

**Marrakech
Partnership**



**UNFCCC COP 27
Sharm El -Sheikh, Egypt**

**Implementation Lab
Concept Note
Blue Carbon Implementation Lab**

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

**16 November 2022
15:00-16:30**

**Organised by Conservation International
in partnership with the High-Level Champions, Ocean-Climate Platform, IUCN,
IOC-UNESCO, Blue Marine Foundation, Blue Carbon Initiative, International
Partnership for Blue Carbon, WWF, Global Mangrove Alliance,
ORRAA, and Plymouth Marine Laboratory**

Blue Carbon Implementation Lab – Action Room 2, Climate Action Zone

Concept Note | Sharm El Sheikh | Wednesday, 16 November, 15:00-16:30

Description	<p>The Blue Carbon Implementation Lab will explore the innovative projects, policies and partnerships successfully achieving high-quality outcomes for climate, communities and biodiversity in and around blue carbon ecosystems globally and the remaining challenges to their implementation. The Lab will feature a roundtable discussion focusing on the key questions that governments, civil society, and the private sector must answer to realize the full potential of blue carbon ecosystems for climate mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, strengthening livelihoods and more. In addition, we will explore opportunities to finance blue carbon projects, best practices for achieving high-quality outcomes, and lessons learned from on-the-ground implementation efforts.</p>
Headline	<p>Over the last decade, blue carbon ecosystems have been recognized for their value for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as their critical value for biodiversity and communities. As blue carbon has received large-scale support by countries, private sector, funders, and communities as a climate solution, the challenge has become how to direct this rapidly growing recognition and support to have an impact at scale and maximize the benefits for climate, communities and biodiversity. This Lab will highlight these successes and identify the key emerging opportunities for scaling.</p>
Breakthrough	<p>Global Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience: Ocean and Coastal Zones</p>
Guiding question	<p>What best practices, partnerships and financing solutions must be implemented and leveraged to conserve and restore blue carbon ecosystems globally?</p>
Targeted Outcomes	<p>Blue carbon ecosystems – such as mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes – sequester and store globally significant quantities of carbon in their biomass and underlying soils, which can be released if these ecosystems are disturbed by anthropogenic activities. In addition to climate mitigation benefits, these ecosystems provide a multitude of other services including: protection from climate change impacts (e.g., extreme weather events, coastal erosion and sea-level rise), fisheries habitat, biodiversity benefits, and sustenance for millions of people in rural coastal communities.</p> <p>There are numerous opportunities to strengthen ocean-climate action at the national and international level, and blue carbon implementation plays a critical role. While an increasing number of countries are including coastal and marine nature-based solutions in their NDCs, countries have also recognized the challenges they face in implementing their commitments. Highlighting the</p>

	<p>growing portfolio of blue carbon practical demonstrations, tools and science is needed to accelerate the implementation of these NDCs.</p> <p>This event will recognize the current challenges to fully unlocking the mitigation, adaptation and resilience potential of blue carbon ecosystems, and will highlight best practices and innovative options to overcome remaining obstacles to implementation.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p><i>Aligned with the COP 27 and High-level Champions narrative, this event will:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcase solutions that enable countries to fully achieve the mitigation and adaptation potential of blue carbon ecosystems; 2. Discuss key roadblocks to restoring and conserving blue carbon ecosystems at scale, including financing challenges; 3. Provide guidance and resources to incorporate blue carbon ecosystems into NDCs and ensure high-quality outcomes for blue carbon projects; and 4. Exchange best practices and lessons learned from on-the-ground blue carbon implementation efforts that countries can replicate elsewhere. <p>Solutions, partnerships, and resources that will be showcased during the roundtable include (non-exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mangrove Breakthrough ● Global Mangrove Alliance ● High-Quality Blue Carbon Principles and Guidance ● International Blue Carbon Institute ● International Partnership for Blue Carbon ● Blue Carbon Initiative ● Colombia’s Vida Manglar blue carbon project
<p>*Participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National governments ● Financial institutions ● UN and related entities ● NGOs and other international organisations ● Local communities ● Scientific institutes ● Blue carbon project developers, investors and brokers ● Private sector ● Youth
<p>Key Action points out of the discussion</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finance: Identification of existing and innovative climate and other funding sources, resources and best practice approaches available for financing blue carbon outcomes.

	<p>2. NDCs: Accelerate and expand countries incorporating blue carbon ecosystems in NDCs or NAPs for adaptation and/or mitigation in advance of the 2025 NDC cycle, including ensuring countries have a full understanding of the resources and partnerships available to support these efforts.</p> <p>3. Ensure broader engagement and commitment to high-quality principles and guidance for designing, implementing and financing blue carbon projects and policies.</p>
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Draft Agenda

Timing	Session Description	Speaker suggestions (Name, Title, Organisation)	Additional notes/format tips
<i>5 mins</i>	Welcome and overview of event	Moderator: Emily Pidgeon , Conservation International Audience engagement - Slido	
<i>10 mins</i>	Opening remarks	High-level opening remarks (TBC)	
<i>65 mins</i>	Roundtable and Q&A	<u>Finance:</u> Lilian Macharia , Director, Portfolio Management, Green Climate Fund Lisa Schindler-Murray , Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA); Mangrove breakthrough Chip Cunliffe , Programme and Risk Director, ORRAA Dan Crockett , Development Director, Blue Marine Foundation	

		<p><i>Audience Q&A</i></p> <p><i><u>Achieving high-quality blue carbon outcomes:</u></i></p> <p>Carlos Correa, Former Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia; Senior Fellow, CI</p> <p>Maxine Burkett, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans, Fisheries and Polar Affairs, United States</p> <p>Whitney Johnston, Director of Ocean Sustainability, Salesforce</p> <p><i>Audience Q&A</i></p> <p><i><u>Blue carbon in NDCs (challenges and opportunities):</u></i></p> <p>John F. Kannah, In-Country NDC Facilitator, Liberia</p> <p>Elissa Lalande, Senior Policy Analyst for Climate Change at the Climate Change & Energy Department, Seychelles</p> <p>Jerker Tamelander, Director, Science and Policy, Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands</p> <p><i>Audience Q&A</i></p> <p><i><u>On-the-ground implementation</u></i></p>	
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		<p>Ailars David, Founder and President of Sustainable Ocean Alliance Tanzania</p> <p>Julie Mulonga, Director, Eastern Africa, Wetlands International</p> <p>Audience Q&A</p>	
<i>10 mins</i>	Closing Remarks	<p>Nigel Topping, High-Level Climate Champion of COP 26, Presidency of the United Kingdom</p>	