



GLOBAL
MANGROVE
ALLIANCE

Terms of Participation

Note: The Terms of Participation are subject to revision according to needs. Only the latest version can be considered as valid. Please contact membership@mangrovealliance.org

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Introduction

Since 2018, the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) has brought together technical experts, civil society organizations, governments, local communities, funding agencies and foundations to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated, global approach to mangrove conservation and restoration at a scale that matters. Together, the Alliance endeavors to achieve global priorities and actions by providing a foundation for members to work together in achieving the global goals of halting loss, restoring half, and doubling protection of mangrove ecosystems worldwide (detailed in Appendix 1),

We firmly believe that through collaboration we can achieve more and go beyond the capacity of any individual organization.

As a voluntary membership, the Global Mangrove Alliance depends on its Members to set ambitious but achievable contributions to the goals of the Global Mangrove Alliance. The Terms of Participation are meant to outline both the vision of the Global Mangrove Alliance and how Members can contribute to that vision in a meaningful and productive way.

These Terms of Participation apply to all individuals and entities engaged with the Global Mangrove Alliance, including but not limited to Members, national or regional Chapters, and participants in Working Groups and Task Forces. By participating in the activities and networks of the Global Mangrove Alliance, Members agree to abide by the expectations, policies, and procedures outlined in this document. These Terms are intended to foster a collaborative, respectful, and productive environment for all involved.

Achieving Our Global Goals

The GMA will concentrate our strengths of on the ground presence and coordination on three main

goals by 2030: Halting mangrove loss, restoring half of recent losses, and doubling protection. For details on our 2030 Goals, please see Appendix 1. The Global Mangrove Alliance goals are built from lessons learned through our collective portfolio of work protecting, restoring, and valuing mangroves for the array of ecosystem services they provide to coastal communities and society at large. This strategy leverages our expertise across Alliance Members, connect and coordinate isolated initiatives into a global portfolio that leverages and amplifies best practices, and pursue development opportunities to support our work in mangrove conservation and restoration at scale. Our strategy is guided by a compelling vision, supported through a set of strategic priorities, and driven by an expert team and implementation workplan.

To achieve our global goals, the organization of the GMA is important to the success of our actions, with Working Groups dedicated to specific thematic areas, National Chapters to drive national and local priorities, and Task Forces to tackle urgent or standalone objectives.

GMA Core Functions

Below are the identified areas of core collaboration that will be considered activities under the Global Mangrove Alliance and facilitated by the Coordinating Team with input and collaboration among all Members of the Alliance. These are activities in addition to the individual commitments made by entities towards the global goals of the Global Mangrove Alliance.

- **Communication:** Raise global awareness and promote action from a range of stakeholders towards global targets and outcomes.
- **Policy:** Develop and maintain an international policy agenda to support the efforts of existing regional and national initiatives.
- **Capacity Building and Proof of Concept:** Work collectively to implement science-based solutions, test theories, and create replicable and scalable models for mangrove conservation and restoration including sharing lessons learnt in the field and disseminating those lessons to key actors and practitioners.
- **Science:** Defining a priority scientific research agenda, act as a global knowledge platform and create regionally adapted methodologies and tools for the wise use of mangroves to benefit local communities and contribute to global goals.
- **Financing:** Developing and pursuing new financing mechanisms for mangrove conservation while facilitating resource mobilization in existing initiatives and, as appropriate, to expand mangrove activities to other areas that may currently lack the capacity, resourcing, or policy support.
- **Tracking:** Support the monitoring and tracking of progress against the global targets and facilitate regional and local actors to establish their complementary targets that could be reflected in national or regional policy.
- **Collaboration:** Intentional and open collaboration in key geographies to create holistic programs that are bigger than the sum of its parts.

Decision-making and Governance

The Global Mangrove Alliance operates through collaborative, transparent, and inclusive decision-making

processes. Strategic decisions—such as setting priorities and goals, developing initiatives, or fundraising efforts—are typically led by the Steering Committee, with input from the Coordinating Team (as defined by the Steering Committee) and members gathered through webinars, surveys, or working group discussions where appropriate.

Member information and CRM Use (WildApricot)

Members are expected to actively support the goals of the Global Mangrove Alliance and to stay engaged with group activities to the extent that their capacity allows. This includes making a good faith effort to stay informed through Working Group communications, such as newsletters, meeting invitations, and updates shared via email or the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system.

To ensure smooth communication and coordination, all Members are expected to keep their contact details, their organization's contact details, as well as their organization's mission and project information, up to date in our CRM system. This system is used for internal communication, organizing events, and tracking engagement across the GMA. Currently, the system in use is WildApricot, accessible through globalmangrovealliance.wildapricot.org.

