

16th Lme

Meeting with
Coastal Partners

Paris (FR) 8 - 11 July 2014



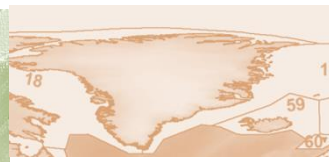
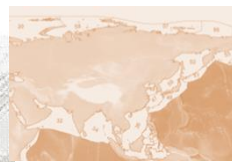
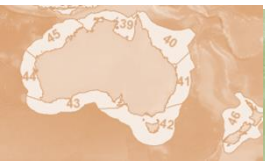
Blue Carbon+ Projects A new tool for sustainability

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Institution:	GRID-Arendal
Session:	Climate change and fisheries management
Day of presentation:	Wednesday 9 July



What is Blue Carbon?

- A recent concept in marine conservation that recognizes the role some coastal ecosystems play in naturally storing greenhouse gasses, thereby helping to mitigate climate change.
- Blue carbon ecosystems include **mangrove forests**, **seagrass meadows** and **saltwater marshlands**.

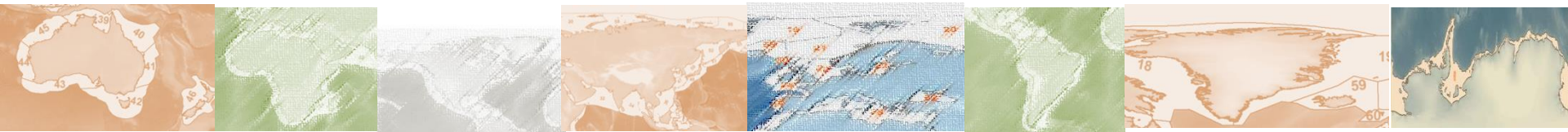


Why is blue carbon important?

- In addition to climate change values, blue carbon ecosystems are vitally important to the livelihoods of many in coastal communities around the world, through the myriad of valuable ecosystem services they provide.

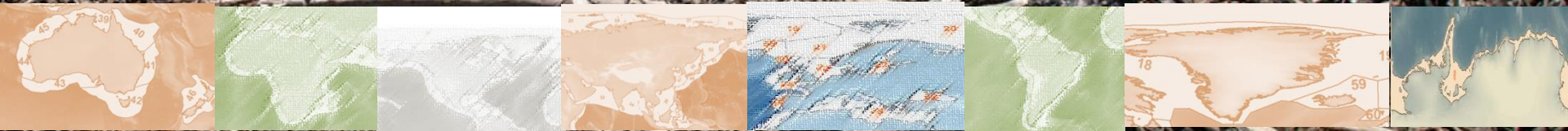


- Support marine biodiversity.
- Support fisheries.
- Protect shorelines and filter water.
- Support cultural values.
- Support human health and sustainable living around the world.



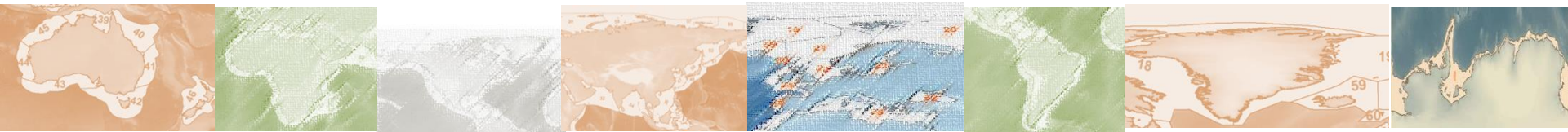
Loss = Emissions+

- When healthy, blue carbon ecosystems store and sequester carbon and support coastal communities around the world.
- When degraded, these ecosystems become carbon sources and many important ecosystem values are lost.



