

Checklist

Blue Carbon Readiness Framework

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CHECKLIST 4

Updating & Improving GHG Inventories

*References: The Blue Carbon Initiative’s BC & NDC Guidelines on Enhanced Action*

Accurate reporting and accounting of emissions and removals of coastal wetlands must be complete before a country can incorporate coastal wetlands within the mitigation section of their NDCs. Development and continued maintenance of GHG Inventories is an important tool in meeting evidence-based climate mitigation policy requirements.



1. Determine the location and extent of the BCE(s) habitat within your country

- a. Calculate the approximate area of the habitat



2. Map the distribution and change of the BCE habitat coverage over time

- a. Identify a baseline year – commonly the earliest year with complete data on ecosystem extent – and compare extent from subsequent years to this baseline.
- b. Quantifying change over time is important for inventory and reporting purposes.



3. Estimate the BCE’s existing carbon stock – now that we know the habitat extent and change over time, it is important to understand the amount of carbon sequestered and stored by the BCE(s).

- a. Gather data on the relevant carbon pools pertaining to the BCE(s) (ex: aboveground biomass, soil organic carbon (SOC), standing deadwood, etc.).
- b. Utilize the calculated area of the BCE(s) to estimate a carbon stock value



4. Estimate the BCE’s emissions rates



5. Estimate the rate of carbon accumulation and loss over time

- a. Pay attention to potential changes in land use, and how this will affect existing and future carbon stocks