

Business Strategy

UK Peatland Programme 2009 - 2012



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BACKGROUND

The Peatland Programme originated from a workshop, held in October 2008, whose main findings¹ were that there was an overwhelming need for a programme of action to deliver large scale peatland restoration in the UK with a focus around the conservation quartet of partnership, science, policy and practice. A key driver for this programme is recognition of the multiple benefits of peatlands including their role in helping to mitigate climate change. Based on this consensus, the Peter De Haan Charitable Trust provided funding for a three year programme of work. A steering group was formed that first met in February 2009 to develop this programme.

The Programme has been adopted by the IUCN UK Executive Committee and now forms a key component of this organisations work for the next three years. This strategy for delivering the programme adopts the IUCN values of providing knowledge and tools, building capacity to use these tools, and helping others develop more effective policies, laws, institutions and management instruments. The strategy will contribute to the delivery of all five of the main objectives for IUCN in the pan-European region for the period 2009-2012².

The Programme is focused on UK peatlands particularly raised bog and blanket bog habitats where the deepest peat occurs and where the opportunities for delivering restoration are likely to be the most successful. Elements of the programme will be of relevance to other important peatlands such as fens and to peatland conservation across the world. We will aim to work with others to ensure exchange of knowledge internationally.

The programme's long term vision is for the multiple benefits and heritage values of peatlands to be widely understood and appreciated and for peatlands to be functioning to their full natural potential. There would be no further loss of peatland ecosystems in the UK and all recoverable peatlands would be restored to their active state, with long-term protection and sustainable management.

In the short term, the Programme's aim is for high-level policy to invest now in securing the benefits and heritage values of peatland conservation and avoid the costly consequences of peatland deterioration. The three-year strategy will focus on providing the advocacy and knowledge to inform policy and will help share knowledge on peatland restoration and build consensus on the scientific evidence for the ecosystem services that peatlands



offer. The Programme intends to provide the leadership to the peatland community of academics, restoration practitioners and policy makers recognising that its long-term objectives will be delivered by that partnership and not by the Programme itself. The Programme's main role is to coordinate the development of consensus that charts the way forward. Furthermore, this is a short 3-year programme that has a tight targeted role and is designed to hand-over each major theme to the appropriate agencies and organisations having helped them to define their role and its high priority.

External drivers

Benefits of restoration

Peatland is a general term for a wide range of peat soils and habitats that occupy approximately 3% of the land surface of the Earth. Peatlands provide valuable services of importance to human well-being, including biodiversity and climate change mitigation. They have additional benefits in providing a range of water management and quality functions and have heritage value as wildlife habitats and preserves of archaeological and other historic remains. With most of our peatland resource in a less than favourable condition, we are losing valuable services and experiencing rising costs from the breakdown of peatland ecosystems. Steps taken now to invest in halting the deterioration of peatland will avoid the huge future expense of a) dealing with the damaging consequences of collapsed peatland ecosystems and b) seeking alternatives to the services healthy peatlands provide.

The UK has the 13th largest global peatland deposits, estimated to be at least 3 million hectares. The most extensive and deepest peat soils occur as blanket bog and raised bog, which are recognized as internationally important under the EU Habitats Directive. They are also priority habitats for conservation and restoration in the UK Biodiversity Action Plans (UKBAP).

Much of the blanket and raised bog habitat has been damaged by past activity such as drainage (moor gripping), burning, intensive grazing, conversion to agriculture and forestry planting.

Despite the international recognition of the importance of peatlands and the priority given to their conservation under various policies and legislation, there is still a massive challenge facing peatland restoration. Many statutory designated peatland sites are in unfavourable condition. Blanket and raised bog restoration targets for 2015 under the UK BAP are a long way from being delivered. Across the peatland landscape, ongoing impacts from drainage, excessive burning and grazing and commercial peat extraction, continue to cause damage and there are significant new threats from large-scale windfarm developments.

Climate change

When peatlands are functioning, they store carbon as the peat deposits accumulate. When they are damaged, the carbon is released into the atmosphere. Peatlands store up to twice as much carbon as the entire biomass of the world's forests. It is estimated that emissions from damaged peatland accounts for approximately 10% of all anthropogenic influenced carbon emissions³. Stopping the destruction of peatlands and restoring damaged areas by rewetting could bring climate change benefits by helping prevent the loss of carbon. The carbon benefits of peatland restoration are not yet fully recognised or accounted for under international climate change agreements.

Climate change itself poses a threat to peatlands, with the biggest impacts likely to be on damaged areas. Increased summer temperatures and fire risks can damage the habitat and high rainfall events further erode bare peat surfaces. This in turn leads to more carbon losses, exacerbating the climate change problem. Restoring damaged peatlands can help make the system more resilient to the impacts of

climate change. The role of peatlands as an important tool in helping adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly in relation to flooding, has not yet been fully explored.

