

# Checklist | Blue Carbon Readiness Framework

## ✓ CHECKLIST 7

### NDC Implementation

Implementing your NDC targets for BCE usually requires concise and multi-layered planning and the creation of an inducive regulatory and institutional (governance) framework. Please take into consideration the time-frame required to strengthen the legal and governance systems. Relevant steps include:



1. Review the integration of BCE in your REDD+ framework (if applicable).

- a. Often, mangroves are included in REDD+ approaches, and it is important to clarify to what extent BCE-specific targets on conservation and restoration are compatible with REDD+ targets and whether reference level calculations include BCE (or mangroves) in full.
- b. Often, soil carbon accounting is excluded from REDD+ forest reference levels. Make sure that are included and specify dates by when this will happen.



2. Develop a bespoke Blue Carbon strategy that includes a list of actions as well as financing opportunities (see below Checklist 9).

- a. The strategy should come with a list of (priority) interventions and project-sites.
- b. It should clarify administrative responsibilities and mandates, including for engaging in RBCF and/or blue carbon project finance, if applicable.
- c. It should set out predictable investment parameters for the private sector, which include clarity on land-based carbon rights and the authority to transfer emission reductions/removals and the underlying carbon rights, as well as clarity on land tenure, community involvement, and benefit sharing.
- d. It should address structural drivers of degradation and conflicting land use. And
- e. It should present a template for how to use the Blue Carbon investment framework (see Checklist 9 below).



3. BCE needs to be valued for the ecosystem services they provide. That includes GHG mitigation services but covers adaptation-focused services as well as other services to coastal communities and others. CWON 2.0 has made a strong start with valuating mangroves. It should be extended to cover other BCE in the future.



4. Key planning tools are marine spatial planning (MSP) and integrated coastal zone management (ICZM). It is recommended to use the Marine Spatial Planning Toolkit: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/problue/publication/marine-spatial-planning-for-a-resilient-and-inclusive-blue-economy-toolkit>

- a. Check if your country or its regions have MSP/ICZM procedures and capacity in place.
- b. Check to what extent BCE conservation, restoration and management are part of these procedures and enshrined as decisive planning and management objectives.
- c. Check what role valuation plays for MSP/ICZM.
- d. Check what level of regulatory compliance MSP/ICZM gives rise to and how compliance for BCE conservation and restoration targets can be improved.

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5. The recognition of land tenure and community tenure is essential for the success of many planned BC interventions.

- a. Check how land tenure over BCE is defined in your country.
- b. Check what role fishing and other coastal communities have for BCE use and management.
- c. Check community governance and stewardship options.



6. Establish a comprehensive list of bottlenecks and concerns and keep the list updated through implementation.

- a. Lack of planning capacity and funding are often systemic and should be tackled as a priority (see this Checklist 7 and Checklist 8).
- b. Uncertain and limited legal protection – including with respect to special protection regimes (marine protected areas or “MPAs” and community governance – represent another frequent bottleneck of structural nature.
- c. So do gaps in knowledge (of BCE maps, drivers and magnitude of degradation, economic value), and so do limitations in comprehensive monitoring.