



PRESS RELEASE

IORA Blue Carbon Hub Think Tank Symposium on “Towards effective restoration for sustainable management of coastal ecosystems and enhanced livelihoods”

23 September 2025- The IORA Blue Carbon Hub, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment & Tourism of Sri Lanka and the IORA Secretariat, hosted the Sixth Blue Carbon Hub Think Tank Symposium from 9–11 September 2025 in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The IORA Blue Carbon Hub works to advance knowledge and capacity for protecting blue carbon ecosystems, supporting climate action, resilience, and livelihoods.

The symposium brought together experts from 14 Member States and 12 Dialogue Partners to share knowledge and strategies on restoring mangroves, seagrasses, and tidal marshes.

Representatives from the IORA Secretariat and the IORA Blue Carbon Hub highlighted that rapid degradation of regional blue carbon ecosystems threatens biodiversity, coastal communities, and economic resilience, urging urgent community-driven action to protect these vital carbon stores, natural defences, and livelihoods.

The event featured expert training, discussions, and community sessions on ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and biodiversity compliance. Participants explored local coastal products and visited Sri Lanka’s Anawilundawa RAMSAR Sanctuary to observe mangrove restoration. The symposium recommended IORA Member States to enhance restoration, cooperation, and financing through a regional action plan, capacity-building, and community-driven approaches.

About the IORA Blue Carbon Hub:

Learn more about the IORA Blue Carbon Hub: <https://research.csiro.au/iora-blue-carbon-hub/>