

NOAA Blue Carbon Inventory Project

Enhancing capacity to integrate coastal wetlands data
in national greenhouse gas inventories

What is Coastal Blue Carbon?

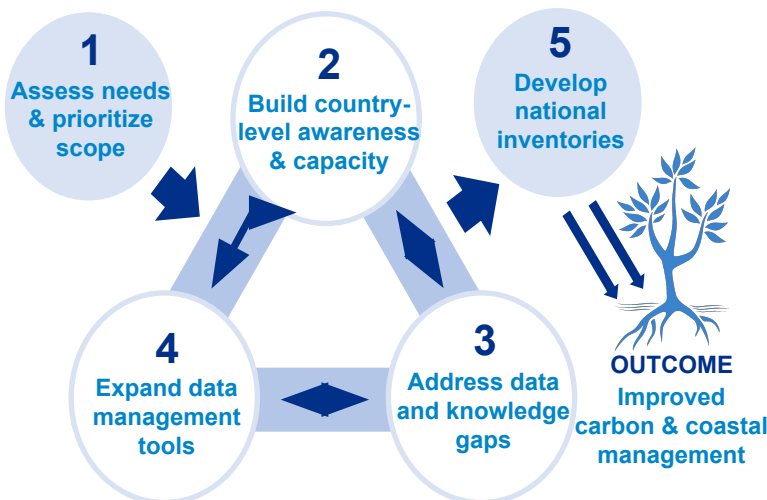
Coastal wetlands, such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses, play a significant role in carbon storage and sequestration around the world, providing some of the highest density stores of carbon in the biosphere. This long-term storage is known as “coastal blue carbon.”

Setting the Stage

Reporting comprehensive inventories of greenhouse gas sources and sinks is an important step for tracking progress towards meeting the Paris Agreement. In 2013, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released technical guidance on including wetlands in national greenhouse gas inventories (NGGI). Yet, given the technical challenges involved, to date, only a handful of countries have incorporated blue carbon into their NGGI.



The NOAA Blue Carbon Inventory (BCI) Project is a multi-agency project led by NOAA’s Climate Program Office, in partnership with the U.S. Department of State, and addresses the multiple co-benefits of coastal blue carbon by providing capacity building and technical support to partner countries.



The two main topic areas are:

- Inclusion of mangroves, and potentially other coastal blue carbon ecosystems, in NGGIs; and
- The long-term sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in the context of marine spatial and resilience planning.

The project is leveraging ongoing programs within NOAA, new and ongoing work by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service (USDA/FS), SERC, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), NASA, and other organizations working on blue carbon.

NOAA Blue Carbon Inventory Project Highlights

Activities under the NOAA BCI project include country- and regional-level workshops and trainings, webinars, peer-to-peer engagement, mentoring, and hands-on-learning. The project also advances bilateral and/or multilateral technical collaboration to analyze data and build tools to include coastal blue carbon information in greenhouse gas inventories used to report national data through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In partnership with the Government of **Costa Rica**, the NOAA BCI Project led a 3 part in-country training series on blue carbon for relevant government staff and partners. This included a workshop in March of 2022 on developing inventory worksheets and identifying priorities related to the sustainable management of blue carbon ecosystems, a September 2022 workshop for Costa Rican protected area managers and National Wetlands Program staff, and a February 2023 workshop on the integration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems into national greenhouse gas inventories. This was the NOAA BCI Project's first major engagement, and it resulted in enhanced interest, policy, and capacity around blue carbon ecosystems in Costa Rica.

The NOAA BCI Project has partnered with Costa Rica to share their national experience regionally, building interest and capacity for inventorying blue carbon ecosystems. In advance of the **Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week**, the NOAA BCI Project provide support to a Technical Workshop on Coastal Wetlands/Blue Carbon in National Climate Commitments. The workshop brought together more than 40 blue carbon and coastal wetlands experts, featuring case studies from regional leaders, such as Costa Rica.

West Africa

In Fall of 2023 the NOAA BCI Project held two workshops on inventorying and managing blue carbon ecosystems in Accra, **Ghana**. The first training focused on field data collection for blue carbon ecosystems, while the second focused on blue carbon and marine and coastal management. Together these trainings engaged 15 Ghanaian institutions, including government agencies, universities, and community organizations Through these workshops, the NOAA BCI Project has initiated a technical exchange that bolsters the Government of Ghana's ability to inventory, protect, and restore blue carbon ecosystems, contributing to national and global climate change and conservation goals.

In May of 2023, the NOAA BCI Project held a knowledge sharing and needs scoping convening in Dakar with the Government of **Senegal**. The project hopes to continue engagement with Senegal, and build on this meeting with future workshops as/if needed.

Indo-Pacific

In August of 2023, NOAA BCI Project experts participated in a workshop on blue carbon ecosystems co-hosted by the Government of **Indonesia** and Government of the United States. This workshop resulted in additional virtual meetings, along with the exchange of resources and concept notes.

The NOAA BCI Project is in the process of planning additional activities in the Indo-Pacific, including expected and ongoing engagements with **Palau** and the **Philippines**.



CONTACT: Lisa Vaughan (Lisa.Vaughan@noaa.gov), Amanda Catron (Amanda.Catron@noaa.gov), or Jillian Neuberger (Jillian.Neuberger@noaa.gov). | NOAA Climate Program Office