Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves

Towards SDG 14

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Facts about mangroves

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The benefits people derive from mangroves

Livelihoods

120 million people living near mangroves[1]

Mangrove ecosystem services

Worth US$ 33,000–57,000 per hectare per year[1] x 14 million hectares[2] = up to **US$ 800 billion** per year

Climate regulation

Carbon storage potential of mangroves is **3–5x higher than that of tropical upland forest** due to strong carbon storage in the soil[3]; CO_2 released by global mangrove loss annually could be as high as the annual emissions of Australia[4-5]

Wood

Its density makes mangrove wood a valued source of **timber and fuel**

Coastal protection

Restoring mangroves for coastal defence up to **5 times more** cost-effective than "grey infrastructure" such as breakwaters[9]

Water filtration

2–5 hectares of mangroves may treat the effluents of **1 hectare of aquaculture**[8]

Tourism

There are over **2,000** mangrove-related attractions globally, such as boat tours, boardwalks, kayaking and fishing[7]

Fisheries

More than **3000 fish species** are found in mangrove ecosystems[6]

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

WWF

IUCN

SAVE OUR MANGROVES NOW!

Sources: ❶ UNEP, 2014 • ❷ Giri et al., 2011 • ❸ In the Indo-Pacific region: Donato et al., 2011 • ❹ Up to 450 million t CO_2: Pendleton et al., 2012 • ❺ In 2015: EDGARv4.3.2., 2018 • ❻ Sheaves, 2017 • ❼ Spalding et al., 2016 ❽ Primavera et al., 2007 • ❾ In Vietnam: Narayan et al., 2016

THREATS

Drivers of mangrove loss

Mangrove loss

35% between 1980 and 2000[1] - the equivalent of losing almost 150,000 football fields annually[2], and **4 times higher** than overall global forest loss[3]

Climate change

Air temperature and rainfall regimes influence global mangrove distribution[4]; abrupt changes in sea level are a primary cause of **local and regional extinctions**[4-6]

Logging

can cause altered species composition, **fragmentation and total clearance** of mangrove forests

Agriculture

Conversion to rice paddies responsible for **88% of mangrove loss** in Myanmar[10]

Aquaculture

causes more than **half of mangrove losses globally**, mostly due to shrimp culture[9]

Pollution

Mangrove's aerial roots, through which they obtain oxygen, can easily be smothered and clogged by **sediment, solid waste and oil**[8]

Coastal development

Urbanisation drives mangrove loss and degradation; human population density in coastal regions **3 times higher than global average**[7]

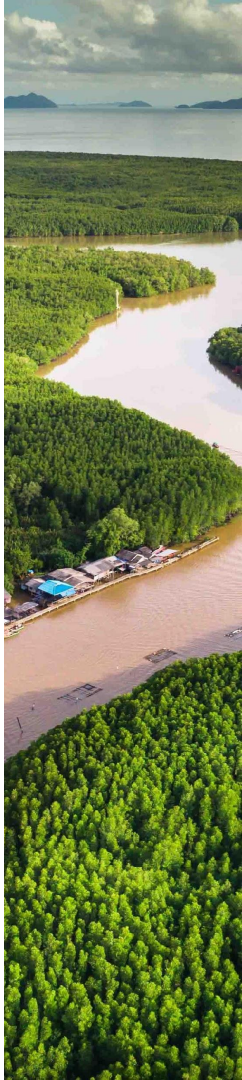
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

WWF

IUCN

SAVE OUR MANGROVES NOW!

Sources: ❶ Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005 • ❷ 0.66% or 102,000 hectares annually (2000-2005): FAO, 2007 • ❸ Spalding et al., 2010 • ❹ Alongi, 2015 • ❺ Duke et al., 2017 • ❻ Lovelock et al., 2017 • ❼ Small et al., 2003 ❽ UNEP, 2014 • ❾ Valiela et al., 2001 • ❿ Over 2000–2012: Richards & Friess, 2016



