



Earth Observations of Blue Carbon Ecosystems

Part 2: Mapping Salt Marsh and Seagrass with Earth Observations

Brock Blevins (NASA ARSET), Kelly Luis (NASA JPL), Anthony Campbell (NASA GSFC), Cheryl Doughty (NASA JPL)

December 5, 2024

Training Outline



Part 2 Part 1 Mapping Salt Marsh **Overview of Blue** and Seagrass with Carbon Ecosystems & Mapping Earth Observations Mangrove Ecosystems with Earth Observations December 5, 2024 December 03, 2024 14:00-15:30 EST 14:00-15:30 EST (UTC-5)(UTC-5)

Homework

Opens December 5, 2024 – Due December 19, 2024 – Posted on Training Webpage

A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who attend all live sessions and complete the homework assignment(s) before the given due date.



Part 2 – Trainers



Dr. Anthony Campbell

Assistant Research Scientist & Geospatial Analyst NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Dr. Cheryl Doughty Assistant Research Scientist NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Dr. Kelly Luis Scientist NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory







Part 2 Objectives

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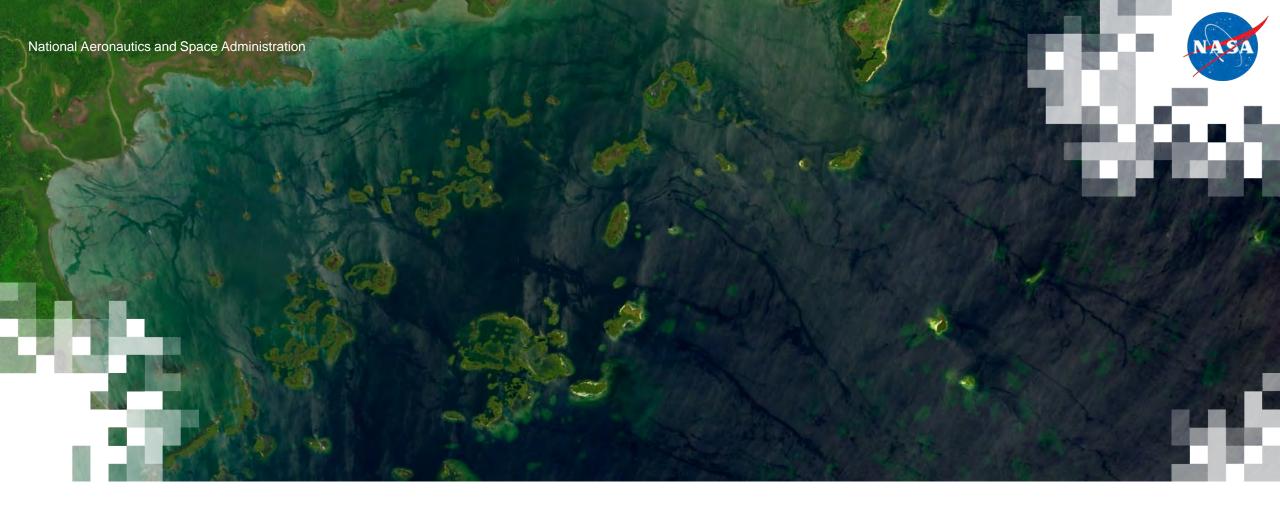
By the end of Part 2, participants will be able to:

- Map the extent of salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems using satellite observations
- Calculate the carbon stocks of mapped salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems
- Explore synthesis methods to estimate blue carbon across ecosystems



How to Ask Questions

- Please put your questions in the Questions box and we will address them at the end of the webinar.
- Feel free to enter your questions as we go. We will try to get to all of the questions during the Q&A session after the webinar.
- The remainder of the questions will be answered in the Q&A document, which will be posted to the training website about a week after the training.





Earth Observations of Blue Carbon Ecosystems Part 3: Salt marsh

Anthony Campbell (GSFC/UMBC)

December 5, 2024

Training Learning Objectives

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By the end of this training, participants will be able to:

- 1. Map the extent of salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems using satellite observations
- 2. Calculate the carbon stocks of mapped salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems
- 3. Understand synthesis methods to estimate blue carbon across ecosystems



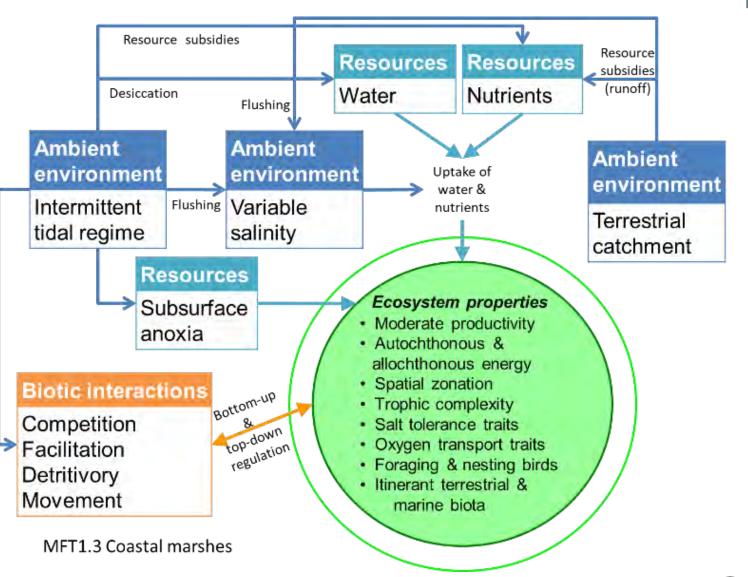


Salt marsh

What is a salt marsh?

Defined as Coastal saltmarsh and reedbeds in the <u>Global</u> ecosystem typology.

- Salinity
- Tidally inundated
- Low energy





Global datasets for salt marsh blue carbon

- Global 10 m map for 2020 (<u>Worthington</u> <u>et al. 2023</u>; <u>Data</u>)
- Global 30 m map of tidal marsh, tidal flats and mangroves 2000-2020 (<u>Murray</u> <u>et al. 2022</u>; <u>Data</u>)
- Global 30 m map of wetlands 2000-2022 (<u>Zhang et al. 2024</u>; <u>Data</u>)
- Global 30 m change and emissions from 2000-2019 (<u>Campbell et al. 2022</u>; <u>Data</u>)
- Global soil organic carbon map (<u>Maxwell et al. 2024</u>; <u>Data</u>).
- Global approach with Google Earth Engine for mapping tidal wetlands (<u>https://zenodo.org/records/5968865</u> from <u>Murray et al. 2022</u>)

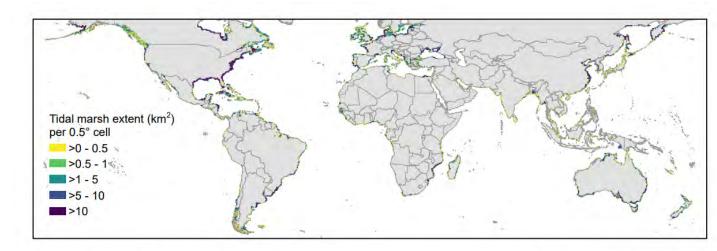


Figure 1: The 2020 distribution of tidal marshes, with darker colours representing greater extents of tidal marshes (km²) within a 0.5° grid cell.

(Worthington et al. 2023)



Sensor properties and salt marsh mapping needs

- Spatial resolution
- Temporal resolution (Revisit time)
- Spectral resolution
- Elevation





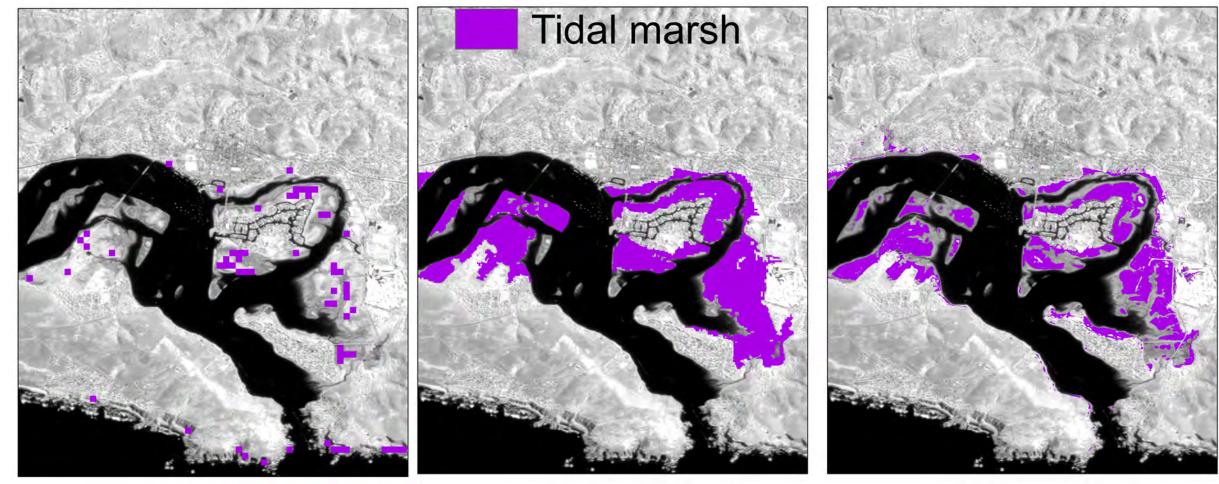
Example site: Knysna Estuary, South Africa

- Estuarine Bay
- Temperate climate
- Microtidal (1.36 m tidal range)
- Semidiurnal two low and two high tides daily
- Example wetland vegetation species includes: <u>Zostera capensis (Seagrass)</u>, <u>Spartina martima, Bassia diffusa,</u> <u>Triglochin buchenai, Salicornia</u> <u>tegetaria, and Juncus Kraussi</u>.





