

International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group 15th Annual Meeting

3-6 October 2023
Singapore

Agenda



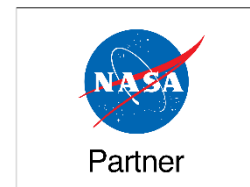
Coordinating organizations:



Workshop partner organizations:



Funding organizations:



International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group 15th Annual Meeting Singapore

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.

The 2023 International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group meeting will take place in Singapore from October 3 to October 6. The meeting will focus 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. Importantly, as part of our meeting we will also introduce the newly formed [International Blue Carbon Institute](#). This will provide an opportunity for the Working Group to support blue carbon science, policy and project development in Singapore and, more broadly, across the Southeast Asia region.

Daily Agenda

| Tuesday, October 3 - Opening Day | |
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| Audience: | Singapore based partners, donors, academics/researchers; regional scientists; IBCSWG members |
| Objectives: | Build awareness in Singapore of the Blue Carbon Initiative's expertise and leadership in blue carbon. Build awareness of and support for the International Blue Carbon Institute. Build awareness of options and opportunities for blue carbon in Singapore and Southeast Asia based on global experiences. |

| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
|---|---|---|
| Session 1 - Opening Ceremony | | |
| Objective: Welcome the audience and provide an overview of Blue Carbon science, policy and implementation. | | |
| Master of Ceremony: Emily Pidgeon | | |
| 9:00 - 10:40 | Welcome | Prof. Dr. Leo Tan |
| | Welcome words by Blue Carbon Initiative partner organizations | Dr. Emily Pidgeon, Dr. Kirsten Isensee, Dr. Maeve Nightingale |
| | Regional vision on blue carbon science | Dr. Richard Jeo |
| | The evolution of blue carbon and current trends | Dr. Emily Pidgeon, Dr. Steve Crooks |
| | International Blue Carbon Institute overview | Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | Tea Break | |
| Session 2 - Global Overview of Blue Carbon | | |
| Objective: Understand blue carbon science, project development and international implementation. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Steve Crooks | | |
| 11:00 - 11:20 | Science of Blue Carbon | Prof. Dr. Catherine Lovelock |
| 11:20 - 11:50 | Panel presentations: | |
| | Lessons learned from Vida Manglar | Ms. Amy Schmid |
| | Community based blue carbon credit projects in Madagascar | Ms. Leah Glass |
| | International Blue Carbon potential and implementation | Prof. Dr. Dan Friess |
| 11:50 - 12:30 | Panel and public Q&A: How is Blue Carbon being applied globally? What are the next big opportunities? | Dr. Steve Crooks and session speakers |
| 12:30 - 13:30 | Lunch | |
| Session 3 - Blue Carbon in Southeast Asia | | |
| Objective: Highlight the latest blue carbon science and research priorities in Southeast Asia. | | |

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| Facilitator: Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub | | |
| 13:30 - 14:30 | Presentations | |
| | Mangrove Research for Southeast Asia | Prof. Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso |
| | The state of blue carbon research in the Philippines | Dr. Severino Salmo |
| | Blue carbon in seagrass habitats in Indonesia | Dr. Udhi Hernawan |
| | Blue carbon science-policy links | Dr. Samantha Lai |
| 14:30 - 15:00 | Panel & public Q&A: Blue carbon in Southeast Asia - status and research priorities | Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Tea Break | |
| Session 4 - Blue Carbon in International Policy & Finance | | |
| Objective: Clarify the policy and finance elements that support blue carbon implementation. | | |
| Facilitator: Jill Hamilton | | |
| 15:30 - 15:45 | Welcome remarks and introduction to blue carbon policy | Ms. Jill Hamilton |
| 15:45 - 16:45 | Panel: Remarks and discussion on blue carbon policy and/or finance work | |
| | Indonesia's national plans to advance blue carbon markets and policies | Dr. Andreas A. Hutahaean |
| | Policies to enable nature-based solutions | Ms. Melissa Low |
| | Blue carbon policy and finance: Examples from the Commonwealth | Ms. Heidi Prislan |
| | Financing blue carbon projects – challenges and opportunities | Mr. Gary Addison |
| | Costa Rica's National Blue Carbon Strategy | Prof. Dr. Miguel Cifuentes-Jara |
| 16:45 - 17:00 | Summary and closing remarks | Dr. Emily Pidgeon |
| 17:00 - 17:30 | Break | |
| International Blue Carbon Institute - Reception and Cocktail | | |
| 17:30 - 19:30 | IBCI reception | By invitation only |
| | Welcome words | Dr. Richard Jeo |

