CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

IUCN

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group

3rd workshop

10-12 July2012

Guayaquil, Ecuador

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Linden Trust *for* Conservation

Ministry LOGO??

What is Blue Carbon?

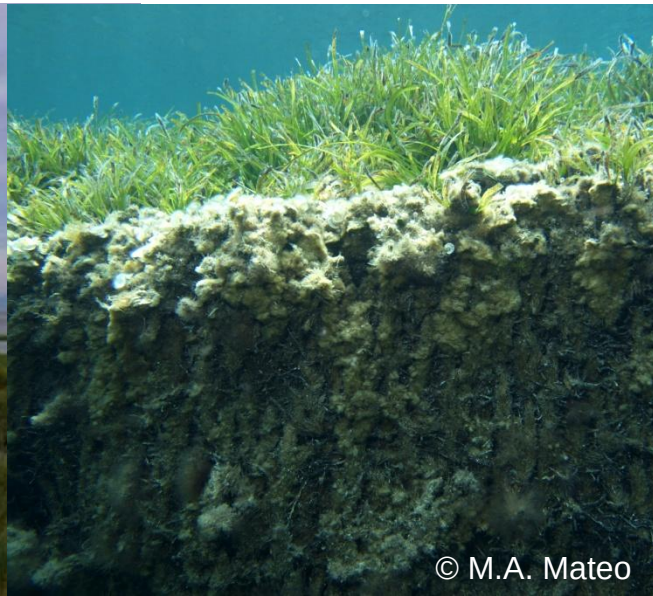
- Carbon stored, sequestered or released by coastal and marine ecosystems

→ **Focus on <u>coastal</u> ecosystems**

Mangroves

Salt marshes

Seagrass beds



Why be concerned about Blue Carbon?

- Storage & ongoing sequestration of carbon in plants and sediment
- High rates per unit area – especial in sediment
- Emissions due to rapid loss of these ecosystems through human pressures
- Lack of comprehensive accounting of coastal carbon sinks and sources in national and international climate change efforts

Opportunities & benefits of Blue Carbon activities

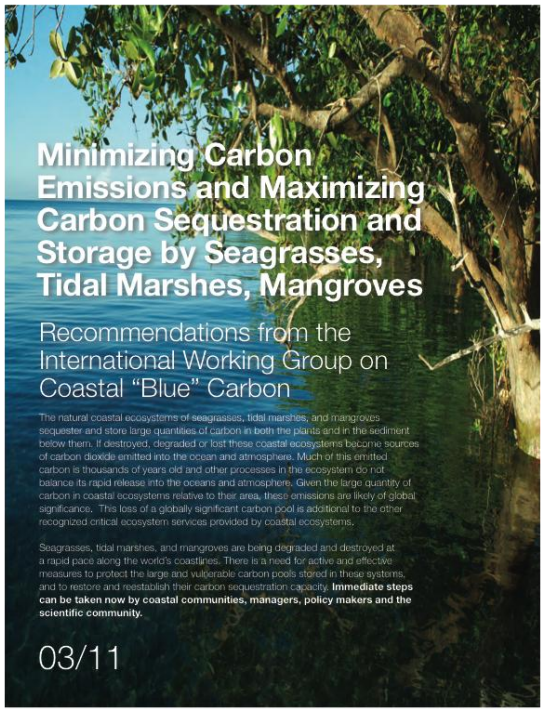
- Incentive for climate change mitigation activities
- Enhanced and more sustainable management of these systems
- Local communities engagement, employment
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Conservation of biodiversity

What needs to be done?

- Need for a **comprehensive approach to natural carbon management** for climate change mitigation
- Provide **scientific knowledge base and technical methods**
- Develop **policy and incentives mechanisms** supporting these activities
- Explore opportunity to **access** currently largely unused **climate change mitigation finance** for coastal Blue Carbon activities
- Identify **other incentive and finance opportunities** for coastal Blue Carbon activities
- Create a **comprehensive and coordinated global platform**

The Blue Carbon Initiative

Overarching goal: Increased conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal Blue Carbon ecosystems



- International Blue Carbon Science Working Group
- **International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group**
- Blue Carbon research projects
- Demonstration projects
- Capacity building

International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group

- Provide guidance for Blue Carbon policy and incentives mechanisms that support and finance management of coastal ecosystems for climate change mitigation:
  - Identify opportunities, limits and risks of advancing Blue Carbon in different international, regional and national climate, coastal and ocean fora;
  - Identify activities and stakeholders;
  - Identify important milestones for achieving policy change;
  - Identify areas of current policy and economic research gaps.

Blue Carbon Policy Framework

Workshop Objectives

I. Revise & update recommendations for the UNFCCC and other international processes, as relevant

II. Identify priority activities and products to support integration of Blue Carbon into international and national policy fora and activities

III. Identify possible ways to address the challenges and gaps for national Blue Carbon policy development and implementation

IV. Finalize guidance for Blue Carbon field demonstration projects

Workshop Products

- **Workshop report**
  - Workshop background information
  - General discussion from the workshop & immediate activities
  - Discussion not for attribution

- **Blue Carbon Policy Framework** (general background – longer-term) accompanied by **policy/info briefs** (short-term/to be updated more regularly):
  - Targeted recommendations for UNFCCC
  - Recommendations for fast-tracking national implementation
  - Guidance for Blue Carbon field-based/site demonstration projects