Sensor properties - spatial resolution



100 m Data: <u>100 m</u>; <u>10 m</u>

10 m

3 m

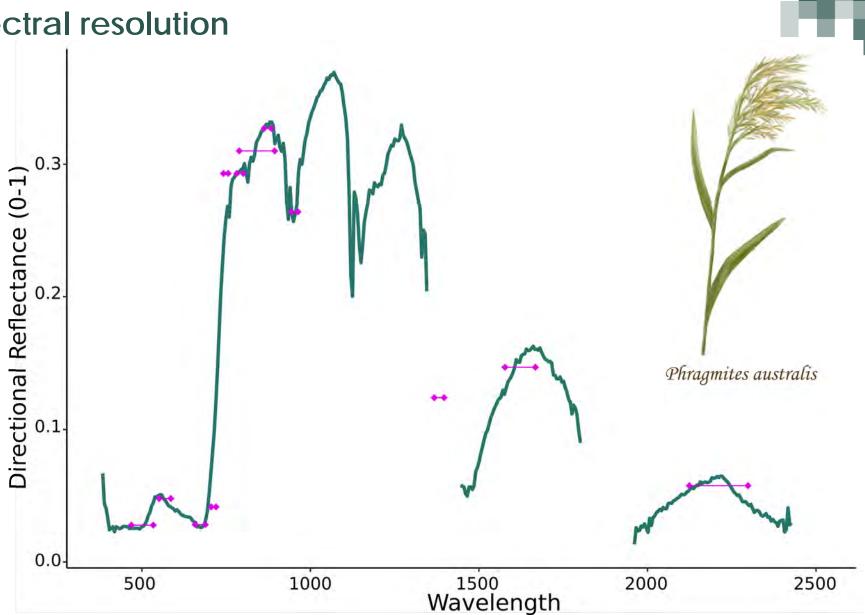


NASA ARSET - Earth Observations of Blue Carbon Ecosystems

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Sensor Properties – Spectral resolution

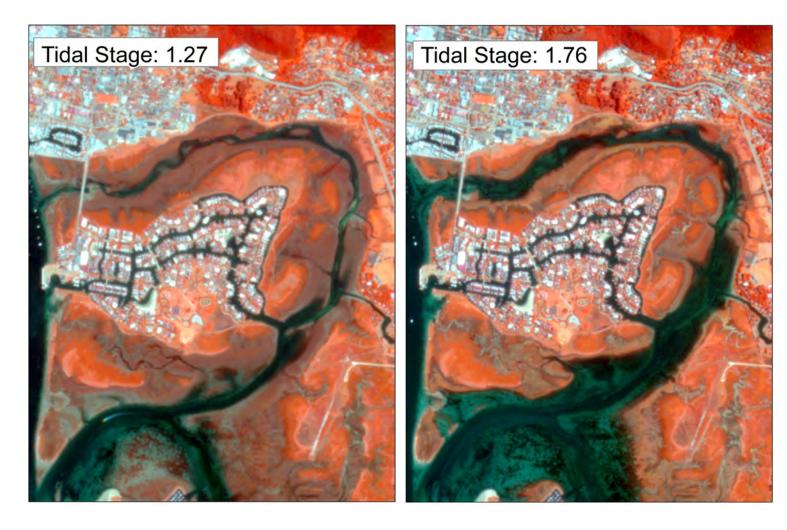
- Band width
- Spectral coverage
- Spectral ranges of interest (Red-edge)





Sensor Properties – Temporal resolution

- Temperate salt marsh phenology seasonality
- Spectral coverage
- For minimal inundation of the vegetation - ideal image is close to mean low water during the growing season

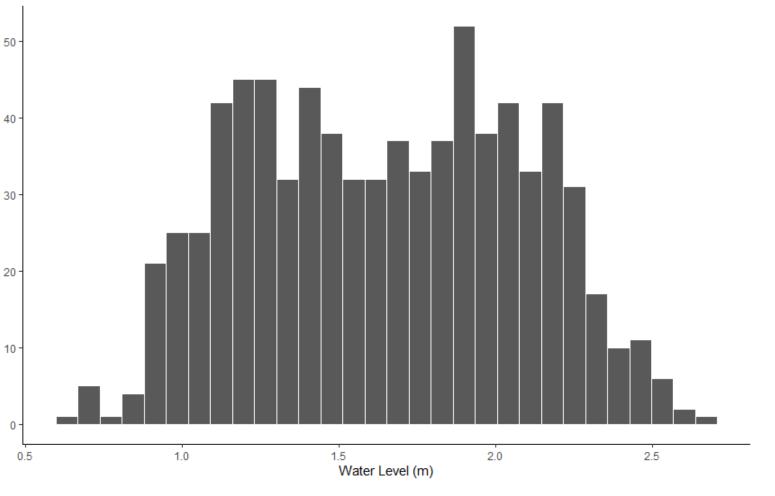




Sensor Properties – Temporal resolution

count

- What tidal stage is necessary for mapping?
- High tide imagery can be filtered out of the mapping effort but includes important information on coastal processes and ecosystem distribution.
- Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) in Knysna is 1.2 m
 - 17% of Sentinel-2 imagery was collected below 1.2 m.
 - 24% of Landsat-8 and 9 imagery were collected below 1.2 m





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Tidal Inundation

- Limited penetration of the water
- Dependent on tidal range
 - Variable across the marsh
 - Impact differs with percent cover and vegetation height
 - Informative for classification with a risk of misclassification



(https://phenocam.nau.edu)



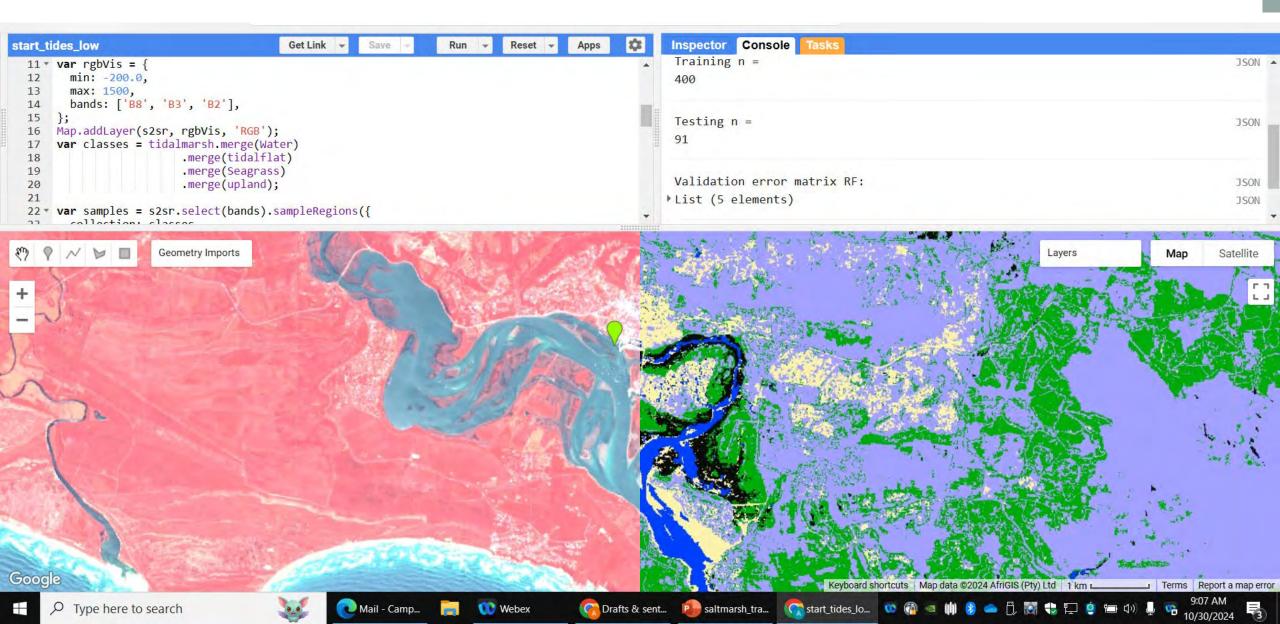
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Demo summary

- 1. <u>Map at high tide Sentinel-2</u>
- 2. <u>Map at low tide Sentinel-2</u>
- 3. <u>Multidate classification Sentinel-2</u>
- 4. <u>Multidate classification Landsat-9</u>
- 5. Add elevation



Demo - salt marsh extent mapping



Demo summary

Classification	Sentinel-2 High Tide	Senitnel-2 Low Tide	Multidate	Multidate + Elevation + NDVI	Landsat 9 + Elevation + NDVI
Overall Accuracy	90.17	92.85	93.75	95.54	92.86



Key considerations for mapping ecosystems

The mapping objective may impact the "tier" of data required

Excerpts from IPCC (2003) Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF, Ch. 3

Tier 1	
Use of default /	
Global data	

Methodologies usually use activity data that are spatially coarse, such as nationally or globally available estimates.

Tier 2
Use of country-specific
data

Tier 2 applies emission factors and activity data which are defined by the country; Higher resolution activity data are typically used

Tier 3 Use of advanced methods and detailed countryspecific data Tier 3 – including models and inventory measurement systems tailored to address national circumstances, repeated over time, and driven by high resolution activity data and disaggregated at subnational to fine grid scales.



Area and carbon estimates -

- 1. Determine area <u>uncertainty</u>
- 2. Landsat 9
 - 1. Salt marsh: 534 ± 107 ha
 - 2. Seagrass : 281 ± 56 ha
- 3. Sentinel-2
 - 1. Salt marsh: 549 ± 110 ha
 - 2. Seagrass: 242 ± 48 ha
- 4. Global tidal marsh layer: 653 ha
- 5. Global estimates of seagrass carbon are: 196.7 ± 20.7^{1}
- 6. Global estimates of salt marsh carbon are: 334.4 ± 35^2
- 7. Regional estimates of seagrass carbon are: 177.7 ± 122.3^{3}
- 8. Regional estimates of salt marsh carbon are 441.5 ± 198.6^{4}

Carbon accounts

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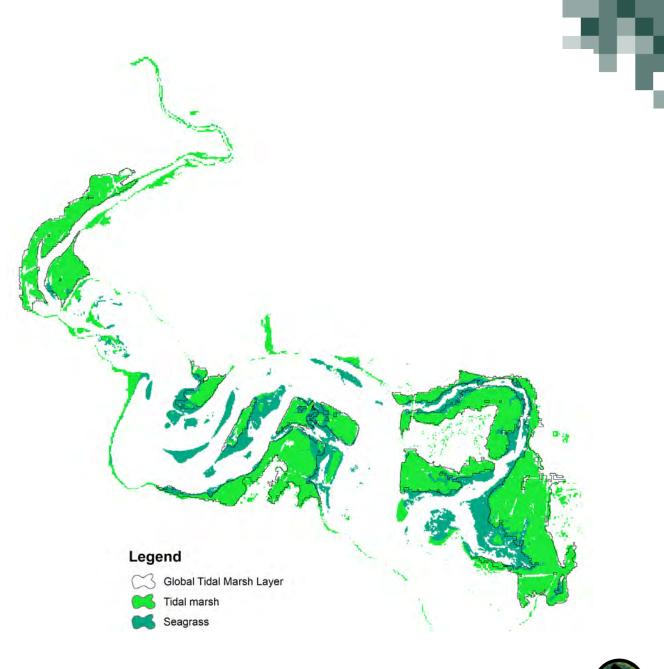
- Uncertainty propagation with the propagate package in R
 - Carbon Stock = Area (ha) * Carbon per ha

	Landsat 9 (Tg)	Sentinel-2 (Tg)	<u>Global Tidal marsh</u> (Tg)
Tidal marsh (Tier 1/Global)	0.179 ± 0.04	0.184 ± 0.04	0.218
Tidal marsh (Tier 2/Local)	0.236 ± 0.12	0.243 ± 0.12	0.288
Seagrass (Tier 1/Global)	0.055 ± 0.012	0.047 ± 0.036	NA
Seagrass (Tier 2/Local)	0.050 ± 0.036	0.043 ± 0.031	NA

