# [***New blue carbon institute to be launched in Singapore***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:66VV-DJP1-JCF2-84FN-00000-00&context=1516831)

The Straits Times (Singapore)

November 15, 2022 Tuesday

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 518 words

**Byline:** Cheryl Tan, New ***blue carbon*** institute to be launched in Singapore

**Body**

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt To help mitigate climate change and protect coastal communities, a new institute will be supporting the restoration and protection of ecosystems such as ***mangroves*** and seagrasses in South-east Asia and beyond.

Announcing this at Singapore's pavilion on the sidelines of the COP27 climate conference in Egypt, Amazon and Conservation International said they will be establishing an International ***Blue Carbon*** Institute, which will be housed in Singapore.

***Blue carbon*** refers to the carbon dioxide stored in coastal and marine ecosystems like ***mangroves***, seagrasses and tidal marshes that sequester and store large quantities of carbon in both plants and sediments, thus playing an essential role in the solution to global climate change.

Speaking at the institute's launch on Monday evening, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Grace Fu said the implementation of these ***blue carbon*** initiatives will allow countries to realise their climate ambition -- both in mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

***Mangrove*** forests, for example, are known to be coastal guardians and can help protect communities from heavy flooding and sea-level rise.

"South-east Asia, with its vast stretches of ***mangroves*** and coastal ecosystems, has tremendous potential for ***blue carbon*** initiatives that will also support environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and livelihoods and heritage of local communities," she added.

According to a report looking at the state of the world's ***mangroves***, South-east Asia holds over one-third of the world's ***mangrove*** forests. But the greatest loss of ***mangrove*** forests has also occurred in this region, largely due to factors such as the expansion of aquaculture and oil palm plantations.

With support from the Economic Development Board, the International ***Blue Carbon*** Institute will serve as a knowledge hub to build capacity, expertise and standards to develop and scale these ***blue carbon*** projects.

The institute will work with governments across South-east Asia and the Pacific to integrate the use of ***blue carbon*** into policies for mitigating climate change, and expand education for policymakers and communities on ***blue carbon*** projects.

Dr Emily Pidgeon, who is vice-president of ocean science and innovation at Conservation International, told The Straits Times that a ***mangrove*** forest stores about 10 times the carbon per unit area compared with terrestrial forests, but these projects can be difficult to measure and track over time.

They are also often difficult to scale, as many ***blue carbon*** projects are often built around local communities. Therefore, scaling up conservation or restoration of a particular ***mangrove*** area would often have to involve working with different communities, she added.

Key to the institute would be to help people understand how important ***mangroves*** are for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Amazon will be providing the institute with a grant of up to US$3 million (S$4.1 million) to establish and fund its operations for the first three years, to help the region build and scale credible ***blue carbon*** projects.

**Classification**

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

**Subject:** COASTAL AREAS (93%); SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS (91%); BLUE ECONOMY (90%); CLIMATE CHANGE (90%); COASTAL CONSERVATION (90%); CONSERVATION (90%); FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS (90%); NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (90%); CLIMATOLOGY (89%); FORESTS & WOODLANDS (89%); BIODIVERSITY (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (78%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (78%); HOLDING COMPANIES (78%); OCEANOGRAPHY (78%); SEA LEVEL CHANGES (78%); SUSTAINABILITY (78%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); WETLANDS (78%); AIR QUALITY REGULATION (75%); MARINE BIOLOGY (75%); OCEANS (75%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (73%); EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE (73%); FLOODS & FLOODING (73%); PUBLIC POLICY (73%); ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (69%); BUSINESS NEWS (63%)

**Organization:** CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (57%)

**Industry:** BLUE ECONOMY (90%); SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (78%); AQUACULTURE (50%)

**Geographic:** ASIA (94%); SINGAPORE (94%); SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA (94%); EGYPT (92%)

**Load-Date:** November 14, 2022

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