

# Blue Forests

## Carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation



# GEF Project Identification



- **“Standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation of Blue Forests “**
- International Waters Focal Area
- GEF Agency: UNEP
- Executing Partners: GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, CI, IUCN, IOC/UNESCO, WWF, Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Blue Ventures, University of Cape Town
- Funding
  - GEF: USD 4,5 million
  - Cofinance: c. USD 9 million (cash and in-kind)
- Duration: 48 months

# Timeline



- Project development initiated 2010
- First submission March 2011
- 4 revisions with multiple clarifications/amendments e.g. in relation to baseline, activity framework,
- Submitted for GEF council 18 July 2011

# Baseline Activities

- Reports: 2009, 2010 and 2011 including by UNEP, IUCN, WB, Duke University, Climate Focus etc.
  - Roundtables, workshops, side-events
  - CI-IUCN-IOC/UNESCO Working Groups on Science and Policy
  - A range of research and management initiatives around the world
- => The project will support a process for reaching consensus on globally-standardized and independently-approved methodologies for measuring, verifying, reporting and monitoring carbon as well as for economic valuation of ecosystem services for coastal blue forest ecosystems

# Project components



1. Development of standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation for blue forest ecosystems
2. Application of the developed methodologies through small-scale interventions
3. Filling gaps in knowledge
4. Exploration of the adoption of methodologies by the international community
5. Project monitoring, networking and information sharing

# 1. Development of methodologies for carbon accounting and ecosystem services valuation for blue forest ecosystems

- Working groups on carbon accounting and economic valuation (working through existing groups and filling gaps as necessary)
- Draft internationally standardized methodologies for carbon accounting and economic valuation of ecosystem services

=> Improved knowledge of coastal carbon reservoirs and processes affecting them, methodologies used in GEF IW projects and national settings

## 2. Application of the developed methodologies through small-scale interventions

- 5 small scale interventions where methodologies from component 1 are applied
- => Improved understanding of carbon and other ecosystem services at target sites, leading to better management
- => Approaches, experiences and recommendations for replication and scaling up

### 3. Filling gaps in knowledge

- Support global synthesis of Blue Forest carbon reservoirs and ecosystem services knowledge
  - Support at least 3 research programmes to fill key identified gaps in knowledge
  - Produce at least 6 papers with equal attention to C sequestration and ecosystem services valuation
  - Special session on Blue Forests at a high profile international science symposium and at the GEF International Waters science conference
- => Improved understanding of ecosystem services, carbon reservoirs and the processes that affect them



## 4 . Exploration of the adoption of methodologies by the international community

- Documented process for international and independent approval for methodologies
- Policy briefs, media communication targeted at strategic outlets, international fora and major international conferences

=> Improved acceptance of methodologies, anchoring in IPCC, UNFCCC and LULUFC/AFOLU processes

=> Increased awareness of stakeholders of the ecosystem services and carbon values of Blue Forest ecosystems.

## 5. Project monitoring, networking and information sharing

- Reports and reviews of project performance
- Dedicated project website connected with IW:LEARN; dissemination of outputs and experiences
- Cooperation and knowledge exchange with STAP in support of its climate resilience work

=> Effective project coordination and management

=> Improved access to and sharing of information (e.g. IW:LEARN)

# Next Steps



- GEF Council July or November 2011
- Project Preparation Grant USD 145,000 (GEF 75k; Cofinance 70k)
  - Expert working groups; agendas and composition
  - Criteria for selection of small-scale interventions, ID sites
  - Strategy for fillings knowledge gaps
  - Inception and validation workshops

=> detailed project documents and implementation plans; pilot sites and activities identified; working groups; confirmation of co-financing by partners

# UNEP Blue Carbon Policy Forum for National Governments



# Rationale

- UNFCCC parties is a primary target audience for
    - advancing international recognition of BC mitigation opportunities
    - leveraging financial and political support for management and restoration
  - Recent interest and contention accentuate the need for
    - raised awareness among National Governments
    - a coordinated approach to BC in international CC negotiations
- => There is a need for a mechanism that supports dissemination and internalization of the most up to date policy analysis and recommendations, as well as advances in science

# The Forum



- Raise the profile of Blue Carbon under UNFCCC and IPCC frameworks
- Review and consider recommendations made by NGO, research and think-tank communities, including recent reports as well as the IUCN-CI-IOC Blue Carbon Policy Working Group
- Identify how such recommendations can be integrated into international and national policy
- Create a liaison between these communities and the Governments at the centre of UNFCCC negotiations

# Participation

- UNEP (convener)
- Annex 1 and non Annex 1 parties, including countries with significant carbon reservoirs in coastal ecosystems or with a particular interest. Representation through Government delegates to UNFCCC and IPCC
- Representatives of the IUCN-CI-IOC/UNESCO Blue Carbon Policy Working Group
- Other resource persons as needed (scientists, policy analysts)
- Supported by Linden Trust, Sida; additional partnerships under development

# Objectives



- To develop appropriate common terminology and definitions for use in international policy processes
- To raise awareness among parties of latest science and issues surrounding Blue Carbon, and implications for national and international policy
- To create a key linkage between the NGO/research/think-tank community and Governments/delegates in international negotiations
- To provide science-based policy recommendations within the IPCC, UNFCCC SBSTA processes, as well as regional processes where appropriate
- To create a common understanding between Governments on addressing Blue Carbon in UNFCCC negotiations
- To develop suggested text on Blue Carbon for insertion in UNFCCC decisions and IPCC work programs
- To coordinate side-events on Blue Carbon at UNFCCC COP and other events



# Outputs and Results for 2011



- Meeting October 2011, Nairobi (exact dates to be decided)
- Common terminology and definitions regarding Blue Carbon agreed upon by the governments that form part of the Forum
- Position or information paper prepared with Forum members, including views on how to advance Blue Carbon at UNFCCC negotiations based on latest science and policy recommendations (e.g. IUCN-CI-IOC WGs).
- Other text as may be helpful to develop for inclusion in specific documents or decisions