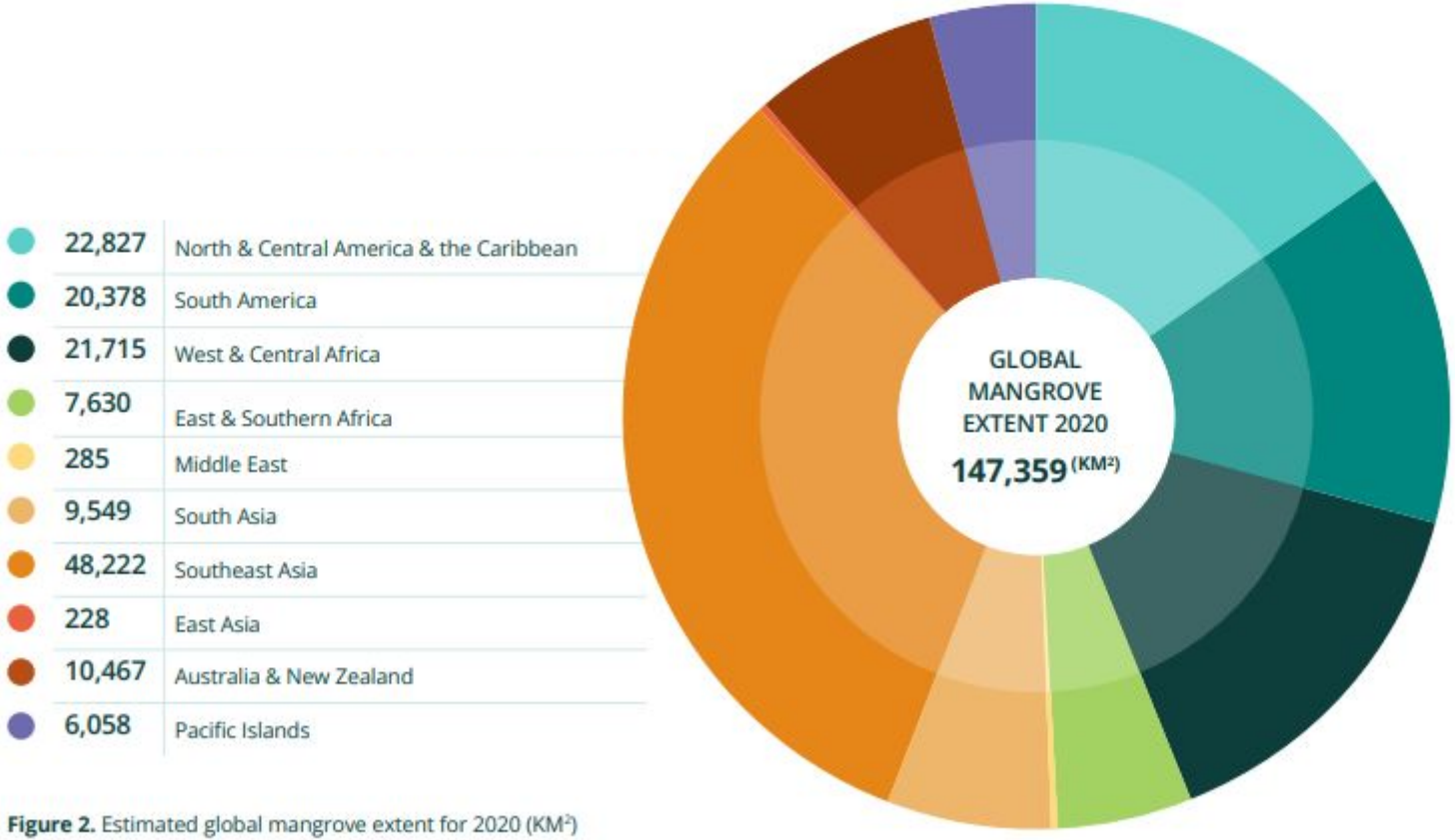
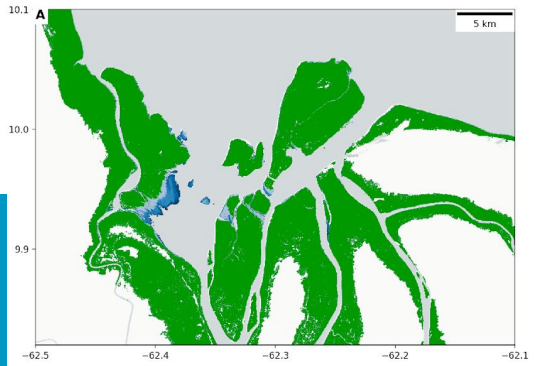


