and resources for consideration by countries in national monitoring and reporting and identifies opportunities to effectively capture the contribution of mangroves in the monitoring of progress towards achievement of the 2050 vision for biodiversity. It illustrates how mangrove ecosystems contribute towards the achievement of multiple goals, targets and associated indicators of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The guidance was prepared by experts from Save our Mangroves Now! - a joint initiative by WWF, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wetlands International and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as the Global Mangrove Alliance, the Global Mangrove Watch and the IUCN Mangrove Specialist Group. An updated version is expected later in 2023.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals

Link to the individual goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Resolution XIII.14: Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems

Resolution encouraging Parties to the convention to undertake activities to promote, restore, and conserve blue carbon ecosystems through national planning and under the principles of the convention.

Resolution XIII.20 Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats

Recommendations and potential actions to ensure the preservation and protection of coastal wetlands that are integral to human use.

Resolution XIII.7 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

Discusses synergies and overlap between other biologically-related conventions and pathways to strengthen those synergies.

Harnessing Wetland Wise Use, Protection and Restoration in Delivering Climate Change Outcomes

Brief on using blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass, tidal salt marsh) to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Outlines the pathways and mechanisms within the Convention on Wetlands to recognize and designate wetlands important to combatting climate change.

Wetland inventory: A Ramsar framework for wetland inventory and ecological character description

The wetland inventory handbook compiles information and steps relevant for Contracting Parties to conduct a national wetlands inventory, including considerations of scale, methodology, data types, and streamlined reporting for Ramsar.

The Ramsar Funding Database

The Database includes a list of public and private sectors that fund or invest in wetland conservation and restoration and can serve to streamline access to funding.

Ramsar Policy Brief No. 2: Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making

Policy brief on pathways for policymakers to integrate the values of wetlands into national policy and decision-making. It builds on tools and research to outline clear recommendations and paths forward.

GENERAL RESOURCES

High-Quality Blue Carbon Principles and Guidance

High Quality Blue Carbon Principles and Guidance have been developed by Meridian Institute in collaboration with The World Economic Forum (WEF) Friends of Ocean Action, Conservation International, Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA), Salesforce, and The Nature Conservancy. The objectives of these principles and guidance are to provide a consistent and accepted approach to ensuring that blue carbon projects and credits optimize outcomes for people, biodiversity, and the climate.

Coastal Blue Carbon Ecosystems in International Frameworks and Conventions

This document was produced by the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and provides an overview an overview international frameworks and conventions that address the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of coastal blue carbon ecosystems.

IUCN Global Standard on Nature-based Solutions™ (1st edition, 2020)

The IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™ provides clear parameters for defining Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and a common framework to help design, implement and monitor high-quality and high-integrity NbS interventions for the protection, sustainable management and restoration of natural and modified ecosystems, including coastal and marine ecosystems. Consisting of 8 criteria, the Standard offers a holistic framework to uptake and scale up the NbS approach in ways that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, to provide both human well-being and biodiversity benefits, thereby ensuring long-term sustainability and impact and preventing unanticipated negative outcomes or misuse.

The Standard is accompanied by a Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions: A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of Nature-based Solutions (1st edition, 2020).

The blue carbon handbook: Blue carbon as a nature-based solution for climate action and sustainable development

This handbook was published by the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy in collaboration with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon and the Blue Carbon Initiative to provide decision-makers with a broad understanding of blue carbon ecosystems and the benefits they provide to people and nature and to help support decision-making and project implementation. It covers topics ranging from the sequestration potential of different blue carbon ecosystems to the policy landscape surrounding blue carbon and the carbon market and other financing options for blue carbon projects.

Annex 3: Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness
COP	Conference of Parties
EBSA	Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GCF	Global Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GST	Global Stocktake
IPBES	Intergovernmental Scientific-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LCIPP FWG	Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
MPA	Marine protected area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NWP	Nairobi Work Programme
OECD	Other effective area-based conservation measures
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-Building
RPTC	Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation
RSO	Research and Systematic Observation
SBI	Subsidiary Body on Implementation
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
STI Forum	Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WIM	The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage



**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE**
WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Rue Mauverney 28
1196 Gland, Switzerland
ocean@iucn.org
Tel +41 22 999 0000
Fax +41 22 999 0002
www.iucn.org
www.iucn.org/resources/publications

**CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL**
HEADQUARTERS

2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, Virginia 22202
Community@conservation.org
Phone: +1703 341 2400
Fax: +1703 553 0654
www.conservation.org