



WESTPAC Working Group for Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration, with an initial focus on mangroves

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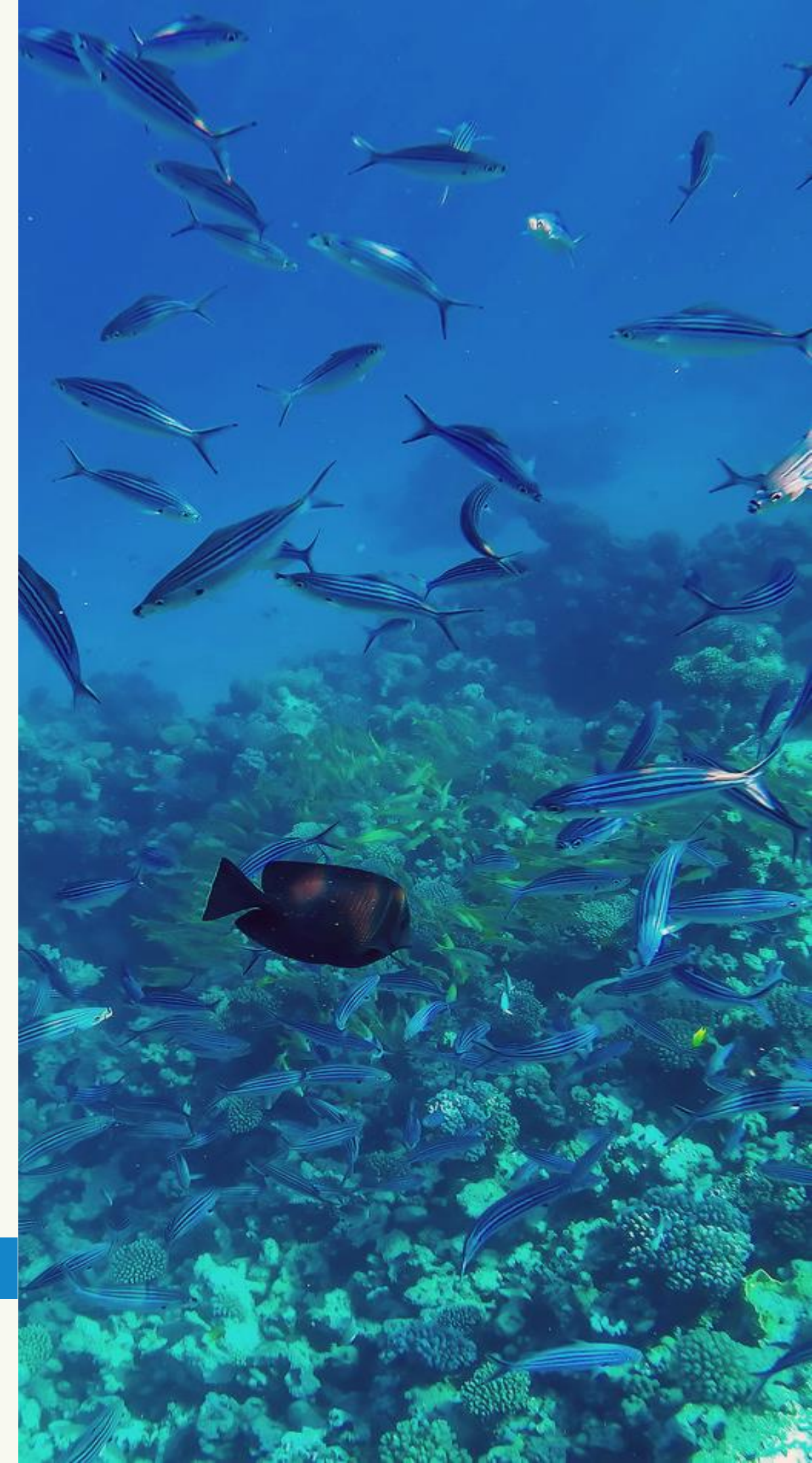
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Summary Outline