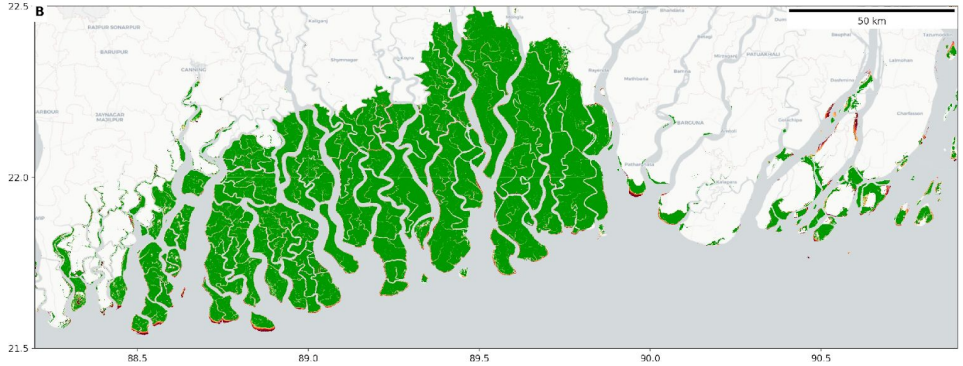
Figure 2. Estimated global mangrove extent for 2020 (KM²)

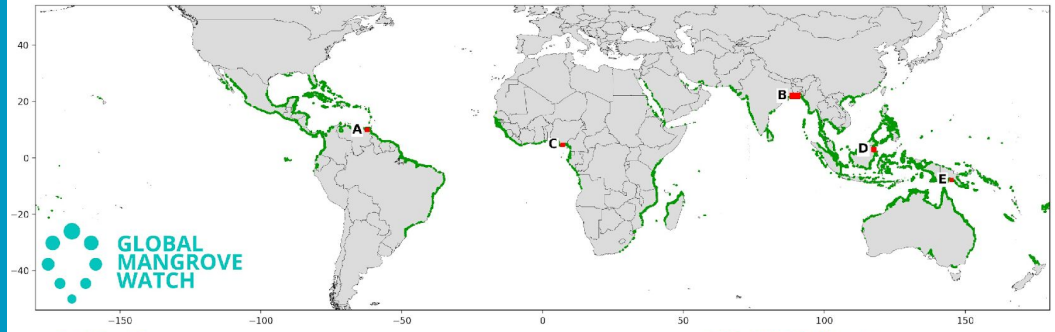
Source: The State of the World's Mangroves 2022. Global Mangrove Alliance

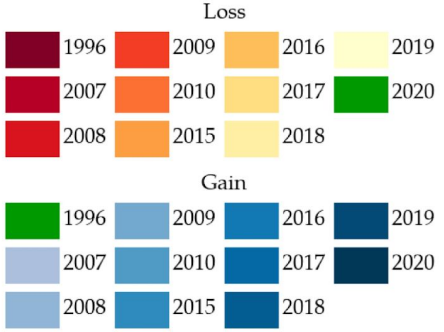
More than **1,1 million ha** of mangroves have been lost since 1996

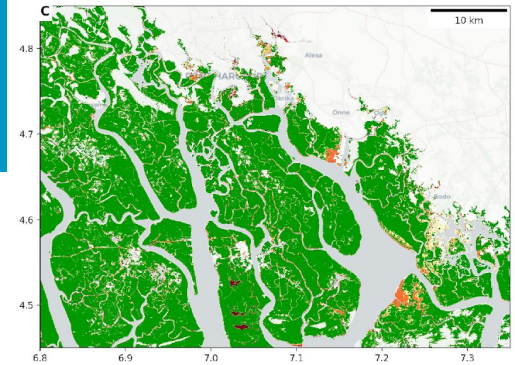
We have **14 million ha** mangroves left, *half* of their original extent

