

## Do you protect or sell the Sacred?

### RIGHTS OF NATURE used for WHALE OFFSETS



Good-hearted Indigenous Peoples, communities and environmentalists hope that Rights of Nature may serve to protect Nature. However, **Rights of Nature is being used to turn Indigenous Peoples' territories and sacred animal relatives into carbon and biodiversity offsets.** In fact, carbon traders readily admit that granting **Rights of Nature** including **legal personhood** is the **first step**<sup>1</sup> to **selling Nature**, and putting a **price tag**<sup>2</sup> and **barcode**<sup>3</sup> on **whales as carbon offsets**<sup>4</sup> based on the **carbon colonialism**<sup>5</sup> of **REDD**.<sup>6</sup>

Since 2023, efforts to consecrate **whale's legal personhood**<sup>7</sup> in international law at the United Nations General Assembly<sup>8</sup> and climate change summits<sup>9</sup> have been co-led by **Dr. Ralph Chami**,<sup>10</sup> who, in 2019, as an **International Monetary Fund** economist, masterminded **whales offsets**.<sup>11</sup> Dr. Chami also co-founded **Blue Green Future**,<sup>12</sup> which is a partner along with **Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation**, of the **Whale Carbon Plus Project**.<sup>13</sup> Dr. Chami calls legal **personhood for whales** the **first step**<sup>14</sup> to putting a **\$3 million price tag on every whale** as a carbon offset;<sup>15</sup> tracking whales with AI;<sup>16</sup> allowing "private entities, NGOs and governments" to **claim whales' "services"**<sup>17</sup> as "**natural capital**,"<sup>18</sup> **commodities**<sup>19</sup> and **private property**;<sup>20</sup> and selling these beautiful sacred beings for big bucks on carbon and financial markets.<sup>21</sup> Capitalism plans to make billions<sup>22</sup> selling "**Living Nature**"<sup>TM</sup><sup>23</sup> and turning **whales** into **slaves for polluters' greenwash**.



Moneka D'Oro, Co-Executive Director  
Micronesia Climate Change Alliance  
© Craig Lambert Photo/Stock.adobe.com

Following Dr. Chami's lead,<sup>24</sup> using **Rights of Nature for whale offsets** is being pioneered by a partnership between:<sup>25</sup> **1) The large NGO Conservation International's** and some **Māori Iwi's whale offset megaproject**<sup>26</sup> called the **Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative**,<sup>27</sup> which is part of the **United Nations Ocean Decade**;<sup>28</sup> **2) New York University's** More-Than-Human Life (MOTH) program which is building legal frameworks for **Rights of Nature**<sup>29</sup> and **AI "translation" of whales**;<sup>30</sup> and **3) Project CETI** (Cetacean Translation Initiative), which uses Artificial Intelligence to supposedly translate whale communication.<sup>31</sup> Thus, the **Great Whales** and **Indigenous Peoples**<sup>32</sup> become the **posterchild for carbon colonialism** and **privatization of Nature** justified by AI whale "translation," and mandated by **Rights of Nature**. *Smooth move!*

**Whale Offsets = GREENWASH**  
A carbon credit based on the carbon dioxide temporarily absorbed by a **whale's body**, which gives polluters a **permit to pollute**; a **false solution** to the climate emergency which accelerates the **extinction** of whales

### Hinemoana Halo: Whale Offsets, Ocean Grab, and EXTRACTIVISM?

Hinemoana Halo is a vast whale offset prototype,<sup>33</sup> which covers whale migratory routes, coastal areas, high seas, and Indigenous Peoples' territories<sup>34</sup> **15 times the size of Aotearoa**/New Zealand.<sup>35</sup> Eventually, it may be replicated in the whole Pacific, "Earth's largest carbon sink,"<sup>36</sup> and in the Arctic.<sup>37</sup> In *Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments*, Dr. Chami and Mere Takoko, Vice President of Conservation International Aotearoa, explain that the Hinemoana Halo "Blue Carbon Economy"<sup>38</sup> will sell "**carbon and biodiversity credits**" combined with "**cultural credits**" on "**blockchain**."<sup>39</sup> According to the Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative, **blue bonds** will "promote financing into **nature-based solutions** including: ... **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**, including: ... **ENERGY**"<sup>40</sup> [which can mean **oil and gas**

drilling, geothermal projects as well as ocean and wind turbines]... and “CDR technologies.”<sup>41</sup> CDR stands for **Carbon Dioxide Removals**,<sup>42</sup> which cover a gamut of false solutions to the climate emergency based on the carbon market such as the extremely dangerous<sup>43</sup> **Direct Ocean Carbon Capture and Storage**.<sup>44</sup> The Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal includes an illustrative “Bond/**Credit Market** Review,”<sup>45</sup> which maps out “Potential **Credit Buyers** (Demand):” **Polluting corporations** like **Delta Air Lines**, Amazon, Disney, Walmart and Patagonia; the **World Bank** and private banks as well as the U.S. and European **governments**;<sup>46</sup> Potential “**Enablers**”: **Carbon offset verifiers** like Verra, CONservation NGOs, tech companies, and universities like Stanford and Yale;<sup>47</sup> and Potential “**Credit Issuers** (Supply):” Countries and NGOs.<sup>48</sup> IUCN may help accredit the credits.<sup>49</sup>

Like Hinemoana Halo, some **Debt-for-Nature Swaps** use blue carbon and blue bonds.<sup>50</sup> For example, in 2023, Ecuador **re-structured some debt**<sup>51</sup> based on the **Blue Economy** and **whale conservation** in the Galapagos Islands,<sup>52</sup> and selling blue bonds.<sup>53</sup> Drawn up in secret negotiations with the IMF or other lenders,<sup>54</sup> Debt-for-Nature-Swaps are often linked to carbon markets<sup>55</sup> and militarization;<sup>56</sup> threaten national sovereignty;<sup>57</sup> and undermine Indigenous Peoples’ rights, jurisprudence and territories.<sup>58</sup> In fact, Debt-for-Nature Swaps may be the **reason** why the **International Monetary Fund**, the **global loan shark**, took the lead on **whale offsets**.<sup>59</sup>