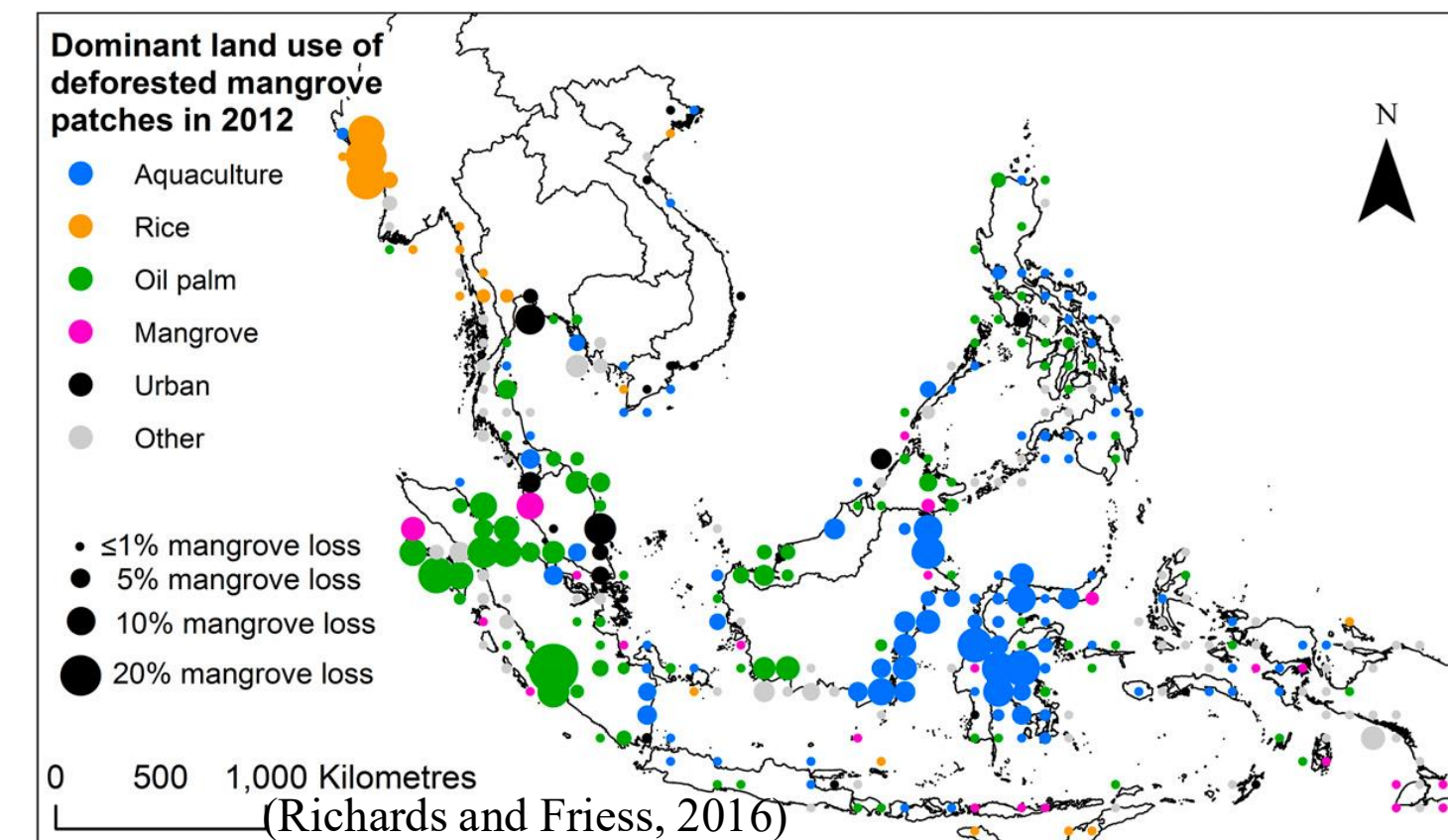
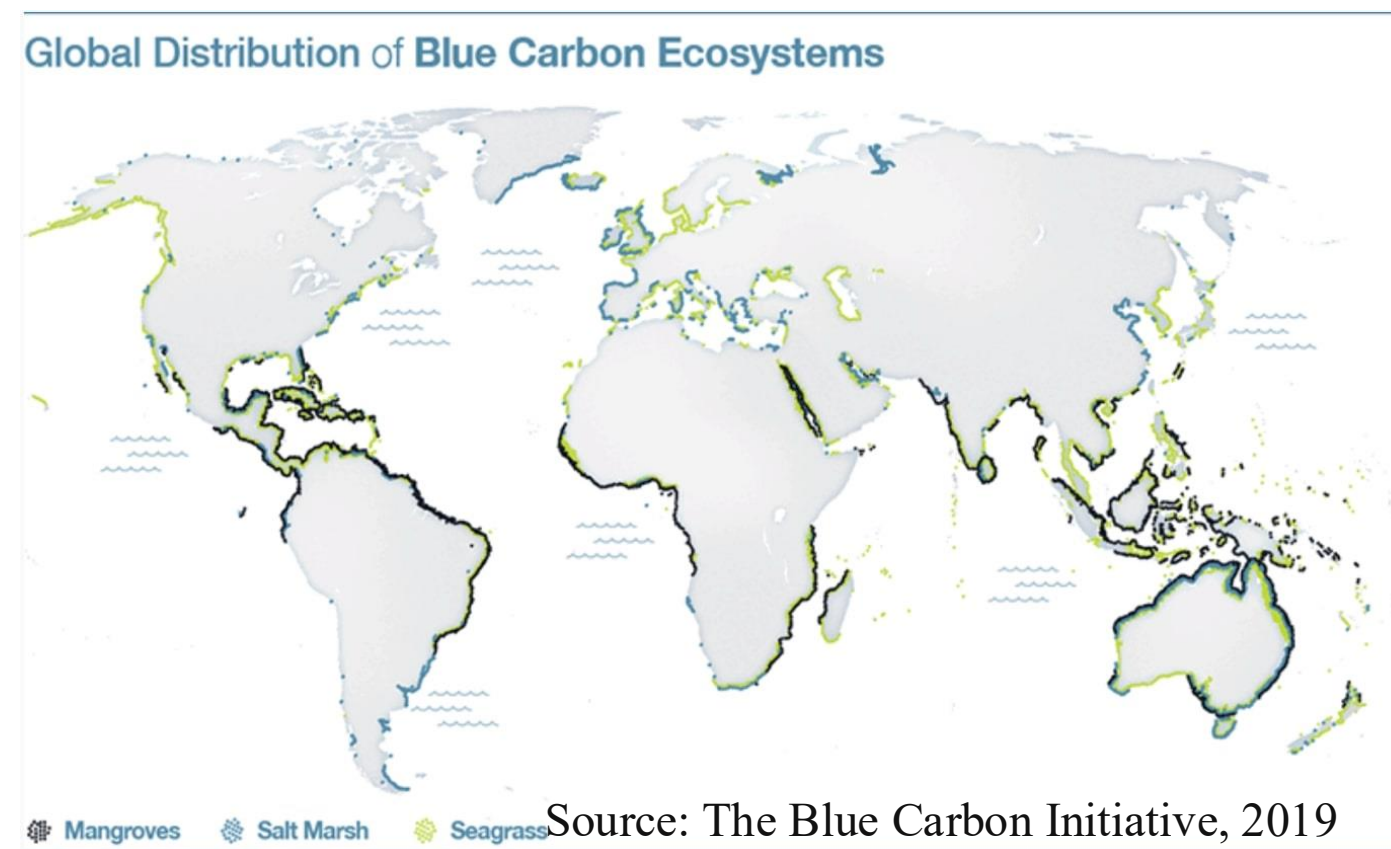
1. Justification and WG duration
2. WG objectives
3. Major activities and outputs (particular those accomplished during 2025-2026)
4. Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027
5. Biennial workplan and budget for 2028-2029, structured around the IOC HLOs
6. Strategic recommendations for future development