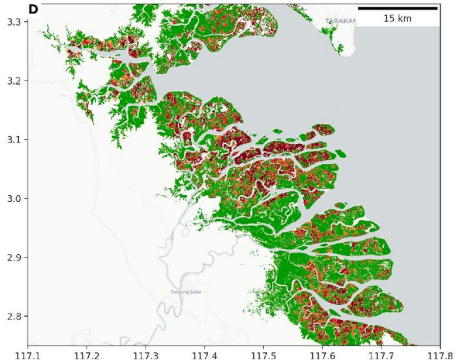


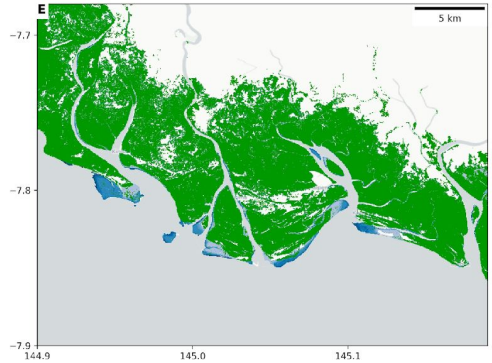












Community of Ocean Action for Mangroves

Purpose of the CoA

It aims to support its members in implementing their mangrove-related voluntary commitments (VC) by exchanging progress reports, experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

Role of Focal Points

- ✔ To follow up on the implementation of VCs.
- ✔ To promote learning and collaboration
- ✔ To facilitate collaboration and networking amongst different actors in support of SDG 14

Role of Community Members

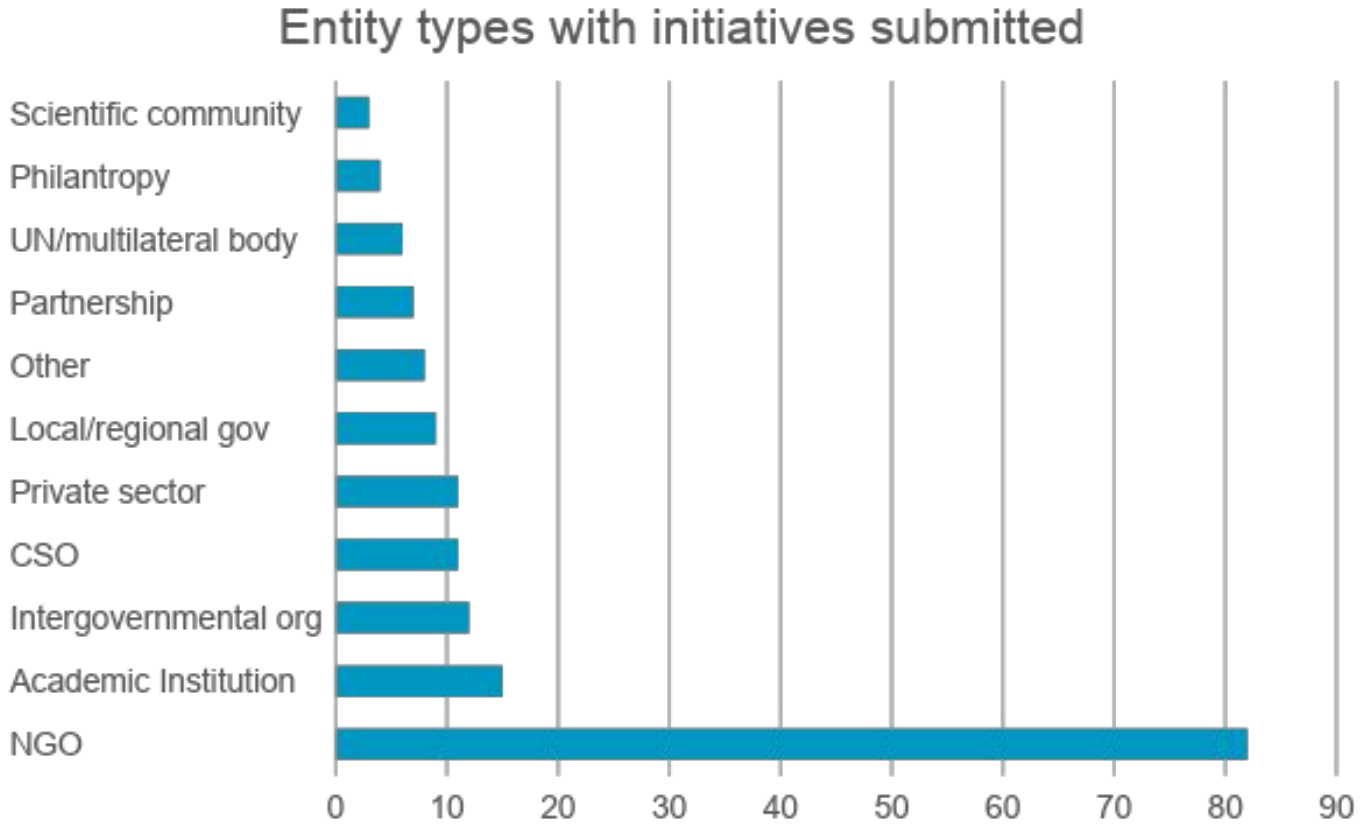
- ✔ Engage and network withing the CoA for the benefit of the group. Proactively reach out to other members to seek collaboration opportunities
- ✔ Keep the CoA updated of your progress
- ✔ Encourage others to communicate new voluntary commitments!