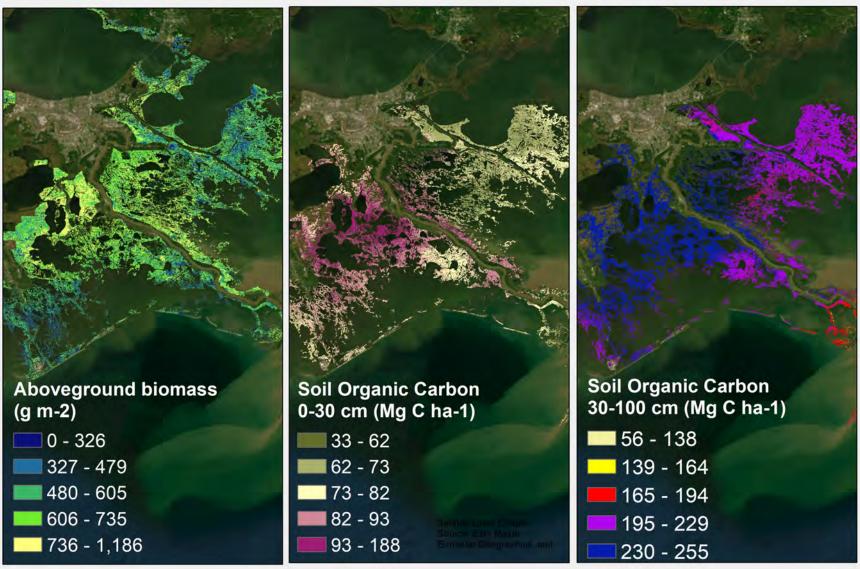


Overlapping ecosystems – Knysna

- Global tidal marsh layer
- How does this overlap with seagrass maps created in our analysis?
 - Tidal marsh seagrass overlap is 55.8 ha
 - Tidal marsh Tidal marsh overlaps 432 ha
- Handling overlap is important for accurate accounts



Spatial prediction of AGB and Soil

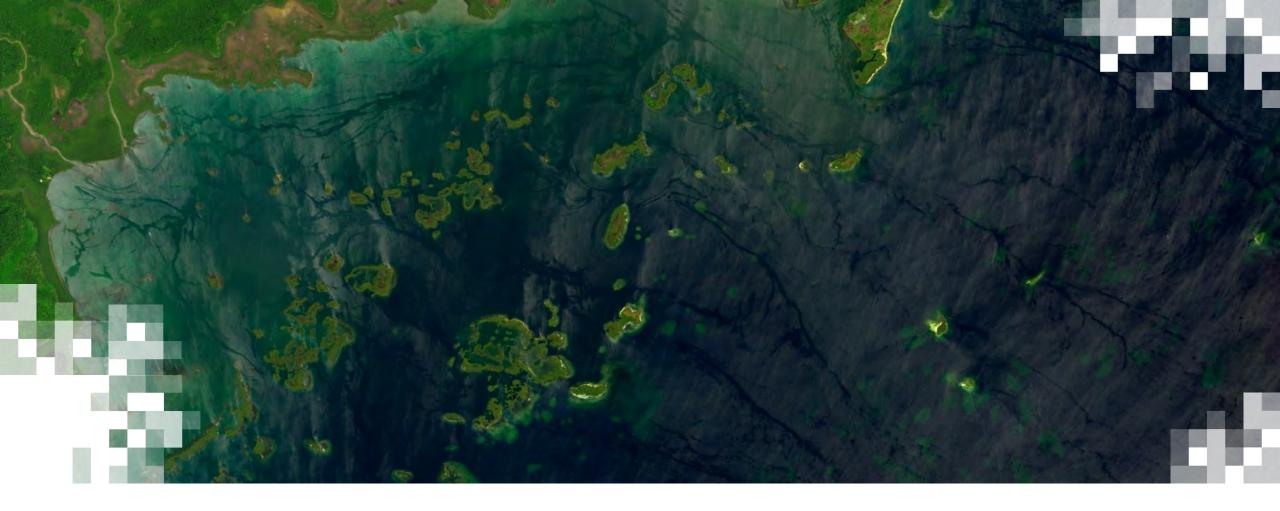


<u>Aboveground biomass;</u> <u>Soil Organic</u> <u>Carbon Data</u>



Summary

- Introduced salt marsh ecosystems
- Discussed available global resources
- Salt marsh remote sensing needs
- Utilized Google Earth Engine for classification of salt marsh
- Reviewed carbon accounting approach



Beyond the Surface: Exploring Seagrass Mapping with Earth Observations

Outline

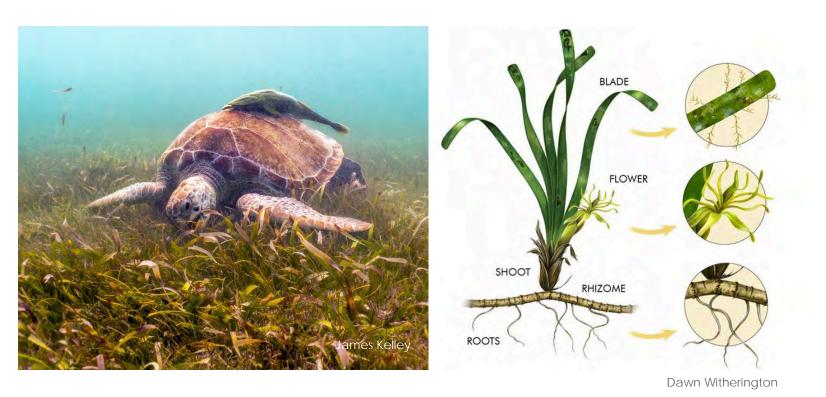
- Background
- Remote Sensing
- Demonstration in Google Earth Engine
- Key Takeaways





Background: What is seagrass?

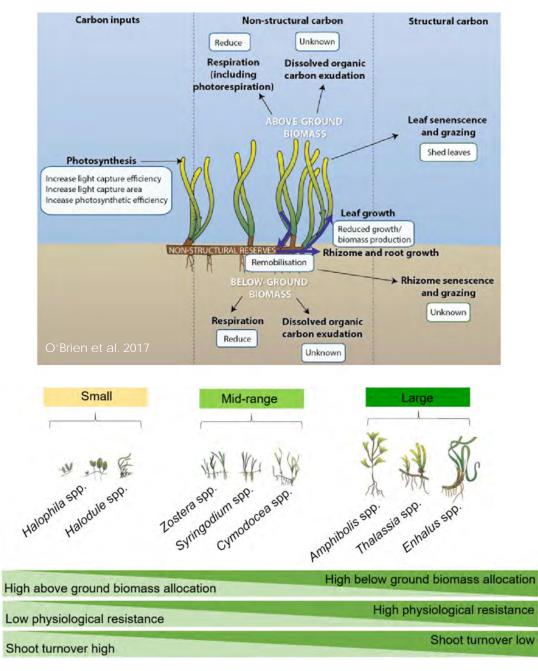
- Marine flowering plants
- Diverse species
- Ecosystem engineers
- Biodiversity hotspots





Background: Carbon Sequestration

- ~10-18% Carbon Burial in Oceans
- Biomass primarily stored belowground
- Differences in Carbon Burial by Size and Environmental Conditions

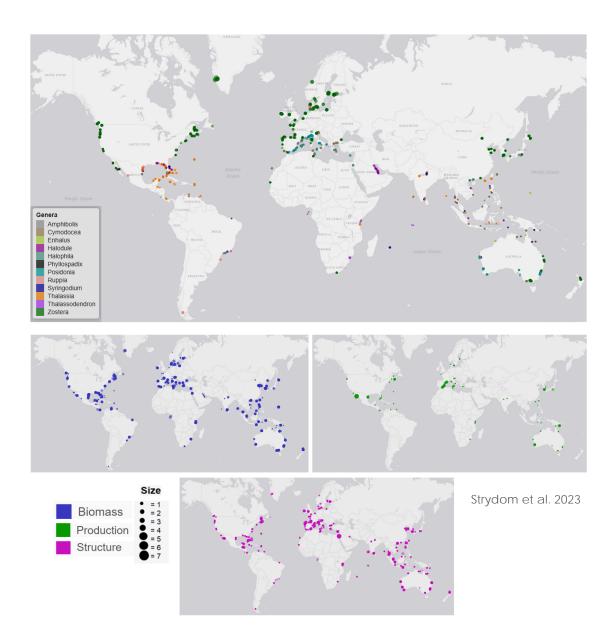


Ward et al. 2024



Background: Datasets Available

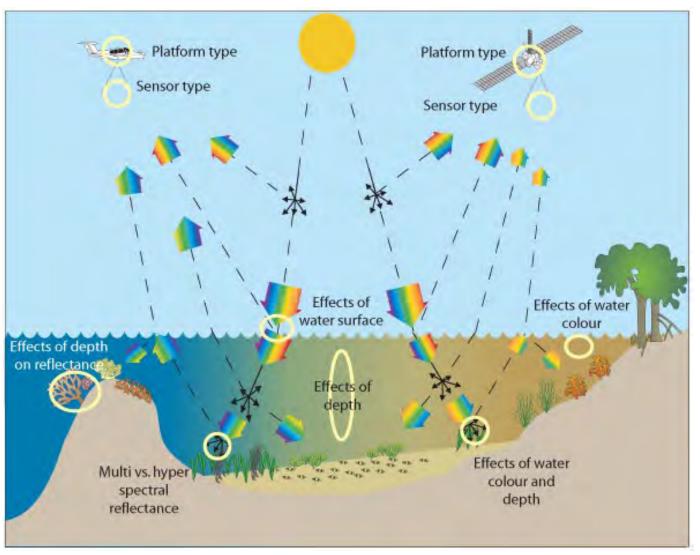
- Global Distribution of Seagrasses (UNEP-WCMC, Short FT, 2021)
- Meadow structure, biomass, and production (Strydom et al. 2023)





Remote Sensing: Seagrass

- Passive, optical remote sensing
- Exposed canopy or low tide conditions ideal for seagrass detection
- Need to account for atmosphere and water column impacts

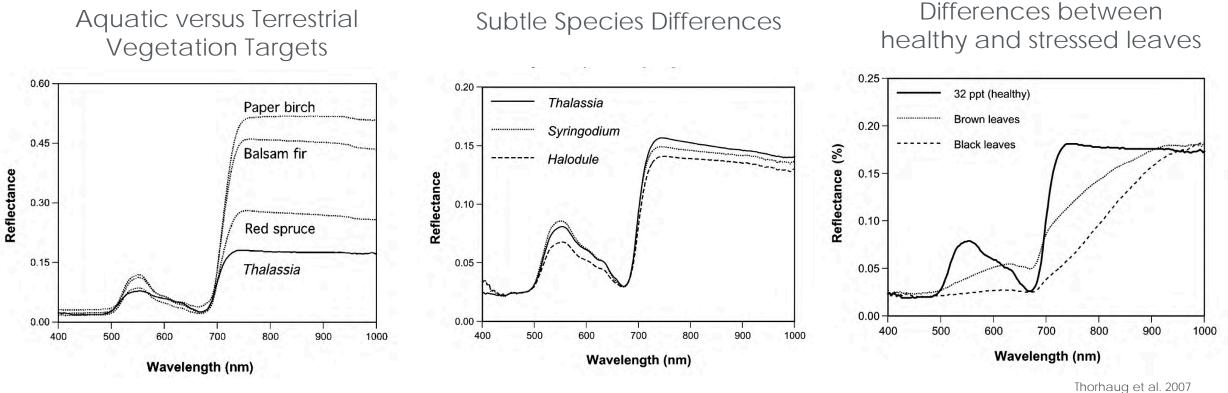


University of Queensland, Australia

Mission	Availability	Sensors	Resolution
Landsat 7-9	1999-Present	Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM+), Operational Land Imager (OLI)	Multispectral, 185 km swath; 15 m, 30 m, 60 m; 16-day revisit
Sentinel 2 A/B/C	2015-Present	Multi Spectral Imager (MSI)	Multispectral, 290 km swath; 10 m, 20 m, 60 m, 5-day revisit
Surface Biology and Geology	No earlier than 2032	Visible to Shortwave Infrared (VSWIR)	Hyperspectral, 31-35 m, 16-day revisit