Scientific understanding of peatland functions and processes

Peatland encompass a variety of forms and conditions and there is a lack of universal understanding of the terminologies and methodologies for describing their state. Just agreeing a figure on the area of peatlands has proven problematic in the UK, as each published study has used different definitions.

Quantifying the various ecosystem services of peatlands, whether it is carbon or water management, is complex and there are few agreed methodologies for assessing the impacts of potential threats or of the benefits of restoration. Particularly in relation to climate change, there has been considerable debate around the role of peatlands with numerous studies presenting conflicting results, largely through inconsistent approaches to the scientific research. The resulting confusion makes it difficult for policy makers to operate in any clear direction or to justify the high levels of funding required to deliver significant peatland restoration.

Policy drivers and funding for conservation and restoration

There are a number of potential policy drivers for peatland conservation, including funding under environment programmes, the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and potentially mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol for addressing climate change. Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and any future EU Soils Directive also has the potential to deliver peatland conservation. However, none of these policies truly recognises the

need to invest sufficient effort and funding in peatland conservation now, to avoid higher costs in future. As a result, there are few successful examples of peatland restoration operating at a landscape scale, encompassing the full extent of ecological and hydrological functioning units.

In some areas, private business, such as the water industry, is funding peatland restoration as a cheaper alternative to dealing with the consequences arising from damaged peatlands. The extent of these positive initiatives across the UK is limited and there is considerable scope for further adoption of good practice.

Political and Public attitudes to Peatland

Politically and in the public mind, there is growing recognition of the adverse effect of our legacy of damaged peatlands and the benefits of restoration for biodiversity, water management, climate change and other services. There remains however, a considerable lack of awareness about the importance of peatlands and misunderstanding about how best to manage and benefit from them in their fully functioning state. Because peatlands are often undervalued, competing land uses and damaging activities continue to be pursued.

Internal drivers

Research

The research community is now receiving funding to examine the role of peatlands in mitigating climate change, with a similar drive to understand wider ecosystem service benefits such as water management, all building on a rich history of peatland research stretching back at least a hundred years. As ever, this throws up a huge diversity of science that requires digest and synthesis to apply in relation to public policy or to practical

restoration. The academic community are being asked to provide this interface via programmes such as the NERC Knowledge Exchange Strategy. This is laudable but many schools of research are pursuing different approaches reflecting their own areas of interests. There is inconsistency in the methodologies, definitions of peatland conditions and limited coordination to provide information that can be used by decision makers and practitioners.

Public policy

Diverse, ill defined and often conflicting scientific information in relation to the ecosystem service benefits of peatlands, and in particular greenhouse gas emissions, can lead public policy makers to incorrect interpretations or a confusion that hampers policy making. There is also the danger that different sectors will cherry pick the science to suit their own goals, without appreciating the limitations of the studies being relied on. A confused public policy position reflects the lack of consensus and synthesis amongst the research community.

Policy making is often made on a sectoral basis making it difficult to deliver effective action on cross cutting issues such as peatland conservation which is influenced by many sectors including forestry, climate change, water, agriculture, biodiversity and development planning. There needs to be a more effective approach with a central focus on peatlands with different Government Departments and statutory agencies working cooperatively towards delivering large scale peatland restoration and securing the multiple benefits.

Practice

Practical restoration of peatlands is a rather young discipline. The first handbook for peatland restoration dates from 1988 (Rowell⁴) with Brooks and Stoneman providing another handbook in 1997⁵. Since then, British restoration has focussed on larger-scale restorations of highly damaged

bogs – peat milled fields (e.g. Thorne and Hatfield Moors) or afforested bogs in Scotland (Flow Country and SW Scotland) and Cumbria (lowland raised bogs). Ten years ago initiatives such as the Scottish Raised Bog Conservation Project (1993-97) and the Mires Research Group helped bring together a small community of practitioners. Today, all handbooks are now out of print and the wider group of practitioners is less well connected, although *Moors for the Future* have provided a networking function through annual conferences and web services (the peatland compendium). A considerable expansion of restoration programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, North America and the Tropics over the last 10 years has also added to the wealth of practical knowledge and skills that could be drawn on.

Financial support for restoration

Biodiversity conservation remains a strong driver for peatland restoration and still generates substantial project funds (e.g. from charitable trusts, European funds, lottery funds etc.) and land management funds (principally agri-environment schemes). However this funding, in itself, is insufficient in relation to the huge scale of peatlands meriting restoration across the UK and even the biodiversity restoration targets are at risk of not being met. Opportunities are now being sought to find funding through different mechanisms aimed at the wider range of ecosystem services that peatlands provide. In the case of climate change mitigation, where peatland restoration can provide clear carbon benefits there is potential for deploying voluntary carbon offset funds. However, difficulties in verification and regulatory control over such schemes have yet to be addressed before the market can purchase offsets with confidence. Within the next few years much larger funding focussed on peatland restoration may be available through redirecting of EU budgets and the common agriculture policy provided the case is made now to demonstrate the multiple benefits of such work.