Stakeholder Participation

211 VCs
(to date)

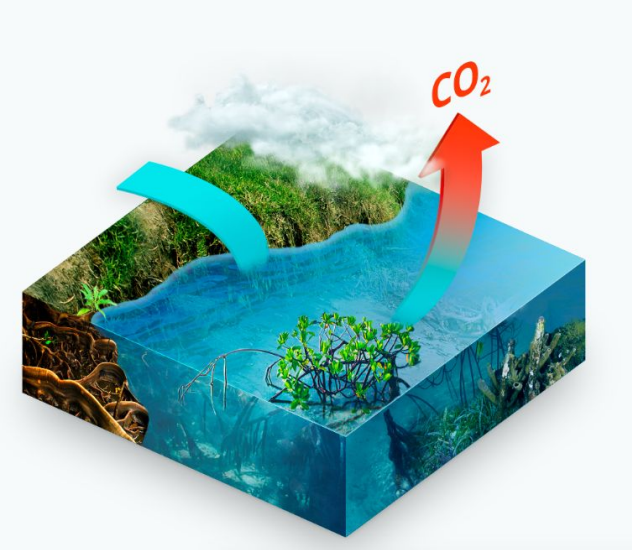
43%
of VCs from NGOs/CSOs

9%
of governments



Links to Climate Action

55% of commitments contribute towards climate action and SDG13



Mangrove Voluntary Commitments

Most common objectives

- Mangrove restoration and rehabilitation (increasing forested area)
- Mangrove protection
- Improving community livelihoods
- Empowerment through community-based stewardship, management and co-management
- Improving community and ecosystem resilience and adaptation to impacts of climate change
- Improving sustainability of fisheries
- Enhancing carbon storage (blue carbon)
- Improving knowledge base

* From analysis done in 2018

Specific Activities

- Mangrove planting
- Putting in place and increasing MPAs and PAs
- Implementing ecosystem approach, i.e. Ridge to Reef, Marine Spatial Planning
- Enhancing participation, gender issues, social justice and human rights
- Pollution reduction
- Scientific research in carbon storage, mapping, monitoring, modeling and migratory species research
- Strengthening cultural aspects of management and use of traditional knowledge
- Quantification of ecosystem services, valuation
- Influencing policy (climate change/biodiversity)
- Ecotourism and other sustainable economic activities
- Public awareness and education
- Financing

How can we as a Community help VC implementation?*

- Advocating at the international and national policy levels
- Disseminating best practices
- Sharing of mapping information and updated mangrove coastal vulnerability data
- Coordinate efforts for outreach and educational campaigns.
- Sharing knowledge of relevant similar commitments within the mangrove community by providing an overview of the mangrove VCs by region.
- Find companies interested in investing

* From a survey done to CoA members in 2018

Practical challenges to realize the purpose of the CoA

- Information challenges: lack of access to disaggregated data online (geographies, geospatial data, extent in hectares), which would allow for data analysis and comparability.
- Reporting challenges: noticeable low rate of reporting from existing VCs.
- Follow-up challenges: emailing list of VCs not available to focal points
- Coordination challenges: some VCs can be assigned to several CoAs which requires strengthened coordination

The CoAs should be considered a mechanism to facilitate the success of the UN Ocean Conference in 2025 BUT they didn't have visibility in the CSOs consultations.