Remote Sensing: Spectral Resolution



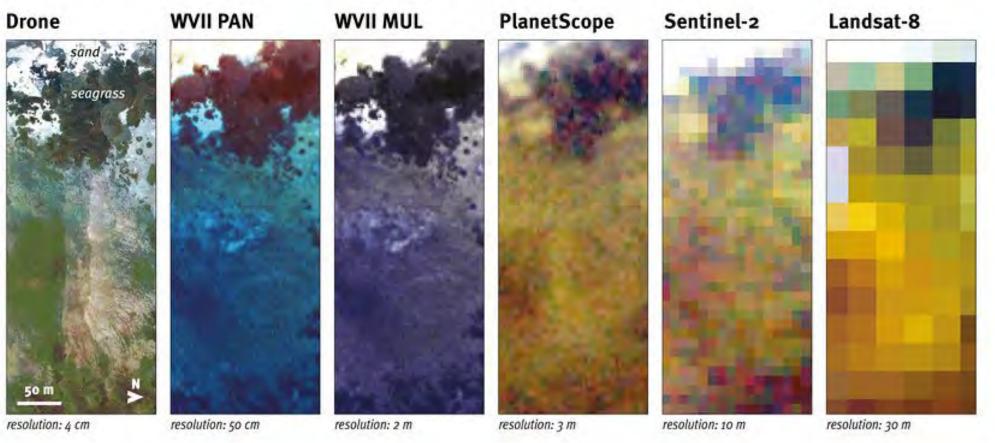


Remote Sensing: Spatial Resolution



Seagrasses from above - drones and satellites

Example images from Lesbos, Greece. 39°09'30.6"N 26°32'01.8"E

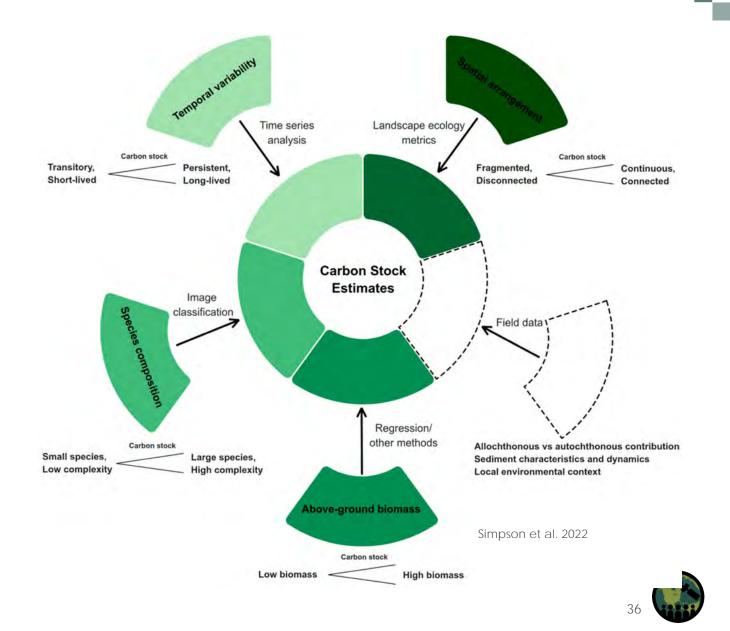


Topouzelis et al. 2018



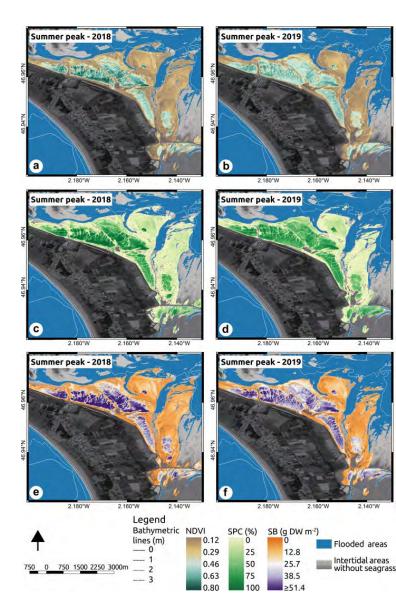
Remote Sensing - Proxies of Carbon Sequestration

- Above-ground biomass & Spatial Arrangement – Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Leaf Area Index (LAI), and more!
- Composition Image Classification via Enhanced Spectral Information
- Temporal Variability Time Series Analysis



Remote Sensing – Above Ground Biomass & Spatial Arrangement

- Region: European Atlantic Coast
- Species: Zostera Noltei
- Sensor: Sentinel 2 MSI
- Satellite Product: NDVI (NIR-Red)/(NIR+Red)
- Generated Products via In Situ Data: Seagrass Percent Cover (SPC) and Seagrass Leaf Biomass (SB)

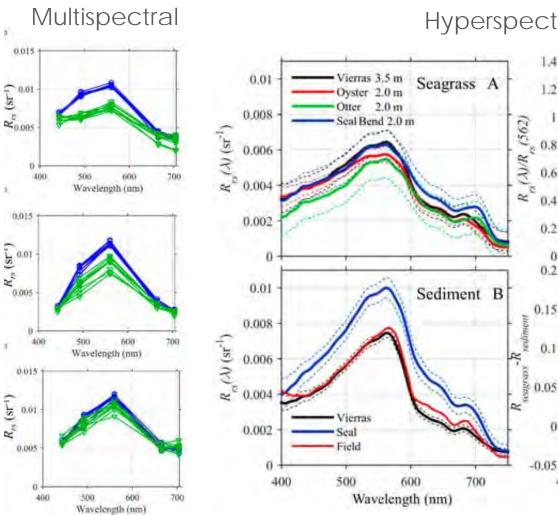






Remote Sensing – Composition

- Region: Elkhorn Slough, CA, USA
- Species: Zostera marina
- Sensor: Sentinel 2, PRISM (airborne)
- Satellite Product: **Remote Sensing** Reflectance



Hyperspectral

1.4

1.2

0.4

0.2

n

0.2

0.15

0.05

-0.05

400

Seagrass

Sediment



600

Wavelength (nm)

500

Red edge.

reflectance



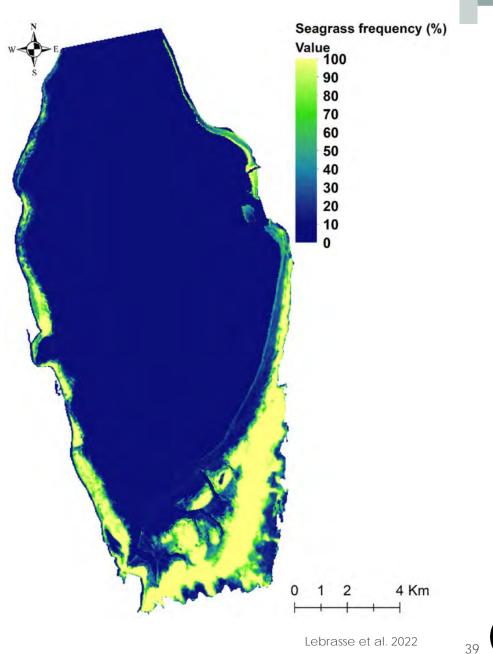
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D

700

Remote Sensing – Temporal Variability

- Region: St. Joseph Bay, Florida, USA
- Species: Thalassia testudinum, Halodule wrightii, Syringodium filiforme, Halophila spp.
- Sensor: Landsat 5-8
- Satellite Product: Seagrass Presence and Extent
- Generated Products via In Situ Data: Leaf
 Area Index, Biomass Belowground Carbon

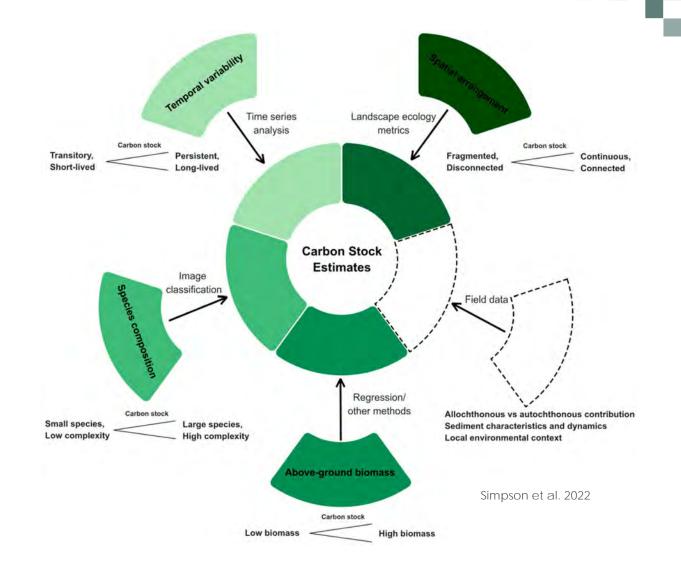


Demonstration in Google Earth Engine

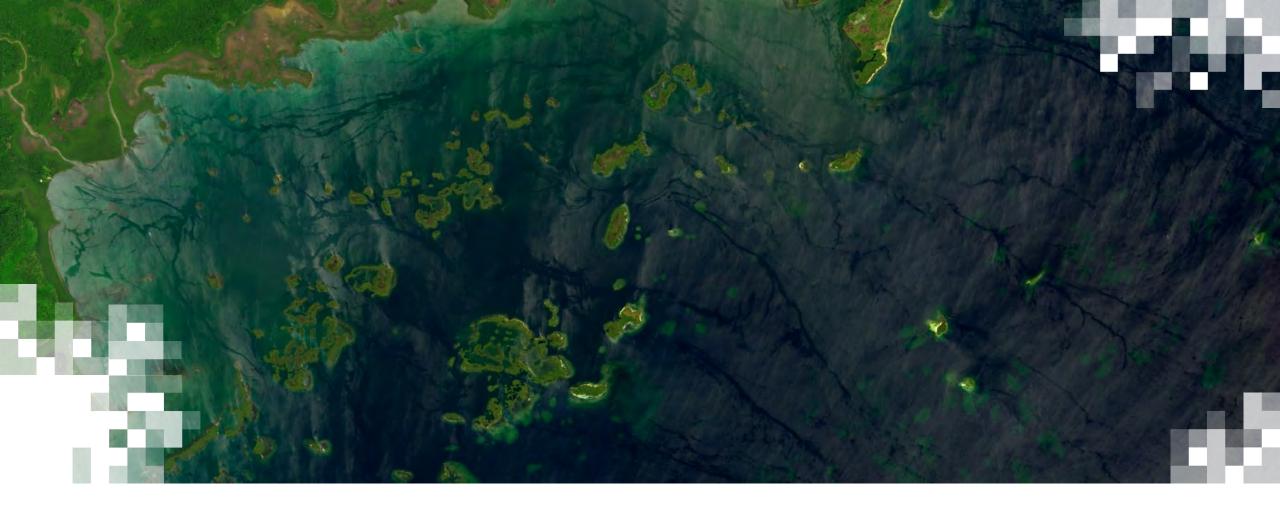
- <u>Calculate seagrass area with Allen Coral Atlas</u>
- <u>Time Series Analysis with Sentinel 2</u>