Members are asked to review and update their information at least annually or whenever significant changes occur. Accurate and current information helps the group stay connected and ensures that all Members can fully participate. Any Member that is having trouble accessing their WildApricot account should notify the Membership Lead or Alliance Manager and notify them of any relevant changes that need to be made to their account.

Member Participation

Activities conducted by Members can vary depending on their individual priorities, but activities to be conducted as part of the Alliance (and thus carry the support of the Global Mangrove Alliance and logo) must align in some way with the Global Mangrove Alliance's [Core Functions](#).

Members may pledge on-going work that they are doing alone or with other partners and that contribute to our 2030 Goals.

The Coordinating Team will strive to identify opportunities for collaboration and joint fundraising; however, the Alliance is not a grant-making facility.

The Global Mangrove Alliance is committed to fostering a collaborative and respectful environment where all Members can contribute meaningfully. While diverse perspectives are valued, disagreements may arise. In such cases, Members are expected to engage in good faith, communicate constructively, and seek resolution through dialogue.

To ensure meaningful engagement, GMA Members are expected to:

- Provide input into the Global Mangrove Alliance's Goals and strategy and commit to helping achieve Goals as outlined in Appendix 1.
- Agree to the Guiding Principles of the Global Mangrove Alliance as stated in Appendix 2.
- Demonstrate current work and/or capacity to work or support mangrove conservation or restoration.
- Contribute to initiatives that can be counted toward the Global Mangrove Alliance Global Goals.

- At least one staff person from each Member is encouraged to be active in at least one Working Group of the Global Mangrove Alliance and make a good-faith effort to participate in Working Group meetings where relevant to their expertise, needs, or interests.
- Join at least two webinars per year, including the Onboarding webinar (or view the recording if unable to attend live),
- Pledge to work in collaboration with other Members on mangrove activities when feasible and relevant to ensure collaboration and communication, increase cost-effectiveness, and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Fundraising is encouraged for all Members to achieve success in Member's mangrove related work. Fundraising activities that use the Global Mangrove Alliance logo or refer to activities within the core functions of the Global Mangrove Alliance must be approved by the Steering Committee.
- Members agree to abide by OECD Guidelines, national and international laws and conventions, and the Anti-Trust laws of the EU and USA. In addition to practicing Free, Prior and Informed Consent and upholding gender equality.

Members who remain inactive for a period of 12 months—defined as lack of participation in meetings, webinars, and communication—may be removed from the Global Mangrove Alliance by the Steering Committee and/or Working Group(s) by Working Group Lead(s) to ensure active and responsive membership. Re-engagement is welcome and can be initiated by contacting the Membership Lead.

Sharing of Content and Media

By participating in the Global Mangrove Alliance, Members acknowledge that photos, presentations, and other materials shared during meetings, workshops, collaborative activities, or posted to our Knowledge Hub may be used to highlight the group's work through our website, reports, and other communications channels.

We strive to provide appropriate credit and context for all shared content. Members who prefer not to have specific materials or images used publicly should inform the Communications Manager in advance or at the time of sharing. Requests to remove or limit the use of content will be honored.

Photographs, videos, and other media may be taken during our programs. By registering for our events, you grant permission for the GMA to use such media for any purpose, including on social media pages, website and marketing materials.

Confidentiality and Use of Information

Members are expected to respect the confidentiality of information shared within the Global Mangrove Alliance and its Working Groups, National Chapters, and task forces, including unpublished data, draft documents or reports, and internal communications.

Materials designated for public use such as newsletters, resources, or webinar recordings may be shared, but Members are expected to provide proper attribution when referencing work or ideas shared by others within the GMA.

Anti-Harassment Policy

The Global Mangrove Alliance maintains a zero-tolerance policy for harassment, discrimination, or any form of abusive behavior. All GMA Members and participants of National Chapters, Working Groups or Task Forces are expected to uphold a professional standard of conduct that is inclusive, respectful, and free from intimidation or hostility.

Harassment includes—but is not limited to—unwanted verbal or written comments, offensive jokes, personal insults, threats, exclusionary behavior, or inappropriate physical contact. This applies to all in-person, virtual, and written interactions.

Violations of this policy will result in removal from the Global Mangrove Alliance by the Steering Committee and/or Working Group(s) by Working Group Lead(s).

Removal of Membership

Members may approach the Steering Committee directly where they believe there has been a breach in the Terms of Participation. If a Member or participant in any of the GMA Chapters, Working Groups, or Task Forces is found to be in breach of these Terms of Participation, the Guiding Principles (found in Appendix 2), or found conducting themselves in a way that hurts the reputation of the GMA, the Steering Committee or Working Group Lead may revoke their membership.