1. Justification and WG duration

• 1.1 Justification

- Mangroves and seagrass meadows are ecologically important ecosystem, termed as Blue Carbon ecosystems
- The Indo-Pacific region hosts Earth's largest and most diverse mangrove forests and seagrass meadows, but also exhibits the highest global rates of wetland loss



1. Justification and WG duration

- 1.1 Justification

Challenges do exist in the restoration practices

- Restoration efforts require tailored approaches based on local ecological, economic and social contexts.
- Significant knowledge gaps remain in blue carbon ecosystem restoration, particularly regarding practical methodologies and monitoring.

- 1.2 Duration

2025-2027



Species with long propagule is preferred



Planting mangrove seedlings on mudflat with an un-suitable habitat condition



2. WG objectives



The working group focus specifically on the ecological restoration of Blue Carbon ecosystems in the Western Pacific.

- To facilitate knowledge sharing and expertise exchange on restoration techniques and best practices in the WESTPAC region;
- To foster engagement with private/public sectors to advance restoration efforts;
- To explore the possibility of transitioning into a regional project at a later stage.



3. Major Activities and Outputs



3.1 Kickoff Workshop on Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration in the Western Pacific

Key Outcomes

- Strengthened regional consensus on West Pacific blue carbon collaboration.
- Successful launch of the Working Group.
- Enhanced recognition of China's restoration practices via field trip to Xiamen's Xiatanwei Mangrove Park.

Working Group's 2-Year Plan (2026-2027)

- Vision: Serve as a core hub for regional blue carbon action.
- Core Tasks:
 - Policy research & guideline development.
 - Knowledge sharing & capacity building.
 - Demonstration site promotion.
 - Fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration.



More than 150 participants from 10 countries/regions

2026 Action Plan:

1. Launch a Southeast Asia Mangrove Restoration and Livelihood Pilot Project
2. Develop a Southeast Asia Mangrove Restoration Guidebook

3. Major Activities and Outputs



3.2 Blue carbon ecosystem restoration project-Blue Partner Action Fund

Objectives:

- To support marine biodiversity conservation and coastal ecosystem restoration practices (e.g., mangroves, seagrass, coral reefs) in Southeast Asia
- Identify mangrove restoration pilot project in Southeast Asia

Progress:

- Nov 2025 – Mar 2026: Call for proposal
- Mar 2026 – Jul 2026: Background Check
- Aug 2026 – Sep 2026: Peer review
- Oct 2026: Final Defense

59 mangrove related projects from 9 countries and 31 seagrass beds and coral reef related projects from 4 countries were shortlisted for peer review.

