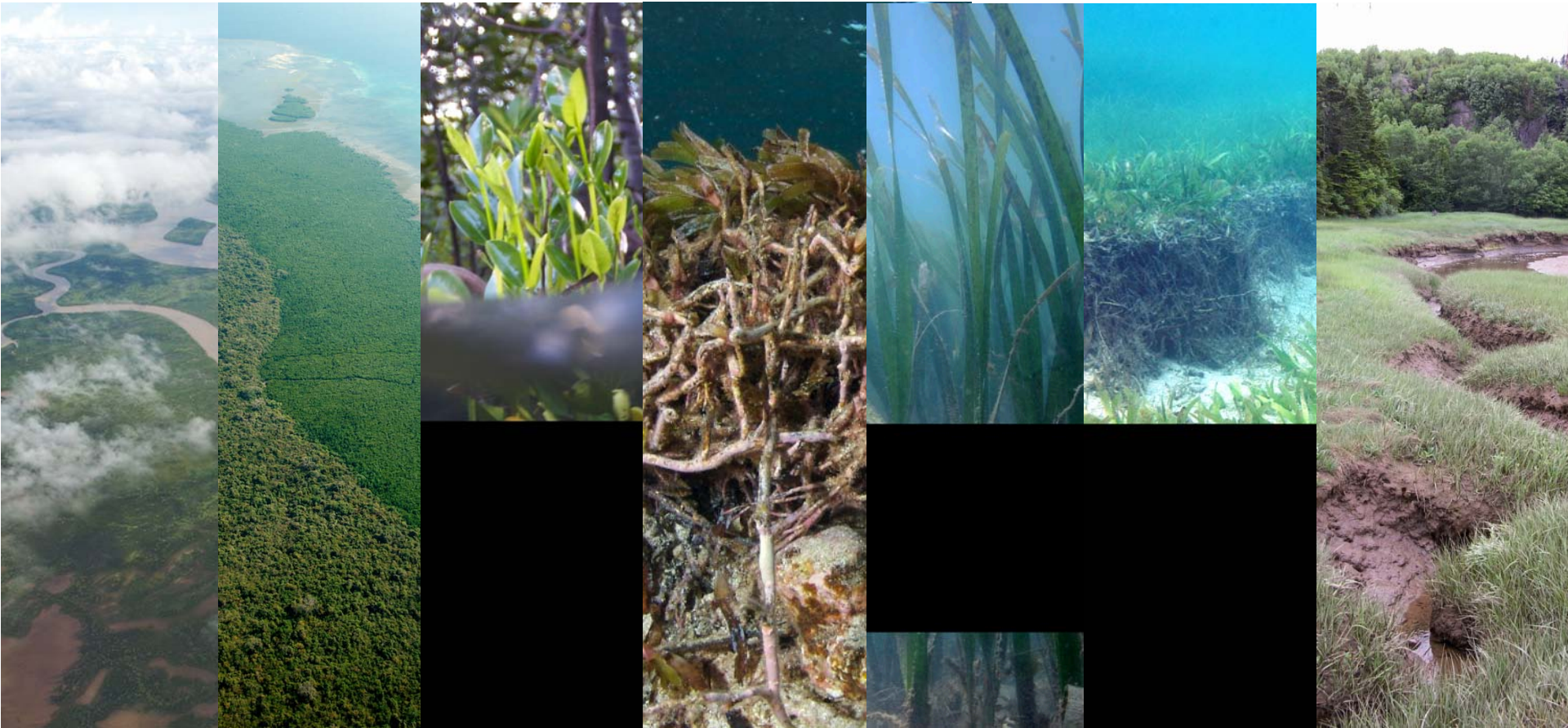




OVERVIEW: POLICY OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLUE CARBON

International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group
First workshop, Arlington, VA 12-14 July 2011

Dorothee Herr, Marine Programme Officer, IUCN Global Marine and Polar Programme





International Agreements and Fora for Blue Carbon

Climate Change

Ocean/biodiversity

UNFCCC

NAMAs

IPCC

REDD +

CDM

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Forest Investment Program

REDD-Plus Partnership

UN-REDD

Voluntary Carbon Market

Verified Carbon Standard

Convention on Biological Diversity

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20)

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities



Convention on Biological Diversity

- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the **contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks** has been enhanced, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Enhanced **conservation, sustainable use/improved management and restoration** of “blue carbon” ecosystems;
- The **conservation of soil** biodiversity;
- Enhanced **knowledge**, identification of current scientific and policy **gaps** of “blue carbon”;





Convention on Biological Diversity

- Inter-linkages inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal ecosystems;
- Role of **marine protected areas** in climate change mitigation;
- Expert workshop on the role of “blue carbon” ecosystems in **adaption** to and **mitigation** of climate change impacts;
- Better work/**coordination** with other conventions.





Ramsar Convention

- Enhanced **conservation, sustainable use/improved management and restoration** of “blue carbon” ecosystems;
- Enhanced **knowledge**, identification of current scientific **gaps** of “blue carbon”;
- Coordinated, **multi-institutional program** of work (Scientific and Technical Review Panel);
- Further **streamlining of the implementation** of Ramsar with other international conventions and processes;





Ramsar Convention

- Seek inclusion of wetlands in the **REDD+** mechanism;
- Expanding **restoration guidance** and on REDD+ issues;
- Potential benefit for implementation of Ramsar through a **Trust Fund**.





UNICPOLOS

- Principle annual meeting where the UNGA
 - a) reviews developments in ocean affairs, and
 - b) identifies areas where international coordination and cooperation could be improved.

Prior to ICP 12th:

- Recognition of “blue carbon” (sinks and sources);
- Enhanced **knowledge**, identification of current scientific and policy **gaps** of “blue carbon”;
- Identification of **underlying drivers** of marine and coastal ecosystems loss and destruction.

Outcomes:

- No specific mention of “blue carbon”;
- Importance of **marine spatial planning** for adaptation;
- **Loss of coastal habitats**, including mangrove areas, noted as persistent challenge to be addressed.





Rio +20

- Objective: secure **renewed political commitment** for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and **address new and emerging challenges**.
- Green economy needs to benefit the coastal communities in developing States who depend on a healthy ocean for their survival – ‘**keep the green economy blue**’
- Priority sectors mentioned for a green economy include forests, land and **soil conservation**, agriculture and food security, **ocean ecosystems** and ocean acidification, fisheries, natural resource extraction and **restoration of natural assets**.





GPA for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

- Aims at **preventing the degradation of the marine environment** from land-based activities by facilitating the realization of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment
- Recommends that States identify and assess problems related to the:
 - coastal ecosystem health;
 - severity and impacts of **contaminants**;
 - **physical alteration**, including habitat modification and destruction;
 - **sources of degradation**.





Do we need something else?

Climate Change

Ocean/biodiversity

UNFCCC

NAMAs

IPCC

REDD +

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Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Forest Investment Pr

REDD-Plus Partnersh

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**Other incentive and
financing schemes
e.g. private sector
engagement**

? ? ? ? ?

**Possible new and alternative
mechanisms, approaches and
platforms**

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on Wetlands

Sustainable

Development (Rio +20)

*United Nations Open-ended Informal
Process on Oceans and the
Law of the Sea*

*of Action for the
Environment from*



Do we need something else?

Climate Change

Ocean/biodiversity

- Blue carbon 'recognition' = blue carbon action??
- Uncoordinated development of blue carbon policy and activities
- Currently no strategic way forward between marine and climate activities
- Limited funding = increased need for cooperation
 - High rate loss = increased need for action

Land-based Activities

Voluntary Carbon Market

Verified Carbon Standard