Key Takeaways

- Seagrass meadows are vital blue carbon ecosystems and are threatened by global climate change and anthropogenic activities
- Remote sensing tools have bee used to detect, quantify, and evaluate spatial and temporal dynamics of seagrass meadows
- Pairing field data of seagrass habitat and carbon dynamics with remote sensing observation is crucial for accurate seagrass carbon sequestration estimates







Measuring Co-Occurrences of Blue Carbon Ecosystems

Learning Objectives

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By the end of this presentation, you will

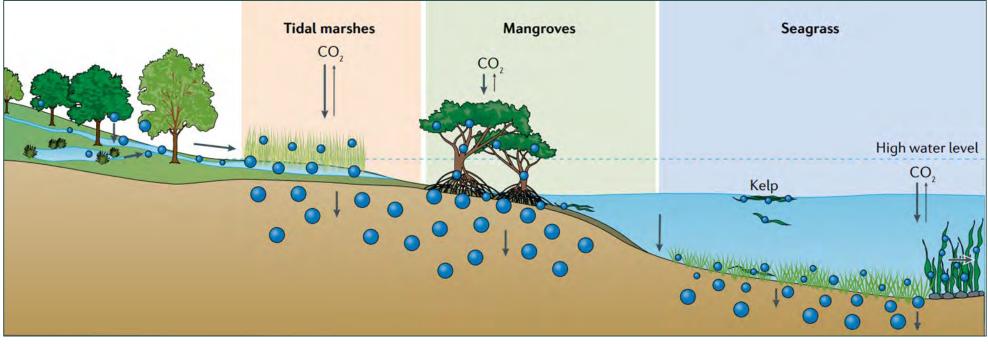
- Define a blue carbon ecosystem based on ecosystem characteristics
- Map the extent of mangrove ecosystems using satellite observations
 - Explore existing global datasets showing mangrove extent, canopy height and biomass
 - Use Google Earth Engine to generate mangrove extent data
- Calculate the carbon stock of mapped mangrove ecosystems
 - Apply basic criteria for accessing the suitability of data for your purposes
 - Estimate mangrove canopy height, biomass and carbon stocks in your area of interest
 - Evaluate data sources for a more precise mangrove ecosystem carbon stock estimate



Outline

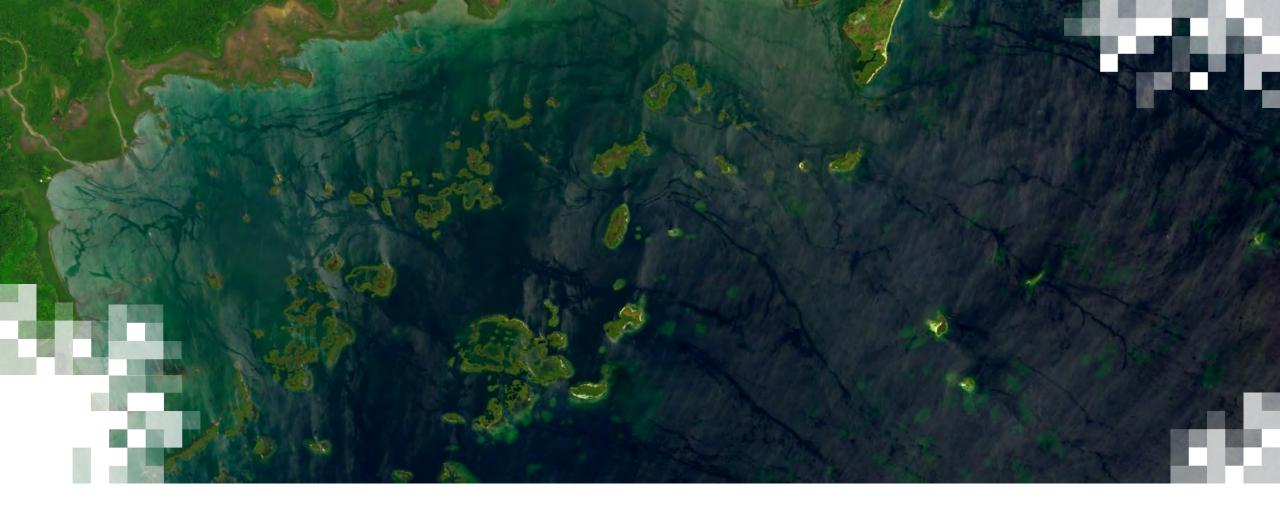
- 1. How to synthesize blue carbon estimates across ecosystems
 - Importance of scope and scale
 - Merging maps and identifying overlap

- 2. Blue carbon reporting, monitoring, and accounting
 - Examples from a saltmarsh-mangrove ecotone
- 3. Combining methods for future blue carbon accounting



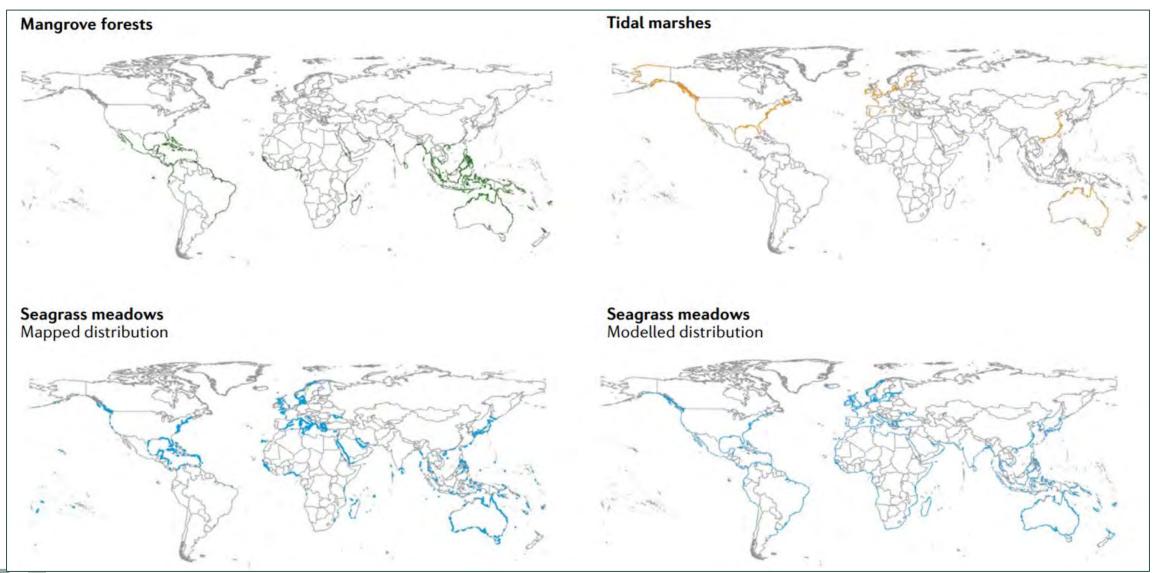
Macreadie et al. 2021. Blue carbon as a natural climate solution





How to Synthesize Blue Carbon Estimates Across Ecosystems

How to synthesize blue carbon estimates across ecosystems



Macreadie et al. 2021. Blue carbon as a natural climate solution



Global datasets for blue carbon ecosystems

Salt marsh

- Global 10 m map for 2020 (Worthington et al. 2023; Data)
- Global 30 m map of tidal marsh, tidal flats and mangroves 2000-2020 (<u>Murray et al. 2022</u>; <u>Data</u>)
- Global 30 m map of wetlands 2000-2022 (<u>Zhang et al. 2024</u>; <u>Data</u>)
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- Global approach with Google Earth Engine for mapping tidal wetlands (<u>https://zenodo.org/records/5968865</u> from <u>Murray et al. 2022</u>)

Mangrove

- Mangrove Forests of the World MFW, <u>Giri et al. 2010</u>
- Global Mangrove Watch GMW, <u>Bunting et al. 2022</u>
- Continuous Global Mangrove Forest Cover for the 21st Century GCMFC-21, <u>Hamilton and Casey</u> <u>2016</u>
- Global Wetlands Distribution <u>CIFOR</u>
- Mangrove Atlas
 <u>Spalding et al. 2010</u>
- Aboveground Biomass <u>Hutchison</u> <u>et al. 2014;</u>
- Canopy Height and Biomass <u>Simard et al. 2019</u> (data)
- Soil Organic C <u>Sanderman et al.</u> (2018); <u>Rovai et al. (2018)</u>; <u>Atwood</u> et al. (2017)

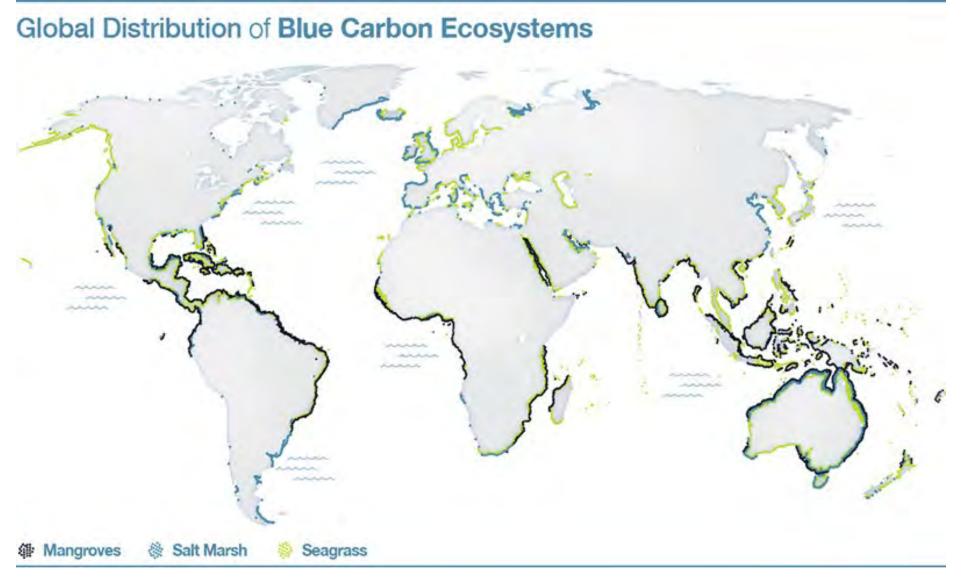
Seagrass

- Global dataset on seagrass meadow structure, biomass and production, <u>Strydom et al. 2022</u>
- UNEP WCMC Global distribution of Seagrasses, <u>Green and Short 2003</u>





Merging maps and identifying overlap



Merging maps and identifying overlap

- Advantages and disadvantages of existing global maps
- Merging existing maps and identifying overlap is a good start to
 - Test existing data for your needs, questions, study
 - Identify needs in spatial data and/or data resolution
 - Cater mapping approaches to co-existing blue C ecosystems

