

Presentation given at the Marine Katoomba meeting

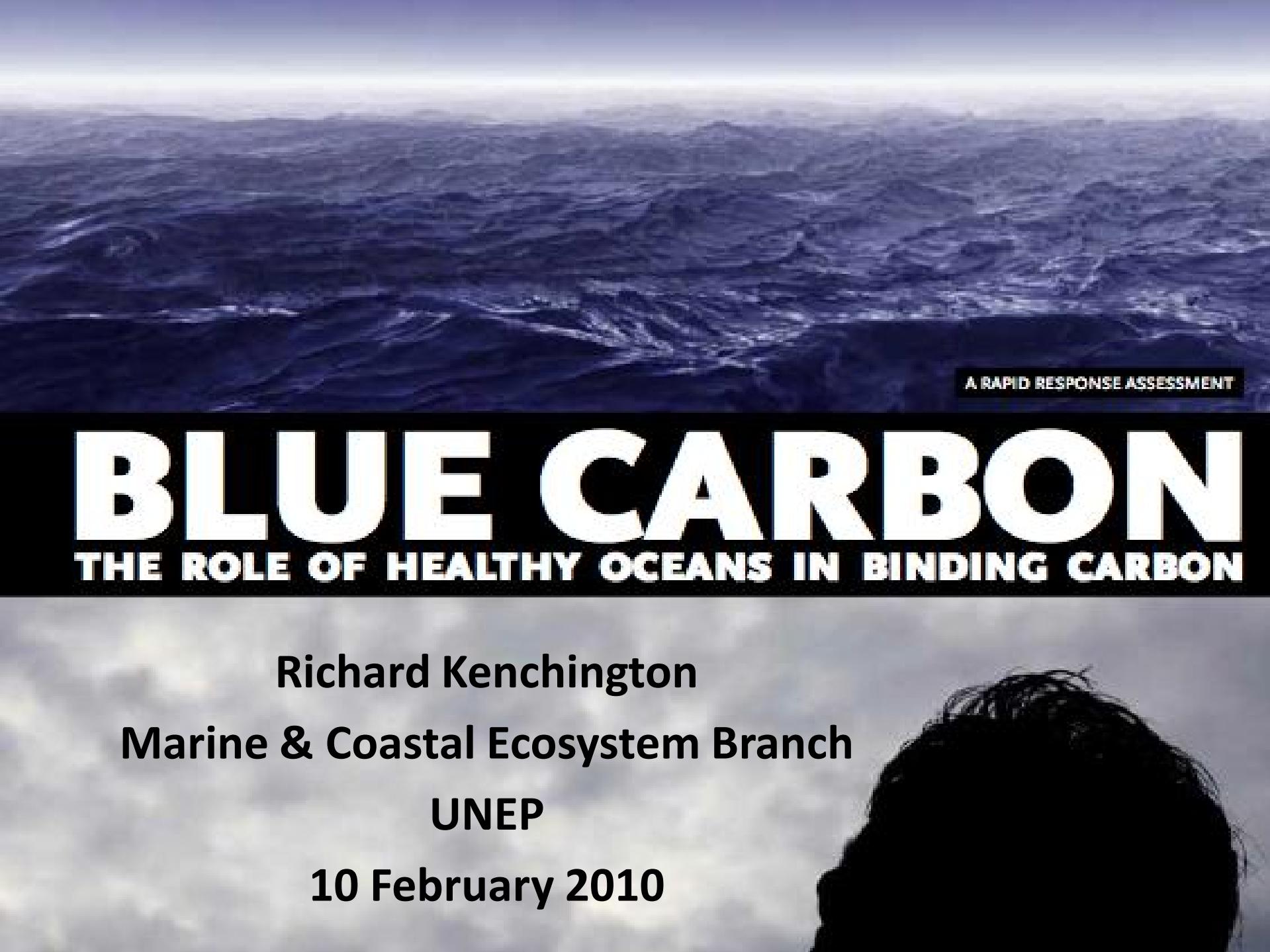
Katoomba XVI:
**Building a Blueprint to Harness New Investment for the Protection
of Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Services**

February 9-10, 2010
Moore Foundation, Palo Alto, CA

Hosted by the Katoomba Group



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The background of the slide features a wide-angle photograph of the ocean. The water is a deep, dark blue with subtle, rolling waves. Above the horizon, the sky is filled with soft, greyish-white clouds.