| Working Group Days | |
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| Audience: | Singapore, regional and global (IBCSWG) scientists, donors and partners |
| Objectives: | Identify the applications of existing and future knowledge for conservation, restoration and management of Blue Carbon ecosystems. Identify contributions from the IBCSWG to close research gaps and strengthen Blue Carbon project implementation globally. |

| Wednesday, October 4 - IBCSWG Meeting | | |
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| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
| Session 1 - Introduction and Initial Discussion | | |
| Objective: Frame the meeting's discussions and expectations for the Working Group and guests. | | |
| Facilitator: Drs. Emily Pidgeon, Steve Crooks, Kirsten Isensee | | |
| 9:00 - 9:25 | Insights on the work and progress of the BCI Science Working Group and expectations for this meeting | Drs. Emily Pidgeon, Steve Crooks, Kirsten Isensee |
| Session 2 - In Memoriam Professor Sir Miguel Fortes | | |
| Objective: Celebrate the ecosystems and places that were special to our friend Mike Fortes. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Emily Pidgeon | | |
| 9:25 - 10:40 | Professor Sir Miguel D. Fortes - a biography | Dr. Emily Pidgeon |
| | Ode to Seagrass | Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub |
| | Professor Fortes' contributions to the development and progress of blue carbon research in the Philippines | Dr. Severino Salmo |
| | Capacity building of local communities for blue carbon projects | Dr. Jay Mar Quevedo |
| | The nexus among blue carbon-society-policy/governance in Malaysia, Southeast Asia | Dr. Amir Aldrie |
| | Public reflections | Dr. Emily Pidgeon |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | Tea Break | |
| Session 3 - Seagrass Science | | |
| Objective: Synthesize the most recent advances in seagrass science globally and in Southeast Asia. | | |
| Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Martin Dahl | | |
| 11:00 - 12:10 | Introduction to seagrass science | Prof. Dr. Martin Dahl |
| | Seagrass Research Indonesia | Dr. Rohani Ambo Rappe |
| | Cambodia seagrass research | Ms. Chantha Chroeng |
| | Socio-ecology of seagrass meadows in coastal communities of the West Johor Straits | Dr. Serina Rahman |
| | Carbon stocks in Turkey Posidonia meadows | Prof. Dr. Hilary Kennedy |
| 12:10 - 13:00 | Global seagrass database - update and discussion | Prof. Dr. Johannes Krause |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch | |
| Session 4 - Blue Carbon Science Leadership | | |

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| Objective: Identify the research priorities and opportunities for collaboration among Blue Carbon regional and global research initiatives. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Kirsten Isensee | | |
| 14:00 - 14:40 | Regional blue carbon research centers Panel discussion 1 - Regional research centers Hainan International Blue Carbon Research Center Indonesia World Mangrove Center IORA Blue Carbon Hub | Dr. Kirsten Isensee Prof. Dr. George Lin Dr. Virni Arifanti Dr. Mat Vanderklift |
| 14:40 - 15:10 | Discussion, Q&A from public | |
| 15:10 - 15:30 | Tea Break | |
| 15:30 - 16:10 | The need for regional and global collaborative efforts Panel discussion 2 - International/global research centers International Blue Carbon Institute UN Ocean Decade GO-BC International Partnership for Blue Carbon Mangrove Breakthrough | Dr. Kirsten Isensee Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub Prof. Dr. Miguel Cifuentes-Jara Ms. Elisabetta Bonotto Steve Canty |
| 16:10 - 16:50 | Discussion: How can the IBCSWG support research capacity globally through this emerging infrastructure? | |
| 16:50 - 17:00 | Daily summary and closing remarks | TBD |