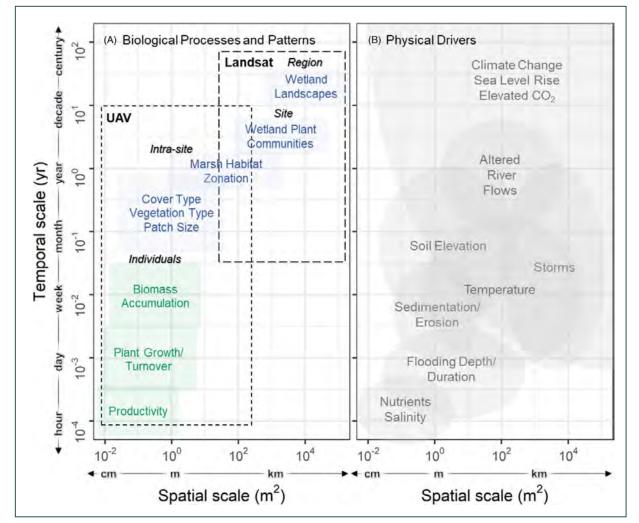




How to synthesize blue carbon estimates across ecosystems

The Importance of Scope and Scale

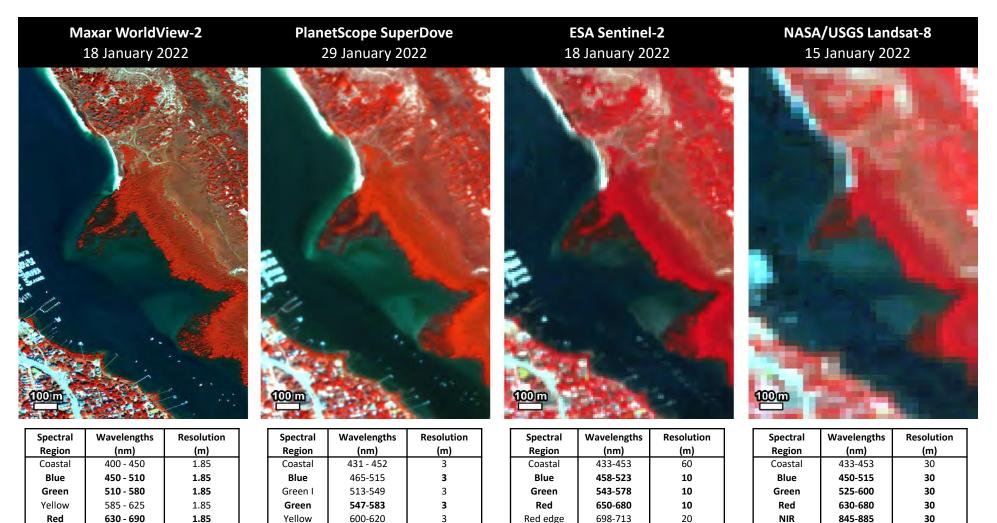
- The scope of the study domain
- Tradeoffs in spatial, temporal, and spectral resolution
- Scope of analysis
 - What data is available?
 - What blue carbon metric is measured?
 - What drivers are important?



Doughty et al. 2021. RSEC



The Importance of Scope and Scale



Red edge

Red edge

Red edge

NIR

NIR

SWIR/Water

SWIR/Cirrus

SWIR

SWIR

733-748

773-793

785-899

855-875

9435-955

1360-1390

1565-1655

2100-2280

20

20

10

20

60

60

20

20

SWIR/Cirrus

SWIR

SWIR

Pan

1360-1390

1560-1660

2100-2300

500-6800

30

30

60

15

1.85

1.85

1.85

Yellow

Red

Red edge

NIR

650-680

697-713

845-885

3

3

3

Red

Red edge

NIR1

NIR2

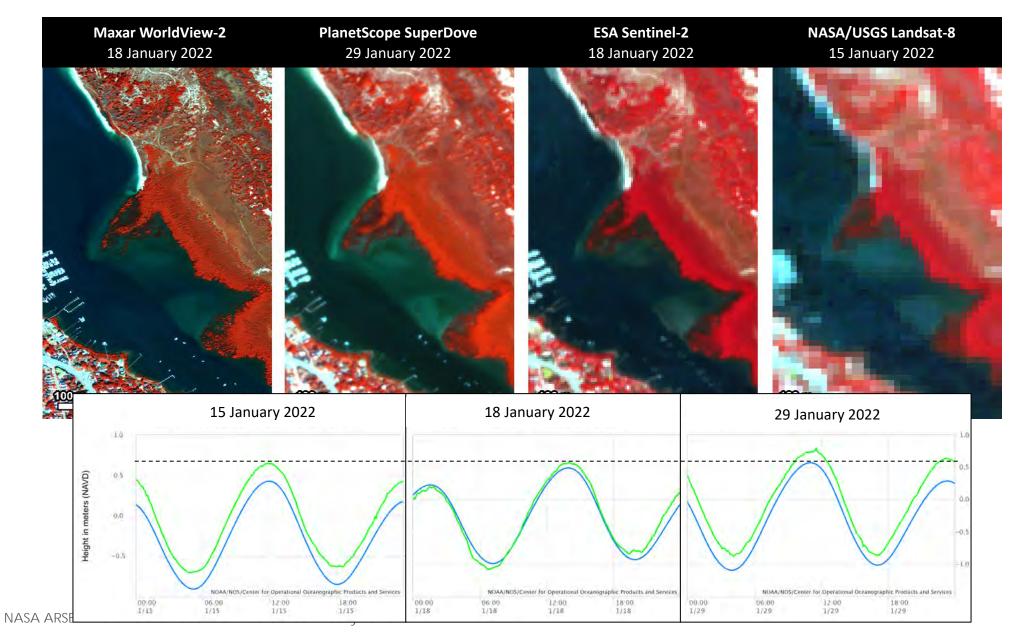
705 - 745

770 - 895

860 - 1040



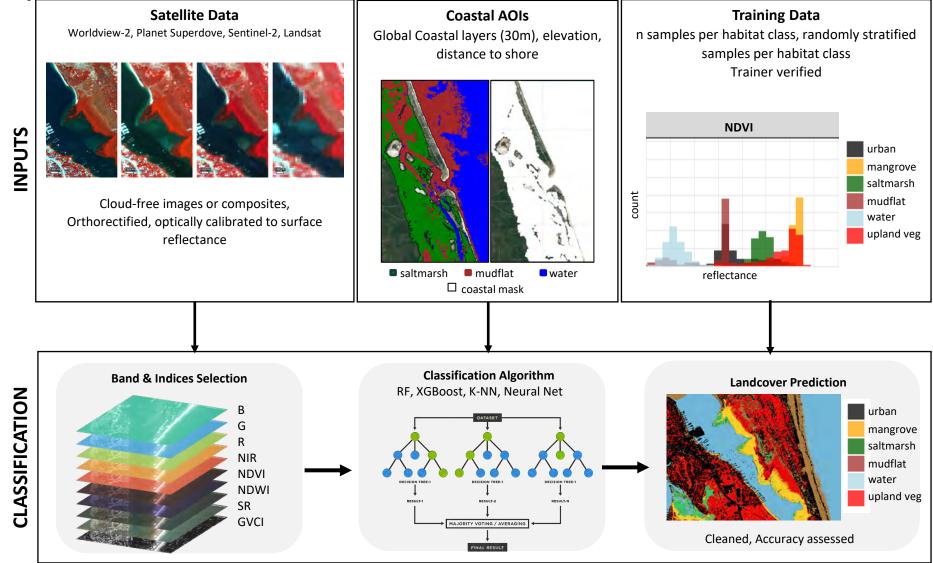
The Importance of Scope and Scale





How to synthesize blue carbon estimates across ecosystems

Adapting supervised learning approaches to co-existing blue ecosystems



How to synthesize blue carbon estimates across ecosystems

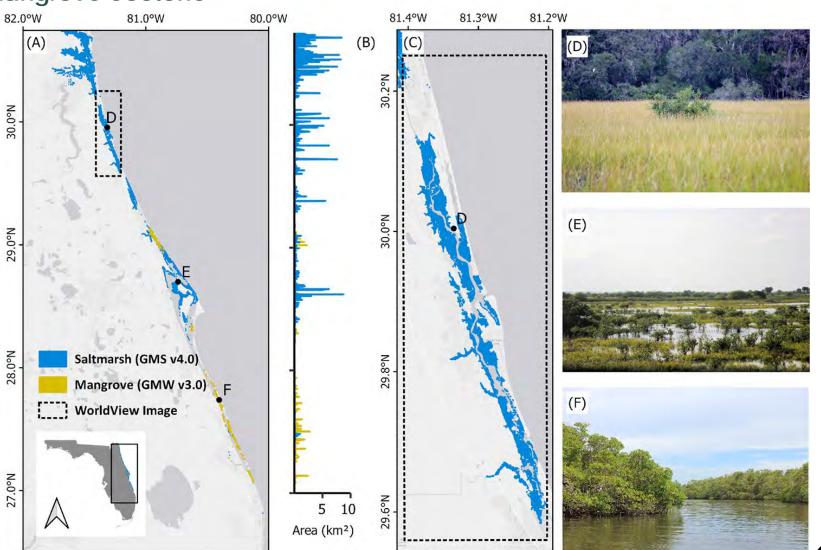
Examples from a salt marsh-mangrove ecotone



Merging maps and identifying overlap

Examples from a salt marsh-mangrove ecotone

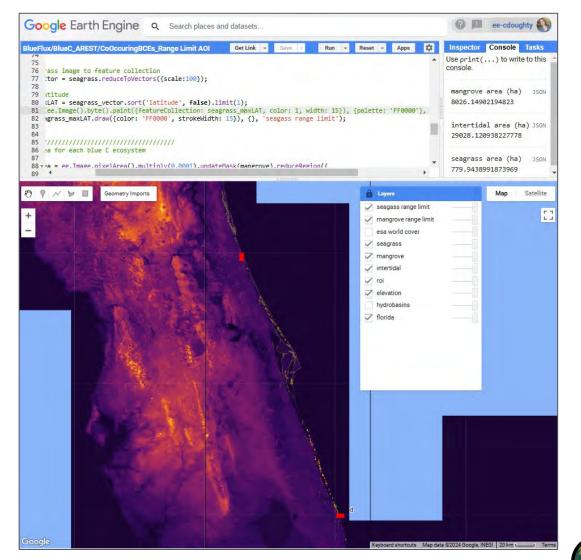
- Ecotone = a transitional area
- Sensitive to environmental change
- Mangrove expansion with warming climate
- At the leading edge of range limit,
 - Fine-scale changes in blue C habitats
 - Changes outpacing detection with current EO