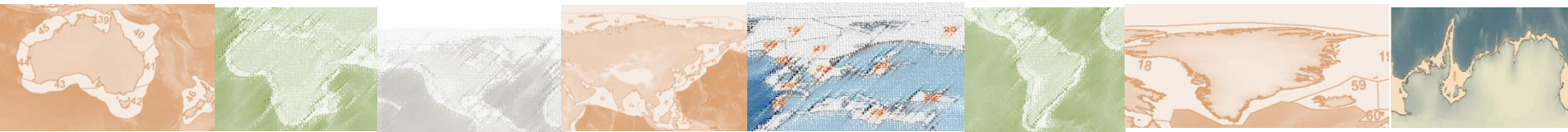
What is Blue Carbon+

- **Blue Carbon+** goes beyond coastal carbon, and includes other approaches to support conservation and sustainable management:
 - Payments for ecosystem services (PES);
 - Ecosystem based management (EBM);
 - Conservation agreements;
 - Incorporation of ecosystem values into national, local (community-based) management and policy; and
 - Debt swaps and other potential funding mechanisms.
- Recognition of multiple ecosystem values may provide added momentum to sustainable policies.
- Combining carbon with payments for other ecosystem services may be necessary to ensure long-term sustainable financing and management.



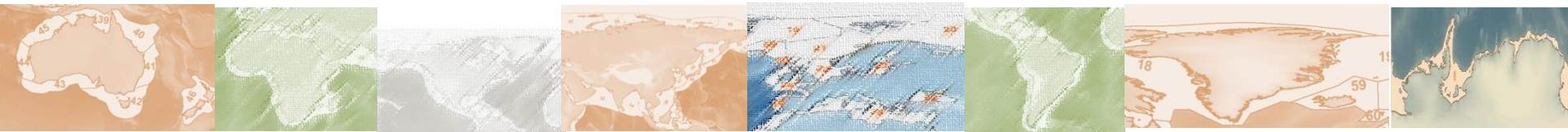
Examples of positive steps forward

- **Mikoko Pamoja**
 - Community-based payments for mangrove carbon conservation project in Gazi Bay, Kenya.
- **Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project**
 - Blue carbon and ecosystem service values supporting sustainable coastal management and climate change policy in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- **GEF/UNEP Blue Forests Project**
 - Global initiative to evidence the values of blue carbon and related ecosystem services, explore how these values can be translated into improved ecosystem management, and provide tools for global uptake.

