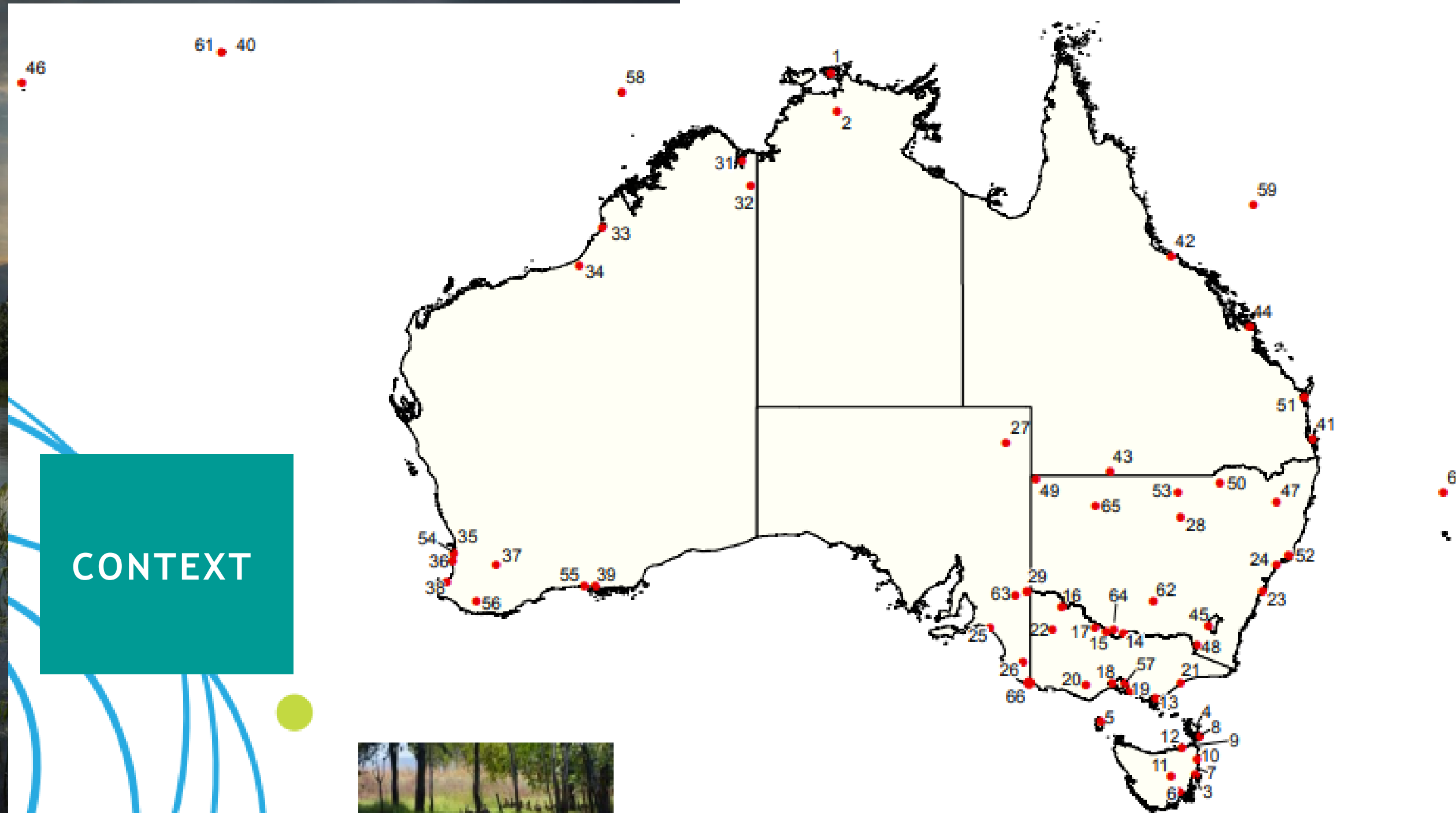


# The Ramsar Convention, Blue Carbon and Australia: An Update

## *Australia and Blue Carbon:*

- *Actions: Protection and Restoration*
- *Emissions: Reduction and Adaptation*
- *Wetlands and Nationally Determined Contributions*

## Actions: Protection and Restoration



- 67 Ramsar wetlands
- Scientific assessments show that blue carbon ecosystems can sequester two to four times more carbon per hectare and store it 30-50 times faster than terrestrial forests
- 'Blue carbon' hotspot - 12 per cent of the World's blue carbon ecosystems (7-12 per cent of global carbon stock)
- Seagrasses: 5.1 million hectares in shallow subtidal and intertidal environments. An estimated 11 per cent of the world's seagrass blue carbon is in the Great Barrier Reef
- Mangroves: 900,000 hectares comprising 41 species
- Saltmarsh: 1.4 million hectares (33 per cent of the planet's total)



## ***Actions: Protection and Restoration***

### ***International Partnership:***

Australia pursues greater recognition and protection of coastal blue carbon ecosystems, domestically and abroad, through the [International Partnership for Blue Carbon](#) and the Ramsar Convention.

### ***Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)***

Blue carbon supports Australia's NDC (both mitigation and adaptation).

- Link: [Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

### ***Blue Carbon Restoration:***

\$21.4 million USD to 2025 for blue carbon restoration and accounting.

- Link: [Blue Carbon Conservation, Restoration and Accounting Program - DAWE](#)

### ***Emissions Reduction Fund:***

A new Blue Carbon tidal restoration method under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

- Carbon credits for removing or modifying tidal restriction mechanisms.
- Link: [Blue carbon \(cleanenergyregulator.gov.au\)](#)

### ***Marine and Coastal Hub:***

Supports blue carbon projects under the National Environmental Science Program (NESP). Includes research on how coastal vegetated habitats store carbon through the [National Centre for Coasts and Climate](#) (University of Melbourne).

### ***Coast Adapt:***

CoastAdapt is a website with tools and information to assist the management of climate change risks on the Australian coast: <https://coastadapt.com.au/>



**Actions**

## Leveraging the Ramsar Convention



### Blue Carbon Initiatives

- Australia developed the resolution on the [Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems](#) at COP 13 in October 2018
- Australia committed \$300 million on climate change and resilience activities in Pacific Island countries from 2016-2020, including \$75 million for disaster preparedness
- National planning and development legislation protects Ramsar wetlands
- Climate change vulnerability assessment methodology for Ramsar wetlands



### Issues

- Challenge of maintaining ecological character under a changing climate
- Perverse climate change responses



### Carbon

- Mangroves have some of the highest carbon stores per hectare of any ecosystem.
- Surveys indicate that the coastal wetlands of SE Queensland hold approximately 4-5 million tonnes of sediment carbon.
- Coastal wetlands make up about one per cent of the Australian vegetation cover but account for about five per cent of all carbon storage across all ecosystems.
- The impacts of global change, such as sea-level rise and fluctuating sea levels, increased drought conditions and extreme weather events are likely to have a substantial impact on ecosystem health along Australia's coastlines.



*Scaling-up –  
What do we  
need?*

- Collaboration
- Behavioural Change (e.g. CoastAdapt)



*Light  
Pollution –  
Issues and  
Opportunities*

Australia's light pollution indicates positive opportunities for wetland management across a range of landscapes in non-urbanised areas.





Convention on Wetlands  
Convention sur les zones humides  
Convención sobre los Humedales

Any  
Questions?