A RAPID RESPONSE ASSESSMENT

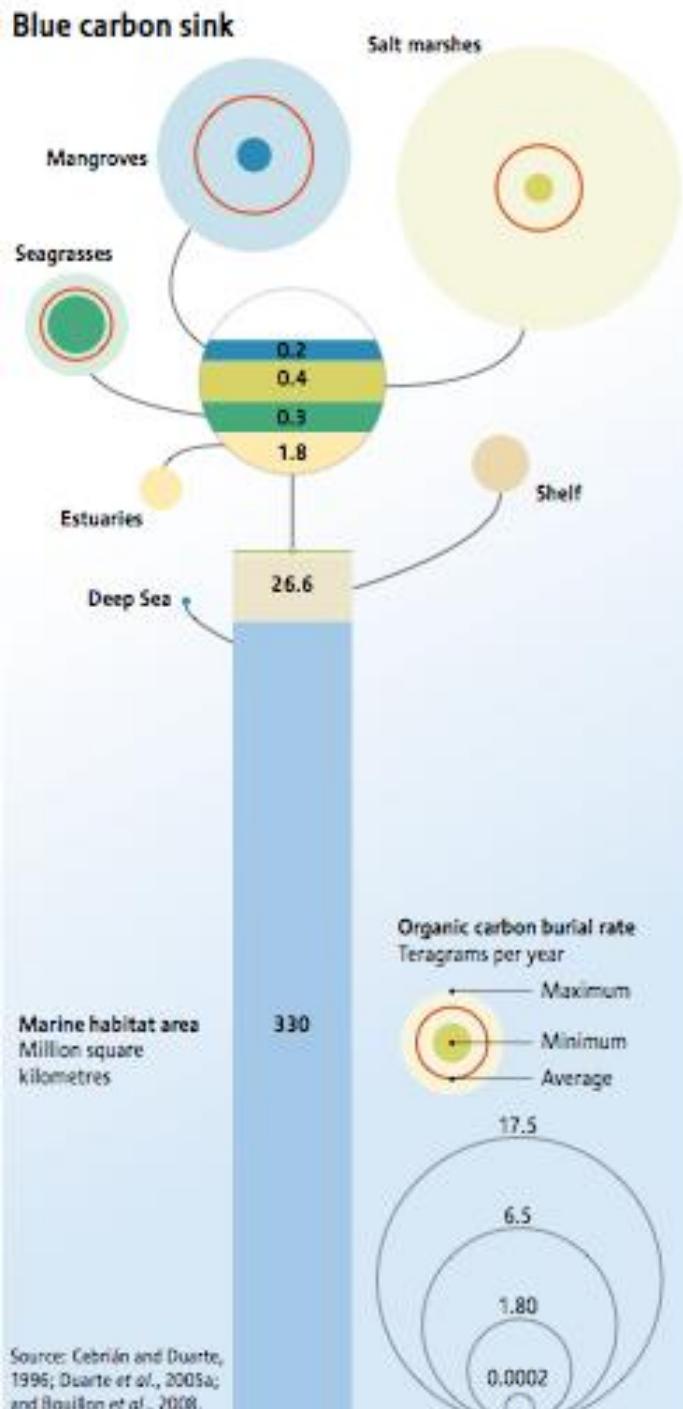
BLUE CARBON

THE ROLE OF HEALTHY OCEANS IN BINDING CARBON

Richard Kenchington
Marine & Coastal Ecosystem Branch

UNEP

10 February 2010

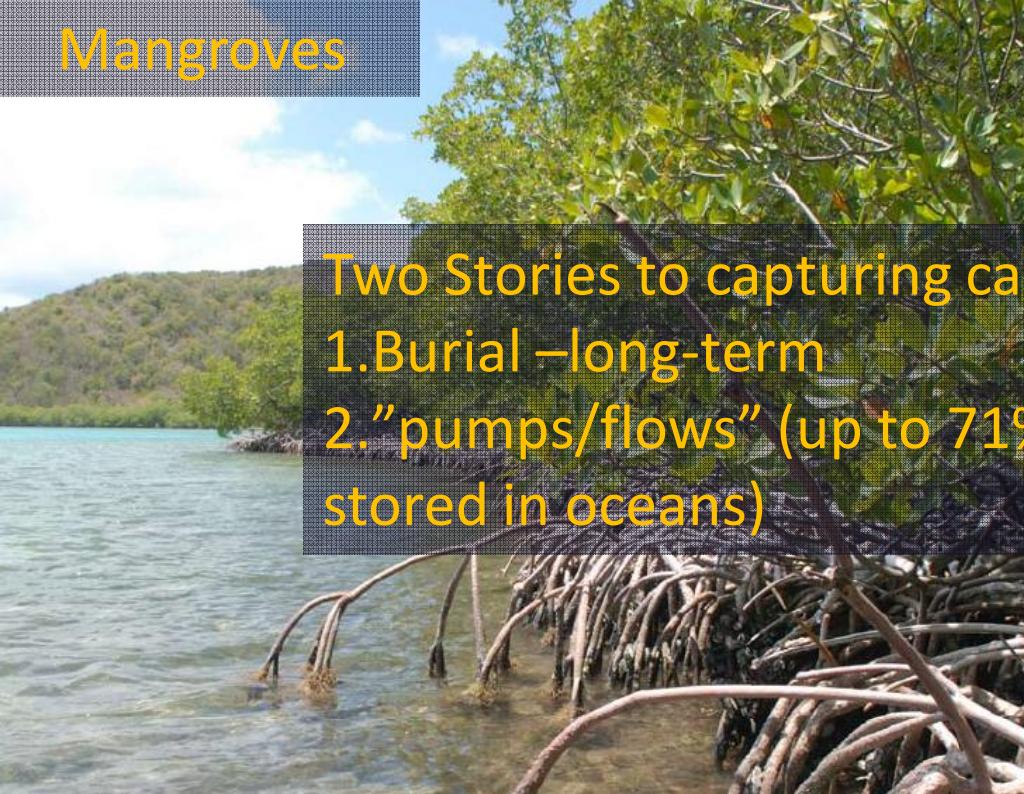


the fact that near 55% of all green carbon is captured by living organisms in oceans and not on land, yet one of our greatest asset in mitigating climate change has been widely ignored.

