

Mobilizing the Mangrove Breakthrough: from global goals to action on the ground

A background document to our propositions for
transformative mangrove action

September 2025



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Mobilizing the Mangrove Breakthrough: from global goals to action on the ground

A background document to our country propositions for transformative mangrove action

This document accompanies the propositions for transformative mangrove action developed for several countries by GMA Chapter Members. It gives insight in the rationale, intervention logic and approach behind these large scale country propositions.

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Summary

In 2023, an alliance of over a 100 countries, NGOs, and corporate partners, established the **Mangrove Breakthrough**, an ambitious global effort to **halt mangrove degradation, restore half of recent losses, and double protection of all mangroves by 2030**. With over 50 percent of the world's mangroves lost from conversion and overexploitation, the Breakthrough mobilizes resources, partners, knowledge and action on the ground at an unprecedented scale.

The Breakthrough puts mangroves firmly on the map as superhero ecosystems that address the challenges of our age; achieving its goals provides local food security, reduces storm and flood risks for millions of people, and protects billions of dollars' worth of property. It also supports unique terrestrial, wetland, and marine biodiversity while providing vital mitigation benefits by maintaining 43.5 million tons of CO2 in living mangrove biomass and 189 million tons of CO2 in the soil. With this, the Breakthrough contributes substantially to achieving global goals set under the environmental conventions.

To achieve these goals, local partners of the Global Mangrove Alliance, together with the Breakthrough hub and others are developing national program propositions that aim to mobilize a blend of public and private sector funding to drive large-scale action for mangroves in priority countries. Through a mix of interventions focused on conservation, restoration and "mangrove positive" economic development they enhance livelihoods for local and indigenous communities. Propositions have been developed for Mexico, Guinea-Bissau and Indonesia, with additional ones for Kenya, the Philippines and India underway.

This document describes our approach to the development of these country propositions and puts them in a broader context by explaining our Mangrove Breakthrough journey so far.

First, we describe why mangroves are important to achieve sustainable development, climate and biodiversity goals and outline the enablers needed for their sustainable management. We introduce the Mangrove Breakthrough as a driver of global action, underpinned by its core principles, scientific foundations, and strategic vision. Reference is provided to our flagship publications, including the State of the World's Mangroves reports, the Mangrove Breakthrough Financial Roadmap, and our Regional Readiness Reports.

We then present the set-up of our country propositions. We introduce a standardized approach that establishes the enablers for effective mangrove management and describe a related work structure that is tailored to the local context of target countries. This includes work packages that create an enabling environment through policy dialogue, knowledge development and communication, complemented by measures that strengthen collaboration and mobilize finance among sectors and disciplines, and support direct action on the ground.

Lastly, we outline approaches that ensure adoption of evidence-based practices, meaningful engagement of locally based organizations and efficiently deploy funding for action on the ground.



1. Background

Overlooked ally in achieving global goals

Through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the global community has committed to ambitious targets to tackle some of the most pressing problems of our time: poverty, biodiversity loss and climate change. Nature-based Solutions play a central role in achieving these goals by helping to safeguard the planetary boundaries essential for humanity's long-term prosperity. They provide vital resources, support countless species and regulate our climate system, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Surprisingly, **mangrove forests have long been undervalued as key allies** in meeting these goals. Only in recent years has their critical importance gained wider recognition, sparking calls for greater attention and investment toward their conservation and restoration.



Yellow Warbler @ Rishi Goordial / Ocean Image Bank

Why Mangroves?

