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The Blue Natural Capital Financing Facility (BNCFF) supports the development of sound, investable Blue Natural Capital (BNC) projects with clear ecosystem service benefits, multiple income streams and appropriate risk-return profiles.

This score card is part of the final assessment of the projects supported by BNCFF (2019-2021). Each score card provides an overview of a particular project, details its achievements, its success and challenges, before presenting the way forward.

BlueMX Mangrove A.C., Mexico

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Project in a snapshot	
Title	Blue Carbon Mexico
Country	Mexico
Project Developer	BlueMx Mangrove A.C.
Vision	Implement Blue Carbon Projects within Mexico.
Overall Project goals	Restore degraded mangroves to increase carbon sequestration, and further conserve and sustainably manage healthy mangroves to retain sequestrated carbon.
BNCFF supported activities	Collection of biomass samples and analysis for the above and below ground carbon stock, including analysis on 720 points and samples for the project area.
Main stakeholders	• BlueMX Mangrove A.C. • Government representatives • Academic collaborators
BNC focus	Blue Carbon – mangrove restoration and conservation
Duration	5 months (2021)
Type of funding	Grant
Proof of concept	There are eight (8) active Project Areas with a total coverage of 102,710 ha
Links/synergies	• Contributes to UN SDGs 1 (No Poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land) • Contributes to climate adaptation and mitigation • Biodiversity conservation

1. Project summary

The project aims to restore degraded mangroves to increase carbon sequestration, and further conserve and sustainably manage healthy mangroves to retain sequestrated carbon.

2. Purpose of the engagement with BNCFF

BlueMX Mangrove A.C. benefited from the support of BNCFF regarding the collection of biomass samples and analysis for the above and below carbon stock. The core soil samples were taken from various sites in and around the Yucatan Peninsula. Four sites were located within the state of Campeche, Mexico and the fifth site on the island of Cozumel in the state of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Soil core samples were drawn from areas located within BlueMX project areas where they have agreements in place with private landowners, ejidos (government sponsored communal property owners) and the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP). The findings will be used to conserve and sustainably manage healthy mangroves with the hope to retain sequestrated carbon.

3. Main outputs and results achieved with BNCFF support

753 soil samples were collected from five project areas and their carbon content analysed.

The results of the soil analysis showed high carbon content in the restored and degraded areas sampled, and a wide range of carbon content, including lower content than what was expected, was found in better preserved areas. This may be explained by the fact that the samples in restored and degraded areas come from basin mangroves, which have historically been dominated by established mangroves, or where newly planted mangroves are increasing the carbon content through root biomass. Additionally, carbon from the above ground biomass may have accumulated through burial during degradation, resulting in the

higher carbon content. With respect to the wide range of carbon content and the unexpected low content in the better-preserved areas, the samples that were taken from the coastal sandbar where the mangroves are relatively young carbon content was found to be low. In areas where the mangroves were well established, carbon content was high as expected. Further soil core sampling is needed more inland may help obtain more accurate and representative carbon content figure where only samples were taken from the fringe areas.

The above interpretation needs to be confirmed through further research and analysis.

4. Success and challenges

The support provided by BNCFF supported the initial carbon analysis providing a baseline for the project's carbon content in the various project areas. In addition, the findings will inform the future carbon sampling plans.

Challenges faced by the project included poor field conditions, COVID-19 restrictions, and a price increase in the soil sampling analysis. These challenges led to overall cost overrun, which were absorbed by the project developer.

5. Looking beyond BNCFF

The project's ambition is to demonstrate the feasibility of developing Blue Carbon mangrove restoration and conservation projects using the most accurate scientific data and the new greenhouse gases protocols developed specifically for these ecosystems. By proving the viability of these types of projects, we hope to enable widespread adoption of similar projects to protect and restore mangroves ecosystems globally. In addition to being a critical tool in the battle against climate change, these types of efforts and projects provide significant benefits to biodiversity, threatened species, and contribute to sustainable communities and livelihoods. It is expected that this endeavor will reduce GHG emissions by up to 100 million tons over the next 25 years.

BLUE MX

Disclaimer: The BNCFF provides assistance to projects on their path to becoming sound, investable Blue Natural Capital (BNC) businesses with clear ecosystem service benefits, multiple income streams and appropriate risk-return profiles. Beyond the support provided, IUCN and the BNCFF donor(s) bear no responsibility for the development of these projects, their ultimate bankability or sustainability, their investors, donors, and funding arrangements, unless otherwise noted.

Photo courtesy by the Project Developer.

Since its launch in 2018, the BNCFF has become a global brand name in Ocean Impact Finance. After screening over a hundred proposals, it has supported a suite of blue Nature-based Solutions (NbS) pioneer projects with grant funding.

https://bluenaturalcapital.org/supported-projects/

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