Members may also choose to withdraw from the Global Mangrove Alliance at any time by notifying the Membership Lead or Alliance Manager.

Accessibility and Inclusion

The Global Mangrove Alliance is committed to fostering an inclusive and accessible environment where all Members can meaningfully contribute, regardless of geographic location, language, technical access, or other potential barriers.

We recognize that Members may have varying levels of capacity, connectivity, and availability. To support inclusive participation, we strive to:

- Schedule webinars and meetings across diverse time zones, when possible,
- Record key webinars and meetings for later viewing,
- Offer multiple modes of participation (e.g., written input, asynchronous collaboration),
- Provide live interpretation and translations of key documents when resources allow,
- Create a welcoming space for all voices and perspectives.

Members are encouraged to share any accessibility needs with the Leadership Team so that we can explore available options and make reasonable accommodations. We aim to offer live interpretation and translated materials where feasible, but must stress that this is dependent on the availability of funding and logistical support.

Revisions to the Terms of Participation

These Terms may be reviewed and updated annually by the Steering Committee. Members will be notified of any significant changes and are expected to remain informed and in compliance with the most current version.

Members may provide suggested changes to these Terms directly to the Steering Committee. Changes will be reviewed and considered during the next round of updates.

Appendix 1: Global Goals

Halt Loss

Reduce net mangrove losses driven by direct human actions to zero.

Rates of mangroves loss have already slowed considerably in recent years. This presents an opportune moment to raise our ambition. While we can aspire to halt all losses, our target refers to direct, and therefore directly manageable, human-driven loss.

It is estimated that human-driven loss represents 62% of total losses. Over the decade from 2010 to 2020, some 60,000 ha of mangroves were lost, and we can estimate that 37,300 ha of this was due to direct human impacts. To bring such losses to zero by 2030 we need to start to reduce loss rates now. Assuming a linear rate of reduction in human driven losses, this would save approximately 16,800 ha by the end of 2030.

Some of the highest losses come from Southeast Asia, and these areas will present considerable challenges. At the same time, they represent some of the most diverse mangrove ecosystems on Earth, acting as rich providers to coastal populations. While this goal focuses on preventing further direct loss, in recognizing that mangroves are dynamic ecosystems, we also draw attention to the possibility of making further gains as mangroves naturally colonize new locations. Any such gains offer additionality to the gains made by halting losses of remaining cover

Goal for avoided loss: 169km² by 2030.

Restore Half

Put back mangroves to cover at least half of all recent loss.

Over 11,700km² of mangroves have been lost since 1996, the year that sets the baseline for our definition of “recent” loss. However not all of these mangroves are restorable: we exclude areas that have changed to open water or urban use as effectively unrestorable.

Approximately 8,183km² are considered restorable and the goal seeks to restore half of this area by 2030. This is a deeply ambitious goal. Even though the target excludes effectively unrestorable areas, the challenge of restoration in the remaining areas is likely to be highly variable. New work by Worthington and colleagues (see *The State of the World’s Mangroves 2022*, section 3.1) nonetheless shows that there is enormous potential for restoration, both by estimating the restorability, and by highlighting the considerable side benefits for local populations and the global community.

Goal for restoration: 4,092km² by 2030

Double Protection

Ensure long-term secure protection is increased from 40% to 80% of remaining mangroves.

With 42% of the world’s mangroves currently in protected areas, mangroves are already well covered compared to many other ecosystems. However, the urgency to halt all loss is fundamental. One of the key approaches to prevent further loss is the incorporation of mangroves into permanent forms of protection. These include traditional protected areas, but also Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), which could encompass indigenous lands and areas of sustainable use where mangroves are protected from clear-felling and conversion.

Goal for doubling protection: Secure a further 61,000km² under conservation measures.

Appendix 2: Guiding Principles

Guiding Principle 1: Safeguard Nature & Maximize Biodiversity

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

At the bare minimum, negative impacts for nature need to be understood and avoided: no planting in valuable mudflats or seagrass beds or on top of naturally regenerating saplings. Restoration and conservation actions should purposefully strive for positive biodiversity impacts. Instead of hoping that an area and services can be fully restored later, conserve what is there now. When you do need to restore, instead of planting monocultures, aim for restoring a mangrove ecosystem with multiple species, natural hydrological flows, and natural zonation. A biodiverse mangrove ecosystem has greater variety in root types, tree sizes, foliage, and fruits, thus fulfilling different functions and attracting diverse fauna. This results in the provisioning of multiple goods (timber, fodder, honey, fruits, and fish) and services (enhanced coastal protection, carbon storage, water purification, fisheries enhancement). Such mangroves are also likely to be more resilient to climate change.

