

### THE MANGROVE RESTORATION POTENTIAL MAP

The Mangrove Restoration Potential Map is a unique interactive tool developed to explore potential mangrove restoration areas worldwide and model the potential benefits associated with such restoration. The mapping tool was developed by The Nature Conservancy and IUCN, in collaboration with the University of Cambridge, and can be found on [maps.oceanwealth.org/mangrove-restoration](https://maps.oceanwealth.org/mangrove-restoration)



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## A New Tool Supporting Implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Some 290 Ramsar Sites include mangrove forests. The Mangrove Restoration Potential Map allows Ramsar signatories to identify restoration potential within designated sites. It can also support the identification of valuable areas for restoration in future designations.

### The Case for Mangrove Restoration

Healthy mangroves are a precious, almost priceless resource, and yet over the past 50 years the world has witnessed staggering levels of mangrove loss and degradation. Mangroves can, quite literally save lives during storms, but losing mangroves also means losing livelihoods, food security, valuable

timber, coastal defence and one of the most efficient and important carbon stores on the planet.

There are growing efforts to protect some of the world's remaining mangroves and to curb the economically and socially illogical destruction of a key natural asset. Indeed, the losses are such that mangrove



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restoration is increasingly seen as a critical component of both conservation and shrewd coastal management – a genuine ‘win-win’ opportunity.

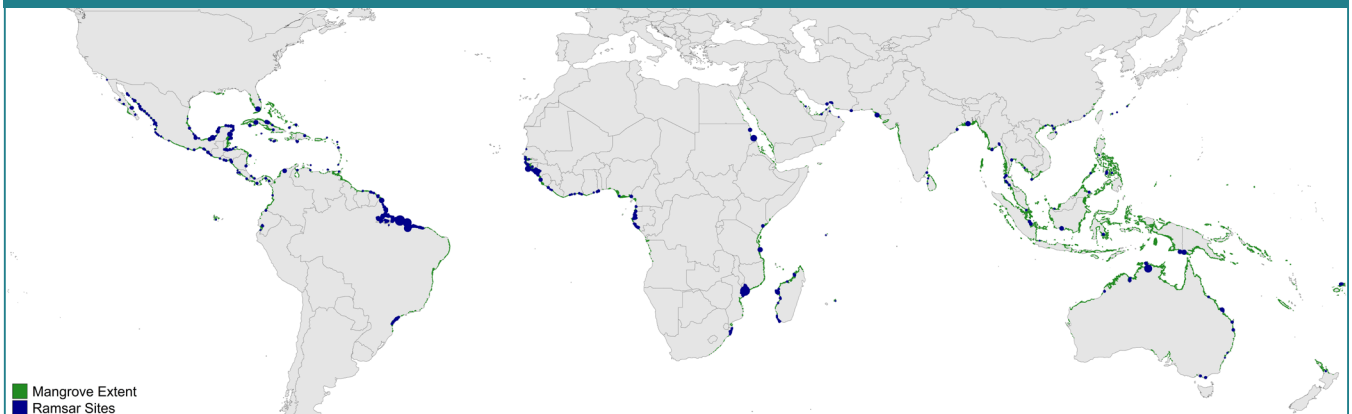
Mangrove restoration can be efficient, cost-effective and achievable. Methods have been greatly refined and, when properly applied, rarely fail. Successful restoration can support local communities, help countries to achieve targets for conservation and carbon emissions, and even help in the urgent fight to slow climate change.

## The Mangrove Restoration Potential Map and the Ramsar Convention

The mission of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.”

The Mangrove Restoration Potential Map (MRP Map) is a valuable tool that will help Ramsar member states achieve these

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objectives. Its development presents a remarkable advance in understanding, quantifying and mapping restoration potential. Its users can see the areas where mangroves have the potential to be restored, while identifying the ecosystem services that could be obtained from such restoration.

An estimated 290 Ramsar Sites include mangrove forests (see map bottom left), and while many are likely to contain healthy mangroves, some have been degraded, and other sites may include former mangrove areas where restoration could support considerable biodiversity and bring social benefits. The MRP Map allows Ramsar signatories to identify restoration potential within designated Sites, but can also support wider restoration efforts, and the possible inclusion of other restorable mangrove areas in future designations.

