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Three ecosystems

Mangroves

Salt Marshes

Seagrass Meadows

- Blue Carbon is the carbon sequestered and stored by coastal and marine ecosystems, or released when loss and degradation occur
- Storage of Blue Carbon in plants, but above all in the soil beneath the surface

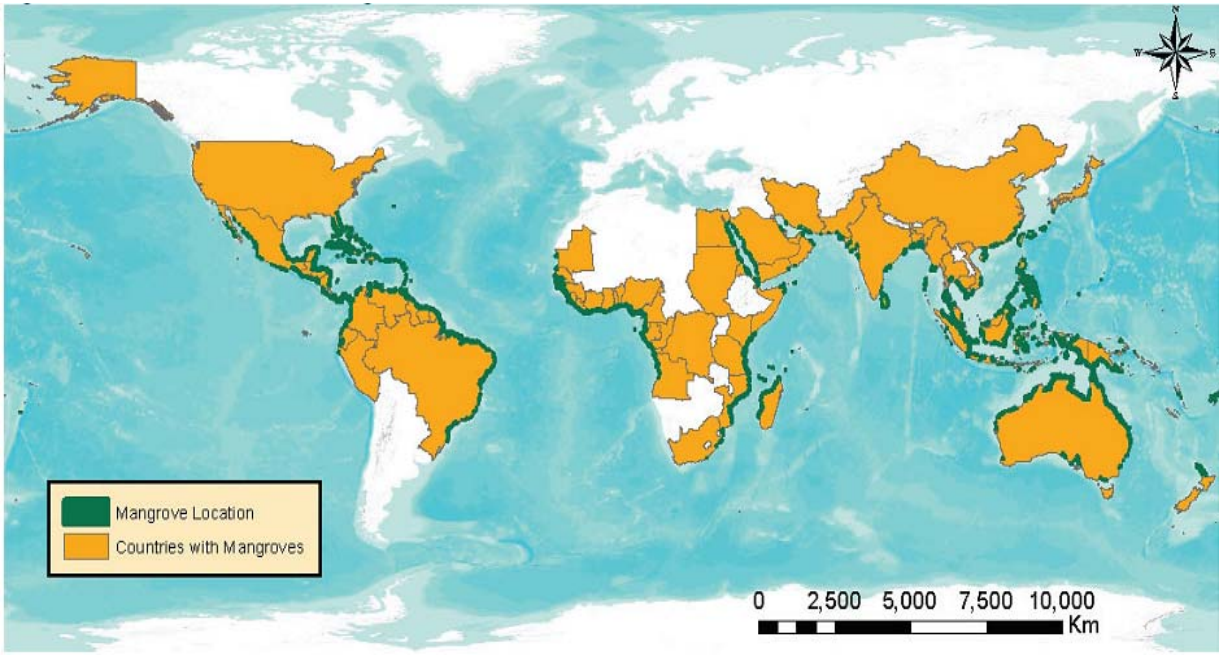
Where we stand

- UNFCCC Article 4, paragraph 1 (d) asks Parties to promote, within sustainable management, the conservation and enhancement of **sinks and reservoirs** of all GHGs including **forests and oceans** as well as other **terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems**

- Current scientific understanding of carbon sequestration and potential emissions from BC is now sufficient to support development of effective policy

Mangrove forests

- Tropical and subtropical shores
- Global area c 160,000 km2
- No or low production of methane
- About 35% of mangrove forests lost



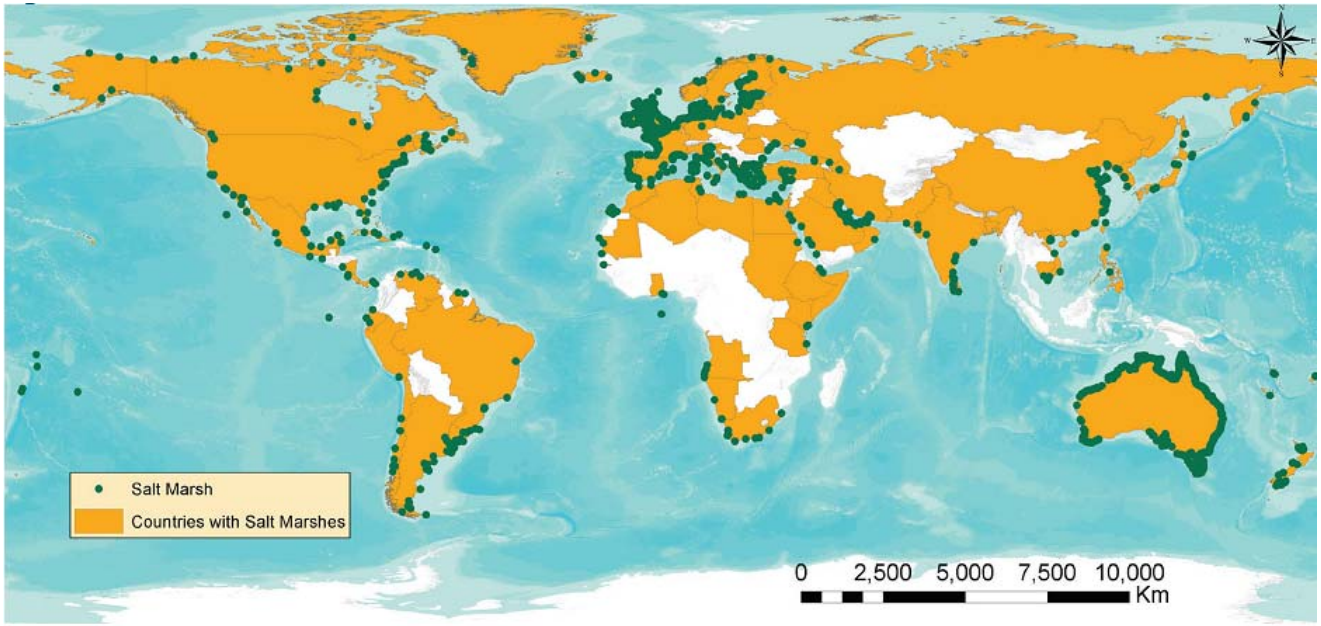
Source: Nicholas Institute Report (2011)