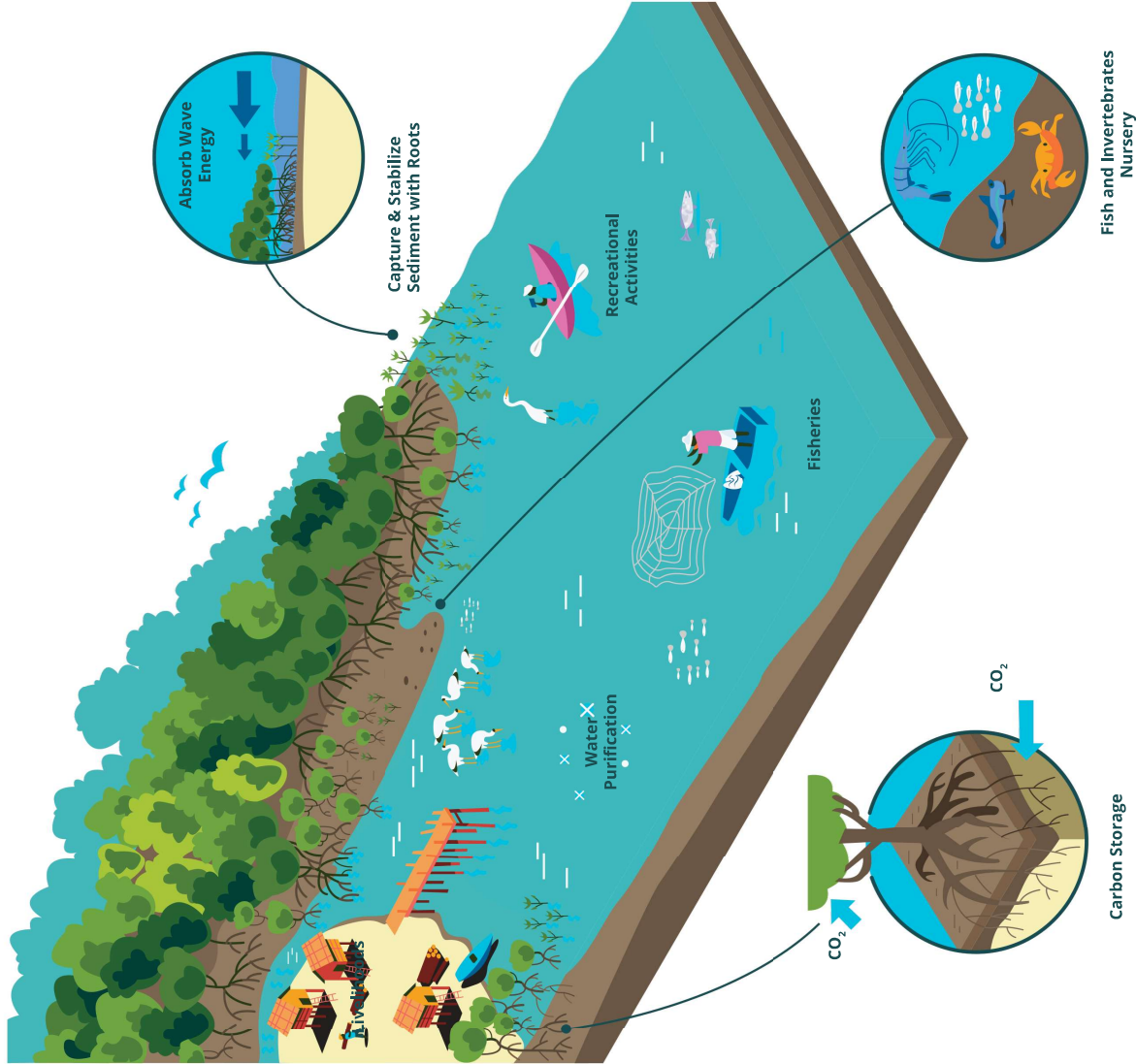
Mangroves are a superhero ecosystem

They provide a unique habitat for a wide array of plants and animals, support millions of vulnerable communities with fisheries resources and protect settlements and agriculture lands from natural hazards like hurricanes, sea level rise, and coastal erosion. Though they make up just 2 percent of the world's forests, their per-unit carbon mitigation value is unrivalled, sequestering carbon 3-5 times faster than terrestrial forests. Yet, mangroves have been decimated by conversion to farmland, aquaculture, and urbanization, with climate change exacerbating this degradation.

Once lining vast swaths of tropical and subtropical coastlines throughout the Caribbean, South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, only 14,700,000 million hectares of mangroves remain – half of their original extent. These threats are compounded by climate change with changes in temperature, precipitation and sea level affecting mangrove health and distribution.

While recent trends show a gradual decrease of mangrove loss, it is crucial to protect and sustainably manage the remaining mangroves to ensure their long-term survival. Additionally, there is an urgent need and opportunity to restore mangrove ecosystems, particularly on lands converted for aquaculture (shrimp, milkfish) and agriculture (rice, palm oil) that became unproductive and have since been abandoned. Management interventions should also consider impact of climate change, for example by allowing space for mangroves to move landwards as sea levels rise.

The benefits and values of mangroves



Problem Statement

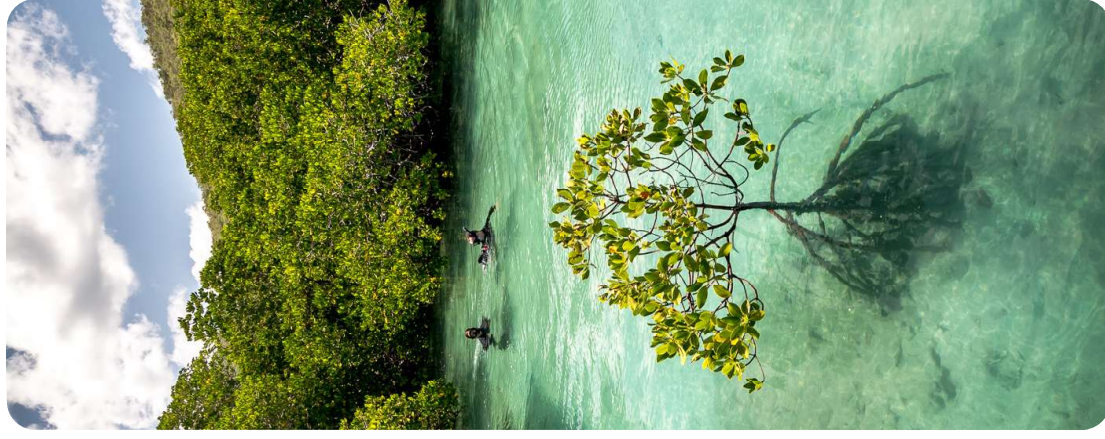
What is needed to scale up action for mangroves?

A diverse community of mangrove professionals, including representatives from civil society, government and private sector, along with local communities has worked to conserve and restore mangrove resources. This global community has built valuable experiences and achieved successes in a multitude of settings. They have demonstrated innovative approaches to community-based conservation, tested novel approaches to restore degraded areas, and introduced sustainable livelihoods that form part of a mangrove-based economy. All this combined has provided a compelling business case for the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests.

189
Million Tons of Carbon
stored in the soil

43%
of loss from 2000 to 2020
due to conversion to
aquaculture, oil palm, and
rice cultivation

Yet, across geographies this community has encountered recurrent barriers that limit both the scalability and long-term sustainability of their interventions. **Transforming these barriers into enablers is crucial for turning the tide for mangroves.**



Orpheus Island, Australia @Matt Currock / Ocean Image Bank

00 MANGROVE 00 BREAKTHROUGH

The Mangrove Breakthrough

Considering the outstanding value of mangroves for people and nature and the need to put in place the enablers to effective mangrove management, a unique coalition of over 100 partners from governments, NGOs, and private sector took action at UNFCCC COP 28. They launched the **Mangrove Breakthrough**, a global movement aiming to halt further mangrove loss, restore at least **half of recent losses, and double the area of mangroves under formal protection**. This science-based target was derived from data on our **Global Mangrove Watch platform** and substantiated through our **State of the World's Mangroves reports**.

Organized under the Marrakech partnership and led by the UNFCCC Climate Champions, the Global Mangrove Alliance, the Mangrove Alliance for Climate and various private sector leaders, the Mangrove Breakthrough represents more than just a goal. It unites a community of action that enables diverse organizations to collaborate by drawing on the best available experiences, knowledge and guidance on best practices.

