



## **Webinar : International policy mechanisms to support blue forest protection and restoration**

11 April 2022

0900 South Africa / 1100 Mauritius / 1500 Perth

### Draft Concept Note

#### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Protection and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and tidal marshes), the “blue forests” and “blue meadows” that occur along our coasts, offer nature-based solutions to absorb and sequester atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, support fisheries, reduce risks associated with floods and storms, and protect biodiversity. They therefore provide an opportunity to address multiple challenges in a single portfolio of actions. Despite the benefits they provide, blue forests and meadows have been extensively cleared, fragmented or degraded. Protecting and restoring them is key to maintaining (or returning) their capacity to offer solutions. Multiple international frameworks offer context and opportunities to build national policies, but navigating them can sometimes be difficult. This webinar is intended to introduce the most relevant international policy frameworks, and provide detail on some of the policy mechanisms that are particularly relevant for efforts towards using blue forests as solutions for climate change mitigation.

#### **B. PROPOSAL**

IORA is committed to the protection and conservation of coastal blue carbon ecosystems through the IORA Indian Ocean Blue Carbon Hub, which aims to build knowledge and capacity to protect and restore them. The International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC) is a global network of more than 50 governments, non-governmental organisations, intergovernmental organisations and research institutions from around the world that share a vision for all global blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, tidal marshes and seagrasses) to be protected, sustainably managed or restored – contributing to climate change mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, ocean economies and livelihoods of coastal communities.

It is proposed to have speakers for the following topics:

1. *Blue Carbon in the international arena: overview by the International Partnership for Blue Carbon*  
Chenae Neilson, IPBC Coordinator [introducing the IPBC and the BCAF]  
Elisabetta Bonotto, IPBC Coordinator Support Team [introducing the overview report on international frameworks]
2. *Nationally-determined contributions under the Paris Agreement*

Lisa Schindler-Murray, Rare

3. *Blue carbon in greenhouse gas inventories*  
Cath Lovelock, University of Queensland

### **C. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The aim of the webinar is to share knowledge about international policies that can be harnessed to support blue carbon initiatives in IORA. The specific objectives are to:

1. Discuss opportunities and challenges arising from international policy frameworks;
2. Share information on the current initiatives of the IORA Blue Carbon Hub and the International Partnership for Blue Carbon;
3. Raise awareness of the broad benefits provided by the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.

### **D. HOST**

The webinar will be hosted by the IORA Blue Carbon Hub (CSIRO), in collaboration with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon. The webinar is scheduled for at 0700 hrs (GMT) and will be moderated by Mat Vanderklift, Director of the IORA Blue Carbon Hub.

A registration link will be provided in a flyer that will shortly be released to advertise the event.

### **E. IMPLEMENTATION**

- Participation will be open to all IORA Member States and IPBC Partners and relevant stakeholders.
- The logistical arrangements for the webinar will be prepared by the IORA Blue Carbon Hub
- The IPBC will assist the Hub with the arrangements as required.
- The format of the one and half hour webinar will be as follows:
  - o Presentation by speakers (maximum 60 minutes)
  - o Moderated session of questions and answers (30 minutes)