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| <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peatlands deliver a wide range of ecosystem services • Peatlands are a huge carbon store with climate change implications • Peatland restoration can convert bogs from a carbon source to a sink • Peatlands offer climate change adaptation solutions • Peatland restoration is relatively cheap • The UK has many successful peatland restoration projects • There is professional momentum for peatland restoration | <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate and poorly targeted funding • Insufficient policy relevant scientific information • No coordinated policy focus on peatland • The damaged and deteriorating condition of UK peatland • Impact of greenhouse gas budgets versus a focus on carbon dioxide • Potential conflicts between objectives from different ecosystem services • Limited consideration of whole functioning units beyond designated sites • Reliance on one-issue solutions • Lack of public awareness and understanding • Poor communications and campaigning • Inadequate networks for restoration professionals |
| <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding from voluntary carbon markets • Review of funding under EU CAP and budget reform • Legal targets for carbon reduction • Increased policy support for ecosystem services approach • New peatland research • Communications and engagement • Building partnership and networks • Landscape scale approach | <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unregulated voluntary carbon market • Possible limitations of peatlands in providing verifiable greenhouse gas benefits • Peat extraction continuing • Drastic erosion of peat • Poorly planned renewable energy schemes • Competing land-uses • Management focussed on single ecosystem service • Climate change impacts |

London Workshop priorities

The Peatland Programme strategy has incorporated the main analyses and findings of the London Workshop which identified a range of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats:

The London Workshop also suggested priorities for the whole community to bring about a revolution in the way we view and manage peatlands in the UK.

Deliver scientific evidence

- Identify gaps in research
- Set research priorities, relevant to policy
- Field test models and assumptions
- Collaborate on new research
- Share and build consensus on findings
- Agree criteria and priorities for restoration

Establish network - provide a secretariat to bring together informal networks of practitioners, researchers and policymakers. Use the network to:

- Build capacity
- Share information, data and skills
- Capture research and translate into language suitable for policy advocacy and communication
- Improve partnership working

Campaign strategically - a peatland restoration campaign needs to develop a strategic approach to influencing stakeholders. It should:

- Identify objectives at global, national and local scales
- Identify stakeholders
- Target messages precisely
- Improve understanding and appreciation of peatlands by consistently promoting the multiple benefits peatlands and their ecosystem services
- Mobilise the great potential power of environmental activists and supporters

Key aims

The main thrust of this Programme is to take forward the key elements of the London Workshop priorities and in particular to provide a strategic approach to influencing stakeholders – a high level advocacy programme aimed at promoting peatland conservation and restoration across the UK resource. This work will push for peatland restoration as a priority in the development and refinement of key policy drivers such as the CAP and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Within the UK, the programme will encourage better coordination of public and private effort and advocate improved policy and financial mechanisms to help deliver the necessary large-scale peatland restoration.

To support this advocacy we need to improve the scientific understanding, knowledge exchange and consensus around peatland functions and processes, particularly in relation to carbon and water management. This can be used to help inform policy decisions and communicate the benefits of peatland restoration.

To ensure a strong background of enthusiasm and financial commitment towards peatland conservation we need to raise awareness about the benefits and heritage values of peatlands amongst peatland practitioners, politicians and the wider public.



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS, TARGETS AND OUTPUTS

The focus will be on providing advocacy and briefing to inform policy as well as assimilating and synthesising the scientific information needed to make the advocacy credible. A cross cutting theme will be the promotion of the multiple benefits of peatlands to society and to seek long term solutions to peatland conservation that properly value their ecosystem services.

The programme recognises that there is already a wide range of expertise and work underway in peatland research and aims to facilitate consensus building and knowledge exchange in the UK with links to international scientific work. There are also opportunities through the UK Government for working with Overseas Territories, such as the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, which support blanket bog habitat with similar conservation issues to those experienced in the UK.

The Peatland Programme objectives are seen as having relevance across a wide partnership of statutory and non governmental organisations. This project seeks to build on others work and to provide leadership to the wider peatland community. Where opportunity arises the programme will pursue joint initiatives with government, statutory bodies and peatland partnerships across the UK.

The objectives are presented in no particular order of priority as each is linked and all must be achieved for the programme to be successful. Securing effective policy and funding for peatlands will require the wide range of peatland ecosystem services to be understood and demonstrated. Good advocacy will require a sound scientific basis in order to be credible and a strong network of peatland practitioners, to ensure decision makers hear consistent messages.

