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The Blue Forests Project promotes better coastal ecosystem management by harnessing the values associated with carbon and ecosystem services.

The **Blue Forests Project** is a global initiative focused on harnessing the values associated with coastal carbon and ecosystem services to achieve improved ecosystem management. 'Blue forests' (or 'blue carbon') ecosystems include mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and saltwater marshes, which are noted for their ability to store and sequester atmospheric carbon, thereby helping to address the global climate challenge. These ecosystems are also vitally important to coastal and island communities around the world through the many important ecosystem services they provide.

Project sites where blue forests are explored include locations in **Indonesia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Ecuador, United Arab Emirates, Kenya** and **Central America.** Additionally, the project addresses key blue forests knowledge gaps, provides experience and tools for global replication and up-scaling, and engages with international climate policy. The project is implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed by GRID-Arendal, and is supported through funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and partner co-finance. The project was initiated in January 2015 and will run over the course of four years.

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