

International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group 14th Annual Meeting

At the 2nd Mangroves of the Americas Congress
October 10th – 14th, 2022
Mérida, México

Agenda



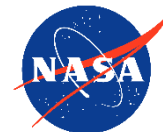
Coordinating organizations:



Workshop partner organizations:



Funding organizations:



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Rationale for the meeting

The Blue Carbon Initiative is a global program working to address climate change through the restoration and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems, specifically mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses. The Initiative is coordinated by Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Formed in February 2011, the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group provides the scientific foundation for the Blue Carbon Initiative by synthesizing current and emerging science on blue carbon and by providing a robust scientific basis for coastal carbon conservation, management and assessment. The working group strives to build scientific capacity and create networks within blue carbon priority countries through collaboration with experts and government officials. The Working Group consists of globally recognized specialists in coastal carbon science, carbon assessment, remote sensing and international climate change policy. More information about the Blue Carbon Initiative can be found at: www.bluecarboninitiative.org.

During this meeting, we will focus our discussions on current scientific issues related to blue carbon's role in climate action and what new information is needed to integrate blue carbon science in policymaking processes worldwide. Additionally, given the importance of Mexico as a blue carbon country, the meeting will provide an opportunity for the working group to support blue carbon science, policy and project development in that country and, more broadly, across the region.

Daily activities

Day 1 – Monday, October 10 th	
8:00 AM	Check-in and registration
9:00 – 10:45	Congress Opening Ceremony
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Welcome session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Mexican authorities – Yadira Gómez Hernández (Directora Regional CONANP)• Welcome by congress hosts – Dr. Jorge Herrera (CINVESTAV)• Welcome by Conservation International-México Vice President – Dr. Norma Arce (Conservation International)• Welcome words by IOC-UNESCO – Dr. Kirsten Isensee (IOC-UNESCO)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome address to the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairs: Dr. Emily Pidgeon (Conservation International) & Dr. Steve Crooks (Silvestrum Climate Associates) • Personal introductions • Introduction to Blue Carbon – global inflection point – Dr. Emily Pidgeon (Conservation International)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:45	<p>Session 1: Blue carbon science in México Moderator: Dr. Miguel Cifuentes-Jara (Conservation International) Goal: Highlight key blue carbon research areas and priorities in Mexico</p>
	<p>Science talks – Part 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons from developing a Blue Carbon project in La Encrucijada Biosphere Reserve, Chiapas – Dr. Fernanda Adame (Griffith University) • Radiochronology and fluxes of blue carbon in mangroves and saltmarshes from Mexico – Dr. Joan Albert Sánchez Cabeza & Ana Carolina Ruiz Fernández (UNAM-Unidad Académica Mazatlán) • Current instruments for mangrove conservation in Mexico: toward a blue carbon strategy - Joanna Acosta • Feasibility of blue carbon projects in México - bridging academia, government and communities – SiuLing Cinco (CINVESTAV Mérida) • Blue carbon projects in Yucatán under Plan Vivo and Verra standards - challenges and opportunities – Rosalía Andrade (A.C. Resiliencia Azul)
15:45-16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Session 1 (continued)</p> <p>Science talks – Part 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from a decade of mangrove restoration in Yucatán – Dra. Claudia Teutli (ENES-Mérida-UNAM) • Measuring carbon stocks in mangroves of the dry Northwestern region of Mexico – Dr. Jony Torrez Velázquez (Universidad del Valle del Yaqui) • Coastal wetland monitoring – advancing the blue carbon agenda in México – Dr. Carlos Troche y Verónica Aguilar (CONABIO) • Synthesis and discussion • Other talks to be confirmed
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Closed – Working Group Only – “Our brave new Blue Carbon challenge” Dr. Emily Pidgeon (Conservation International) & Dr. Steve Crooks (Silvestrum Climate Associates)</p>
18:00	Congress Social Mixer