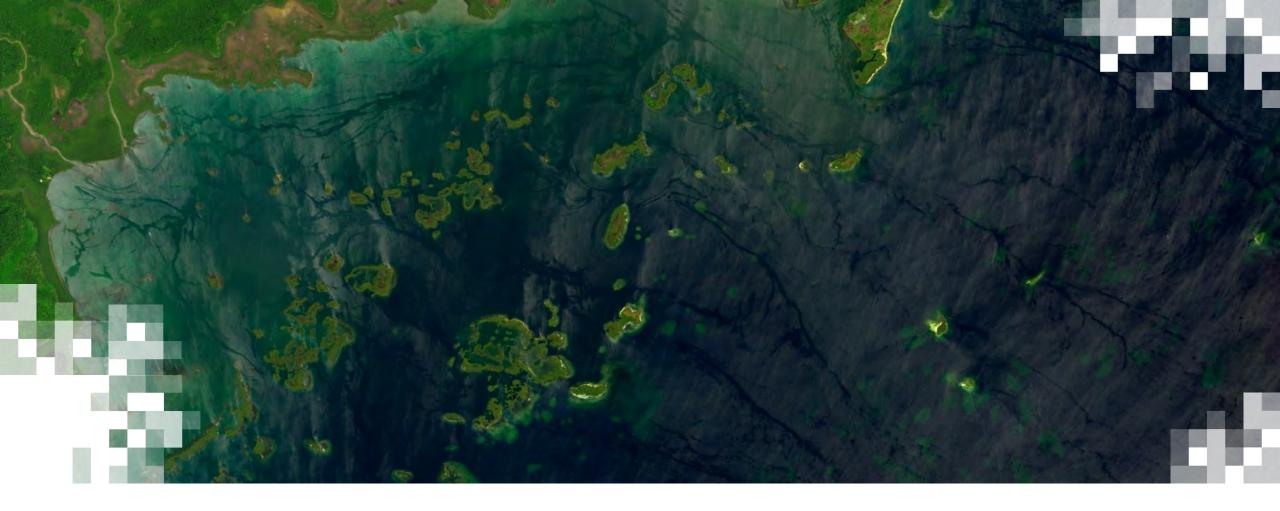


Merging maps and identifying overlap GEE DEMO

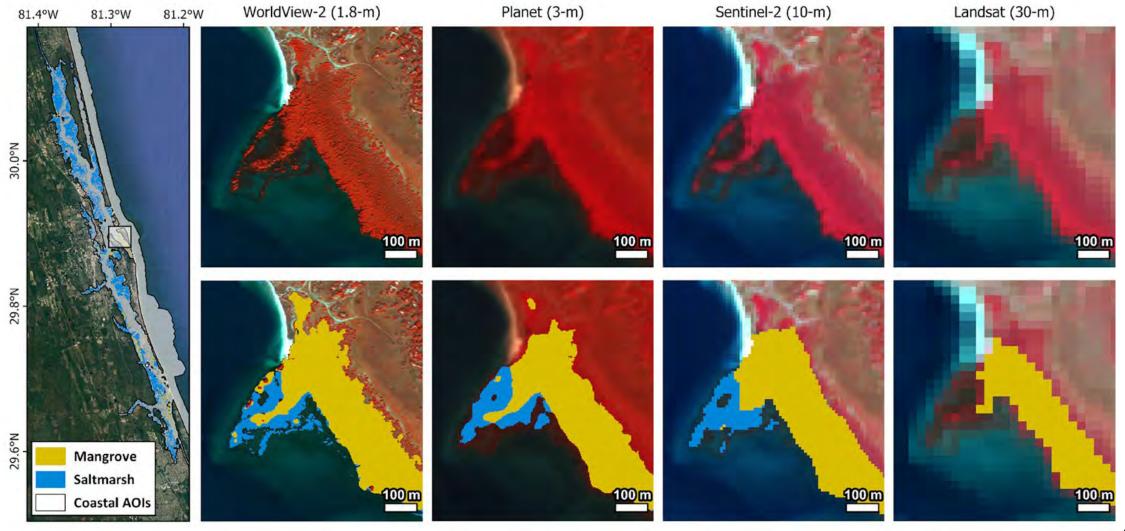
Link to GEE script

- 1. Set the scene
 - Import helpful underlying ancillary data
- 2. Define your region of interest (ROI)
 - Draw a geometry to begin exploring
- 3. Import blue C layers
 - GEE assets or upload your own
- 4. Identify the limits of blue C ecosystems
- 5. Extract blue C system extents
- 6. Optional Exercises



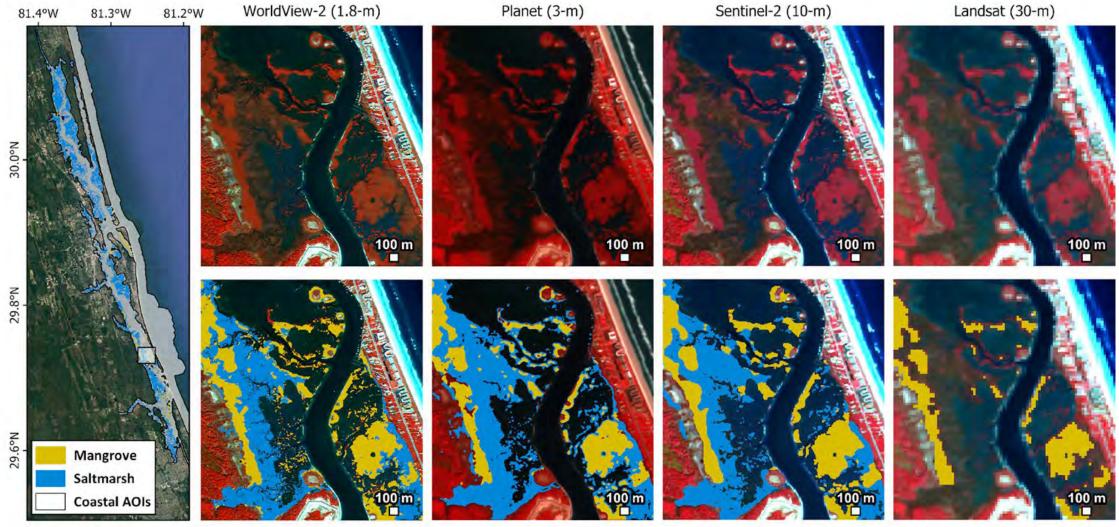


Examples from Florida's mangrove-saltmarsh ecotone



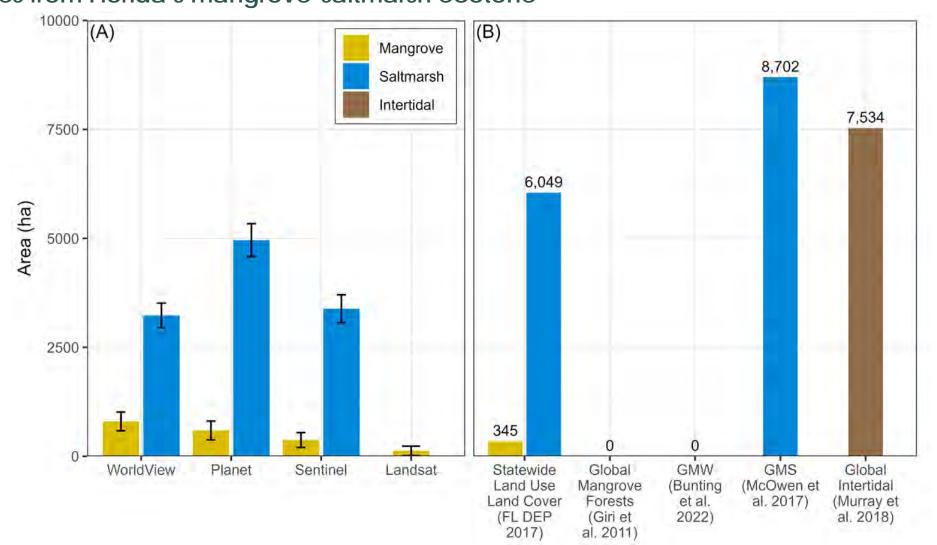


Examples from Florida's mangrove-saltmarsh ecotone





Examples from Florida's mangrove-saltmarsh ecotone





Examples from Florida's mangrove-saltmarsh ecotone

Carbon Stock = Area (ha) * Carbon per ha

Tier 1 global estimates: Alongi. 2020. Carbon Balance in Salt Marsh and Mangrove Ecosystems: A Global Synthesis.

Mangrove 739 Mg C_{ORG} ha⁻¹

Salt Marsh 334 Mg C_{ORG} ha⁻¹

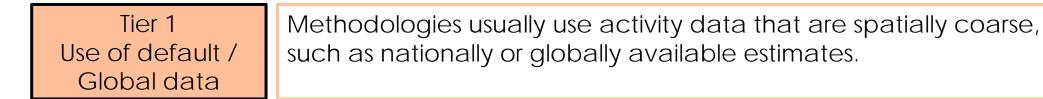
	WorldView (1.8 m)	Sentinel (10 m)
Mangrove (Tg C)	0.59 ± 0.16	0.28 ± 0.13
Tidal marsh (Tg C)	1.08 ± 0.09	1.13 ± 0.11
Total Blue C (Tg)	1.67 ± 0.25	1.41 ± 0.24

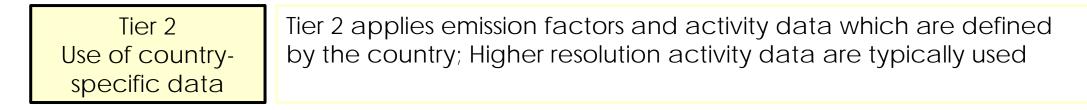


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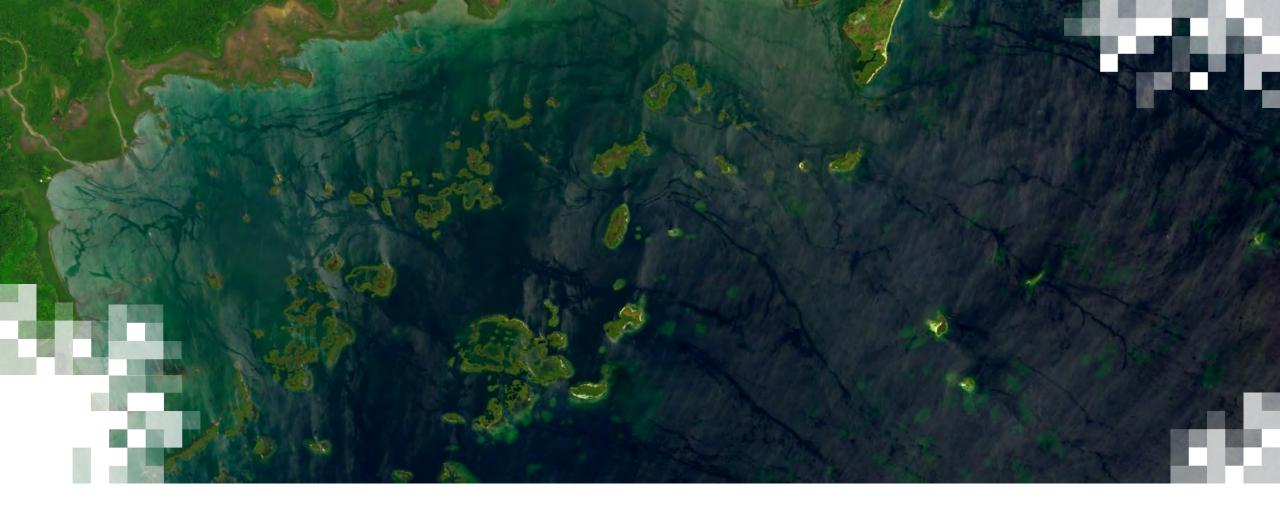
Excerpts from IPCC (2003) Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF, Ch. 3





Tier 3	Tier 3 – including models and inventory measurement systems
Use of advanced	tailored to address national circumstances, repeated over time, and
methods	driven by high resolution activity data and disaggregated at sub-
and detailed	national to fine grid scales.
country-specific	
data	