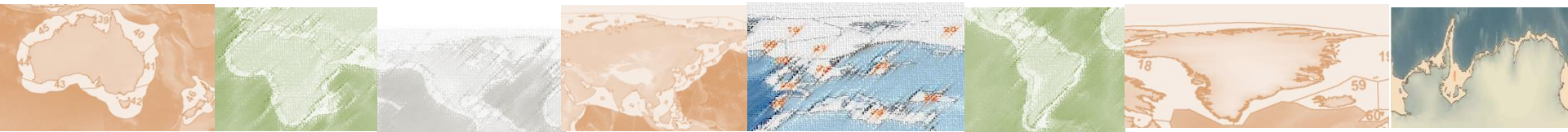
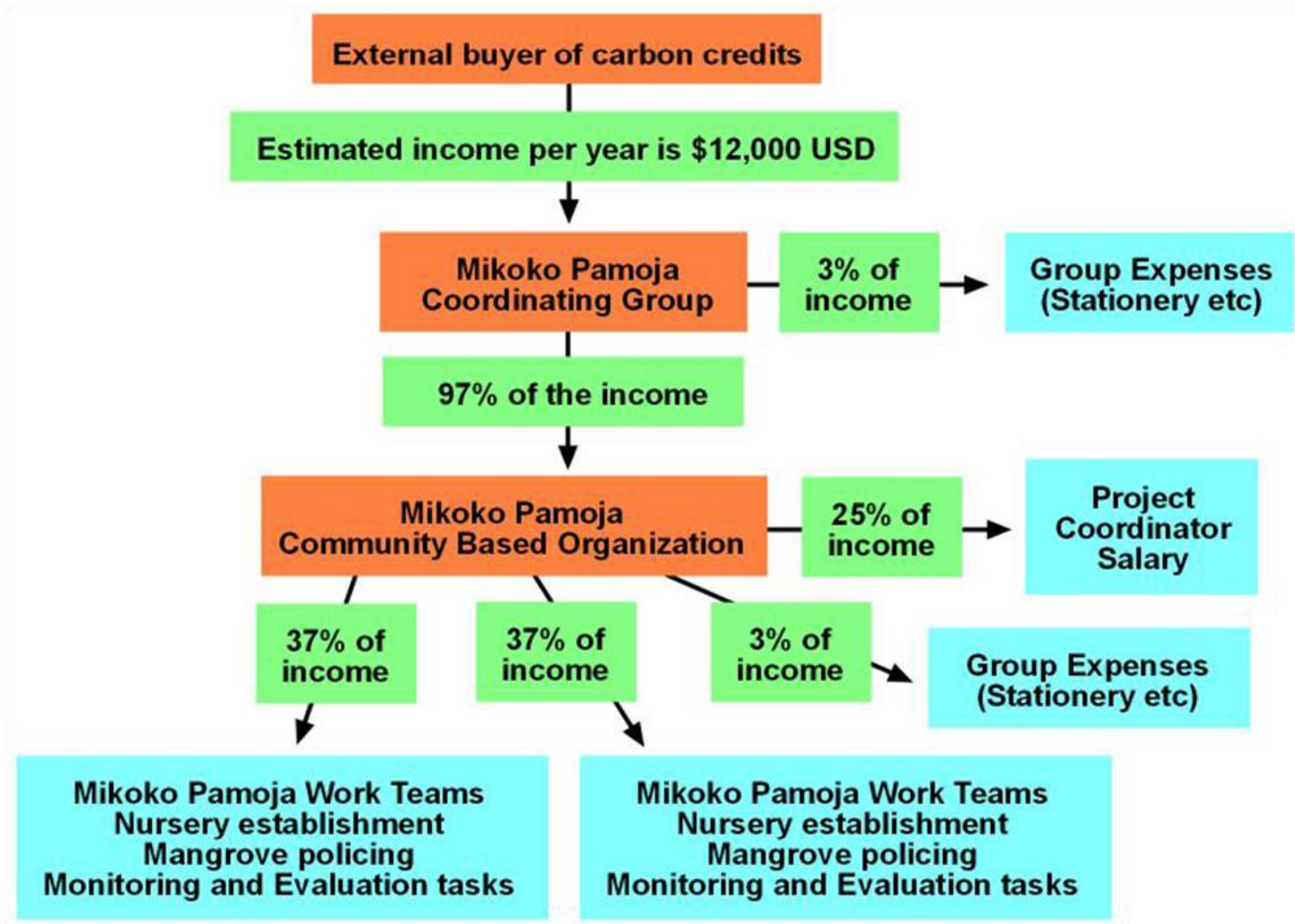


Mikoko Pamoja

- Certified under the **Plan Vivo Standard**, a framework for supporting communities to manage their natural resources more sustainably, with a view to generate benefits through payments for ecosystem services (PES); in this case carbon.
 - 1970's Coastal degradation, primarily through commercial logging and land conversion. Resulting in impacts to local communities - shortages of firewood and building poles, decline in fisheries, and increased coastal erosion.
 - 2010 Approval of Project Idea Note (PIN).
 - 2012 Validation of project.
 - 2013 Independent verification of project.
 - 2013 Government issued a **Forest Management Agreement** to the Gazi Bay community.
 - Mar 2014 **Payments realized!**