*Roquin-Jon Quichocho Siongco*

### **Could Whale Offsets **greenwash** Deep Sea Mining?**

At the 2024 UN biodiversity summit, Roquin-Jon Quichocho Siongco of the Chamoru People from Guåhan (Guam) with the Micronesia Climate Change Alliance wondered if **whale offsets may “pretend to compensate for the far-reaching devastation of Deep Sea Mining.”**<sup>60</sup> Curiously, Dr. Gregory Stone, former Chief Ocean Scientist and Executive Vice President of Conservation International,<sup>61</sup> and one of the world’s foremost Blue Economy strategists,<sup>62</sup> is now Chief Ocean Scientist of The Metals Company, a leader in Deep Sea Mining.<sup>63</sup>

### **Rights of Nature movement must oppose Carbon Colonialism and Offsets by any name**

According to Quechua agronomist and Indigenous rights activist Alejandro Argumedo, “the path forward is **not to ask the colonial system to grant ‘rights’ to our Mother Earth**. The real path is to demand that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are recognized...The safety of the forest, the ocean and the **sacred web of life is not found in a courtroom**. It’s in the hands of the **people** who are a part of it,” who have **“SACRED DUTIES” to “SACRED BEINGS.”**<sup>64</sup> As Indian experts Ashish Kothari and Shrishtee Bajpai write: “if movements for Rights of Nature do not question the **hegemony of nation-states** and **corporations**, and the patriarchal foundations they rest on, there is a danger of falling into the **trap** of... **neocolonial** approaches [based on **land** and **ocean grabs for offsets**] ... such as ‘**half-earth**,’ ‘**30X30**,’ ‘**Nature-Based Solutions**’ or ‘**net-zero**.’ These **greenwash** the **deliberate schizophrenia** of continuing **extractive** and **exploitative ‘business-as-usual’** while claiming to be also **speaking on behalf of Nature**, and continue to **marginalize peoples** and communities who co-exist with... Nature.”<sup>65</sup>

### **Stolen Lands, Stolen Oceans, Stolen Colors**

The “Blue” Carbon Economy is the color of oil spills and whales’ extinction. Similarly, the “Green” Economy is the color of smoke belching from polluters’ smokestacks that its offsets do not reduce, and the blood of the dead.<sup>66</sup> In contrast, blue and green are the colors of majestic oceans and lush forests. Land back! Ocean back! Colors back! No Offsets! **SAVE THE WHALES... from the carbon market! Protect the Sacred**

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All references accessed January - March 2026.

<sup>1</sup> Ralph Chami *et al.* Building markets for a nature-positive world: a triple win strategy. February 22, 2024.

<https://illuminem.com/illuminemoives/building-markets-for-a-naturepositive-world-a-triple-win-strategy>

"For markets to develop around this 'new' nature asset class, however, a new plan of action is badly needed.

The strategy – step-by-step

1) Legal – change the rules. Establish legal standing for living nature – either through designating them as assets and establishing provenance, or by endowing them with rights through legal personhood – these assets/legal persons then become "visible" to the market...

Returning to the case of the whale and ships, we can now see that by recognizing legal personhood for the whale – it becomes a legal entity with rights and legal standing if harmed (Step 1). Economic valuation for the services of whales establishes a financial recourse in case of harm to the whale (Step 2)."

<sup>2</sup> DW Planet A. YouTube. How much is a whale worth?. 2024. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSxIBYDMQOU> See graphic of price tag on whale.

47 seconds Narrator: "Putting a price tag on something priceless: Life itself." 6:56 minutes Minnie Degawan: "There is an ethical dilemma for communities to say that we will get monetary benefits from standing forests, when we have always looked at the forest as a living ecosystem. How do you put a value, for instance, on the fact that these forests are the resting ground of our ancestors?" 7:31 Narrator: "Carbon markets also allow companies to continue business-as-usual." 8:27 June Rubis of ICCA Consortium: "Land owners are incentivized to plant non-native plant species, instead of indigenous species because it creates a new type of landscape that could bank carbon faster. Critics have used terms like carbon colonialism to describe this new wave of capture and enclosure of Nature by capital." 11:33 Narrator: "In the end, we are relying on market mechanisms which are exactly what got us in this mess in the first place."

Terra Mater, YouTube, How Whales Can Help Us to Fight Climate Change | Climate Heroes. 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYBwHnz-yZE>

24 seconds "Recently, however, the humpback whale gained a new feature: a price tag..."

Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025.

<sup>3</sup> Blue Institute. What price a whale? Blue Institute Director champions a new economic paradigm. February 25, 2024. See graphic of whales with barcodes.

<https://blueinstitute.sc/what-price-a-whale-blue-institute-director-champions-a-new-economic-paradigm/>

<sup>4</sup> Ralph Chami *et al.* Building markets for a nature-positive world: a triple win strategy. February 22, 2024.

<https://illuminem.com/illuminemoives/building-markets-for-a-naturepositive-world-a-triple-win-strategy>

<sup>5</sup> No REDD in Africa Network. Stopping the Continent Grab and the REDD-ification of Africa. 2015.

<https://no-redd.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/REDDinAfricaNetwork.pdf>

"The worst form of slavery is to willingly offer yourself on the auction block, get bought and pretend you are free. This is what participation in the mechanism called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) is. This publication by the No REDD in Africa Network aims to demystify REDD and REDD-type projects, and all their variants, and show them for what they are: unjust mechanisms designed to usher in a new phase of colonization of the Africa continent. From examples presented, it is clear that REDD is a scam and the polluters know that they are buying the "right" to pollute. The No REDD in Africa Network warns that REDD may be the ultimate wedge to crack open the door for the invasion of the African continent with genetically modified crops and trees. Furthermore, REDD threatens to take over soils, water (blue carbon) and entire eco-systems. It may also rekindle the culture of colonial plantation agriculture infamously called 'cash cropping'. In Africa, REDD is emerging as a new form of colonialism, economic subjugation and impoverishment, and must be stopped."

