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Blue Forests News  
[www.gefbeforests.org](http://www.gefbeforests.org)

Fall 2016

The **Blue Forests News** reaches out to share information with all those involved and/or interested in blue forests and blue carbon, and to provide updates on the [UNEP/ GEB Blue Forests Project](#) - a global initiative focused on harnessing the values of coastal and marine carbon and ecosystem services for improved ecosystem management and climate resilient communities.



[Click image for enlarged version](#)

### **Protecting mangroves for climate change, Kenya's fishermen net cash - and more fish**

Benefits from Mikoko Pamoja, the world's first successful community-based, payments for mangrove carbon project in

Gazi Bay, have been profiled in recent press. This includes cash from the selling of carbon credits financing forest protection and restoration and to community-chosen projects such as textbooks bought for local pupils and piped water provided local villages. The project contributes to the baseline for the Blue Forests Project and is being replicated and up-scaled with GEF funds down the coast in Vanga Bay.



To view the story on the Thompson Reuters Foundation click the following [Link](#).

## The Tahiry Honko story - A Madagascar community mangrove project

Learn how Madagascar's first mangrove carbon project is catalysing locally-led mangrove management in a short movie produced by Blue Ventures with support from the GEF and others. The feature is titled "Tahiry Honko - Community Mangrove Carbon Project" and was awarded first prize at the film festival of the 8th GEF International Waters Conference held in May 2016 in Sri Lanka. The film showcases community management and gender mainstreaming activities. To view film, click on [Here](#), or on the image.



## Blue Forests Project photo album

Are you wondering about how field work for Blue Forests look like? Or are you looking for mangrove pictures to include in your next presentation? Then check out our [Blue Forests Photo Album](#) on Flickr. All pictures are posted under a non-commercial licence, which means that everybody is welcome to use copies of the pictures for non-commercial purposes, when giving appropriate credit.



## Blue Forests at the GEF

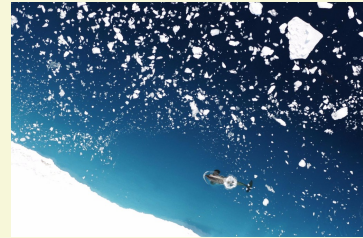
The 51st meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council convened in Washington, DC from 25-27 October 2016 at World Bank headquarters. A number of new projects were approved at the meeting including two with a 'blue forests' related focus:

The World Bank/ GEF project, [Mekong Delta Integrated Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods](#), will strengthen institutional coordination and planning across the Mekong Delta, and improve resilience of people's livelihoods and assets to climate change in selected vulnerable sub-regions. This is a multi-focal area project that includes focus on climate change mitigation and mangrove ecosystems.

The UNDP/ GEF project, [Sustainable Financing of Papua New Guinea's Protected Area Network](#), will help improve the management effectiveness of PNG's protected areas (PAs) as a key component of that country's biodiversity conservation and climate resilience strategies. This project proposes to develop a diversified mix of conventional and innovative funding sources, including payments for ecosystem services, and includes a focus on mangrove ecosystems.

## Blue carbon moving from the coast to the ocean

A precedent setting multinational endorsement of marine vertebrate carbon services occurred at last week's meeting of the International Whaling Commission. Thirty-six nations adopted a resolution which recognizes the role of whales as ecosystem engineers in helping to address the global climate challenge. To find out more, click the following [Link](#).



## Coastal blue carbon - A win for the climate and the people?

A Yale Environment 360 review of successes and challenges blue carbon project, using the Senegal case study. Read more [Here](#).



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## Recent events

The Policy and Ecosystem Services Workshops of the Blue Forests Project convened in Berlin on July 25-27 to discuss and share lessons learned regarding implementation of blue carbon policy and management practices at the national level, especially from the five blue forests small-scale interventions. The workshop aimed to advise project interventions on blue forests carbon ecosystem service methods and assessments to support the effective implementation of the country activities. A workshop report will be made available on the GEF Blue Forests website.

## Upcoming events

UNFCCC COP22: Blue carbon will be featured at a number of side events at the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC.

Dates: 7-18 November 2016, Location: Marrakech, Morocco.

### Blue carbon related events include the following:

9 NOV, Wednesday, 10:30 - 12:00, EU Pavilion - Changing oceans and seas around the world: implications for mitigation & adaptation.

9 NOV, Wednesday, 13:15 - 14:45, Blue Zone, Mediterranean Room - SDG14: Oceans: Science based solutions for achieving adaptation and mitigation goals.

10 NOV, Thursday, 10:00 - 12:30, Blue Zone, UNESCO Pavilion - Restoring Coastal Wetlands for Climate Change Mitigation.

10 NOV, Thursday, 18:30 - 20:00, Blue Zone, Room Bering 150 - Building Resilience and Adaptations Measures with Co-Mitigation Benefits in Red Sea and Arabian Gulf.

11 NOV, Friday, 09:00 - 10:30, Green Zone, Room Tensift - Ocean and Climate: Deep Sea and Blue Finance.

11 NOV, Friday, 09:00 - 12:30, Green Zone - The Ocean & Climate Forum. Register [Here](#).

11 NOV, Friday, 11:30 - 13:00, Blue Zone, Mediterranean Room 300 - Building Resilience for Climate Change Adaptation in Archipelagic and Small Island Developing States. More information [Here](#).

12 NOV, Saturday, 10:30 - 12:00, Blue Zone, European Union Pavilion, Area D, Room Brussels - Wetlands and Peat - Understanding the Potential. More information [Here](#).

12 NOV, Saturday, 13:15 - 14:45, Blue Zone, Room Arabian 150 - Incorporating Blue Carbon into Nationally Determined Contributions Under the Paris Agreement.

14 NOV, Monday, 16:00 - 17:00 - Gulf Cooperation Council Pavilion, Blue Zone (Accreditation required) - International Partnership on Blue Carbon, high-level event.

15 NOV, Tuesday, 16:10 - 17:30, Indonesian Pavilion - Indonesian Blue Carbon Dialogue.

Information will be posted and updated on the [News-Blog](#) of Blue Forests Project. Please check there for updates and [Contact Us](#) with any additional information.

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*Produced by GRID-Arendal*

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