Additionally, it leverages long-term sustainable finance to conserve and restore mangroves at an unprecedented scale. Thereby it directly contributes to achieving the Paris Agreement goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A small secretariat, hosted by Ambition Loop mobilizes and coordinates the Mangrove Breakthrough, in close collaboration with its membership.

Achieving the Mangrove Breakthrough's ambitious targets will provide local food security, reduce storm and flood risks for millions, and protect billions of dollars' worth of property. It will support unique terrestrial, wetland, and marine biodiversity and offer vital mitigation benefits by sequestration 43.5 million tons of CO2 in living mangrove biomass and 189 million tons of CO2 in the soil.

a community in action

+ 100 partners
from Governments, NGOs,
and private sector



Northern Java, Indonesia @Boskalis

The Global Mangrove Alliance

The **Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA)** includes over 100 member organizations, bringing together NGOs and research institutions who work together with governments, local communities, funders and the private sector to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated, global approach to mangrove conservation and restoration at a scale that matters.

The GMA formed 14 National Chapters to organize its membership in-country. Each chapter fosters cross-cutting collaboration, mutual support, and coordination while reducing competition for limited funding. Their work is centered around national action plans developed by chapter members. This innovative model aims to increase the share of GMA activities focused on on-the-ground conservation and restoration efforts, and knowledge sharing, complementing the global membership's ongoing work on policy, finance, best practice, and capacity strengthening.

2. Rationale

The 4 Enablers

Enabler I

Mobilizing Mangrove Partnerships

Across mangrove landscapes, partners from public and private sector urgently need to join forces to strategize, align and implement their initiatives together to achieve shared goals. Too often, conservation organizations work in isolation, without coordinated strategies for driving change. This hinders the achievement of a truly transformational impact across mangrove landscapes. For mangrove conservation to succeed, strategic collaboration is essential. **This includes engaging local implementing organizations, as well as grass roots and community groups. Enhancing their access to international donor funding and training opportunities, is crucial for achieving long-term success.**

Enabler II

Incubate Finance and Investment

There is an **urgent need to secure increased funder commitments for mangroves and to channel these resources to high quality projects on the ground.** Today, mangroves remain underappreciated by both governments and philanthropic funders, despite a clear case for their restoration and conservation. To bridge this funding gap, it is key to devise mechanisms that leverage a blend of grant funding, concessional finance and private sector investment to bridge the funding gap for mangroves. Grants can drive direct immediate action on the ground, and support the development of business cases that attract private sector capital, while supporting the derisking of investments. Sound financial frameworks can help incentivize action for mangroves and avoid unintended perverse incentives.

Enabler III

Enhance Policies and Governance

Integrating ambitious mangrove goals in policies, resolving jurisdictional barriers and integrating legislative safeguards that support protection of mangrove resources will help scale and sustain interventions.

Jurisdictions and land ownership arrangements are often unclear in intertidal mangrove zones. Safeguards to prevent mangrove degradation or overexploitation are lacking. Unclear governance mandates cause inaction, funding gaps, stakeholder tensions, and conflict between resource users. Integral to this is a lack of understanding of threats to mangroves and their values which has prevented ambitious goal-setting and the establishment of stringent regulations to prevent further declines.

Enabler IV

Develop Knowledge, Awareness and Capacities

Insights must be made accessible to policy makers and practitioners through **guidance and effective public outreach.** Peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and capacity building programs should be tailored to end-users' needs and **promote adaptive learning. Knowledge gaps must be addressed** through applied research and consistent documentation so that lessons endure beyond individual projects.

Globally, understanding of mangrove trends, values, management and restoration approaches has grown, but knowledge gaps remain, especially in translating scientific findings into local implementation. This hampers the prioritization of interventions and the design of effective programs. Too often, scientific insights and lessons learned from field programs[1] go undocumented. As a result, mangrove restoration projects continue to face high failure rates – up to 80% – wasting scarce conservation funds[2], while eroding confidence in restoration.

[1] www.mangrovealliance.org/news/engaging-local-ecological-knowledge-to-inform-mangrove-restoration-and-conservation/

[2] www.mangrovealliance.org/resources/mangrove-restoration-or-plant-or-not-to-plant/

Mangrove Breakthrough Pipeline Strategy

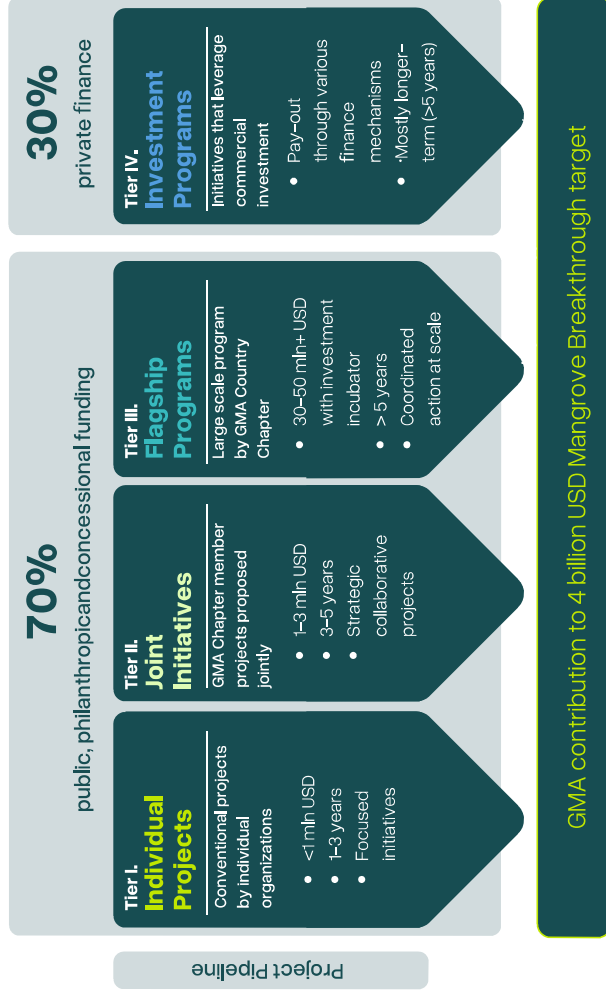


Figure 1: The Global Mangrove Alliance’s approach to building a pipeline of initiatives that contributes to reaching the Breakthrough goals

Our country propositions fall under Tier III. They represent holistic national work programs identified by a broad range of project partners. Tailored to the local context, they follow a structured approach aligned with an **overarching Theory of Change**

to ensure the successful realization of the Mangrove Breakthrough goals.