Day 2 – Tuesday, October 11 th	
9:00 – 10:45	Session 2: Blue carbon globally Moderator: Dr. Boone Kauffman (Oregon State University) Goal: Review recent global blue carbon research with application to blue carbon project and policy design
	Global updates – Part 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Ocean Decade Programme for Blue Carbon – Dr. William Austin (University of St Andrews) & Dr. Miguel Cifuentes-Jara (Conservation International), Co-chairs • Seagrass subgroup synthesis – Dr. Núria Marba (Institut Mediterrani D'estudis Avançats), Dr. Hilary Kennedy (Bangor University), Dr. Jim Fourqurean (Florida International University), Dr. Dan Friess (National University of Singapore), Prof. Catherine Lovelock (University of Queensland) • Blue carbon inventories in Indonesia – Prof. Daniel Murdiyarso (Center for International Forestry Research - CIFOR) • Ecological restoration at scale, making it happen in the mangroves of Costa Rica – Jose Quirós (Conservation International-Costa Rica) & Jorge Pineda (SINAC) • Mangrove and saltmarsh grasses responses under rapidly under high rates of sea-level rise – Distinguished Professor Emeritus James Morris (University of South Carolina)
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Session 2 (continued)
	Global updates – Part 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOAA/EPA Transparency Accelerator – Dr. Steve Crooks (Silvestrum Climate Associates) • GEM, an open-source mangrove mapping tool designed for site-level mangrove assessments – Leah Glass (Blue Ventures) • How geomorphology can inform mangrove restoration and blue carbon distribution – Dr. André Rovai (Louisiana State University) • Aportes de Colombia al diseño e implementación de iniciativas de carbono azul en manglares – Selene Rojas & Lina Vásquez (INVEMAR) • Synthesis and discussion
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Session 3: Emerging methodologies and accounting issues Moderator: Leah Glass (Blue Ventures), Amy Schmid (Conservation International) Goal: Identify salient commonalities and challenges in blue carbon methods development and refinement, and application for project development and national accounting
	This discussion will focus on 1) sharing the latest approaches under development for blue carbon accounting and project development, 2) identifying common areas across different accounting and project design approaches, 3) examining pathways for scaling carbon accounting from projects to national reporting, 4) identifying gaps

	<p>or challenges facing the implementation of methods and methodologies on the ground, and 5) setting priorities and identifying BCI supporting avenues to address the latter.</p> <p>Discussion will include review of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality standards for blue carbon projects – Dr. Jennifer Howard (Conservation International) • Changes to VM0033 and simplifying voluntary standard methods – Amy Schmid (Conservation International) • Australian methods and integration of blue carbon into national environmental accounts – Prof. Catherine Lovelock (University of Queensland) • Seascapes methodologies – Dr. Steve Crooks (Silvestrum Climate Associates) • New Plan Vivo Blue Carbon Standard – Leah Glass (Blue Ventures)
15:45-16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 17:00	Session 3 (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session 3 continued
18:00	Dinner

Day 3 – Wednesday, October 12 th	
9:00 – 10:45	<p>Session 4: Kelp working group discussion Moderator: Dr. Albert Pessarrodona (University of Western Australia)</p>
	<p>Research on the carbon sequestration potential of macroalgae is currently where research on the established wetland blue carbon ecosystems was 10 years ago. The aim of this interactive discussion session is two-fold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather the group’s knowledge and expertise on how to advance kelp science to overcome issues required to establish these ecosystems as blue carbon in policy and finance (quantifying areas, permanence, fingerprinting, independent verification) • Discuss remaining methodological challenges to quantify lateral flows, DOC, alkalinity generation/consumption and other blue carbon ecosystem fluxes and stocks
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Open to congress participation - sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration, ecosystem services • Community knowledge exchange
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:45	<p>Open to congress participation - sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration, ecosystem services • Community knowledge exchange
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00	<p>Session 5: Bridging science, policy and finance for national implementation Moderator: Kirsten Isensee (IOC – UNESCO) & Dr. Dan Friess (National University of Singapore) Goal: To identify challenges and lessons learned in linking global policy with national implementation</p>
	<p>This discussion will focus on 1) highlighting the opportunities for using blue carbon to bridge priorities across UN conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, RAMSAR, SDGs, etc.), 2) exploring the processes and challenges behind linking global and national policies, with examples from México and Costa Rica, and 3) linking implementation with local economic data.</p> <p>Discussion will include review of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Blue Carbon Policy Framework, Ocean-Climate Nexus – Jill Hamilton (Conservation International) • IPBC: Linking science, global policies and mechanisms to national implementation – Elisabetta Bonotto (IOC-UNESCO) • Mexican blue carbon policy development – Dra. Gloria Cuevas (SEMARNAT) • From global to local, remaining challenges linking global and national policy – Dr. Miguel Cifuentes-Jara (Conservation International) • Carbon market pricing and the need for better restoration and conservation price data – Emily Landis (TNC)
17:00 – 18:00	Discussion on science needs for policy
18:00	Dinner

