

The UNEP Blue Carbon Initiative

Gabriel Grimsditch

gabriel.grimsditch@unep.org

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Three key ecosystems provide services and carbon storage/sequestration

Mangroves



Salt Marshes



Seagrass



Shoreline protection



Pollution filtration



Fishery nursery

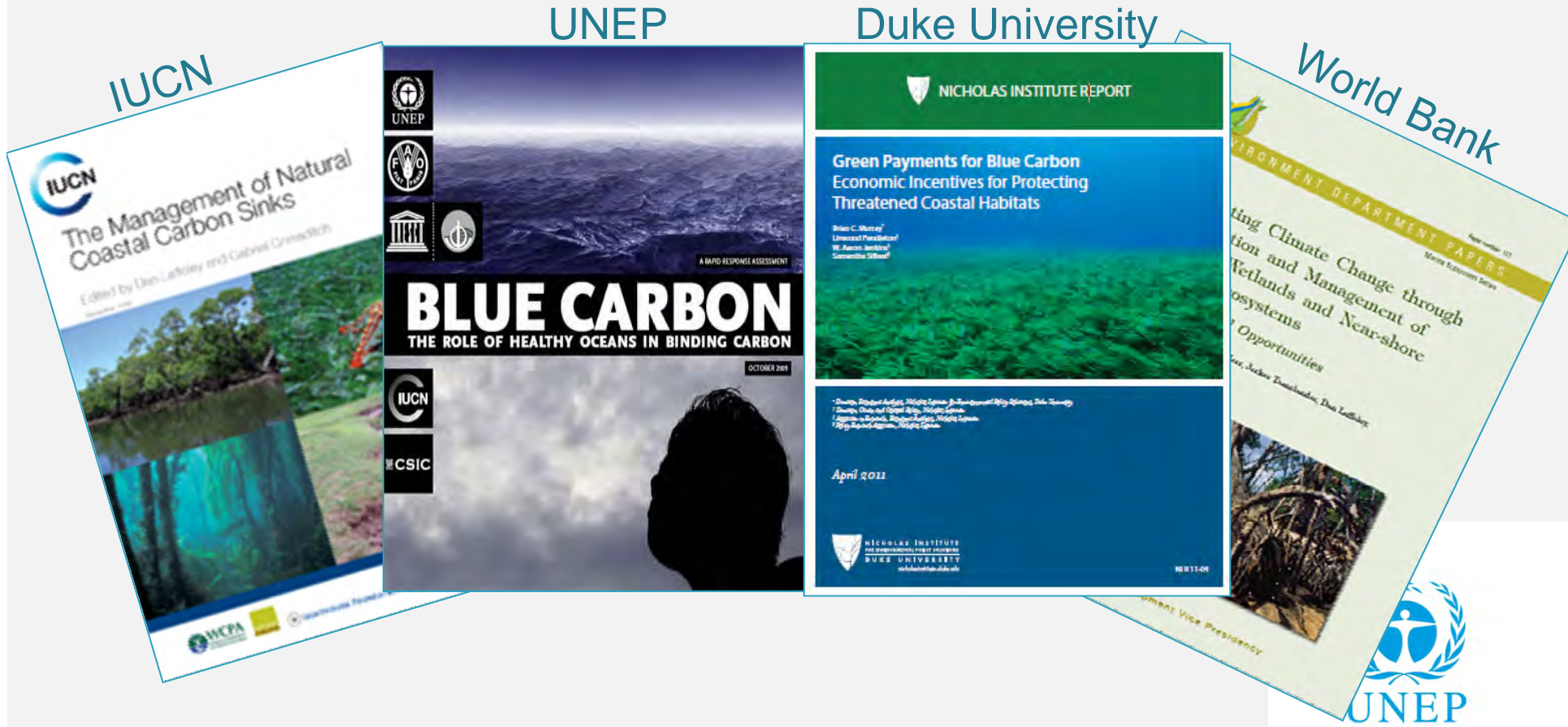


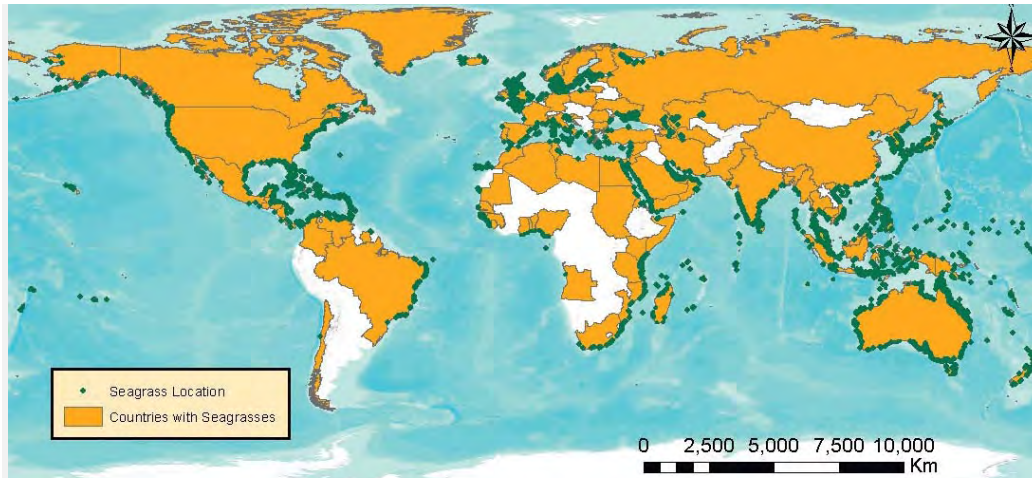
Carbon storage



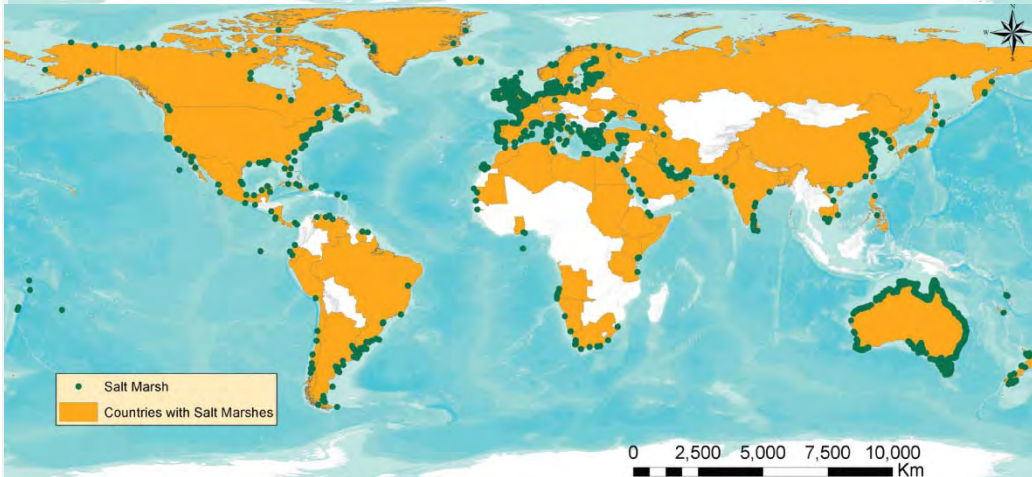
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Blue Carbon Reports, 2009 - 2011