Call for Project Proposals
Coastal Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration

In collaboration with the Blue Partnership Action Fund (BPAF), the IOC Sub-Commission for the Western Pacific (WESTPAC) invites project proposals to support efforts in marine biodiversity conservation and coastal ecosystem restoration (e.g., mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs) in Southeast Asia.

Focus Areas
The Fund supports research, conservation, and public awareness-raising initiatives with a focus on:

- Coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration (e.g., mangroves, seagrass, and coral reefs), as well as sustainable livelihoods;
- Marine biodiversity research, monitoring, and conservation;
- Relevant citizen science, public outreach, and education activities.

Eligibility
Open to legally registered NGOs, universities, research institutes, think tanks, and volunteer groups in Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

Application

- Grant size:** Up to USD 50,000 per project
- Project duration:** Up to 24 months
- Application deadline:** 15 March 2026
- Application guidelines:** Available [here](#) or by scanning the QR code
- Contacts:** bpaf@see.org.cn & iocwestpac@unesco.org

3. Major Activities and Outputs



3.3 Developing A Mangrove Restoration Guidebook

Objectives:

Create a practical, regionally-focused manual synthesizing best practices, lessons learned, and standardized approaches for mangrove restoration and sustainable community livelihood integration.

3.4 Selecting A Regional Best Practice Collection

Objectives:

Identify a regional best-practice case collection on blue carbon ecosystem restoration that links science, technology and policy, so as to promote the knowledge sharing and capacity Building.

4. Anticipated activities and outputs in 2027



Activities	Outputs
Advancing Blue Partner Action Fund	Implementation of 5 mangrove projects
Selecting Regional Best Practices	A regional best practice collection of blue carbon ecosystem restorations
Developing Mangrove Restoration Guidebook	Mangrove Restoration Guidebook for Southeast Asian Countries
Organizing Working Group Meeting	Workplan for next phase



Mangrove Restoration
Guidebook for Southeast
Asian Countries



5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029



No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1-H1	Y1-H2	Y2-H1	Y2-H2	RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 1 — Mangrove-based Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration									
Expected Result 1.1 (Sub-obj. 1.1): Regional coastal wetland ecosystem protection and restoration									
1.1.1	Demonstration project of blue carbon ecosystem restoration, with primary focus on the mangrove in Western Pacific region	One to two mangrove-focused blue carbon ecosystem restoration projects established and operated in the region.					5,000	90,000	- TIO/MNR leads the selection and technical oversight of restoration interventions; - SEE Foundation mobilizes social-welfare and private-sector funding and coordinates project implementation; - the WESTPAC Blue Carbon Ecosystem Working Group provides continuous knowledge support, technical advisory services and tailored capacity building for local partners.

5. Biennial Workplan for 2028-2029



No.	Activity / Output Description	Expected Result / Output	Y1- 1st H	Y1- 2 nd H	Y2- 1st H	Y2- 2 nd H	IOC RP Budget (USD)	XB Required (USD)	Lead Responsibility
HLO 2 — Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building for Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration									
Expected Result 2.1 (Sub-obj. 2.1+2.3): <i>Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building for Blue Carbon Ecosystem Restoration</i>									
2.1.1	Selecting a regional best-practice case collection on blue carbon ecosystem restoration that links science, technology and policy.	A WESTPAC regional best practice collection of blue carbon ecosystem restorations					0	10,000	WESTPAC, TIO-MNR and SEE Foundation jointly lead case collection, integration and editorial design, , with working group members firmly participated
2.1.2	WESTPAC blue carbon ecosystem expert group meeting to exchange knowledge, technical advances and agree regional priorities.	One in-person WESTPAC working member meeting; 2~3 visual meetings.					15,000	30,000	WESTPAC TIO-MNR and SEE Foundation jointly host the meeting; the Working Group members and other stockholders participate.
2.1.3	Developing a technical guidance on blue carbon monitoring and accouting for the ecosystem resotratons	A technical guidance on blue carbon monitoring and accouting					0	10,000	WESTPAC, TIO-MNR and SEE Foundation

6. Strategic recommendations for future development



- Enhance the support and management capabilities of the working group
- Transitioning the working group into a regional project/program at a later stage
- Strengthen the connection and cooperation with the existing Working Group for Seagrass Research in the Indo-Western Pacific
- Establish collaboration with other international initiatives/programs of blue carbon ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Secure potential funding through multiple sources, e.g., GEF-SGP



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Thank you for your attentions!

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