Featured initiatives/VCs

Initiative *(&Partnership):*

Global Mangrove Alliance and Mangrove Breakthrough

GLOBAL MANGROVE ALLIANCE

MANGROVE BREAKTHROUGH

IUCN Ramsar

Goals

Secure the future of over 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030, through collective action to:

GOAL 1
Halt loss

GOAL 2
Restore half

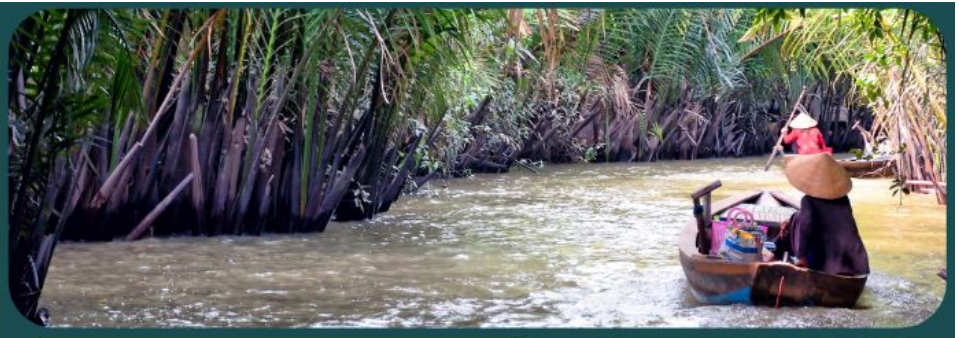
GOAL 3
Double protection

GOAL 4
Sustainable finance

Building into the Adaptation Agenda

The UN Climate Change High-Level Champions and the Marrakesh Partnership are spearheading the race to a cleaner, safer, healthier and more resilient world

The Mangrove Breakthrough is part of the **Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda**, a set of actionable targets and solutions, which enable the Race to Resilience goal of making 4 billion vulnerable people more resilient by 2030.



RACE TO RESILIENCE

RACE TO ZERO

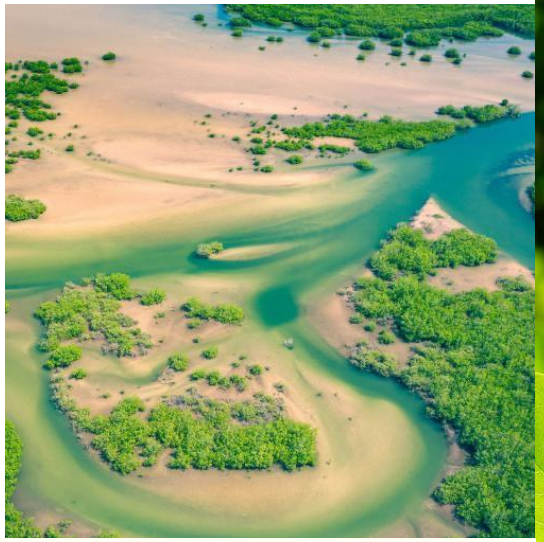
Directly supports:

- Ecosystem Conservation and Restoration Goals under the Global Biodiversity Framework
- NDC's and the targets under the Paris Agreement
- Ramsar resolutions
- 30x30 targets
- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Initiative:

Great Blue Wall

The Great Blue Wall, launched at the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, is a Western Indian Ocean led, Africa driven roadmap to achieve a nature positive world by 2030.



Biodiversity

Effectively and Equitably protect **2 millions km2** in the WIO by establishing large-scale Nature and People positive Seascapes.

Climate

Conserve and restore **2 millions ha** of critical blue ecosystems to achieve net-gain compared to 2020 and sequester **100M tons of CO2**.

Economy

Unlock the development of a regenerative blue economy that benefits directly **70M people** in coastal communities while also delivering conservation outcomes

IUCN

Initiative:

Save our Mangroves Now!