Global Alliance against REDD <https://no-redd.com/>

<sup>6</sup> International Monetary Fund. Ralph Chami *et al.* Nature's Solution to Climate Change - A strategy to protect whales can limit greenhouse gases and global warming". 2019.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2019/12/natures-solution-to-climate-change-chami>

"And international organizations have implemented programs such as Reducing Emissions from Degradation and Deforestation (REDD) that fund the preservation of carbon-capturing ecosystems. Adapting these initiatives to support international efforts to restore whale populations could lead to a breakthrough in the fight against climate change."

<sup>7</sup> Ocean Vision Legal. Michelle Bender. Whale Personhood in the Pacific and Beyond – Can Whales be a Legal Person? August 6, 2024.

[https://www.oceanvisionlegal.com/post/whale-personhood-part1?trk=public\\_post\\_comment-text](https://www.oceanvisionlegal.com/post/whale-personhood-part1?trk=public_post_comment-text)

<sup>8</sup> Te Ao News. Aroha Mane. Māori leaders propose protecting whales in international waters at UN General Assembly. September 17, 2023.

<https://www.teaonews.co.nz/2023/09/18/maori-leaders-propose-protecting-whales-in-international-waters-at-united-nations-general-assembly/>

<sup>9</sup> AP. COP28: Give the Whale a Seat at the Table. November 28, 2023.

<https://www.apmultimediamnewsroom.com/multimedia-newsroom/cop28-give-the-whale-a-seat-at-un-table-cr>

<sup>10</sup> Blue Green Future. Dr. Ralph Chami Co-Founder and CEO. <https://bluegreenfuture.org/about/>

<sup>11</sup> International Monetary Fund. Ralph Chami *et al.* Nature's Solution to Climate Change - A strategy to protect whales can limit greenhouse gases and global warming". 2019.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2019/12/natures-solution-to-climate-change-chami>

<sup>12</sup> Initially, Blue Green Future <https://bluegreenfuture.org/> was called Blue Green World, whose name and logo appear as partners of the Whale Carbon Plus Project on Whale Seekers website. <https://www.whaleseeker.com/post/the-whale-carbon-plus-project> However, as the *Scientific American* article indicates, by April 2023, Blue Green World had become Blue Green Future, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-putting-a-price-on-a-whale-save-the-environment/>

Partanna. Our Team. Ralph Chami. <https://partanna.com/our-team/ralph-chami>

"He has co-founded two entities working on bringing this new paradigm to life – Blue Green World and Rebalance Earth that are engaged in realizing the value of the natural world to our well-being and integrating it into our economic system."

Whale Seeker. The Whale Carbon Plus Project. <https://www.whaleseeker.com/post/the-whale-carbon-plus-project>

"WCPP Partners: Blue Green World, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Baffinland, Whale Seeker, Whale and Dolphin Conservation"

Scientific American. Andrew Chapman. Can Putting a Price on a Whale Save the Environment?. April 24, 2023.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-putting-a-price-on-a-whale-save-the-environment/>

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"If you have a price of zero on something, then people take it for granted and completely abuse it," says Connel Fullenkamp, a Duke University financial economist and co-founder of **Blue Green Future**, one of the organizations participating in this effort, called the **Whale Carbon Plus Project**." *[Emphasis added]*

<sup>13</sup> Whale Seeker. The Whale Carbon Plus Project. <https://www.whaleseeker.com/post/the-whale-carbon-plus-project>

"WCPP Partners: Blue Green World, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Baffinland, Whale Seeker, Whale and Dolphin Conservation"  
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<sup>14</sup> Ralph Chami *et al.* Building markets for a nature-positive world: a triple win strategy. February 22, 2024.

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"For markets to develop around this "new" nature asset class, however, a new plan of action is badly needed.

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Terra Mater, YouTube, How Whales Can Help Us to Fight Climate Change | Climate Heroes. 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYBwHnz-yZE>

<sup>15</sup> Sustainability Unlocked. Ralph Chami. Video: What is the carbon value of a whale?.

<https://sustainabilityunlocked.com/videos/what-is-the-carbon-value-of-a-whale>

"Wild animals, especially whales and elephants, play instrumental roles in carbon sequestration, with values reaching \$3 million per whale based on their carbon offset contributions."

<sup>16</sup> Ralph Chami *et al.* Building markets for a nature-positive world: a triple win strategy. February 22, 2024.

<https://illuminem.com/illuminemoives/building-markets-for-a-naturepositive-world-a-triple-win-strategy>

"The strategy – step-by-step... 4) Innovation – Develop and deploy technology and innovation designed around the monitoring and protection of these new natural assets."

Blue Green Future. Our Approach. <https://bluegreenfuture.org/our-approach/>

"The Role of Technology: Coalition members use cutting edge science tools to monitor living ecosystems. Light detection, underwater sensors, AI-powered satellite analysis, and even shark-mounted cameras (used to map seagrass in the Bahamas) all contribute to a holistic understanding of nature's ecosystem services."

Blue Green World, a precursor of Blue Green Future is a partner along with Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation and Whale Seeker, of the Whale Carbon Plus Project, which uses AI to track whales.

Blue Green Future. "Advisors & Consultants. Emily Charry Tissier. Global Advisor on AI for Oceans... Co-founder & CEO of Whale Seeker pioneering AI-powered whale detection tools; led the company to become the first Certified B Corporation using AI for wildlife."

Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation. BAFFINLAND TO MONITOR AND PROTECT WHALES IN INNOVATIVE NEW CARBON CAPTURE PROJECT. 2022.