Production of mangrove honey can be an alternative source of income for communities living in mangrove areas - Costa Rica @ocean image bank

The grant-based programs under Tiers I-III, yield direct conservation impact, but also help incubate large-scale private sector finance for mangrove positive business development (Tier IV).

This is supported by an overarching finance facility, that is currently being developed through the Mangrove Breakthrough hub. The facility deploys seed capital that helps incubate business cases.

of \$4 Billion
investment needed

1/3 = \$1.2B
Could come from private sources¹

Driving large-scale finance to enable action on the ground

To achieve the Breakthrough targets, it is essential to **mobilize large-scale funding from governments, the private sector, and philanthropy.** Such investment is needed to support locally led action on the ground and overcome overarching barriers to scaling current conservation and restoration efforts (see figure 1). In 2023, we published the **Financial Roadmap**^[1], a blueprint to assess immediate funding needs and financial strategies required to reach the global goals. The roadmap calls for deploying a mix of funding sources and financing instruments to mobilize approximately 4 billion USD over the next few years.

Building on this, in 2025, we published three regional mangrove reports. These documents highlight how regions can contribute to achieving the Breakthrough targets, emphasizing both their restoration and conservation potential and readiness for action.

For key mangrove countries, these strategies also provide detailed insights into stakeholders, policy contexts, current baselines, and track records. Informed by the financial roadmap and regional strategies, the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) started developing a **pipeline of fundable mangrove initiatives.** This pipeline aims to enable sustainable mangrove management and restoration at scale by tapping into a blend of potential financing sources (see figure xxx). Through a global stock take, among the GMA membership, we began building our pipeline by mapping existing efforts. We established a list of initiatives, most of which are small in scale and implemented by individual project partners (Tier I). To foster collaboration across disciplines, strengthen alignment among partners and promote a learning-oriented approach, members of the Global Alliance from our 12 country chapters developed joint medium-scale initiatives (Tier II).

[1] https://www.mangrovealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Mangrove_Breakthrough_Financial_Roadmap_Finance_Coastal_Ecosystems_2023.pdf

Theory of Change

Mangrove Breakthrough Targets achieved by 2030:

Mangrove loss halted, half of recent losses restored, protection doubled

Step 3

Drive Action on the Ground

- Develop landscape-level mangrove management plans
- Support conservation and restoration based on best available science
- Develop a mangrove-positive economy and support sustainable livelihoods

Step 2

Create an Enabling Environment

- Fill gaps in knowledge, build capacity and learning
- Improve policies, plans and legislation to enhance mangrove management
- Raise awareness on the importance of mangroves

Step 1

Transformative Collaboration

- Organize collaboration and strengthen national partnerships
- Mobilize small-grants for local organizations
- Develop innovative finance mechanisms and incubate investment

Barriers

- Limited collaboration and coordination between disciplines
- Lack of (access to) finance
- Inadequate governance, policy and legislation
- Lack of knowledge awareness and capacity

Existing Assests

- Cross-sectoral Breakthrough commitment
- Global Mangrove Alliance commitment
- Best practice guidelines and commitment
- Global and regional strategies and roadmaps

Intervention Steps

Connecting funding to local implementation

Beyond securing financial commitments, the Mangrove Breakthrough **mobilizes transformative collaboration** to achieve its goals. **The project pipeline connects funders with an interest in mangrove conservation and restoration to high-quality projects** that are developed and implemented by national and local NGOs, private sector partners, government agencies, as well as community groups.

This approach aligns funds with priority areas and interventions while nurturing a community of mangrove professionals across sectors and disciplines to scale up best practice approaches.

To achieve the Breakthrough goals, we designed a **generalized Theory of Change** that addresses barriers to large-scale and sustainable mangrove management and restoration through **three key Intervention Steps**.

In short, we reason that establishing and strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships through **Transformative Collaboration (Step 1)** helps build the community that is required to create an **Enabling Environment (Step 2)** for mangrove management through policy reform, enhanced knowledge development and capacity building. This enabled environment then **Drives Action on the Ground (Step 3)**, supporting the implementation of conservation, restoration, and sustainable development in selected landscapes.

Interventions can be expanded within landscapes and replicated to others by leveraging public funding, concessional finance, and investment on top of philanthropic funds. Collectively, these Intervention Steps help us achieve our overarching Breakthrough goals.

These Intervention steps are relevant across all mangrove geographies, yet their specific application depend on the local context in any target region. Our Theory of Change is visualized in figure 2 and described in more on the following pages.



2025 MB/GMA workshop Jakarta @Mangrove Breakthrough



Intervention Step I Fostering transformative collaboration

Inclusive mangrove management requires **collaboration between stakeholders from various disciplines and sectors**. Local organizations and community groups play a key role as stewards and owners of mangrove resources. To integrate their objectives, knowledge and needs, it is important to actively engage them in planning and program implementation and to give them a voice in decision-making. Such collaboration does not happen on its own. National and local stakeholders are often at a distance from each other and fail to interact. Likewise, representatives from civil society, government and private sector struggle to align their perspectives and experience. Establishing a well-organized and adequately resourced collaboration structure, where partners work based on a shared vision and strategy with clear roles and responsibilities, is vital for success.