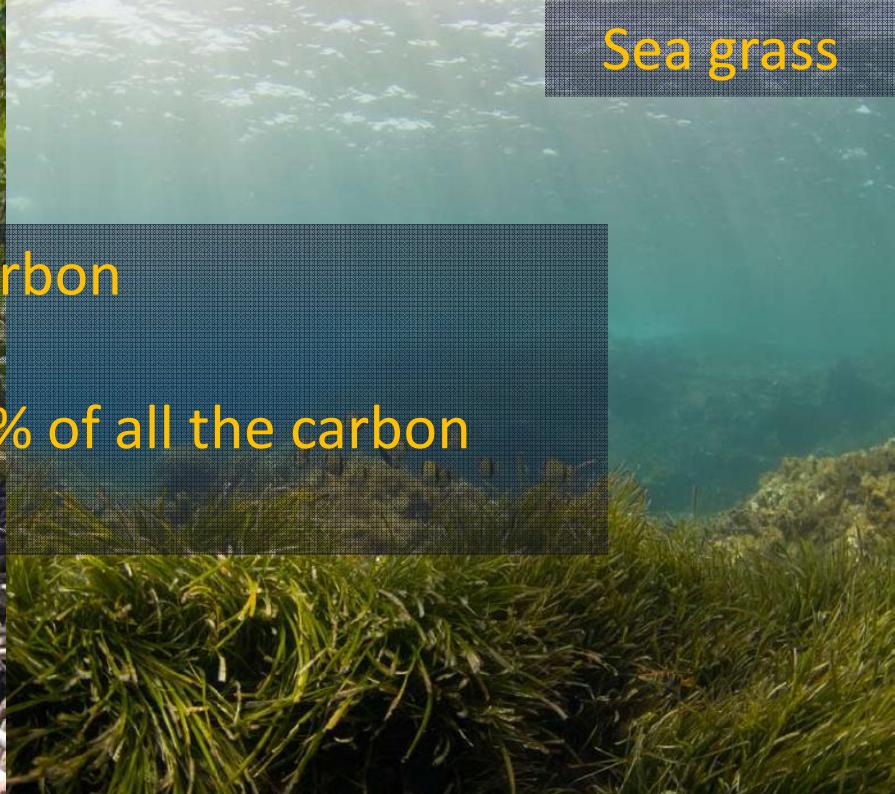


Blue carbon ≠ acidification

Mangroves



Sea grass



Two Stories to capturing carbon

1. Burial –long-term

2. "pumps/flows" (up to 71% of all the carbon stored in oceans)



Salt marshes



≈ near half of all the emissions of traffic



But it is an illusion



The reality





The ocean blue carbon stores
"flows" are disappearing faster
than any other ecosystem on the
planet and may be lost in two
decades





Restoration and management provide
the cheapest carbon investments
available and provide jobs, food
security, business and increased health

-While mitigating climate change

"GREEN ECONOMY"