### Supporting Implementation Processes

At COP13 (2018) Parties will discuss various draft resolutions. The MRP Map can help

support Parties' implementation processes in the following ways.

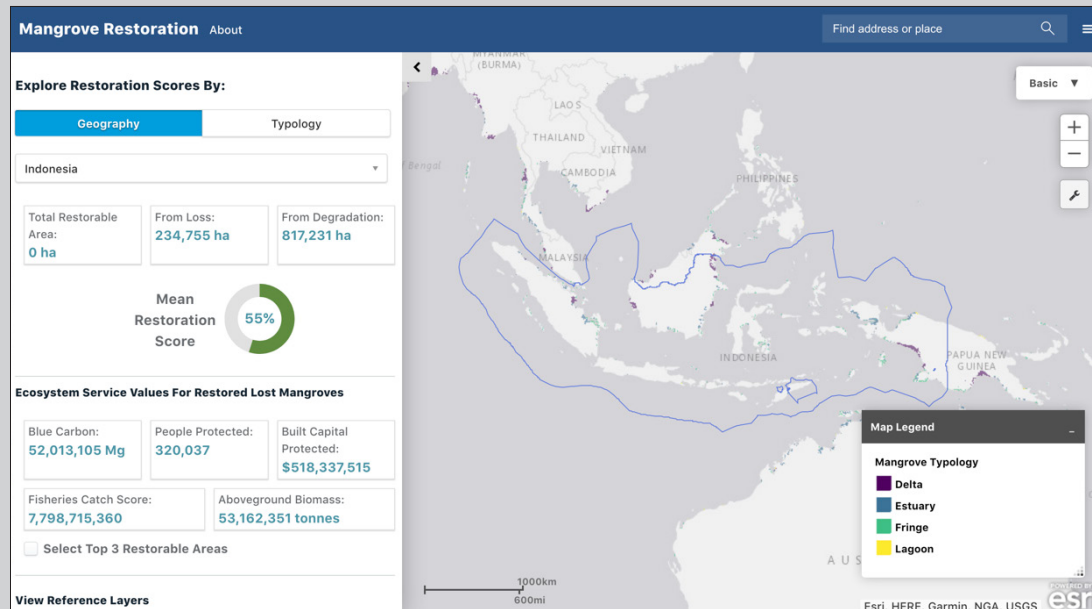
- 18.12 Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021:
  - o The MRP Map can help the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) develop scientific guidance and technical methodologies (e.g. national wetland inventories), very specifically on Target 12: "Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation".
- 18.15 Draft resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems:
  - o The MRP Map can guide countries in "prioritizing coastal blue carbon ecosystems for conservation and



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restoration that includes inter alia: climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits, the range of other potential ecosystem benefits and services and assessment of costs relative to benefits”.

- 18.17 Draft resolution on sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands:
  - o The MRP Map can guide the STRP in its development of “technical guidelines for the design of urban and peri-urban Ramsar Sites using climate scenario, climate modelling, and techniques for analysis of climate change, as well as performing functional assessments of wetlands using hydrogeomorphic methods”.
- 18.18 Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services:
  - o The MRP Map can inform the “rapid
- assessment of wetland ecosystem services”.
- 18.21 Draft resolution on agriculture in wetland:
  - o The MRP Map can help Parties and the STRP as guidance on “identifying wetlands suitable for restoration to provide ecosystem services, including the provisioning services, for the benefit of people and nature”.
- 18.22 Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats:
  - o The MRP Map can guide Parties in their endeavours to engage and develop appropriate programmes to foster restoration of coastal wetlands activities.



**Explore the Mangrove Restoration Potential Map at**  
[maps.oceanwealth.org/mangrove-restoration](https://maps.oceanwealth.org/mangrove-restoration)

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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Dorothee Herr | Manager, IUCN's Oceans and Climate Change programme |** [Dorothee.HERR@iucn.org](mailto:Dorothee.HERR@iucn.org)

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