Tidal Salt Marshes

•Mostly in temperate climates

• Vegetated by grasses; the living biomass is relatively low compared to terrestrial forests.

• No or low production of methane



Source: Nicholas Institute Report (2011)

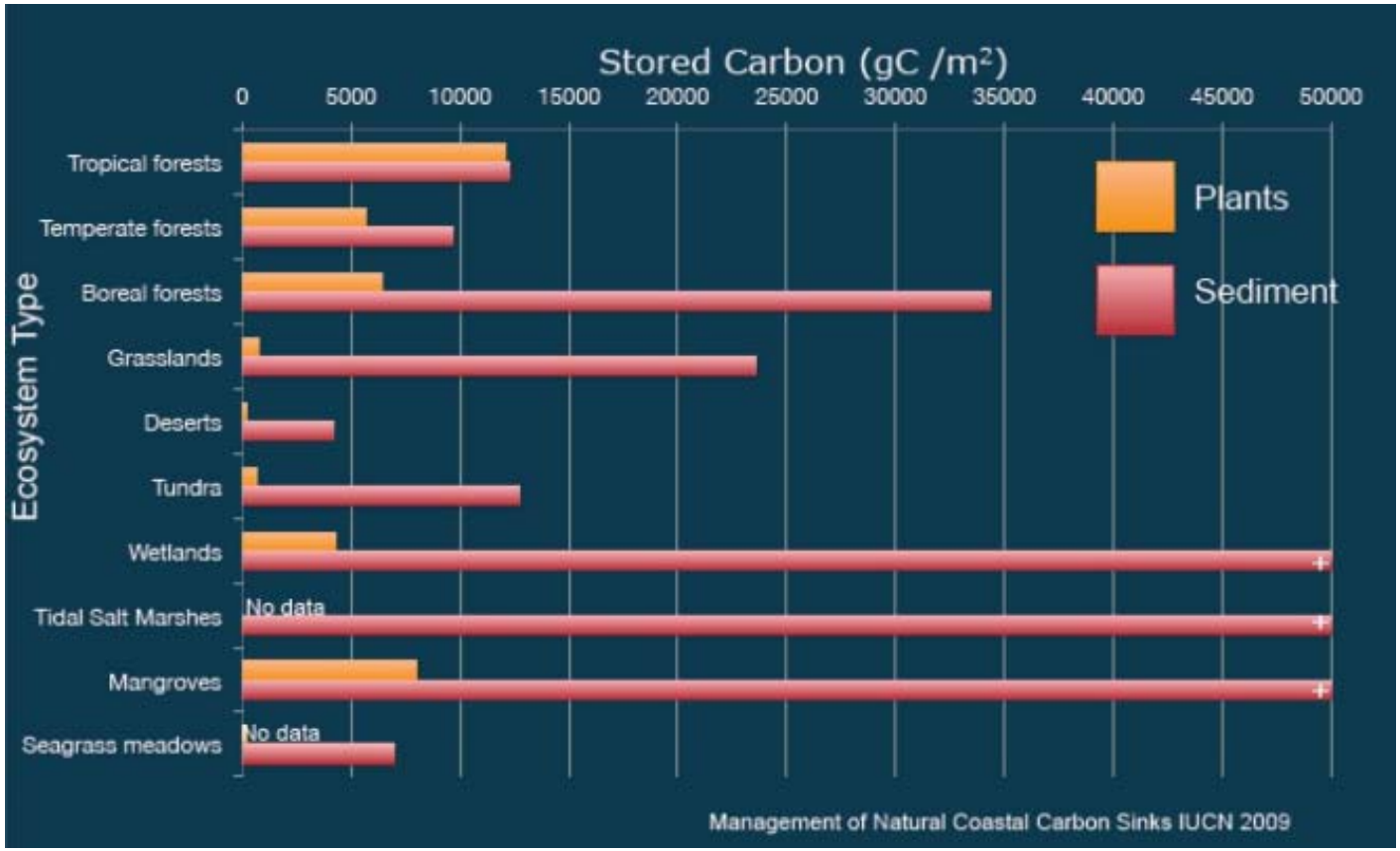
Why Blue Carbon

Rapid loss and degradation

Coastal Habitat	Estimated Global Area (km^2)	Annual Loss	Total Loss
Seagrass	300,000	2%	29%
Salt Marsh	400,000	2%	*
Mangrove	152,000	1.8%	35%