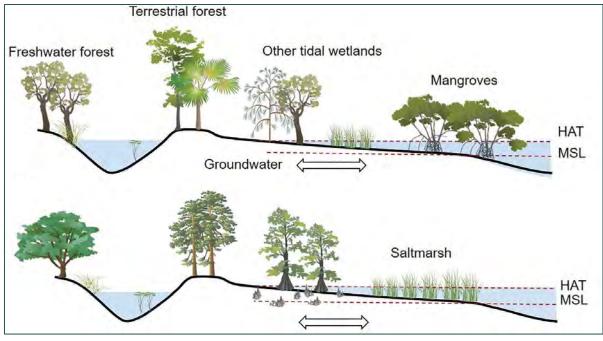


Combining Methods for Future Blue Carbon Accounting

Combining methods for future blue carbon accounting

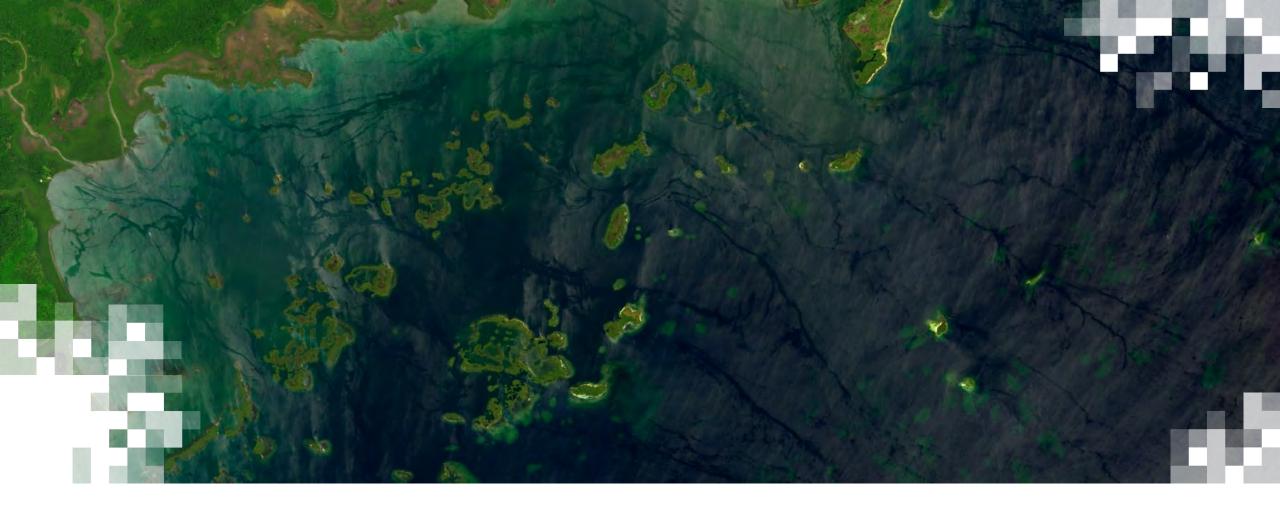
- Ongoing needs and areas of research:
 - Improved Blue C ecosystem area extent estimates
 - Ongoing advancements in mapping
 - Reduced Uncertainty in Blue Carbon Flux
 - More in situ data
 - Data-driven modelling to upscale wetland carbon dioxide uptake and methane emissions using EO
 - Holistic Quantification of System Blue C
 - High resolution data on extent, biomass, height, carbon stock & flux

 Inclusion and mapping of all co-occurring blue C systems



Adame et al. 2024. All tidal wetlands are blue carbon ecosystems.

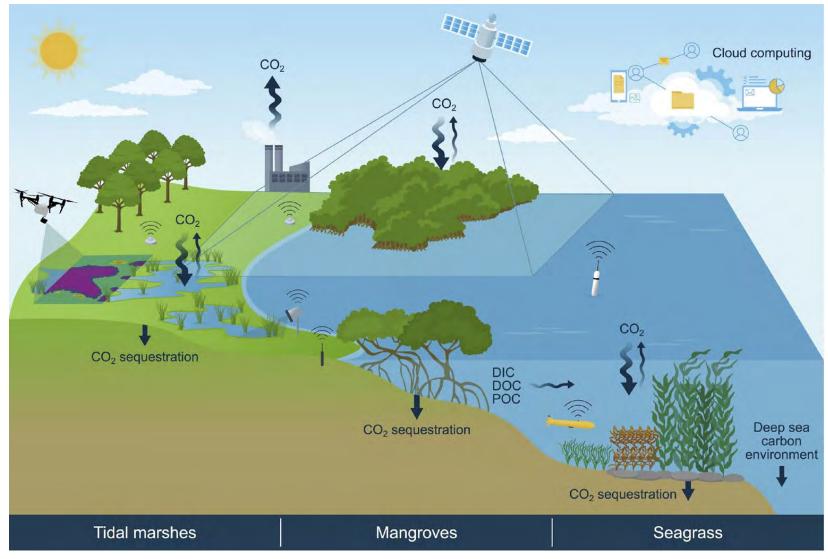




Measuring Co-Occurrences of Blue Carbon Ecosystems Summary

Summary

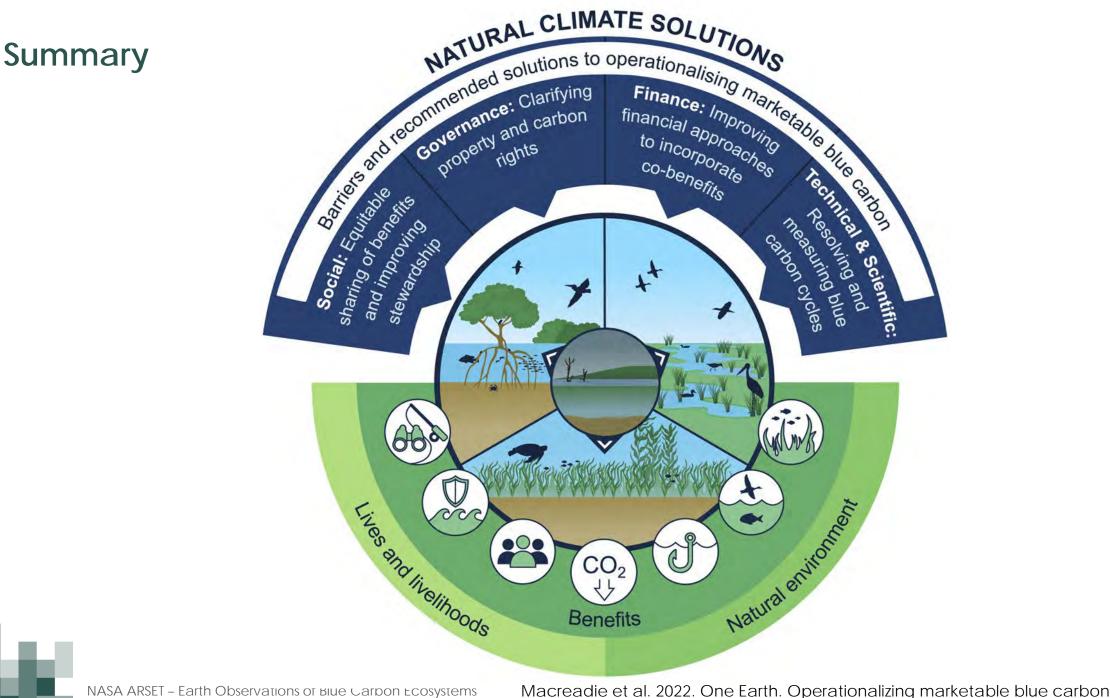
Improving understanding of Blue C with advancing tools for observation and analysis





NASA ARSET – Earth Observations of Blue Carbon Ecosystems Macreadie et al. 2022. One Earth. Operationalizing marketable blue carbon

on 71







Part 2: Summary

Training Summary

- Blue carbon is carbon that is captured, removed and stored by ocean systems, both in the biotic and the abiotic components
- Mangroves, seagrass and salt marshes share the following traits:
 - presence of high carbon stocks
 - evidence of long-term carbon storage
 - capacity to manage and effectively measure GHG emissions and removals resulting from changes to these ecosystems.
- Blue Carbon has climate mitigation value, but also other functions and co-benefits.
- Urgent action is needed to conserve, protect and restore blue carbon ecosystems and we need to develop effective policies that can support this.
- Global datasets are openly available that show mangrove extent, canopy height and biomass.
- Basic criteria for assessing the suitability of datasets and how to use google earth Engine to generate your own mangrove extent data.
- Estimate mangrove canopy height, biomass, and carbon stocks for more precise mangrove ecosystem carbon stock estimate.
- Use of spatial data to parameterize the various components of blue carbon (extents, biomass, height, carbon stocks, cycling or carbon fluxes).
- How to Map the extent of salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems using satellite observations
- Approaches and considerations to calculate the carbon stocks of mapped salt marsh and seagrass ecosystems
- Explored synthesis methods to estimate blue carbon across ecosystems.

Homework and Certificates

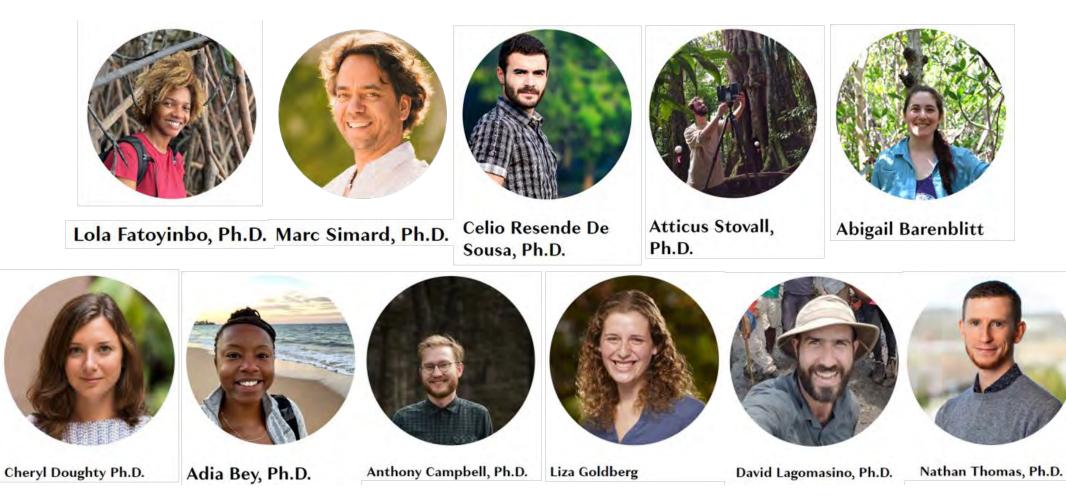
- Homework:
 - One homework assignment
 - Opens on 12/05/2024
 - Access from the <u>training webpage</u>
 - Answers must be submitted via Google Forms
 - Due by 12/19/2024
- Certificate of Completion:
 - Attend all three live webinars (attendance is recorded automatically)
 - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline
 - You will receive a certificate via email approximately two months after completion of the course.



Acknowledgements

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The Mangrove Science Team





Contact Information

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Thank You!



NASA ARSET - Earth Observations of Blue Carbon Ecosystems