<https://baffinland.com/about-us/our-blogs/baffinland-to-monitor-and-protect-whales-in-innovative-new-carbon-capture-project>

"In keeping with our core value of Environmental Stewardship, Baffinland is partnering with Whale Seeker, a Canadian company that uses aerial surveillance, satellite technology and **ethical AI to monitor whales**, with the goal of creating a market-ready **whale carbon credit system**." *[Emphasis added]*

<sup>17</sup> Sustainability Unlocked. Ralph Chami. Summary of Video: What is the carbon value of a whale?.

<https://sustainabilityunlocked.com/videos/what-is-the-carbon-value-of-a-whale>

"This involves introducing **financial assets based on natural services, letting private entities, NGOs, and governments trade claims on these services.**

**Governments would initially hold these claims, with investors aiming to profit from them.** While profits could be monetary, they could also be in the form of **carbon credits**, incentivising carbon **emission offsets**." *[Emphasis added]*

<sup>18</sup> TED. Ralph Chami. [https://www.ted.com/speakers/ralph\\_chami](https://www.ted.com/speakers/ralph_chami)

"He's developed a novel way to tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss: namely, to reposition species such as whales and elephants as crucial allies in the quest to sequester carbon, secure climate-resilient ecosystems and generate income for local communities... Chami advocates for integrating **natural capital** into our economy, bringing together investors, conservationists and policymakers." *[Emphasis added]*

<sup>19</sup> Sustainability Unlocked. Ralph Chami. Summary of Video: What is the carbon value of a whale?.

<https://sustainabilityunlocked.com/videos/what-is-the-carbon-value-of-a-whale>

"Wild animals, especially whales and elephants, play instrumental roles in carbon sequestration, with values reaching \$3 million per whale based on their carbon offset contributions. Additionally, marine vegetation, like seagrasses, offer invaluable services, cumulatively worth over \$1 trillion. Despite their crucial roles, our economic system fails to adequately value them. To bridge this gap, we should integrate these natural services into financial markets, creating tradable assets."

Business Insider. Mariel Loveland. What Are Commodities?. <https://www.businessinsider.com/personal-finance/investing/what-are-commodities>

"Commodities are publicly traded tangible assets, agricultural products, and natural resources used in commerce and trade."

<sup>20</sup> Legal Clarity. What is considered private property?. January 28, 2026. <https://legalclarity.org/what-is-legally-considered-private-property/>

"Private property is a legal term for assets owned by people, groups, or businesses."

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

Ocean Sustainability. Ralph Chami *et al.* How legal personhood and markets can partner to help save the whale. 2024.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/ocean-sustainability/articles/10.3389/focsu.2024.1454751/full>

<sup>22</sup> Reuters. Peyton Fleming. "Wall Street urged to back Indigenous peoples as protectors of forests and oceans". October 5, 2023.

"The 'nature credits' industry is calculated to reach \$40 billion by 2050."

<https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/land-use-biodiversity/wall-street-urged-back-indigenous-peoples-protectors-forests-oceans-2023-10-05/#:~:text=Wall%20Street%20urged%20to%20back%20Indigenous%20peoples%20as%20protectors%20of%20forests%20and%20oceans,-By%20Peyton%20Fleming&text=Industry%20insight%20from%20Ethical%20Corporation%20Magazine%2C%20a%20part%20of%20Thomson%20Reuters.&text=October%205%20%20The%20global%20movement,momentum%20in%20the%20past%20year.>

<sup>23</sup> Blue Green Future. Valuing a Living Nature™ for a Blue Green Future. [Home - Blue Green Future](#)

<sup>24</sup> Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025.

"Part 6. Carbon Science & Finance Technical Leaders. Ralph Chami.



Artic Circle. Mere Takoko. Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa and Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future. Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments. October 9, 2023.

<https://www.arcticcircle.org/journal/hinemoana-halo-maori-led-ocean-solutions-and-nature>

"The project is supported by blue carbon scientist Dr Carlos Duarte and former Assistant Director of the International Monetary Fund, Dr Ralph Chami."

Blue Green Future. Portfolio. Hinemoana Halo Initiative [https://bluegreenfuture.org/portfolio\\_page/hinemoana-halo-initiative/](https://bluegreenfuture.org/portfolio_page/hinemoana-halo-initiative/)

"Blue Green Future is honored to be working with Indigenous Māori and Conservation International to realise the economic and ecological value of Aotearoa's waters by bringing together science and mātauranga Māori to evolve a five-year action plan with Iwi/Māori partners to direct blue bond financing and investment into eligible projects across Aotearoa's high seas and coastal waters. As part of this work, we are looking to develop markets for the services of natural capital and provide valuations of natural assets based on their carbon sequestration and other co-benefits."

<sup>25</sup> Instagram, Hinemoana Halo has entered into a groundbreaking partnership with legal experts at the [@mothrights](#) Program at New York University and whale communication scientists at [@ProjectCETI](#). 2026.

<sup>26</sup> Conservation International Aotearoa. Mere Takoko, Jasmine Kaa and Linda Bercusson, Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative. Section Moana.

"The Hinemoana Halo initiative aims to promote the valuation of ecosystem services performed by whales in Oceania."



Hinemoana Halo. <https://www.whaledclaration.com/declaration>

"The He Whakaputanga Moana Whale Legal Personhood Declaration document belongs to Hinemoana Halo." <https://www.whaledclaration.com/about>

He Whakaputanga Moana (Declaration for the Ocean)

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/697be4aa5f7dbc2919c2eb27/t/69825ea4fe6bda7370ff4d49/1770151589031/Declaration\\_Embargoed.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/697be4aa5f7dbc2919c2eb27/t/69825ea4fe6bda7370ff4d49/1770151589031/Declaration_Embargoed.pdf)

"Innovative financing mechanisms, such as **whale biodiversity credits**, **payments for ecosystem services** or levies on commercial activities... Scientific and mātauranga Māori research on the role of whales and their impact on carbon and ecosystem services throughout the trophic food chain, to advance metrics used for protection, biodiversity, and nature credits." [ *Emphasis added.*]

Conservation International Aotearoa. Mere Takoko, Jasmine Kaa and Linda Bercusson, Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative.