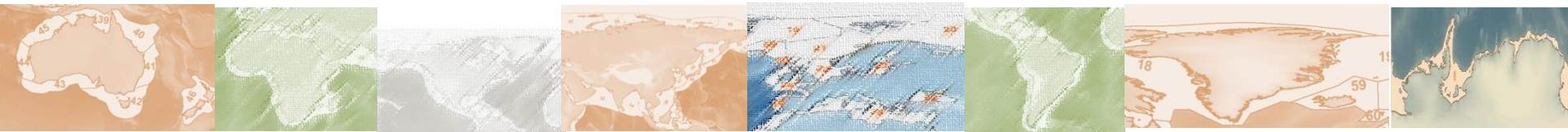


Negotiated financial flow of Mikoko Pamoja



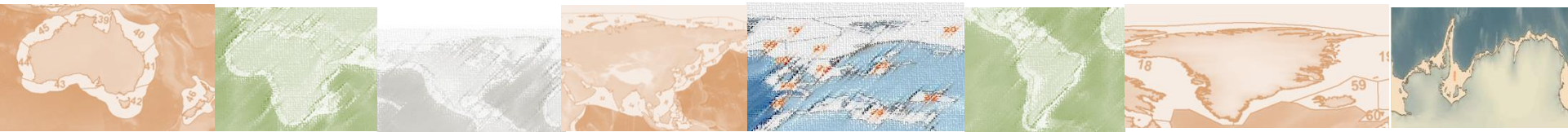
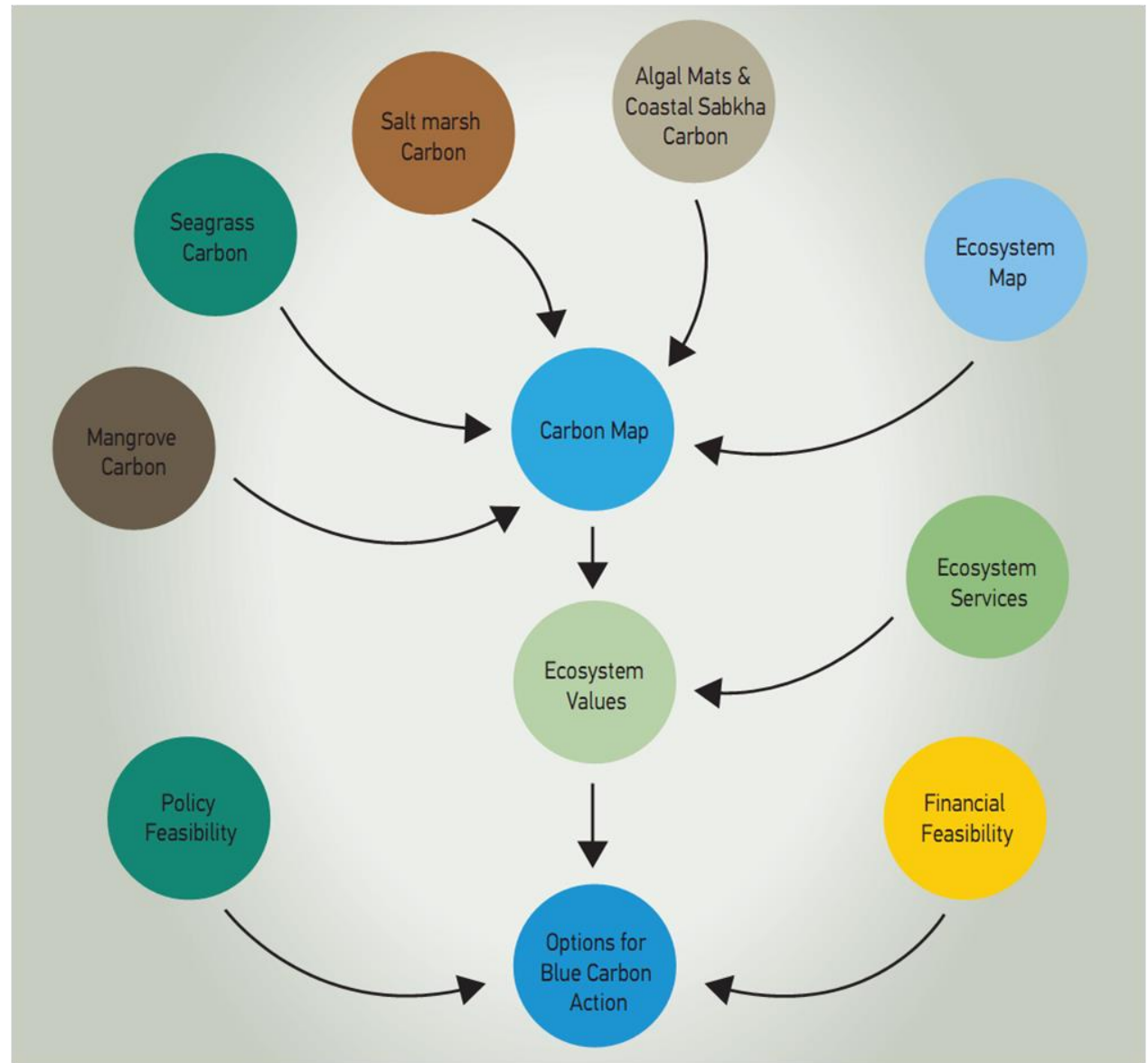
Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project

- *Project lead:* Abu-Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI).
- *Project team:* GRID-Arendal, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, Forest Trends, & expert science team.
- *Goal:* Assess all three blue carbon ecosystems and related ecosystem services and provide options for incorporating values into policy and management.
- *Funding:* \$1.8 USD million (%100 co-finance to the GEF Blue Forest Project).
- *Duration:* Nov 2012 - March 2014.

