

The role that **Blue Carbon** can play in the fight against Climate Change.

"Over three quarters of the UK is under the sea, yet carbon accounting stops on land, creating a substantial blind spot around the carbon storage potential of UK seas"

Dr Simon Walmsley, Chief Marine Advisor at WWF-UK

Blue Carbon and carbon sequestration (which is the capturing and storing of carbon), although still relatively new to research and in its infancy is beginning to gain momentum. **Blue Carbon** was seen to be a trending topic at COP27. Here its potential as a natural climate solution to appeared to be finally taken seriously. Considering the ocean covers 70% of the planet, the protection and possible utilisation of the ocean as a way of reducing carbon emissions has been incredibly slow. Whilst carbon accounting on land was given great thought, the ocean's potential as a way of being used strategically as a natural and long-term solution to reducing carbon emissions went ignored. At COP27, the focus turned towards saltmarshes, mangroves and sea marshes, all of which have the ability to store carbon. Research shows that the amount of carbon that can be stored by our coastal habitats is much larger than terrestrial forests, highlighting the important role that blue carbon can play. However, whilst the ocean can be seen as a solution to climate change, it is also a victim. The biodiversity of our oceans and coastal habitats are threatened continuously, absorbing around 90% of carbon pollution emitted by humans. COP27 does bring this into question, both the importance of preserving coastal habitats as well as the need of further research and investment into blue carbon projects on a global scale. This seminar will further explore **Blue Carbon** and address the questions given below;

Key points to be considered:

- 1. With **Blue Carbon** still being in its infancy, and salt marshes in South-East England expected to disappear in just 20 years, are we too late to give consideration to its potential?
- 2. What challenges will we face in using **Blue Carbon** as a way to help combat climate change?
- 3. How are **Blue Carbon** projects increasing compliance from people working in coastal areas? And what challenges will be encountered when trying to implement such projects?