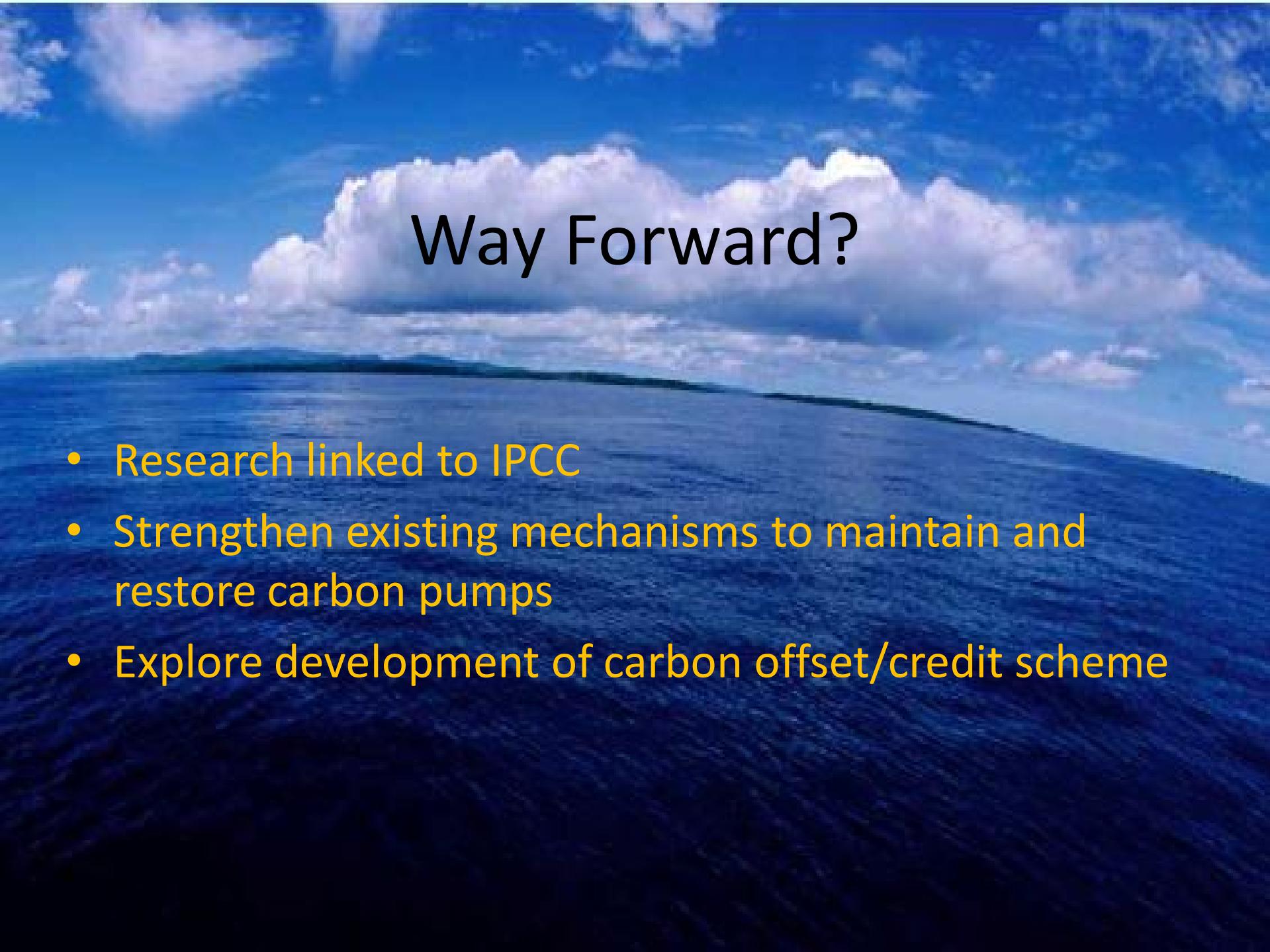


Multiple Benefits

Potential job creation is significant

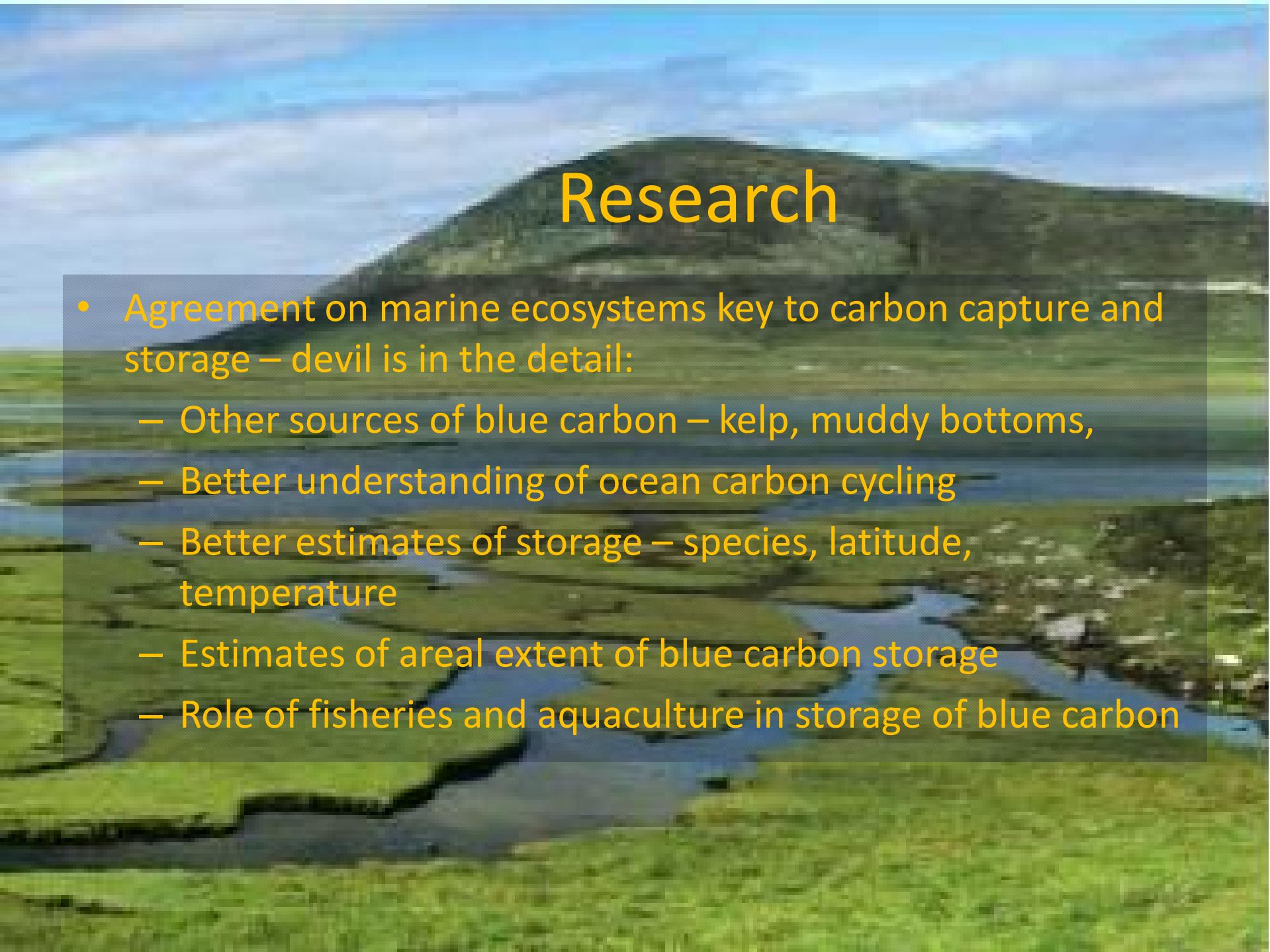
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) received \$167 million via the Recovery Act for 50 coastal restoration projects, from a total pool of 814 proposals totaling more than \$3 billion in requests