Equally important is **improving access to international grant funding**, which enable s action on the ground. Such grant funding can also help create business cases and develop the financial instruments that attract private sector investment. Strong, well-coordinated partnerships with access to a blend of funding sources form the basis for efficient and lasting conservation efforts.

- Organizing and maintaining strong **Global Mangrove Alliance country chapters** that connect NGOs, private sector and government stakeholders, grounded in the international collaboration space created by the Mangrove Breakthrough;
- **Developing and coordinating joint strategies, plans and initiatives** for mangrove management
- **Joint Monitoring and evaluating efforts** to enable adaptive management and track progress towards achieving the Mangrove Breakthrough Goals
- Channelling small grants to grassroots organizations to drive action on the ground;
- Define mangrove-positive business opportunities and incubate private sector finance.



Intervention Step II Creating an enabling environment

Building an enabling environment for mangrove conservation and restoration is crucial to scale up successful interventions and sustain them in the long term. This requires **developing and sharing knowledge and information, building capacities and awareness, and supporting policies, plans and investment frameworks** that stimulate mangrove positive action.

- Specifically, this is achieved by:
- Integrating mangroves into government and private sector policies, plans, legislation, and practices, and resolving jurisdictional blockages;
 - Establishing a sound knowledge base on mangroves and developing locally relevant guidelines, tools, and best practices ;
 - Building skills and awareness among policymakers, planners, and practitioners, connecting scientific insights and Local Ecological Knowledge;
 - Building awareness about mangrove values.



Intervention Step III Drive action on the ground

Ultimately, it is crucial to translate global ambitions into action on the ground. The challenge is to mobilize stakeholders from various disciplines to connect their interventions across mangrove landscapes and build on each other's strengths, facilitating lasting, transformational change.

- Specifically this is achieved by
- Uniting key stakeholders in strong landscape-level partnerships, to ensure joint planning and implementation;
 - Developing shared landscape-level mangrove management plans in selected landscapes with local partners;
 - Supporting conservation measures: including habitat protection, ensuring sustainable natural resources use and protection of species;
 - Supporting large-scale adoption of Community-based Ecological Mangrove Restoration;
 - Promoting a mangrove-based economy, by supporting the development of mangrove-positive businesses and enabling sustainable livelihoods.

3. Our Approach

Country Propositions

A standardized structure geared to the local context

Our country propositions follow the introduced intervention logic. A structure, consisting of **standardized work packages** designed to achieve our Mangrove Breakthrough goals in-country is presented in figure 3. Each work package is tailored to the specific needs of the country, considering factors like threat profiles, conservation priorities, administrative structures, current implementation and collaboration track records, stakeholder capacities and the institutional context.

The propositions have been co-created by local stakeholders from various disciplines. Through a series of program design workshops on involving dozens of experts from civil society, government and private sector target landscapes were identified and priority interventions were identified for each of the work packages. The proposal draft was then reviewed through a team of national and international experts, including representatives from the Mangrove Breakthrough Secretariat, The Global Mangrove Alliance steering committee and the donor community.



Drive Action on the Ground



Create an Enabling Environment



Foster Transformative Collaboration

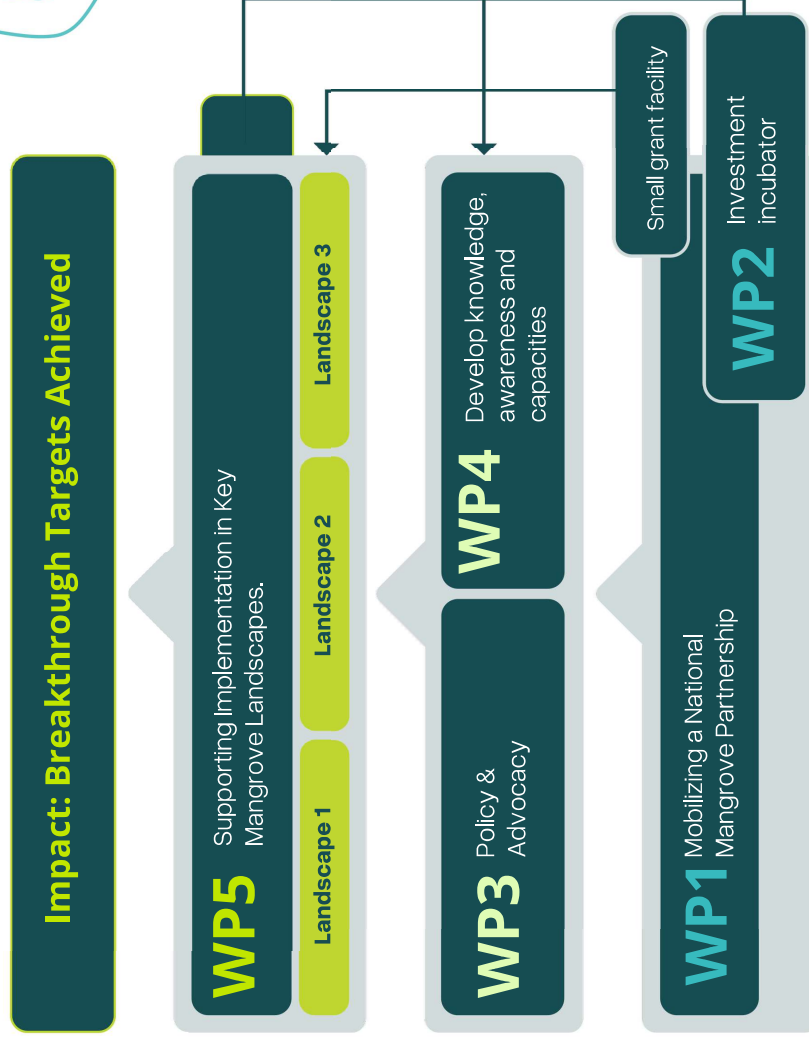


Figure 3: Standardized program structure of the flagship propositions. The work packages are connected to the enablers that need to be in place to progress towards the Mangrove Breakthrough goals.

