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## **Blue carbon in Australia**

**Key words:** Blue carbon, mangrove, climate change mitigation

**Abstract:**

Mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and tidal marshes provide a wide range of ecosystem services, one of which is the protection and accumulation of large stocks of carbon within their soils. "Blue carbon" describes a range of strategies to conserve and restore these ecosystems in order to prevent and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to mitigation of climate change. Australia has conducted a nationwide assessment of blue carbon resources and has examined risks to blue carbon in order to establish the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through protection, improved management and restoration of mangroves, seagrasses and tidal marshes. Despite a wide range of challenges to adopting blue carbon strategies in Australia there are significant opportunities to concurrently achieve climate change mitigation as well as other ecosystem services through restoration and improved management of blue carbon ecosystems.