



Blue Carbon in EU Climate Policy

Tuesday 27 November 2018

09:00-10:30

European Parliament, Room ASP 3H1, Brussels

Co-chaired by:

Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

Chair of the “Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” Working Group
of the European Parliament Intergroup on
“Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development”

and

Maria Spyraiki MEP

With the milestone of the 2015 Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) behind us, countries now need to focus on its implementation and overall commitments to reduce emissions and enhance adaptation programs.

Blue Carbon, the carbon absorbed and stored by marine and coastal ecosystems such as tidal marshes and seagrasses from European Seas, represents a large natural carbon sink. Coastal and marine ecosystems and their important role as carbon sinks are, re-emphasized in the Paris Agreement, highlighting the need to optimize management measures to conserve and improve the conservation status of these habitats that act as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, where adequate. Their sink capacity can contribute to achieving countries NDCs in terms of mitigation, as well as support relevant adaptation measures. Some coastal management projects also show potential for selling carbon credits via the voluntary carbon market, as well as attracting other innovative financing mechanisms. They also represent a link between two of the key environmental challenges of our time: climate change and biodiversity loss.

This event aims to provide a forum for discussing with EU Member States and stakeholders on the role of these coastal and marine ecosystems for climate mitigation and adaptation. The results from the LIFE project BlueNatura will be presented, and provide a base for the discussion. Experts will present an overview on the knowledge of Blue carbon ecosystems in Europe and showcase current initiatives for avoiding and reduction CO₂ emissions, especially in the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions, as well as experiences of countries that have already incorporated blue carbon into National Green House gas Inventories. A final roundtable discussion will examine priorities, potential gaps and opportunities to support the integration of Blue carbon into European policies.



DRAFT AGENDA

- 09:00-09:05** Welcome by **Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP**
- 09:05-09:10** Introduction by **Maria Spyraiki MEP**
- 09:10-10:25** **Panel debate: Blue Carbon in the EU Climate Policy**
Moderator: **Alberto Arroyo Schnell**, IUCN European Regional Office
- *A context for the Blue Carbon ecosystems in the EU: Initial results coming from the project LIFE Blue Natura*
Miguel Ángel Mateo Mínguez, CSIC, Spain
 - *The International dimension*
Tobias Salathé, RAMSAR
 - *The EU policy framework for Blue Carbon*
Maris Stulgis, DG MARE, European Commission
 - *NGOs' views*
Herbert Lust, Conservation International
- Questions and discussion with the audience**
- 10:25-10:30** Concluding remarks:
Alberto Arroyo Schnell, IUCN European Regional Office
Ricardo Serrão Santos MEP

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