Mobilizing strong locally-led partnerships

The country propositions in each country will be implemented through its respective Global Mangrove Alliance chapter. These chapters, composed of both local and (inter)national alliance members active in a given country, bring together the required implementation, advocacy, communications, community engagement, and technical skills needed to deliver on the Breakthrough ambition. **Locally based implementing organizations will take a leading role in on-the-ground activities at the landscape level**, working closely with community and resource user groups.

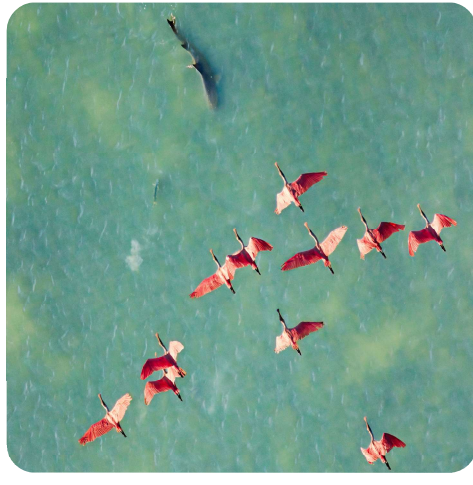
In this process they will be supported by national and international organizations, who provide coordination, training and technical assistance. They will also **lead on policy dialogue, communications, training activities, and knowledge development** within their landscape. Together, all partners will collaborate with government partners to ensure alignment with policies and plans and connect with government-led initiatives.

A dedicated work package will foster collaboration with the private sector to leverage investment in mangrove-positive businesses.

As transformational collaboration is the cornerstone to Breakthrough success, the proposed initiative places strong emphasis on partnership building, joint strategy development, and the exchange of knowledge and experience.



Oyster farming in the mangroves of Senegal @Wetlands International West Africa



Roseate spoonbills flying over lemon shark - Bahamas
@ Mark Ian Cook / Ocean Image Bank

A landscape approach

Our primary focus is to achieve on-the-ground impact by **managing mangroves across landscapes**, defined by bio-physical, political, legal and cultural parameters. By adopting a landscape approach we ensure that local stakeholders connect their interventions across wider areas, based on a shared vision. Achieving such a landscape transformation ensures we make major leaps towards achieving the goals of the Mangrove Breakthrough.

Further, a landscape approach ensures we **do not only consider mangroves, but also focus on connected ecosystems** such as coral reefs, seagrass beds and freshwater wetlands upstream in the catchment.

Mangrove Breakthrough guiding principles

Through our Global Mangrove Alliance partnership, we have developed guidelines and tools that support global conservation and restoration efforts. These resources, combine cutting-edge scientific research and insights with extensive local knowledge from our members and partners. Our knowledge hub includes tools like the Global Mangrove Watch Platform, the Mangrove Restoration Tracker Tool, the Best Practice Guidelines on Mangrove Restoration^[1] and the Local Ecological Knowledge Guidance.

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Adhering to best practice guidance

Through our Global Mangrove Alliance partnership, we have developed guidelines and tools that support global conservation and restoration efforts. These resources, combine cutting-edge scientific research and insights with extensive local knowledge from our members. Our knowledge hub includes tools like the Global Mangrove Watch Platform, the Mangrove Restoration Tracker Tool, the Best Practice Guidelines on Mangrove Restoration and the Local Ecological Knowledge Guidance. An overview of key resources and tools can be found on [page 27](#) and [page 28](#) of this document, with active links to download the full documents. Additional tools, as well as a global learning strategy, are under development.

During the implementation of the proposed initiative we will proactively share these resources to ensure in-country teams have access to the best available guidelines, training and tools. We will also capture and integrate the knowledge and lessons learned during the program implementation to keep our toolkit updated and valuable to other practitioners and national and subnational stakeholders

Specifically, we will ensure that all partners involved in program implementation adopt the principles of **Ecological Mangrove Restoration** (see page 26). This ensures we steer away from single-species tree planting efforts that have caused large-scale failure in recent years.

Mangrove Breakthrough Guiding Principles

- 1

Safeguard Nature and Maximize Biodiversity

Protecting the remaining intact mangrove ecosystems, enhancing their resilience, and implementing science-based ecological restoration protocols.
- 2

Employ the Best Information and Practices

Using the best available science-based knowledge, including indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge, for mangrove interventions.
- 3

Empower People

Implementing, in all aspects of project design, social safeguards to protect and enhance community member rights, knowledge, and leadership to achieve fair and equitable benefit sharing.
- 4

Align to the Broader Context – operate locally and contextually

Operating in the local context, including cultural customs, resource use, management and ownership regimes, while taking a land and seascape approach and aligning to international trends and their local implications.
- 5

Design for Sustainability

Creating sustainable mangrove projects and programs needs to be inclusive of how these initiatives will last into the future, including financing, threat abatement, community stewardship, and climate change.
- 6

Mobilize High Integrity Capital

Ensuring capital flows at the scale needed and allowing funding to be distributed to ready-to-scale projects.

[1] www.mangrovealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Mangrove-Breakthrough-Guiding-Principles.pdf



Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration

Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) is a participatory approach to restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems by addressing the root causes of degradation and creating conditions for natural regeneration.

Unlike traditional mangrove planting programs, which often focus on planting young trees or propagules, CBEMR emphasizes restoring hydrological conditions, removing stressors, and allowing nature to regenerate the mangrove forest with minimal human intervention^[1].

One of the key reasons CBEMR is more effective than planting-based methods is that it ensures mangrove seedlings establish in suitable environments. Many planting projects fail because they introduce mangrove species in areas where they do not naturally grow, such as mudflats or too far into the tidal zone or because the conditions that led to degradation (grazing animals or blocked hydrology) are not addressed. In contrast, CBEMR prioritizes restoring natural tidal flow, improving soil conditions, and addressing land-use pressures that may have caused mangrove loss in the first place. Once the right conditions are in place, mangrove propagules—naturally dispersed by tides—

colonize the area and develop into a healthy, resilient forest.