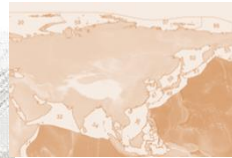


Project Flow

- **Baseline carbon assessment**
- **Ecosystem services assessment**
- **Policy assessment**
- **Communications & outreach**
- **Mapping & ground truthing**
- **Carbon and ES Finance Feasibility Assessment**
- **Project coordination**
- **Capacity building and knowledge transfer**
- **Policy and management engagement**

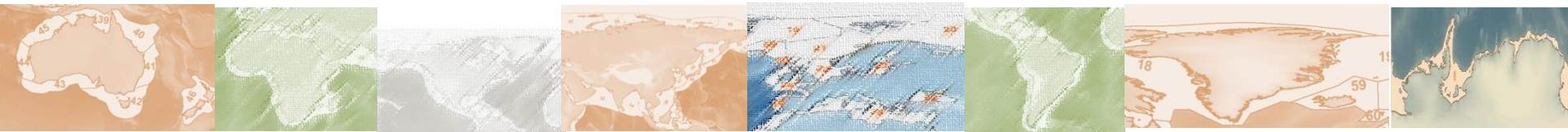


In action



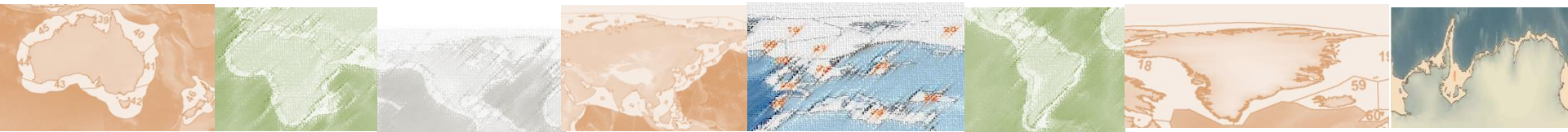
Abu Dhabi - significant results

- Project findings are being recognized in policy and management though:
 - Incorporation into **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan.**
 - Incorporation into Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) **Climate Change programme** for the next 10 years.
 - Incorporation into urban and marine spatial planning.
 - Utilization by the Abu Dhabi municipality.
 - AGEDI is continuing the exploration of Blue Carbon in the Northern Emirates (Nov 2014).
 - **Training and capacity building** with Madagascar and Indonesia.

