# [***Mangroves help store blue carbon***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5SKF-P291-JDN8-22PY-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

ORGANIC material within the ***mangrove*** system releases methane as it breaks down. However scientists from the University's Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry Research have found the methane being released is offsetting on average 20 per cent of the carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and buried as ***blue carbon***.

The paper "Methane emissions partially offset "~***blue carbon***' burial in ***mangroves***", published today in the highly prestigious journal *Science Advances*, provides the first estimate of the global magnitude of this offset.

"Our results show that high water and sediment methane emissions have the potential to partially offset "~***blue carbon***' burial rates in ***mangrove*** sediments on average by 20 per cent," lead researcher Dr Judith Rosentreter said.

"The offsets may be as high as 60 per cent around the boundary between the tropics and subtropics, driven by lower ***mangrove*** carbon burial rates and higher methane emissions.

"Although there are some uncertainties associated with global emission estimates of methane - mainly due to the lack of data from countries with large ***mangrove*** areas such as Indonesia or Brazil - the overall conclusion that there are some offsets remains the same."

Professor Bradley Eyre, director of the Centre for Coastal Biogeochemistry Research at Southern Cross University, is one of the co-authors.

"Methane emissions from ***mangroves*** need to be accounted for when assessing their importance in in future "~***blue carbon***' assessments and climate change mitigation," Prof Eyre said..

As well as offering valuable ecosystem services to the coastal zone and its inhabitants, coastal vegetated ecosystems have been highlighted as efficient natural carbon stores.

The term "***blue carbon***" was coined to describe the carbon sequestered in sediments of ***mangroves***, seagrasses and salt marshes and considered as a long-term storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Yet ***mangrove*** and other coastal wetlands are threatened ecosystems needing protection and conservation.

Climate change is driven primarily by increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere (due to burning of fossil fuel). Climate change mitigation strategies include emission reduction and preserving and enhancing natural carbon stores.

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