International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group

2nd workshop

10-11 January 2012

European Parliament, Brussels

J. Tamelander

International Blue Carbon Policy Working Group

Overview & meeting outcomes

J. Tamelander

What is Blue Carbon?

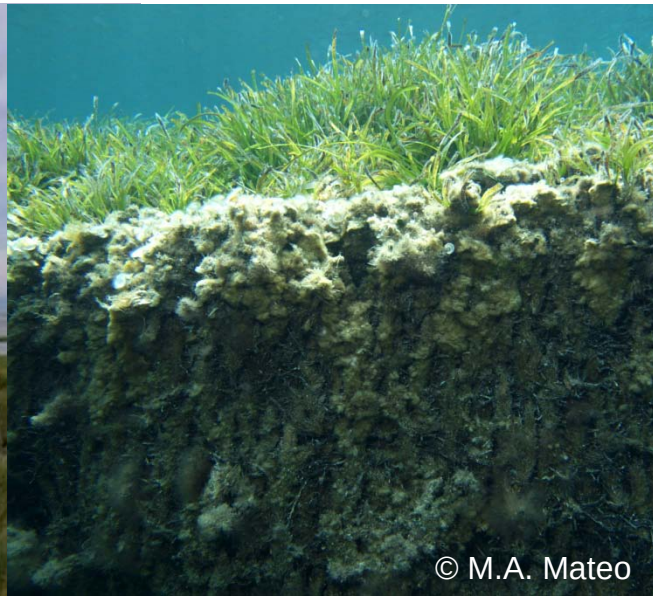
- Carbon stored, sequestered or released by coastal and marine ecosystems

→ **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

nature geoscience
LETTERS
PUBLISHED ONLINE: 3 APRIL 2011 | DOI: 10.1038/NGEO1123

Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics

Daniel C. Donato[1]*, J. Boone Kauffman[2], Daniel Murdiyarso[3], Sofyan Kurnianto[3], Melanie Stidham[4] and Markku Kanninen[5]

Opportunities & benefits of Blue Carbon activities

- Incentive for climate change mitigation activities
- Enhanced and more sustainable management of these systems
- Local communities engagement, employment & improved resource management and yields (e.g. adjacent fisheries)
- 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

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 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.

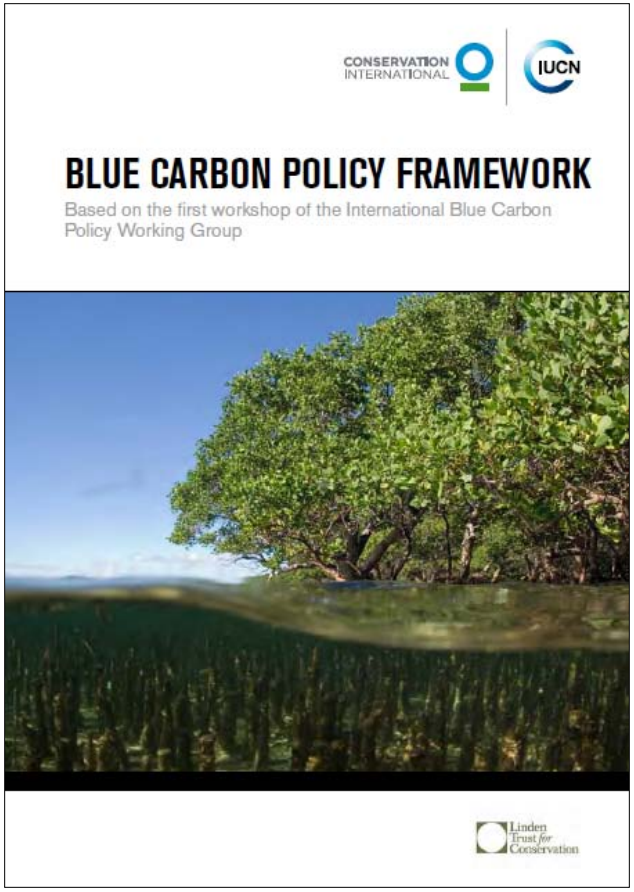
First workshop in Arlington, VA 12-14 July, 2011

Linden Trust *for* Conservation

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

IUCN

Blue Carbon Policy Framework



- Defines activities and a timeline to increase policy development, coastal planning and management activities that support and promote avoided degradation, conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coastal Blue Carbon *systems*;

- **Blue Carbon ≠ new or separate policy or financing scheme; inclusion of Blue Carbon activities into existing policy and financing processes whenever possible**

Other activities

- Suggested coastal carbon experts for **IPCC Task Force** to develop '2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands'
- Ensure **literature cut-off date** for publications for IPCC AR5 and IPCC Task Force on supplementary guidelines for wetland (ongoing)
- Identify need for Blue Carbon peer-reviewed science papers relevant for IPCC and other policy processes (Science Working Group)
- Submitted joint text to **UNFCCC SBSTA** - developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention/research dialogue
- **Raised awareness** on coastal ecosystem management for climate change mitigation at relevant meetings, e.g. UNFCCC COP17
- **Provide relevant information** into other international fora: CBD, Ramsar
- … and many more by partners and other organizations

Workshop Objectives

1. Revise & update the activities outlined by the Blue Carbon Policy Framework
2. Identify priority activities and products to support integration of Blue Carbon into policy for a
3. Identify additional analysis (policy, economic, social, technical) needed for longer-term implementation of the Blue Carbon Policy Framework
4. Revise & enhance guidance for Blue Carbon demonstration projects

Workshop Products

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

- Blue Carbon Policy Framework
  - Revised Blue Carbon recommendations

- Guidance for Blue Carbon demonstration projects

>> Review amongst workshop participants

>> Review by a few selected external experts