"The Hinemoana Halo initiative aims to promote the valuation of ecosystem services performed by whales in Oceania."

"Recognising our regional ocean assets The Hinemoana Halo Initiative will undertake biodiversity assessments and a valuation of ecosystem services performed by whales in the Pacific to explore the socio-economic benefits of using natural ocean systems to reduce the risks of climate change."

"A Blue Carbon Economy for the Pacific, 'When it comes to saving the planet, one whale is worth thousands of trees.' Ralph Chami, International Monetary Fund. Assistant Director at the International Monetary Fund's Institute for Capacity Development and Blue Green Future co-founder, Ralph Chami estimates that over the course of their lifetime, a great whale sequesters approximately 33 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to 30,000 trees, and estimates that if whales were to return to their former abundance, they could capture approximately 1.7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, a carbon sequestration service worth \$13 per person per year... Considerable interest over the past decade has been devoted to understanding the potential of blue carbon ecosystems, and to provide a range of co-benefits to humanity. To date, many western-led scientific bodies have largely focused on seagrass meadows, saltmarshes, and mangroves. Recently, however, there has been a growing appreciation among Indigenous peoples and

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scientists within the Pacific region, of the economic potential that the recovery of whale populations and other taonga species. In the Sixth Assessment Report of the International Panel on Climate Change (2022), whales were proposed as potential blue carbon ecosystems because a living whale sequesters a large amount of carbon over a long lifespan, and when it dies, it sinks to the seabed where that carbon is transferred to a host of other creatures that feed on the carcass. Additionally migratory whales provide a rich source of iron and nitrogen in their excrement which they transfer from rich Antarctic waters to impoverished tropical waters, sparking phytoplankton blooms that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.”

IPCC. Sixth Assessment Report, Box 3.4 | Blue Carbon Ecosystems. [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wq2/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_Chapter03.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wq2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Chapter03.pdf).

“Other ocean and coastal taxa, including rooted or floating macroalgae (e.g., non-vascular multicellular kelp or seaweed genera such as *Macrocystis* spp., *Sargassum* spp. or *Laminaria* spp. (Filbee-Dexter and Wernberg, 2020), phytoplankton and even pelagic fauna (e.g., finfish or whales; Chami et al., 2019), have also been proposed as blue carbon ecosystems.”

*For context see:* Global Justice Ecology Project. SAVE THE WHALES... from the carbon market! <https://globaljusticeecology.org/whale-offsets/>

<sup>27</sup> Conservation International. Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative to Deliver a Blue Carbon Economy in Aotearoa, NZ. November 15, 2022.

<https://www.conservation.org/press-releases/2022/11/15/hinemoana-halo-ocean-initiative-to-deliver-a-blue-carbon-economy-in-aotearoa-nz>

Ocean20: A New Self-Funded Marine Resource Management Framework. Conservation International. November 14, 2022.

<https://www.conservation.org/press-releases/2022/11/14/ocean20-a-new-self-funded-marine-resource-management-framework>

<sup>28</sup> UNESCO. United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030). Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative (H2O)

<https://oceandecade.org/actions/hinemoana-halo-ocean-initiative-h2o/>

<sup>29</sup> New York University Law School. MOTH Program. <https://mothlife.org/about/>

“How can we strengthen the implementation of the growing number of rights of nature rulings and laws to ensure they have material impact?”

<sup>30</sup> Indigenous Environmental Network and Global Justice Ecology Project. Who speaks for Nature? 2026.

New York University Law School. MOTH Program. Nonhuman Animal Communication Technologies. 2025.

<https://mothlife.org/technology-ecology/nonhuman-animal-communication-technologies/>

“NACTs entail a range of physical and physiological risks for nonhuman animals. These risks can arise directly or indirectly and without regard to NACT actors’ original intent. They include the injury, exhaustion, starvation, illness, reproductive failure, reduced survivability, and death of nonhuman animals.”

<sup>31</sup> Project CETI (Cetacean Translation Initiative). <http://projectceti.org>

<sup>32</sup> Artic Circle. Mere Takoko, Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa and Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future. Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments. October 9, 2023. <https://www.arcticcircle.org/journal/hinemoana-halo-maori-led-ocean-solutions-and-nature>

“The [Hinemoana Halo] mechanism will bundle carbon, biodiversity, and heritage credits as an inseparable whole into a Hinemoana Halo credit.”

So-called “heritage credits” are based on the commodification of the cultures, traditional knowledge systems, spiritualities, governance, images and lives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Heritage rights are also called “biocultural carbon credits” and entail “Compounded Commodification: Privatization of Air, Life and Culture” (*See* Gourmet REDD in NO REDD!. 2007. Page 14. <https://no-redd.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/No-REDD-Booklet-IMPORTANT.pdf>)

<sup>33</sup> Conservation International Aotearoa. Mere Takoko, Jasmine Kaa and Linda Bercusson, Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative. Section 4. Valuing our Moana.

“The Hinemoana Halo initiative aims to promote the valuation of ecosystem services performed by whales in Oceania.”

Artic Circle. Mere Takoko, Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa and Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future. Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments. October 9, 2023.

<https://www.arcticcircle.org/journal/hinemoana-halo-maori-led-ocean-solutions-and-nature>

“The [Hinemoana Halo] mechanism will bundle carbon, biodiversity, and heritage credits as an inseparable whole into a Hinemoana Halo credit.”

“The area will come under an IPLC-led protection framework that will put more money into whale conservation and introduce seasonal protections across whale migratory routes or ‘blue’ corridors. The CO<sub>2</sub> carbon storage potential of this project combined with other early stage Hinemoana Halo carbon++ investments will represent the largest ever in the Pacific.”