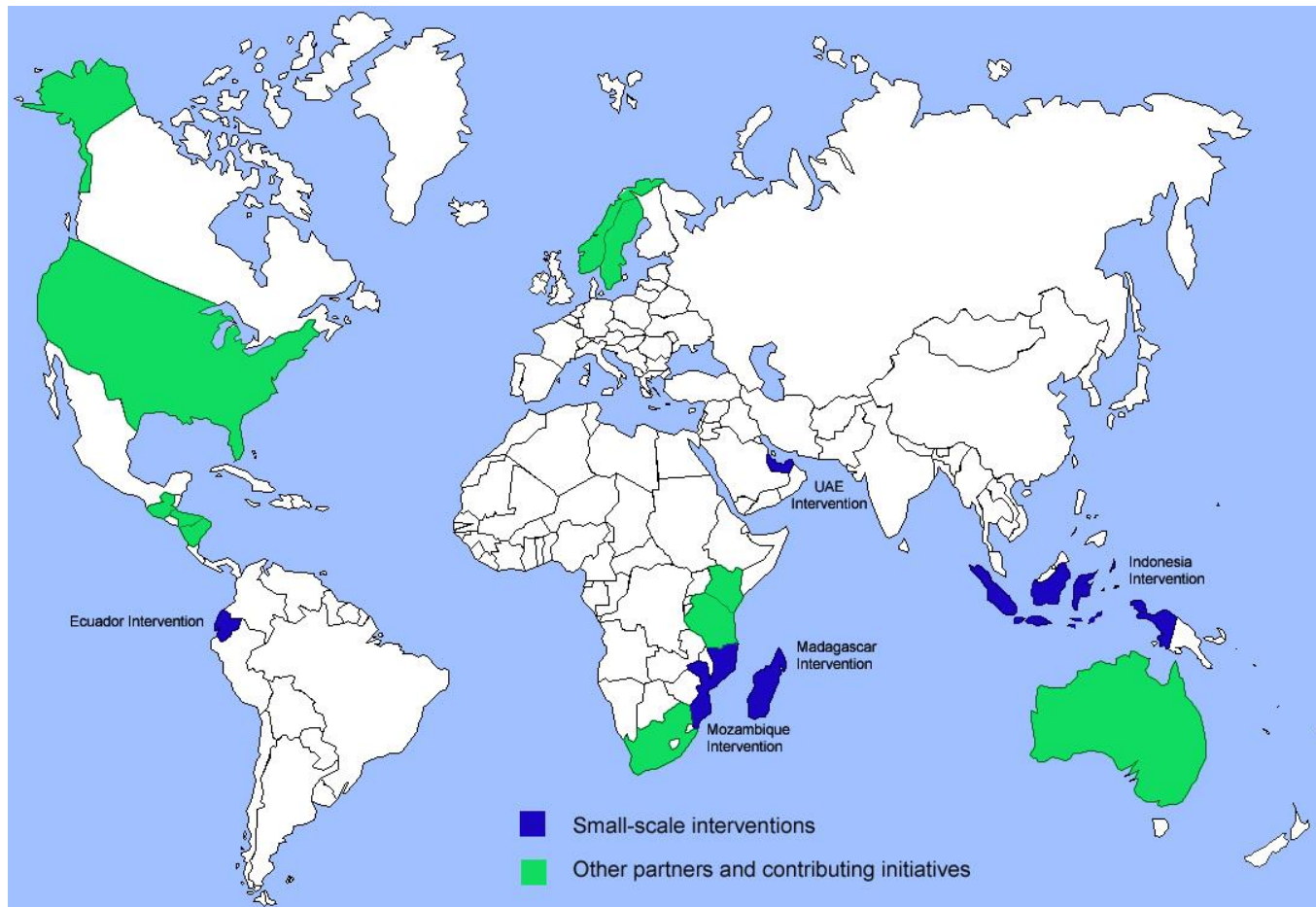


GEF Blue Forests Project

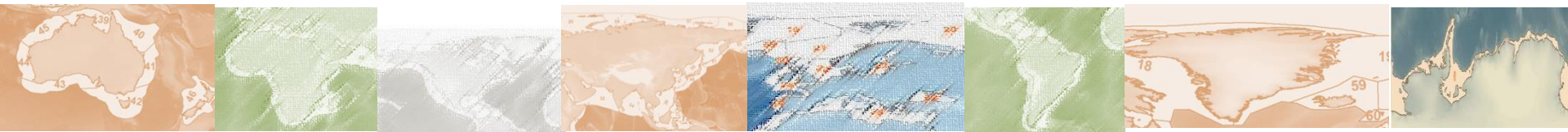
- A UNEP initiative to implement better coastal ecosystem management by harnessing the values associated with carbon and ecosystem services at a number of demonstration sites throughout the globe.
- “Blue Forests” = blue carbon + whole range of ecosystem services for mangrove, seagrass, salt-marsh.
 - *GEF funds:* \$4.5m USD over 4 years
 - *Co-financing:* \$27m USD
 - *Status:* CEO endorsement – March 2014
Currently in implementation phase
 - *Inception workshop:* 7-9 Nov, Abu Dhabi