The involvement of local communities is another major advantage of CBEMR. By engaging local stakeholders in restoration efforts, communities gain ownership of the process and develop long-term stewardship of the restored mangroves.

This ensures that restoration efforts are sustained and that local knowledge and traditional practices contribute to ecosystem recovery. Additionally, CBEMR provides economic and ecological benefits to communities, such as enhanced fisheries, coastal protection, and carbon sequestration.



Cayman mangrove rangers @Mangrove Action Project

[1] www.mangrovealliance.org/best-practice-guidelines-for-mangrove-restoration/

Driving large-scale finance to enable action on the ground

To achieve the Breakthrough targets, it is essential to **mobilize large-scale funding from governments, the private sector, and philanthropy**. Such investment is needed to support locally led action on the ground and overcome overarching barriers to scaling current conservation and restoration efforts (see figure 1). In 2023, we published the **Financial Roadmap**^[1], a blueprint to assess immediate funding needs and financial strategies required to reach the global goals. The roadmap calls for deploying a mix of funding sources and financing instruments to mobilize approximately 4 billion USD over the next few years.

Building on this, in 2025, we published three regional mangrove reports. These documents highlight how regions can contribute to achieving the Breakthrough targets, emphasizing both their restoration and conservation potential and readiness for action.

For key mangrove countries, these strategies also provide detailed insights into stakeholders, policy contexts, current baselines, and track records. Informed by the financial roadmap and regional strategies, the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) started developing **a pipeline of fundable mangrove initiatives**. This pipeline aims to enable sustainable mangrove management and restoration at scale by tapping into a blend of potential financing sources (see figure xxx). Through a global stock take, among the GMA membership, we began building our pipeline by mapping existing efforts. We established a list of initiatives, most of which are small in scale and implemented by individual project partners (Tier I). To foster collaboration across disciplines, strengthen alignment among partners and promote a learning-oriented approach, members of the Global Alliance from our 12 country chapters developed joint medium-scale initiatives (Tier II).



Production of mangrove honey can be an alternative source of income for communities living in mangrove areas - Costa Rica @ocean image bank

Mangrove Breakthrough Pipeline Strategy

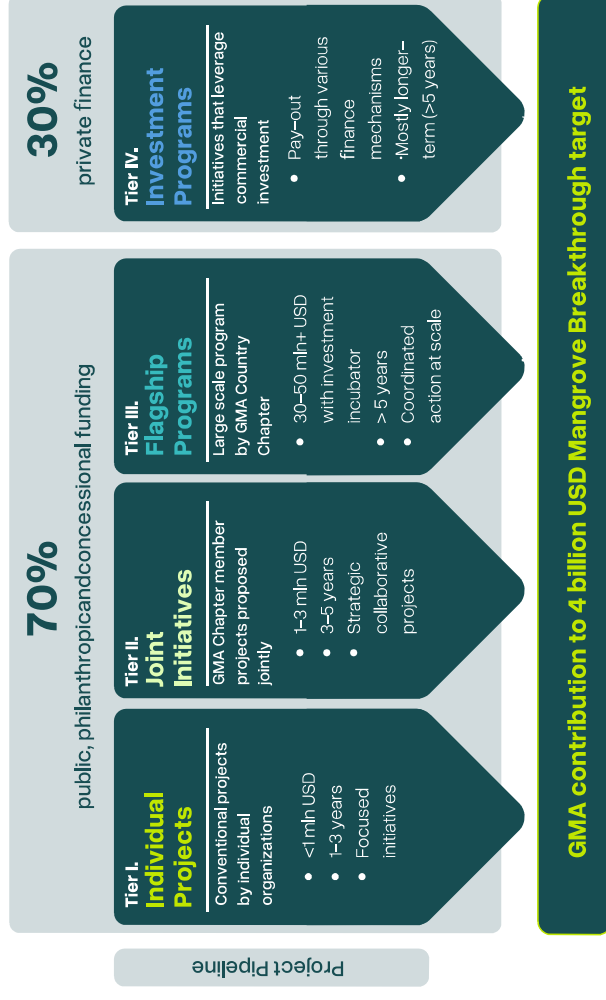


Figure 1: The Global Mangrove Alliance's approach to building a pipeline of initiatives that contributes to reaching the Breakthrough goals

Our country propositions fall under Tier III. They represent holistic national work programs identified by a broad range of project partners. Tailored to the local context, they follow a structured approach aligned with an **overarching Theory of Change** to ensure the successful realization of the Mangrove Breakthrough goals.

The grant-based programs under Tiers I-III, yield direct conservation impact, but also help incubate mechanisms that leverage large-scale finance for mangroves (Tier IV).

This is supported by an overarching finance facility that will be developed through the Mangrove Breakthrough secretariat. The facility is designed to deploy seed capital for the development of mangrove positive initiatives that can be funded through markets and private finance mechanisms.

of \$4 billion USD
investment needed

1/3 = \$1.2 billion
Could come from commercial sources¹

[1] www.mangrovealliance.org/best-practice-guidelines-for-mangrove-restoration/

Key Tools & Resources



The Global Mangrove Watch (GMW) is a free online mapping and data platform which provides accessible global and national mangrove datasets.

Data on the location and spatial extent of mangroves is crucial for the protection and conservation of mangrove forests.

Since 2018, GMW has provided a time series of global mangrove extent maps from 1996 to 2020. The GMW mangrove extent dataset is now in its fourth iteration, with the GMW v4.0 released in 2024. A key element of the GMW approach has been the use of both optical and radar satellite data, and the iterative improvement of the extent maps through the incorporation of user feedback. The new 2020 GMW v4.0 baseline has a spatial resolution of 10 x 10 meters, sufficient to be applied at both nationally and locally relevant scales.