“A Blue Carbon Economy for the Pacific: Assistant Director at the International Monetary Fund’s Institute for Capacity Development and Blue Green Future co-founder, Ralph Chami estimates that over the course of their lifetime, a great whale sequesters approximately 33 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to 30,000 trees, and estimates that if whales were to return to their former abundance, they could capture approximately 1.7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, a carbon sequestration service worth \$13 per person per year.”

<sup>34</sup> PMN. Christine Rovoi. Māori ocean rights under threat: Why Pasifika should be paying attention. October 22, 2025.

[https://pmn.co.nz/read/environment/maori-ocean-rights-under-threat-why-pacific-communities-should-be-paying-attention#google\\_vignette](https://pmn.co.nz/read/environment/maori-ocean-rights-under-threat-why-pacific-communities-should-be-paying-attention#google_vignette)

<sup>35</sup> Blue Green Future. Portfolio. Hinemoana Halo Initiative [https://bluegreenfuture.org/portfolio\\_page/hinemoana-halo-initiative/](https://bluegreenfuture.org/portfolio_page/hinemoana-halo-initiative/)

“...establish Aotearoa’s first indigenous-led voluntary blue carbon regime to support tribes to protect, manage and monitor Aotearoa’s coastal waters and high seas (including EEZ).”

EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone of New Zealand. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive\\_economic\\_zone\\_of\\_New\\_Zealand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_economic_zone_of_New_Zealand)

“New Zealand’s [exclusive economic zone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_economic_zone_of_New_Zealand) (EEZ) covers at least 4,083,744 square kilometres (1,576,742 sq mi),<sup>[1][2]</sup> which is approximately 15 times the [land area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_area_of_New_Zealand) of the country.”

<sup>36</sup> Artic Circle. Mere Takoko, Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa and Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future. Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments. October 9, 2023. <https://www.arcticcircle.org/journal/hinemoana-halo-maori-led-ocean-solutions-and-nature>

<sup>37</sup> Artic Assembly 2023. Program. “INDIGENOUS-LED BLUE NATURE MARKETS: OCEAN SOLUTIONS FROM THE PACIFIC Organized by: Conservation International Aotearoa Location: Kaldalón, Harpa Ground Floor SPEAKERS Mere Takoko, Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa, Ngāti Porou, Rongowhakaata, New Zealand, Aperahama Edwards, Ambassador, Hinemoana Halo Initiative, Ngāti Wai, New Zealand Lisa Tumahai, Chairperson, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, New Zealand Kevin Iro, Ambassador, Marae Moana, Rarotonga, Cook Islands, Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future and Rebalance Earth, USA”

[https://prismic-io.s3.amazonaws.com/arctic-circle-www/dd174672-6e82-405c-a223-9e335a7a8844\\_2023+Arctic+Circle+Assembly+Program.pdf](https://prismic-io.s3.amazonaws.com/arctic-circle-www/dd174672-6e82-405c-a223-9e335a7a8844_2023+Arctic+Circle+Assembly+Program.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> Conservation International. Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative to Deliver a Blue Carbon Economy in Aotearoa, NZ. November 15, 2022.

<https://www.conservation.org/press-releases/2022/11/15/hinemoana-halo-ocean-initiative-to-deliver-a-blue-carbon-economy-in-aotearoa-nz>

<sup>39</sup> Arctic Circle. Mere Takoko, Vice President, Conservation International Aotearoa and Ralph Chami, Co-Founder, Blue Green Future. Hinemoana Halo: Māori-led Ocean Solutions and Nature Positive Carbon++ Investments. October 9, 2023. <https://www.arcticcircle.org/journal/hineoana-halo-maori-led-ocean-solutions-and-nature> "Recognizing the teething problems associated with current nascent and voluntary carbon markets, this initiative brings a fresh approach to create radical transparency and trust between buyers and sellers of the Hinemoana Halo credits. The project design, conservation life cycle and results are fully 'discoverable' through blockchain technology – creating transparency for the market and better price discovery than typical bilateral arrangements."

SDLCC. Adam Paul. Understanding Carbon Crypto: Tokenized Carbon Credits Explained. October 28, 2025 <https://sdccorp.com/post/understanding-carbon-crypto-how-tokenized-carbon-credits-are-changing-the-game/>

"Why Carbon Crypto? Challenges and Opportunities

A. Addressing Longstanding Issues in Carbon Markets

Traditional carbon markets are plagued by opaque operations, fraud risks, and high barriers to entry. Companies purchasing credits have little to no transparency into the offset projects, and double-counting of credits is a common issue. Tokenized carbon credits solve this. By recording each transaction on an immutable blockchain ledger, carbon crypto makes it nearly impossible to falsify or double-count credits. Every transaction is a public, unalterable record."

<sup>40</sup> Conservation International Aotearoa. Mere Takoko, Jasmine Kaa and Linda Bercusson, Hinemoana Halo Ocean Initiative. Hinemoana Halo Investment Proposal. Section 5. Our Hinemoana Blue Bonds.

Our Hinemoana Halo Blue Bonds

The Hinemoana Halo Blue Bond will promote financing into nature-based solutions including:

- (1a) marine protected areas and rāhui
- (1b) wetland and seagrass restoration
- (1c) taonga species recovery
- (1d) marine algae and krill recovery
- (1e) seaweed recovery
- (2) sustainable supporting industry development, including: (2a) fisheries (2b) aquaculture (2c) energy (2d) tourism and (2e) CDR technologies.



<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> United Nations University. Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies. February 17, 2026.

<https://unu.edu/cpr/brief/carbon-dioxide-removal-technologies>  
Brief. [https://www.un.org/scientific-advisory-board/sites/default/files/2025-11/Decarbonization\\_Brief\\_EN\\_Rev10.pdf](https://www.un.org/scientific-advisory-board/sites/default/files/2025-11/Decarbonization_Brief_EN_Rev10.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> GEXON. Viktoria Bohacikova. CO2 hazards in Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage (CCUS).