The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast ocean under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The horizon line is visible in the distance.

Way Forward?

- Research linked to IPCC
- Strengthen existing mechanisms to maintain and restore carbon pumps
- Explore development of carbon offset/credit scheme

The background of the slide is a photograph of a coastal area. In the foreground, there's a mix of green grass and some dark, possibly paved or rocky ground. Behind it is a large, rolling green hill. To the left, a body of water meets the shore. The sky above is a clear blue with some wispy white clouds.

Research

- Agreement on marine ecosystems key to carbon capture and storage – devil is in the detail:
 - Other sources of blue carbon – kelp, muddy bottoms,
 - Better understanding of ocean carbon cycling
 - Better estimates of storage – species, latitude, temperature
 - Estimates of areal extent of blue carbon storage
 - Role of fisheries and aquaculture in storage of blue carbon

Existing Mechanisms

- Implement existing conventions, protocols and codes of practices
- Development of tools for assessing the trade-offs in maintaining carbon pumps versus other uses
- Lessons learned from other carbon offset schemes
- REDD - mangroves

Blue Carbon Fund

- Carbon credit scheme – similar to REDD
- Establish baselines and metrics for carbon capture/storage
- Enhanced coordination and funding mechanisms
- Prioritize sustainable, integrated and ecosystem-based coastal zone planning and management



Objective

- To understand the value (either in $\text{gc/km}^2/\text{yr}$ or in carbon credits US\$) of marine and coastal ecosystems in capturing carbon, and to build this into management of marine, coastal and fish ecosystems

Strategy

- **1. Review and gap identification of recent biophysical research on the role of key marine, coastal and water column ecosystems in capturing carbon**
- **2. Review and gap identification of recent economic and market research relevant to design and management of carbon credit schemes for marine and coastal ecosystems**

Strategy

- **3. Design and implementation of targeted research programs to address identified gaps.**
- **4. Engage with IPCC in conduct and reporting of research outcomes to deliver greater certainty of the carbon value of marine and coastal and ecosystems and establish the credibility of the Blue Carbon concept.
Improved)**

Strategy

- 5. Develop recommendations on Blue Carbon credit schemes for selected ecosystems
- 6. Implement Blue Carbon funded projects to improve management and conservation of marine, coastal and fish ecosystems through the implementation of international instruments.

Conclusion

- UNEP is delighted at the response to the Blue Carbon Report and keen to work with other agencies to achieve the conduct of the necessary research and development for implementation of a Blue Carbon program.