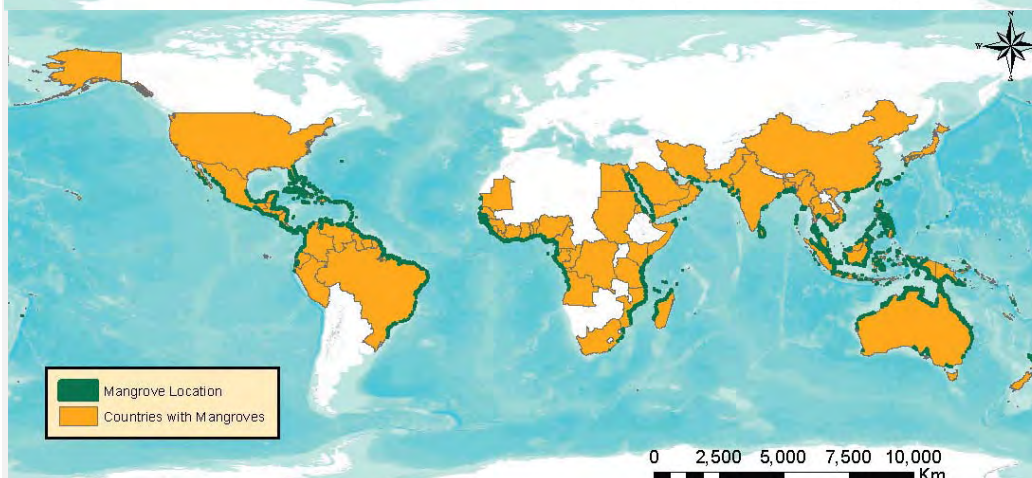




Seagrass global distribution
 Total area: **609, 816km²**



Saltmarsh global distribution
 Total area: **56, 615km²**



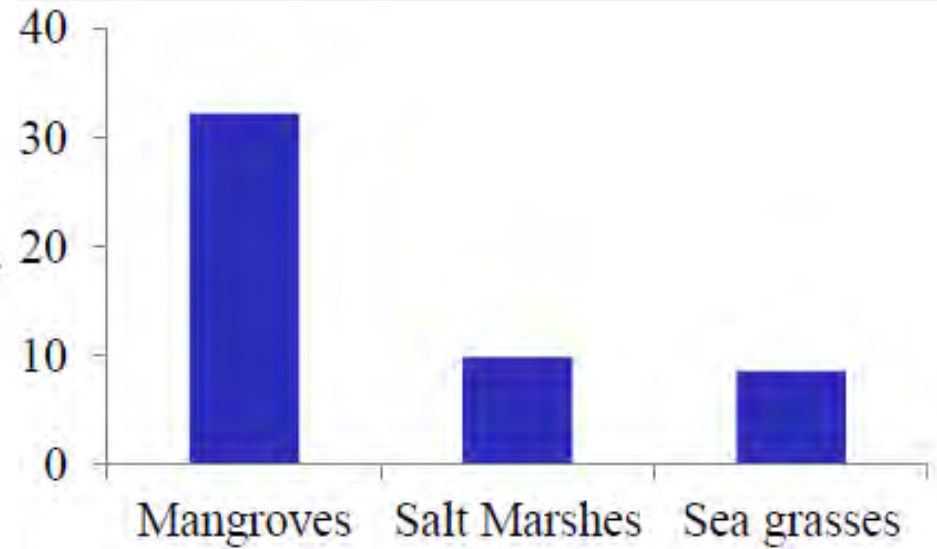
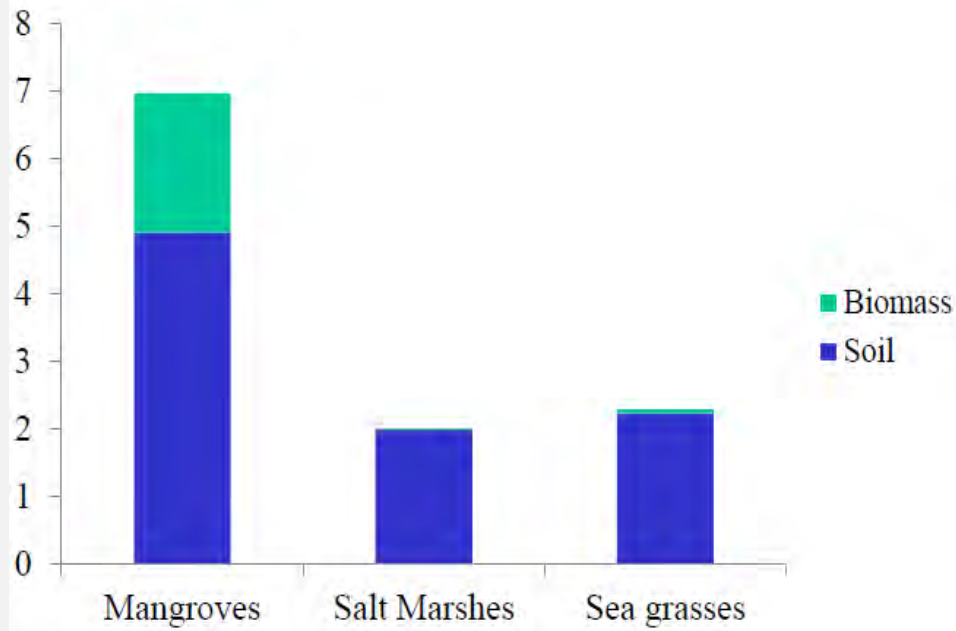
Mangrove global distribution
 Total area: **137,760km²**



