

# The Blue Carbon Cost Tool

## A decision-support tool for determining blue carbon market feasibility.

Blue carbon ecosystems - mangrove, salt marsh, and seagrass - are invaluable allies in our fight against climate change, storing carbon at rates surpassing those of terrestrial forests. These ecosystems not only act as significant carbon sinks but also bolster water quality, biodiversity, and coastal resilience.

Yet, they face significant threats from human activities, underscoring the urgency of conservation and restoration initiatives. These efforts can be greatly accelerated by carbon finance, although challenges like scarce data and complex project logistics pose barriers to scaling these solutions to a level that impacts global climate change.

The Blue Carbon Cost Tool (BCCT) contributes to the growing evidence base on blue carbon climate mitigation, investment requirements, and return potential. Users gain a better understanding of the cost to developing blue carbon market projects and their potential to generate carbon revenue.



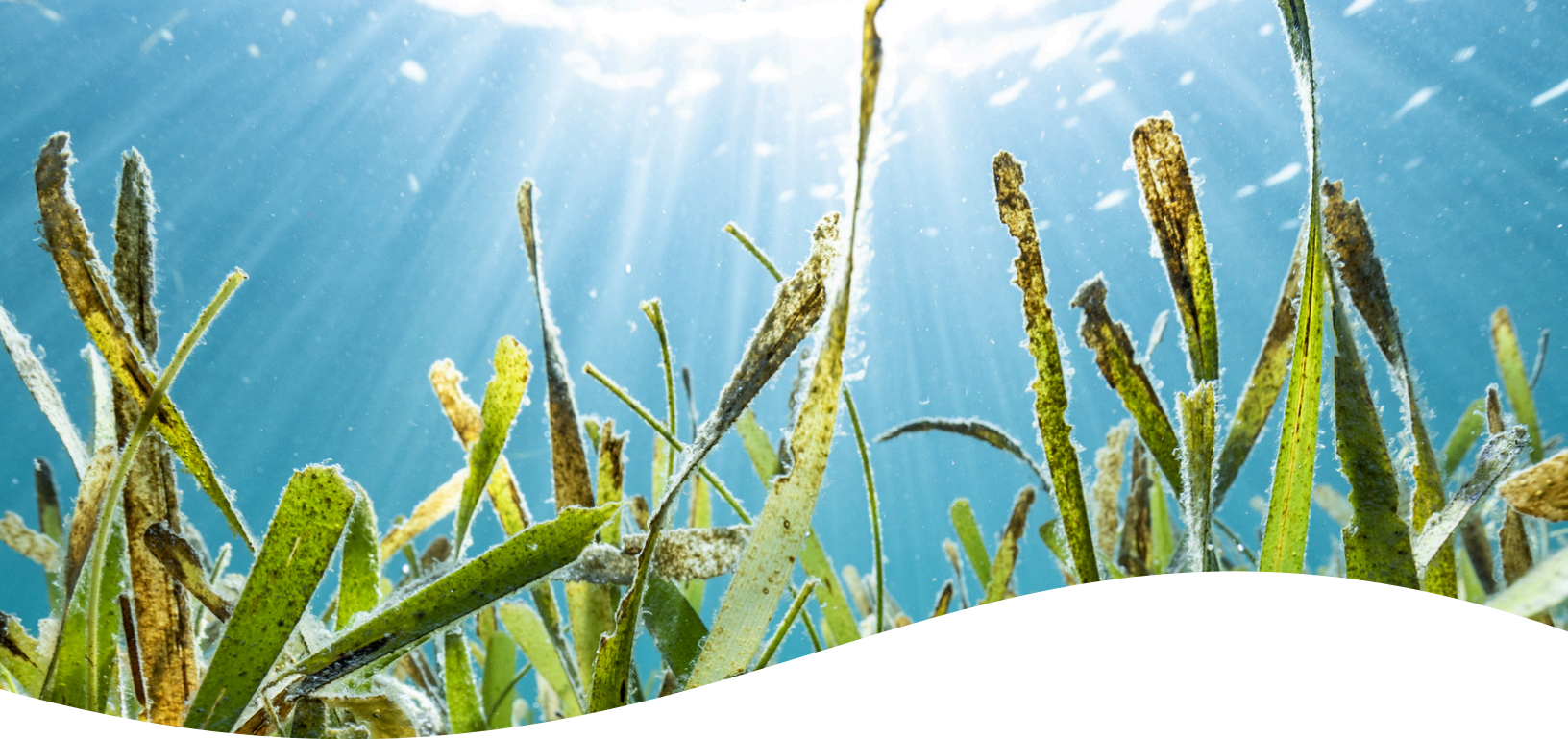
Mangroves



Salt Marshes



Seagrass



# Centralizing Data for Smarter Blue Carbon Investments

The Blue Carbon Cost Tool (BCCT), developed by The Nature Conservancy and partners, centralizes critical data to assess the feasibility of blue carbon projects. It offers insights into the costs and potential revenues from carbon credits, alongside other vital metrics such as legal and social feasibility, which are crucial for project success. This tool is designed for a broad audience including project developers, investors, researchers, government bodies, and regulatory agencies. It allows stakeholders to evaluate and prioritize projects, supports grant applications and academic studies, and enhances overall understanding of blue carbon markets.

To date, the BCCT has revealed considerable variability in project costs per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, influenced by factors such as geography, ecosystem type, and project scale. This variation highlights the importance of obtaining localized data to refine cost predictions and the need for higher price tolerance for blue carbon offsets. As we move forward, securing widespread support and utilization of the BCCT will be critical.

This innovative tool can support driving meaningful change in blue carbon conservation and restoration, aligning financial investment with substantial environmental returns. This initiative not only offers a path toward climate resilience but also invites philanthropic partners to join in a transformative effort that promises both ecological and economic benefits.

# Investing in Impact

We envision addressing the following near-term needs through philanthropic funding.



## Fully Integrated Co-benefits

We know that the conservation and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems provide benefits that extend beyond climate mitigation. We intend to refine our model to more comprehensively include those benefits into our tool, including benefits such as coastal resilience, biodiversity enhancement, and improved water quality. Additionally, we plan to evaluate and include economic, social and livelihood benefits. By capturing the full range of benefits, our tool will provide a holistic view of impacts and advantages of blue carbon projects, supporting better strategic decisions for environmental sustainability and community prosperity.



## Improved Data Management and Visualization

Our goal is to evolve our current tool into an accessible, transparent data management system and visualization platform. This platform will allow stakeholders to not only visualize and interpret cost data, but also to contribute their own information. It is critical to have user-friendly tools that can be updated in near-real time as new data comes in so our analyses remain accurate and relevant.



## Increased Data Availability and Geographic Scope

We are committed to enhancing the precision and reach of our model by integrating the latest data as it becomes available. Our updates will include more detailed estimates of greenhouse gas emission reductions and adding in gases like methane and nitrous oxide to our analysis. Presently, our model covers nine countries, but we aim to add more countries by incorporating additional data from peer-reviewed studies and direct contributions from stakeholders. To facilitate this, we plan to develop a user-friendly data management platform that encourages stakeholder participation while safeguarding sensitive and confidential data.

# BCCT Features & Capabilities