<https://www.gexcon.com/resources/blog/co2-hazards-in-carbon-capture-utilisation-and-storage-ccus/>

<sup>44</sup> United Nations University. Carbon Dioxide Removal Technologies. Brief, Graphic. February 17, 2026.

[https://www.un.org/scientific-advisory-board/sites/default/files/2025-11/Decarbonization\\_Brief\\_EN\\_Rev10.pdf](https://www.un.org/scientific-advisory-board/sites/default/files/2025-11/Decarbonization_Brief_EN_Rev10.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025. Part 5.

PART 5

## Bond/Credit Market Overview

Potential Credit Buyers, Enablers and Credit Issuers

\* These figures will be adjustable and contingent on securing funding for carbon investments over the next 3 years. CI Aotearoa will act only as the interim fund holder and administrator until Hinemoana Halo Fund is devolved to Iwi Partners. Funding/Investments secured for micro-enterprises will include an allocation (by proportional value) of the IUCN eligible bonds/credits to fund marine and terrestrial projects or to work with Iwi/Māori partners.

ILLUSTRATIVE AND NON EXHAUSTIVE	Enablers	Credit Issuers (Supply)
<b>Credit Buyers (Demand)</b> Corporations: Amazon, Delta, The Union, Disney, Microsoft, Walmart Financial Institutions: Bank of America, JPMorgan, US Bank, Commonwealth Bank, Goldman Sachs Governments: USA, Germany, UK, Japan, France, Netherlands, Sweden Philanthropy: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Climate Reality Project, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Moore Foundation, Danish Philanthropist Anders Holck, Emerald Bertram Multilaterals: UN, World Bank, IDB, GEF	<b>Enablers</b> Certification bodies/verifiers: American Carbon Registry, ClimatePartner, BBO, KSI, VERRA, SD VISTA Conservation agencies: WWF, WCS, The Nature Conservancy, Oceana <b>Technology providers:</b> Pachama, Cerra, Ripple, PFS <b>Academics:</b> Stanford, ICGI, Cawthron, Yale, CIMAS	<b>Credit Issuers (Supply)</b> Governments: Costa Rica, Palau, Niue, Mozambique, Tanzania, Fiji NGOs: BCNET, PEW, Toke New CTFs: MAR FUND, FUNBIO, RED

Hinemoana Halo

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL AOTEAROA

<sup>46</sup> Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025. Part 5.

On the "illustrative and non-exhaustive" map, "Potential Credit Buyers (Demand)" include corporations such as Apple, Amazon, Disney, Patagonia, Microsoft and Walmart; financial institutions such as CITI Bank, Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, US Bank, Commonwealth Bank, Goldman Sachs and Well Fargo; governments such as the United States, Germany, UK, Japan, France, Netherlands and Sweden; philanthropic organizations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Climate Reality Project,

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Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Moore Foundation, the Bezos Earth Fund, the Wyss Foundation, the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, Danish philanthropist Anders Holch among others; and multilateral banks like the World Bank, the European Bank, the InterAmerican Development Bank; and United Nations agencies such as the Global Environment Fund (GEF), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

<sup>47</sup> Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025. Part 5.

Potential “Enablers” include carbon offset certifiers such as Verra, American Carbon Registry, BBOP, SD VISTA, climatecare, Carbon Trust and Koobi among others; big NGOs such as Conservation International, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Blue Nature Alliance, Blue Ventures, Oceana, Flor and Fauna International and Oceans5 among others. Whale offsets’ Potential “Technology Providers” (for tracking whales with GPS tags and other tasks) include Pachama, Ripple and HIS Market (now merged with S&P Global) among others; as well as Potential “Academics” from Stanford University, Yale University, ecologic, Cawthorn Institute and CIMAS among others.

<sup>48</sup> Hinemoana Halo and Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025. Part 5.

Potential “Credit-Issuers (Supply)” include Costa Rica, Palau, Niue, Mozambique, Tanzania and Fiji; NGOs such as BCNET, PEW and Tofia Niue; and “CTFs” (Conservation Trust Funds) MAR Fund, FUNBIO, RED, Niue Ocean Wide (NOW) and the Ministerio de Ambiente (Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador) among others.

<sup>49</sup> Conservation International Aotearoa. Hinemoana Halo Seed Funding Proposal 2023-2025. Part 6. Supporting Establishment Activities.

“Accreditation of the Hinemoana Halo voluntary regime with IUCN in cooperation with CI technical teams.”

<sup>50</sup> Carbon Credits. Debt-for-Nature Swaps Are Drawing Attention, Carbon Credits Play a Role. Jennifer I. November 9, 2022.

<https://carboncredits.com/debt-for-nature-swaps-are-drawing-attention-carbon-credits-play-a-role/>

<sup>51</sup> NACLA. Sophia Boddenberg. Greenwashing Debt in the Galápagos Islands. September 5, 2025.

<https://nacla.org/greenwashing-debt-in-the-galapagos-islands/>

<sup>52</sup> World Bank Group. The Galapagos Islands have a Strategic Plan for Blue Economy Development. December 11, 2024.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2025/02/07/gal-pagos-cuenta-con-un-plan-estrategico-para-el-desarrollo-de-la-economia-azul>

NACLA. Sophia Boddenberg. Greenwashing Debt in the Galápagos Islands. September 5, 2025.

<https://nacla.org/greenwashing-debt-in-the-galapagos-islands/>

“The government hailed the deal as a ‘historic agreement’ that would help to protect endangered species such as whales and turtles...”

Galapagos Conservation Trust. Tom O’Hara. Ocean protection update: The Swimway, Hermandad and CMAR. January 18, 2023.

<https://galapagosconservation.org.uk/galapagos-ocean-protection-swimway-hermandad-cmar/>

“Protecting these key migratory routes has benefits beyond just conserving marine life, helping to mitigate climate change through blue carbon capture...”