Guiding Principle 2: Employ the Best Information & Practices

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

Make use of the best available science, including lab and field-based measurements as well as traditional and local knowledge and experiences that has often been developed and refined over centuries. Convene a multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral team to help integrate biophysical as well as socio-economic aspects and to ensure different stakeholder perspectives are represented and addressed. System understanding at all these levels is needed to get to the root causes of mangrove loss and degradation, so that interventions can be tailored accordingly. Given that mangroves depend on water and sediment coming from the land as well as the sea, such connections need to be understood and accommodated at the land and seascape scale for mangroves to thrive. These dynamic environments require a 'learning by doing attitude' adaptive management approach to be successful. Therefore, scientific and historical knowledge of the local landscape should be paired with traditional knowledge as well as proven conservation and restoration methods to optimize project outcomes and longevity.

Guiding Principle 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.

Mangroves provide essential services to protect and sustain coastal communities, including ensuring water quality, food provision, livelihoods, climate mitigation, and climate adaptation. Local actors – and their representative institutions – need to be capacitated to meaningfully engage and advocate for their needs in all aspects of a project including design, implementation, and policy dialogues. The project governance structure needs to facilitate participation and decision making as well as fair and equitable benefit sharing. Mangroves can offer many tangible benefits to local communities, some of which can be monetized such as ecotourism, wild capture fisheries and provision of food and fodder. Restoration and conservation could aim to create a mangrove-based economy that optimizes such mangrove benefits while avoiding over-exploitation and introducing alternative livelihoods that do not degrade mangroves. Wealth acquisition should be aligned with nature's capacity, and it needs to take into consideration the aspirations of equitable societies. Power dynamics must be transformed to enable marginalized communities access to resources through political systems characterized by good governance, high levels of local participation, and transparency. The safety of all people, but especially vulnerable and marginalized populations such as women, children, Indigenous Peoples, and other minority groups should be prioritized in all aspects.

Guiding Principle 4: Align the Broader Context

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.

Operating in the local context includes cultural customs, gender and power dynamics, resource use, management, and ownership regimes, and social, policy and governance structures. Problems and opportunities should be

tackled and pursued at all levels, based on the recognition that local resource concerns are impacted by decisions and trends emanating from local, national, and international levels. Additionally, given their position between land and sea, there are typically several government departments involved from local to national level, each with different mandates and targets. One ministry may strive to protect the mangrove for carbon storage and coastal protection while the other may want to advance aquaculture for food security and yet another may seek to develop a national highway or waterfront city along the coast. Additionally, the communities along coastlines are often small and operating independently of one another, rather than in a coordinated or homogeneous fashion. For these reasons, the land and resource ownership, use rights and management regimes as well as cultural considerations are a patchwork and sometimes unclear in mangroves. Thus, different perspectives need to be aligned in a shared vision and plan.

Guiding Principle 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.

Any effort to conserve and restore nature comes with risks pertaining to sustainability beyond the project lifetime. Risks related to changes in political priorities, long-term financing of interventions, changes in societal needs, and climate change all pose concerns. Mitigation measures should be put in place to address risk of reversal and ensure durability for the longest timescale possible. Some options include social and livelihood improvements to reduce pressures on the ecosystem resources, creating local ownership in mangrove projects as well as creating an enabling policy environment and designing solutions that address biophysical and socio-economic root causes of loss and degradation. Implementation of restoration does not automatically mean restoration is successful, and it is suggested that it takes at least 5-years to assess the success of a restoration project. In developing restoration projects, an intermediary marker which would suggest a positive trend towards restoration can come after the first year. Large scale trends in socio-political dynamics and human activities (such as increased migration of people to the coast) can also impact the success of a project. Additional biodiversity loss or species movement might deliver cumulative or accelerated negative impacts. While these forces are outside the immediate control of the project, they should be accounted for and addressed in adaptive management plans.

Guiding Principle 6: Mobilize High Integrity Capital

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

There is currently a gap between global ambition for mangrove protection and restoration and the reality on the ground, where finance to jumpstart new projects and programs, and long-term finance to maintain current efforts, is insufficient. Reverting the trend of loss and degradation requires transformational societal changes as well as large-scale restoration for those mangroves that are not irretrievably lost. Philanthropic and public financing alone cannot foot the bill with the urgency needed. Private sector funding must be mobilized at scale and at speed alongside. However, finance needs to be tailored to the context, support high-quality projects and programs (that adhere to these principles), and ensure fair and equitable disbursement. On the other side, funders need to also be held accountable. If they are funding climate mitigation strategies in mangroves, they also need to be reducing their own emissions, investments in mangroves need to have clear and fair terms that all impacted communities and stakeholders agree to, and risks need to be shared.