**International Cooperation Proposal: Enhancing Collaboration on Coastal Wetland Carbon Sequestration under the Global ONCE Initiative**

Background
Global Ocean Negative Carbon Emissions (Global ONCE), which is an UN Ocean Decade Programme. The initiative of Global ONCE aims to enhance carbon sequestration in marine and coastal wetlands through scientific research and engineering practices to address global climate change. Aligning with the Tartu Declaration on Wetlands, which emphasizes the urgency of wetland conservation and restoration, China can leverage this opportunity to strengthen international cooperation—particularly with developed and developing nations—to advance research and practical applications in coastal wetland carbon sequestration.

Proposed Actions

1 Establish a Global Coastal Wetland Carbon Sequestration Network

Collaborate with signatories of the Tartu Declaration and international organizations (e.g., UNEP, Ramsar Convention) to form a Global Coastal Wetland Carbon Sequestration Alliance, facilitating data, technology, and knowledge sharing.

Under the Global ONCE framework, create a dedicated working group focusing on:

Assessing carbon sequestration potential of coastal wetlands (mangroves, salt marshes, seagrass beds).

Studying degradation mechanisms and restoration techniques.

2 Promote North-South Cooperation & Technology Transfer

With Developed Countries: Partner with the EU, U.S., and others to advance monitoring and modeling of blue carbon ecosystems, leveraging policy tools like the EU Nature Restoration Law.

Support for Developing Nations: Assist countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and other regions facing coastal wetland degradation by: (1) Deploying expert teams to guide restoration projects. (2) Organizing training programs on carbon monitoring and assessment. (3) Providing low-cost, adaptive ecological restoration solutions (e.g., nature-based approaches).

3 Integrate Science with Indigenous & Local Knowledge

Engage local communities and Indigenous Peoples to combine traditional ecological knowledge (e.g., sustainable fishing, vegetation management) with modern science for culturally adaptive wetland management.

Incorporate socio-economic benefits into projects (e.g., eco-tourism, fisheries recovery, biomass use for paper industry) to ensure long-term sustainability.

4 Joint Implementation of Demonstration Projects

Select pilot sites in Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) countries (e.g., Gambia, Vietnam) to establish cross-border carbon sequestration demonstration zones.

Mobilize Global ONCE funding to help developing nations access international climate finance (e.g., Green Climate Fund) for wetland restoration.

5 Strengthen Policy Coordination & Science Communication

Advocate for integrating coastal wetland conservation into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and global climate frameworks (e.g., IPCC assessments).

Counter misinformation (e.g., “wetlands are unproductive”) through multilingual scientific reports and media campaigns.

Next Steps

Propose diplomatic engagement with international bodies to launch this initiative at COP15 (Ramsar Convention) and COP30 (UNFCCC), inviting Tartu Declaration signatories to co-develop a Roadmap for International Cooperation on Coastal Wetland Carbon Sequestration.

Conclusion
Wetlands are Earth’s "climate regulators" and international collaboration is key to unlock their potential. By synergizing Global ONCE with the Tartu Declaration, China can contribute a "Chinese Solution" to global wetland conservation and climate governance.