<sup>53</sup> Reuters. Marc James and Rodrigo Campos. Ecuador seals record debt-for-nature swap with Galapagos bond. May 9, 2023.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/ecuador-seals-record-debt-for-nature-swap-with-galapagos-bond-2023-05-09/>

ORF America. Veronia Jijon. From Galápagos to Global: Leveraging Debt-For-Nature Swaps for Debt Relief and Environmental Protection. January 27, 2025.

<https://orfamerica.org/newresearch/debt-for-nature-swaps>

“Central to the swap’s success was the issuance of a blue bond, an innovative financial instrument directly linked to marine conservation.”

<sup>54</sup> NACLA. Sophia Boddenberg. Greenwashing Debt in the Galápagos Islands. September 5, 2025.

<https://nacla.org/greenwashing-debt-in-the-galapagos-islands/>

<sup>55</sup> No REDD Reader. <https://www.wrm.org.uy/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/REDDreaderEN.pdf>

Page 47: “For example, a community’s forests could be included in debt-for-nature swaps as part of the payment of the foreign debt of the state. In this regard, the United States recently announced that it would subtract US\$21 million from the foreign debt of Brazil in exchange for initiatives to protect the forests of the Atlantic Mata in Brazil. Such forest protection could result in REDD-type projects in Brazil.”

U.S. signs debt-for-nature swap with Brazil to protect forests. Mongabay.com, August 2010. [http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0813-dfns\\_us\\_brazil.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0813-dfns_us_brazil.html)

<sup>56</sup> CFFA. Andrew Standing. Galapagos Debt-Swap: “These deals are being used to privatize the management of strategic areas without the consent of those who inhabit these territories”. June 9, 2025.

<https://www.cffacape.org/publications-blog/galapagos-debt-swap-these-deals-are-being-used-to-privatize-the-management-of-strategic-areas-without-the-consent-of-those-who-inhabit-these-territories>

“In December last year, your government announced that it had signed a deal with the **US government to open a military base on the Galapagos Islands.**

**Unfortunately, it is hard not to wonder whether the US government’s support for the Galapagos Bond had some part to play in getting the approval for the military base...** This swap allowed for the restructuring of Ecuador’s debt with the aim of securing financing for the conservation of the **Hermandad Marine Reserve**, a 60,000 km<sup>2</sup> protected area that connects the Galápagos Islands with marine reserves in **Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica.** **The primary justification for this initiative was the protection of biodiversity and the fight against illegal fishing, which necessitated enhanced maritime monitoring in the region. At the same time, in October 2023, Ecuador and the United States signed the ‘Agreement on the Status of Forces’ (SOFA), which establishes the legal framework for the presence of U.S. military personnel in Ecuador.”** [*Emphasis added.*]

<sup>57</sup> New America. Elizabeth Losos. Can Private Finance Save the World’s Forests and Oceans? Sept. 18, 2025.

“Despite this progress, the blended-finance approach has not fully addressed key shortcomings of earlier debt-for-nature swaps, such as small debt reduction relative to high transaction costs, risks to debtor country credit ratings, inadequate conservation metrics, and sovereignty and transparency concerns.”

<https://www.newamerica.org/planetary-politics/blog/trading-debt-for-nature/>

<sup>58</sup> CBD Alliance. ECO. Patrick Bigger. “Debt for nature swaps: proceed with caution (and low expectations)”. October 24, 2025.

“The **IMF** itself states that swaps are much (much!) too small to restore fiscal solvency for countries, and that “it’s more effective to address debt and climate or nature separately.” Most concerning, there is evidence that debt for nature swaps contributing to funding protected areas played **a significant role in facilitating Indigenous and small holder dispossession.** This is linked to questions about conditionality, or the policy demands that Northern Governments or NGOs make of Southern governments in return for debt restructuring or cancellation; done poorly, the imposition of conditions for debt relief are **replay neocolonial structural adjustment** policies, impinging on Southern sovereignty and limiting effectiveness as communities are left out of planning and implementing conservation plans.”

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Journal of Applied Philosophy, Nicole Hassoun. "The Problem of Debt-for-Nature Swaps from a Human Rights Perspective." vol. 29, no. 4, 2012, pp. 359–77. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24356189> . Accessed 4 Mar. 2026.

<sup>59</sup> International Monetary Fund. Ralph Chami *et al.* Nature's Solution to Climate Change - A strategy to protect whales can limit greenhouse gases and global warming". 2019. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2019/12/natures-solution-to-climate-change-chami>

<sup>60</sup> Indigenous Peoples Denounce Whale Offsets at UN Biodiversity Summit. Global Justice Ecology Project. November 1, 2024. <https://globaljusticeecology.org/indigenous-peoples-denounce-whale-offsets-at-un-biodiversity-summit/>

<sup>61</sup> Wikipedia. Gregory Stone. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory\\_S.\\_Stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregory_S._Stone)

<sup>62</sup> The Most Influential Leader in Ocean Conservation & Blue Economy Strategy – 2025. September 2025.

<https://theenterpriseworld.com/most-influential-leader-gregory/>

<sup>63</sup> Enterprise World. Gregory Stone: The Man Bringing Science, Sustainability, and Soul to the Ocean's Future. 2025.

<https://theenterpriseworld.com/gregory-stone-the-metals-company/>

<sup>64</sup> Sonja Swift. *Red Sky in the Morning: Of whales, water and warnings*. Rocky Mountain Books. (*forthcoming*)

<sup>65</sup> Frontline. Ashish Kothari, Shrishtee Bajpai, Governance as if the earth mattered. February 4, 2026.

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/social-issues/earthy-governance-indigenous-democracy-nature-rights-global/article70586934.ece>

<sup>66</sup> The Guardian. Ajin Niranjana. How 'smog capital of Poland' saved 6,000 lives by cutting soot levels. February 20, 2026.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/feb/20/krakow-smog-poland-saved-lives-black-carbon-green-initiatives>