Blue Forests Project

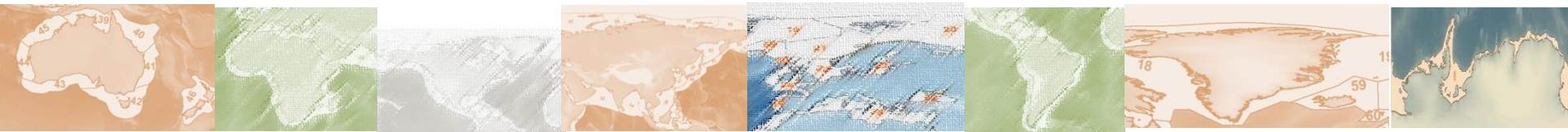


UNEP
GRID-Arendal
UNEP-WCMC
Duke University
IUCN
Blue Ventures
Conservation
International
WWF
Abu Dhabi Global
Environmental Data
Initiative (AGEDI)
Indonesia Ministry of
Marine Affairs And
Fisheries
UNEP-ROLAC
Kenya Marine and
Fisheries Research
Institute
US Forest Service
South African Institute of
International Affairs
The Ocean Foundation
US NOAA
Stockholm University
Charles Darwin
University



Support and tools of the Blue Forests Project

- Project-level support through:
 - Methodologies for measuring blue carbon.
 - Approaches for the valuation of coastal ecosystem services.
 - Application of these values to national policy and management.
 - Training and capacity building.
- International tools and uptake:
 - Targeted research to address key knowledge gaps.
 - Web portal and other communications activities.
 - Global blue forests toolkits for carbon methodologies and ES approaches.
 - International policy engagement and uptake.



Blue Carbon+ Pathways

Pathway

Potential actions

Goal

Carbon Finance



- Development of methodologies and protocols for GHG accounting and the carbon market
- Generation of Blue Carbon finance

Address National Policy and Management Needs



- Identification of national policies that should consider Blue Carbon (existing and new)
- Incorporation of Blue Carbon values into national policies

Address International Commitments



- Identification of international commitments that should consider Blue Carbon
- Incorporation of Blue Carbon values into international commitments

Conservation Agreements



- Identification of landowners/coastal communities that could consider Blue Carbon agreements
- Negotiation of Blue Carbon agreements with landowners/coastal communities

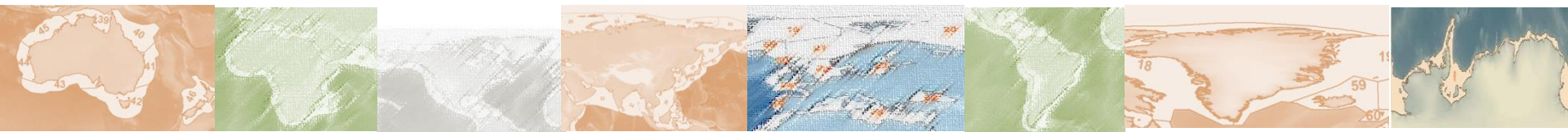
Other Mechanisms



- Identification of other mechanisms (e.g., conservation funds, debt swap, bundling with payment for other ecosystem service)

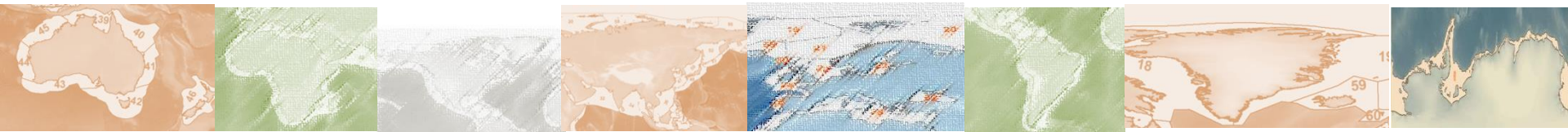


Mitigation of climate change
Sustainable coastal livelihoods
Improved coastal ecosystem management
Conservation of Blue Carbon ecosystems



Looking forward - Blue Carbon+

- Measure and document the impact.
- Provide tools for replication and up-scaling.
- Enhance capacity at the local, national, and regional levels.
- Create a coordinated international network of demonstration projects.
- Coordinate policy engagement.



Blue Carbon+ Resources

- Blue Carbon Portal.
bluecarbonportal.org
- Building Blue Carbon Projects: An Introductory Guide.
bluecarbonportal.org/?download=11412
- Abu Dhabi Blue Carbon Demonstration Project.
abudhabi.bluecarbonportal.org
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) for Oceans
teeboceans.org
- International Blue Carbon Initiative.
thebluecarboninitiative.org