Source: UNEP-WCMC

Global Blue Carbon Stock (billions of tons)

Global Emissions (millions tons C, annually)



Source: Duke University



Total emissions from degraded coastal wetlands each year

~1-3% of total global GHG emissions
OR: As much as all emissions of Poland or Germany

	CO ₂ Emissions	
	<u>Mt/year</u>	
Blue Carbon	300-900	
Total GHGs	35,000	
Germany	900	
Poland		300

Source: Duke University



UNEP Blue Carbon Initiative

Science

- Funding research around the world (e.g. Central and W Africa)
- Scientific workshops/side events
- Peer-reviewed literature (e.g. *Ocean & Coastal Management*)

Pilot projects

- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- GEF Project

Capacity-building

- Carbon research training in the Caribbean



UNEP Blue Carbon Initiative

Policy

- Blue carbon and the UNFCCC – Scoping study

Communication

- iPhone App



GEF-5 Work Programme



Outcome

On-the-ground modest actions implemented in water quality, quantity, fisheries, and coastal habitat demonstrations for “blue forests” to protect carbon.

Output

Demo-scale local action implemented, to restore/protect coastal “blue forests”.

Blue Forests encompass the whole range of ecosystem services provided by coastal ecosystems.



UNEP GEF Blue Forests Project



- Standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation of Blue Forests
- 4.5m US\$ over 4 years, 2013 - 2016
- Executing Partners – UNEP-WCMC, UNEP/GRID-Arendal, CI, IUCN, WWF, Blue Ventures, Indonesian Government



Project Preparation Grant

- PPG approved October 2011
- 75,000 US\$, 18 months until April 2013
- Inception and validation workshops
- Agenda for expert working groups
- Full project documents for pilot projects
- Strategy for targeted research



Project Components

- Development of methodologies
- Targeted research
- Pilot projects
- Submission of methodologies for international approval
- Information sharing



Component 1

- “Development of standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and valuation of ecosystem services for blue forest ecosystems.”
- Support Working Groups of experts – science, economics and policy.
- Publish methodologies.
- Use of methodologies by GEF coastal projects



Component 2

- “Application of the developed methodologies through small-scale interventions.”
- 5 pilot projects
- 3 ecosystems
- Developing countries
- Utilize methodologies developed in Component 1



Component 3

- “Filling gaps in knowledge”.
- Global synthesis of coastal carbon storage/sequestration knowledge.
- Peer-reviewed papers and research projects.
- Blue carbon session at high profile international science symposium and at GEF IW science conference.



Component 4

- “Exploration of the adoption of methodologies by the international community”.
- International and independent approval for methodologies
- E.g. Verified Carbon Standard, UNFCCC, Gold Standard, etc.



Component 5

- “Project monitoring, networking and information sharing”
- Policy briefs, media communications materials and strategies, report launches and interviews.
- IW:LEARN. <http://iwlearn.net/>
- Participation at the International Waters conferences.
- Reports and reviews of project performance.



Thank you

gabriel.grimsditch@unep.org

+254 762 20 4124