Day 4 – Thursday, October 13 th	
9:00 – 10:45	<p>Session 6 (Closed – Working Group only): The next decade for the Blue Carbon Initiative Moderators: Dr. Emily Pidgeon (Conservation International) & Dr. Steve Crooks (Silvestrum Climate Associates)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on identifying priorities for next decade and specific activities for working group for next 2-3 years.
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Session 6 (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion, next steps
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:45	<p>Open to congress participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and extreme events
15:45-16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	<p>Open to congress participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change and extreme events
18:00 – 20:00	Closing ceremony
20:00	Dinner

Joint agenda for the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group 14th Annual Meeting at the 2nd Mangroves of the Americas Congress

Agenda marked in **yellow** represent **Congress** activities, **blue** represent **BCISWG** activities and **green** are **flexible** times we might use for additional work and discussions on Wednesday and Thursday.

Date	Monday, October 10		Tuesday, October 11		
Event	Mangroves Congress	BCISWG	Mangroves Congress		BCISWG
Times	Salon Yucatán 1	Salón Izamal	Salón Yucatán 1	Salón Yucatán 2	Salón Izamal
08:00 - 09:00	Congress Registration		Congress Registration		
9:00 - 10:45	Opening ceremony		Basic mangrove science		Session 2: Blue carbon globally
10:45 - 11:00	Registration	Coffee break	Coffee break		
11:00 - 12:00		Welcome Session	Basic mangrove science		Session 2: Blue carbon globally
12:00 - 13:00			Keynote speech 1: Mangroves of Ecuador: past, present and Future. Dr. Natalia Molina, Porfirio Álvarez Torres. Universidad Espíritu Santo, Ecuador	Keynote speech 2: Mangrove physiology - from plant to ecosystem. Dr. Jose Luis Andrade. Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán, México	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch		Lunch		
14:00 - 15:45	Workshop: Estimating C stocks and fluxes in mangroves of the dry areas in México	Session 1 - Blue carbon science in México	Posters	The Ocean Foundation workshop	Session 3: Emerging methodologies and accounting issues
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee break		Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:00	Workshop: Estimating C stocks and fluxes in mangroves of the dry areas in México	Session 1 - Blue carbon science in México	Landscape scale studies	The Ocean Foundation workshop	Session 3: Emerging methodologies and accounting issues
17:00 - 18:00		BCISWG Closed door session: Our Brave New Blue Carbon World	Keynote 3: Resilience of coastal-marine ecosystems to increased extreme events in the Caribbean - should we worry? Dra. Rosa Román Cuesta. Wageningen University		
18:00 - 20:00	Social mixer		Dinner		

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Date	Wednesday, October 12			Thursday, October 13		
Event	Mangroves Congress		BCISWG	Mangroves Congress		BCISWG
Times	Salón Yucatán 1	Salón Yucatán 2	Salón Izamal	Salón Yucatán 1	Salón Yucatán 2	Salón Izamal
08:00 - 09:00	Congress Registration			Congress Registration		
9:00 - 10:45	Restoration, ecosystem services	Community knowledge exchange	Session 4: Kelp working group discussion	Communities and ancestral groups	GMA MX Chapter, AMERE Group, Global Mangrove Watch Workshop	BCISWG Closed door session: The next decade for the BCI
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break			Coffee break		
11:00 - 12:00	Restoration, ecosystem services	Community knowledge exchange		Climate change and extreme events	Global Mangrove Watch Workshop	Closed door session (continued)
12:00 - 13:00	Keynote 4: Supporting the Management of the Mesoamerican Reef System. Dr. Steve Canty. Smithsonian Institute, USA			Keynote 5: Building high-quality blue carbon projects - the Vida Manglar experience. Dra. María Claudia Díaz Granados, Conservation International		
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch			Lunch		
14:00 - 15:45	Restoration, ecosystem services	Community knowledge exchange		Climate change and extreme events		
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee break			Coffee break		
16:00 - 17:00	Restoration, ecosystem services	Community knowledge exchange	Session 5: Bridging science and policy	Climate change and extreme events		
17:00 - 18:00	Posters	Community knowledge exchange		Keynote 6		
18:00 - 20:00	Dinner			Closing ceremony (shared Congress and BCISWG event)		