| Thursday, October 5 - IBCSWG Meeting | | |
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| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
| Session 5 - The scientific elements for blue carbon country implementation | | |
| Objective: Identify current science gaps needed for blue carbon (i) standards and methodologies and (ii) national implementation | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Daniel Friess | | |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Science needs for building and improving blue carbon standards and methodologies - Australia case study Verra new risk tool for Sea Level Rise | Dr. Catherine Lovelock Ms. Leah Glass |
| 9:30 - 10:05 | Brainstorming: Science needs to develop methods and standards for blue carbon in other ocean ecosystems | Ms. Amy Schmid |
| 10:05 - 10:25 | Tea Break | |
| 10:25 - 11:25 | Country-level governance for blue carbon Indonesia's Blue Carbon Strategy NDC development pathways in Belize, Costa Rica, Seychelles Transparency accelerator and National GHG Inventories | Dr. Dixon Gevaña Dr. Frida Sidik Mr. Tom Hickey Dr. Steve Crooks |

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| 11:25 - 12:00 | Discussion: Clarifying science needs and/or challenges for national blue carbon development and implementation | Prof. Dr. Daniel Friess |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | Lunch | |
| Session 6 - Coastal Blue Carbon Field Manual Update | | |
| Objective: Outline the steps and content necessary to update the BCI methods manual for assessing carbon stocks and emissions in blue carbon ecosystems. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Mark Beeston | | |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Blue Carbon Field Manual update | Dr. Mark Beeston |
| Session 7 - Transformative Blue Carbon Platform | | |
| Objective: Codesign a collaborative implementation platform for blue carbon to develop science-based, high-quality blue carbon projects to deliver benefits for people and sustainability of blue carbon ecosystems. | | |
| Facilitator: Prof. Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso | | |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | Framing a "Transformative Blue Carbon Platform" | Prof. Dr. Daniel Murdiyarso Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub Dr. Steve Crooks Dr. Novi Sustyo Adi |
| 15:00 - 15:30 | Tea Break | |
| Session 8 - Blue Carbon Science Updates | | |
| Objective: Share examples of new research conducted globally by Working Group members. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Frida Sidik | | |
| 15:30 - 16:40 | Introductory words and context | Dr. Frida Sidik |
| | Blue carbon assessments of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems in South and Southeast Asia | Dr. Milica Stankovic |
| | Understanding Salt Marsh Change and Carbon Impacts with Earth Observation | Anthony Campbell |
| | Contributions of mangrove conservation and restoration to climate mitigation in Indonesia | Dr. Virni Arifanti |
| | Climate-smart restoration activities | Dr. Richard Bellerby |
| | Ghost forests | Dr. Lindsey Smart |
| | Macroalgae - the next Blue Carbon ecosystem? | Dr. Albert Pesorradona |
| | Coastal Carbon Network and Atlas | Dr. Steve Canty |
| 16:40 - 17:10 | Group discussion to synthesize research priorities | Dr. Frida Sidik |
| 17:10 | Field day information and closing remarks | Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub |

| Friday, October 6 - Field Trip & IBCSWG Closed Session | | |
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| Time | Topic | Speaker(s) |
| Session 9 - Field trip to local wetland | | |
| Objective: Familiarize the IBCSWG with examples of Singapore's wetland ecosystems. | | |
| Facilitator: Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub and Prof. Dr. Dan Friess | | |
| 8:00 - 12:00 | Optional field trip | Dr. Siti Maryam Yaakub, Prof. Dr. Daniel Friess |
| 12:00 - 13:30 | Return to hotel and lunch | |
| Session 10 - IBCSWG closed session - Working Group only | | |
| Objective: Identify and prioritize next steps in the IBCSWG work and outputs | | |
| Facilitator: Drs. Emily Pidgeon, Steve Crooks, Kirsten Isensee | | |
| 13:30 - 15:00 | Synthesis of previous days | BCI partners |
| | Group discussion: Priority research topics, potential products, task groups (CC + inorganic C in BC ecosystems), WG governance & membership | Working Group members |
| 15:00 - 15:20 | Tea Break | |
| 15:20 - 16:30 | Discussion (continued) | Working Group members |
| | Group reflections and closing remarks | Co-chairs and main partners |