Key Publications



The Mangrove Breakthrough Financial Roadmap



The State of the World's Mangroves 2021



The State of the World's Mangroves 2024



Best practice guidelines for mangrove restoration



Local Ecological guidelines for Knowledge (LEK) mangrove restoration

THE MANGROVE BREAKTHROUGH FINANCIAL ROADMAP

To achieve the Breakthrough goals, it is essential to mobilize large-scale funding from government, private sector, and philanthropy to support locally led action on the ground and address overarching impediments to scaling current conservation and restoration efforts.

Developed by Systemiq in partnership with the UN Climate Champions and the GMA, and in collaboration with the Financial Services Taskforce of the Sustainable Markets Initiative, the Financial Roadmap for the Mangrove Breakthrough makes the case for using financial instruments in innovative and complementary ways. It offers in-depth analysis and detailed recommendations for a synergistic toolbox of financial instruments that can together mobilize private, public, and philanthropic capital at speed and scale, and shows why creating the right enabling conditions will be key to their success.

BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR MANGROVE RESTORATION

The Best Practice Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration brings together the latest accumulated local and scientific knowledge about mangrove restoration best-practices into one resource. Unlike traditional mangrove planting programs, Community-Based Ecological Mangrove Restoration (CBEMR) is a participatory approach to restoring degraded mangrove ecosystems by addressing the root causes of degradation, which can dramatically increase implementation success. Combined with project design and management approaches and a detailed module on Blue Carbon, the aim of the guideline is to align mangrove practitioners, NGOs, governments, scientists, industry, local communities, and funders around accepted best-practices for science-based and inclusive mangrove restoration.

STATE OF THE WORLD'S MANGROVES REPORTS

Published by the GMA, the State of the World's Mangroves reports highlight advances to safeguard these ecosystems. Member contributions showcase progress towards science and understanding, collaboration and information sharing, practical management interventions, and the many policy, legal, and financial tools that will help to secure a better future for these ecosystems.

INCLUDING LOCAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE

Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) is the knowledge, practices, and beliefs gained through extensive personal observation of and interaction with local ecosystems which is shared among local resource users and is typically handed down through generations of local inhabitants, often Indigenous. Including Local Ecological Knowledge in Mangrove Restoration & Conservation was designed to help mangrove researchers and practitioners include local ecological knowledge in their projects.

THE MANGROVE BREAKTHROUGH NDC TASK FORCE

The NDC Task Force brings together policy and mangrove experts from international and local environmental organizations to provide technical policy guidance, coordinate knowledge sharing and access to mangrove data, and facilitate institutional and stakeholder coordination for Mangrove Breakthrough countries preparing their 2025 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).



Program operations

Program governance and project cycle management are similar amongst each of the country propositions.

Each country program is overseen by a steering group, with a coordination team providing day to day management and separate working groups implementing the work packages. The propositions adhere to a common approach to delivering action on the ground in the target landscapes. Specifically, the country propositions are designed to **enable locally based organization to drive action on the ground**. To facilitate efficient deployment of resources, a **small grant facility** will provide these organizations with access to funding. These grants will be aligned with the program's scope and linked to

the management strategies that will be developed for our landscapes.

Where possible, we will build on existing funding structures specific to each country to manage this facility effectively. This creates a transformative model, where they collective action by many different organizations efficiently ensure the sustainable management and restoration of mangroves and associated habitats across our target landscapes.

Members from the international Global Mangrove Alliance team are available to provide backstopping to program implementation — depending on in-country needs — and ensure alignment between national- and global level work.



Tiger sitting among mangroves, Indian Sundarbans @Soham Bhattacharya / Ocean Photo Bank

Program expansion over time

To achieve the Mangrove Breakthrough goals in our target countries, we require funding at a scale beyond what any single funder typically provides. To match high ambition levels and different levels of support from funders, each country proposition will include **an initiation budget which allows for the program implementation to start** whilst additional resources are mobilized. The initiation budget allows us to mobilize our partnership, create an enabling environment through policy dialogue, communications, knowledge development, and

capacity building, and provides substantial funding for locally based organizations and community groups to implement conservation and restoration in priority landscapes. The country programs can absorb additional resources to deepen impact in priority landscape or expand to new ones over time.

This approach enables us to start our country programs once a certain funding threshold is met, and to expand the program as additional funding pledges to the Mangrove Breakthrough materialize.

More information

The country propositions, available as separate documents, provide specific information on the program promise, geographical and thematic focus, core project partners and operational set up in each of the target countries. While the propositions follow the overarching approach and principles that are introduced in this document, each has their own unique focus and orientation, depending on the local context.

Country Propositions have been initially developed for Mexico, Guinea-Bissau and Indonesia. Additional propositions for Kenya, the Philippines, India and other countries are under development.

This selection has been made based on various internal and external parameters, including area of mangrove cover, level of threat, political support, as well as the in-country level of readiness amongst Global Mangrove Alliance partners to deliver impact for mangroves at scale.

While each proposition in principle is funding ready, we offer space to finetune their specific orientation and set-up in consultation with the donor community.

Please contact pieter.vaneijk@wetlands.org for more information on this document or if on the specific country propositions.

01 Sensitivity

1.1 Background	00
Introduction to the Mangrove Breakthrough and our approach to driving impact on the ground.	00

02 Sensitivity

2.1 Context: Project	00
2.2 Target landscapes	00
2.3 Program approach and deliverables	00

03 Objectives

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- 00 3.1 Financial structure
- 00 3.2 Small grants facility
- 00 3.3 Monitoring and evaluation
- 00 3.4 Risk Management
- 00 3.5 Program mobilization and implementation
- 00 3.6 Program timeline including inception phase
- 00 3.7 Budget

A Proposal for Bold Mangrove Action in XXX

Authors

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Maps

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Partnerships

This report has been created in collaboration with the **Global Mangrove Alliance** pharetra auctor and pharetra dignissim.



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Mangroves, Levera Wetland, Grenada
@Hugh Whyte on Unsplash

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Design

Proposals design and execution by Lauren Bloom

Cover Image

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