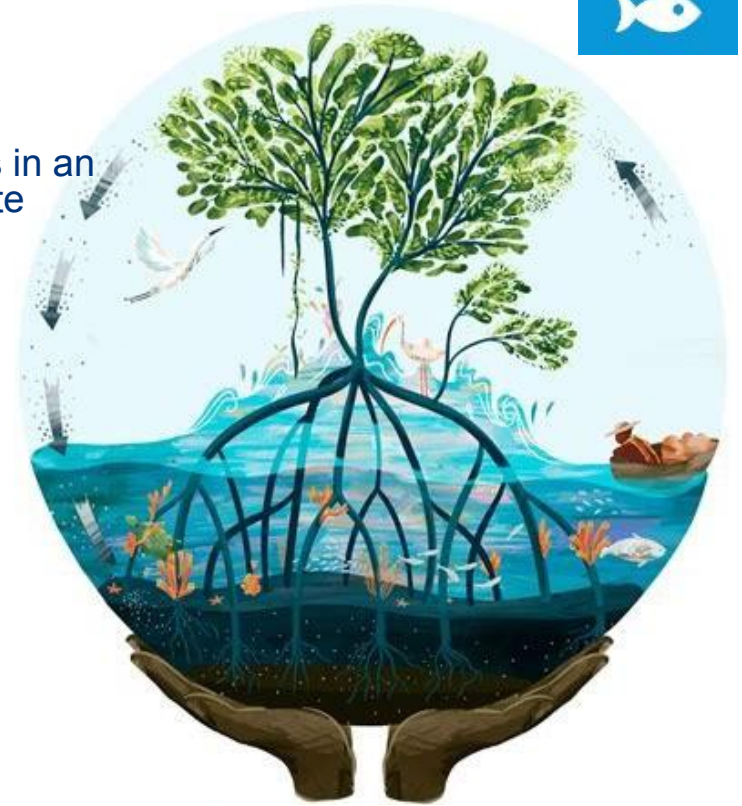
2016 –2025 9.1 million EUR

Working in partnership to reverse the decline of mangrove habitats in an effort to restore biodiversity, protect livelihoods, and address climate change

- Raising awareness and capacity of political decision makers
- Embedding ambitious goals in political agendas
- Building and accelerating partnerships
- Enhancing and exchanging knowledge and solutions
- Increasing relevance of mangrove/NbS investment

Connecting:

- international level
- regional cooperation in the Western Indian Ocean
- national work in Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania



Initiative:

Mangroves for the Future

Policy relevant: Supporting national legal and policy frameworks

People centered: Assisting coastal communities in livelihood development

Partnership based: Seeking to meet the needs of all partners

Investment orientated: Recognizing coastal ecosystems as valuable natural infrastructure

- 3 major donors (Sida, Norad, Danida)
- 11 member countries
- 150+ institutional partners
- 230+ members in the 11 national coordinating bodies
- 500+ small, medium and large projects funded

Initiative:

Regenerative seascapes for people, climate, and nature

Improved effectiveness and equitable conservation of locally managed marine areas, including key coastal and marine ecosystems, for nature and people

Enhanced adoption of gender responsive NbS by local actors for effective management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources

Increasing women's economic empowerment in NbS value chains for climate change adaptation

- CAD 30 million
- March 2023-March 2026
- Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Comoros and Madagascar

Partnership:

IUCN Members and IUCN Mangroves Specialist Group

NATIONAL NGO | China
China Mangrove Conservation Network (legal name: Putian Green Sprout Coastal Wetlands Research Center)

NATIONAL NGO |
United States of America
Mangrove Action Project

NATIONAL NGO | China
Shenzhen Mangrove Wetlands Conservation Foundation

1400+ IUCN Members (States, National and Subnational Governments, Int'l and National NGOs, and IP organizations)

3 Members dedicated to mangroves, 5 Members focusing on coasts, and 40+ Members specialized in seas and oceans

- 30+ experts on the MSG, chaired by Prof. Shing Yip (Joe) LEE from the Chinese University of Hong Kong
- MSG 2015 Annual Meeting held in Xiamen

What is still needed to drive a joint global mangrove agenda?

- Connect initiatives and agree on complementary roles and mandates
- Embed shared ambitions for mangroves in Ramsar, CBD and UNFCCC conventions and the SDGs
- Develop joint strategies and plans;
- Build on existing knowledge and experience
- Ensure a science-based approach and learn from the past; steer away from driving large-scale tree-planting efforts
- Connect political momentum to financial pledges and build a pipeline of investible projects on the ground
- **Commit to a shared global goal for mangroves**

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