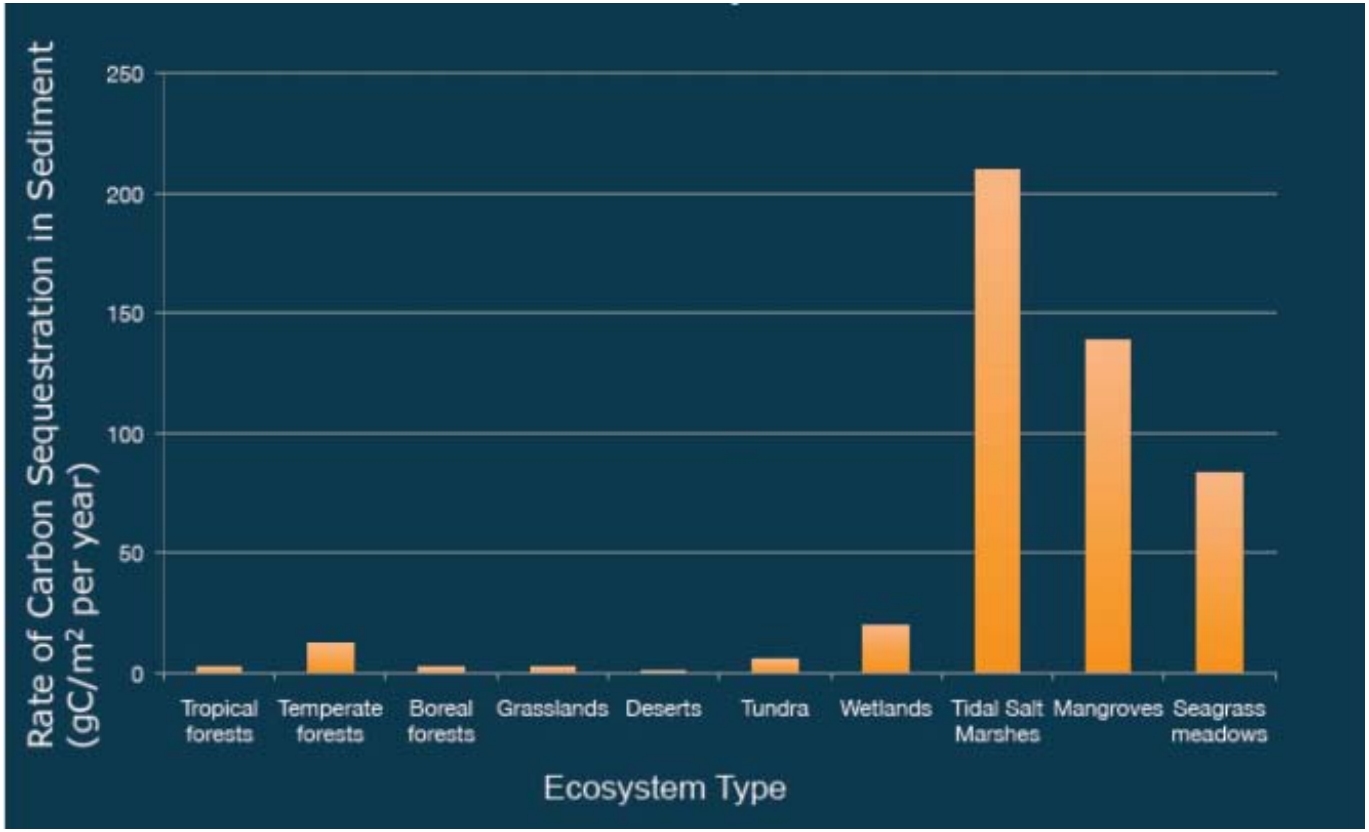
Why Blue Carbon

Large carbon storage in soil per unit area



Why Blue Carbon

Very high rates of carbon sequestration sediment



What is needed

- Incentives to protect Blue Carbon ecosystems to retain their sink capacity and stock carbon in the reservoirs, against highly economics drivers such as shrimp farms, agriculture etc.

- Data compilation for supporting tier 1 reporting and research for further improving the quality of GHG estimates.

Blue Carbon in SBSTA

- Oversight on ways to account for the impact of human activities on the GHG balance of BC ecosystems
- Mangroves already in REDD+ however guidance on the inclusion of the mitigation potential of all other ecosystems with organic soils in the mitigation mechanisms is required.
- Dedicated workshop by SBSTA 36
- Request IPCC to provide updates on methods and available information for reporting anthropogenic GHG emissions and removals from BC ecosystems
  (IPCC will release a 2013 supplement report on wetlands)