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| Objective 1 | Inform policy and legislation at international, EU, UK and devolved country level to ensure effective conservation and restoration of peatlands and secure long term funding and regulatory support for the sustainable management of peatlands. |
| Objective 2 | Champion peatlands and their plight to decision makers and the public by promoting their environmental, social, cultural and economic values. |
| Objective 3 | Improve knowledge and understanding of peatland conditions and their functions, particularly in relation to greenhouse gas emissions and water management. |
| Objective 4 | Improve information sharing and knowledge exchange within the community of peatland practitioners, policy makers and researchers. |
| Objective 5 | Promote good practice within industry, the private landowning and business sector to help conserve peatlands and identify the economic opportunities for the private sector from peatland restoration. |

Objective 1

Inform policy and legislation at international, EU, UK and devolved country level to ensure effective conservation and restoration of peatlands and secure long term funding and regulatory support for the sustainable management of peatlands.

Policies directed at peatland conservation and restoration already exist, but effort has not been coordinated in a way that has delivered ambitious landscape scale restoration across whole functioning peatland ecosystems. Even within core designated sites there is still a considerable job required to bring about favourable conservation status. Work under this objective will involve high-level advocacy, and briefing aimed at securing more effective policy and financial support for peatlands.

Under present Kyoto protocol carbon accounting methods, emissions from Landuse, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) do not currently include the benefits of avoided losses through peatland restoration. However, the international community in discussions, under the UN FCCC, is considering proposals for avoided losses through peatland restoration to be included in national greenhouse gas inventories. Such mandatory reporting could help influence UK Government budgets to justify increased spending and statutory effort on peatland conservation. Funding through formal carbon trading schemes is not available to projects in Annex 1 countries; however there are a number of voluntary schemes being developed which may offer some opportunities for peatland restoration in the UK. In order to provide legitimacy and credibility such schemes will require accreditation and the development of standards relevant to UK peatlands. Ensuring that any mechanisms deliver the full range of peatland services, including biodiversity, is important to discourage potentially unsustainable carbon maximising activity.

In the build up to reform of the EU Common Agriculture Policy in 2013, there are opportunities to advocate for peatlands to be given a high priority under any new system. This will require strong briefing to highlight the many benefits and values of peatlands and to highlight the long term costs of not taking action now to restore peatlands. Linked to this is the EU Budget reform and the potential to gain increased recognition for the importance and wider society benefits of funding peatland conservation. Other relevant EU and international policy areas include the 2010 Biodiversity target, which could see renewed effort in delivering peat bog restoration under the UK Biodiversity Action Plans.

Within the UK there are a range of policy areas where a more coordinated and focused effort could help deliver greater peatland restoration, including water catchment management planning, targeting of Agri environment measures, forestry policy, deer management, and climate change adaptation policies. The Programme will identify opportunities for coordinated working across statutory agencies to demonstrate how peatland conservation can deliver value for money by meeting Government objectives across a range of sectors. This work will build on existing case studies available through projects including the Caithness and Sutherland Peatlands, The Peak District, Pennines, Berwyn and Migneint and the Cuilcagh Mountains.

Key Actions

Engage with government policy making processes at EU and international level to secure better policy support and funding for peatlands.

This will include attending key policy events, meeting Government officials, providing written responses to consultations and engaging in Government stakeholder meetings. Support will also be given to other partnerships including NGOs to assist in developing their input.

1. Promote the inclusion of peatland restoration as a mandatory reporting measure in UNFCCC LULUCF process for the period post 2012.
2. Support the UK Government and devolved Governments in developing an agreed method of accounting for peatland restoration in national greenhouse gas reporting under Kyoto Protocol.
3. Work with UK and international Governments, NGOs and other partners to ensure peatlands are included in proposals for reform of EU CAP and Budgets.
4. Support the development of credible and robust Voluntary Carbon Standards relevant to greenhouse gas emissions from UK peat bogs.

Targets

- New UNFCCC LULUCF rules agreed at Copenhagen 2009 for the post 2012 reporting process to include peatland restoration
- Greenhouse gas figures relevant to Atlantic bogs included in published IPCC baseline reports
- UK Government methodologies for reporting on peatland restoration agreed and in place for National Greenhouse Gas inventory reporting in 2010
- Peatland included as a priority for future funding in discussions building up to CAP reform and EU budgetary reform 2012
- International voluntary carbon standards include standards for UK peatland restoration

Work with UK and devolved Governments to improve delivery of peatland conservation under existing policy mechanisms.

Identifying and advocating opportunities for improving existing policy and promoting cross agency collaboration to deliver peatland restoration.

5. Build partnerships with UK Government, devolved Governments and international Governments on the conservation of peatlands.
6. Support the promotion of peatland conservation through the UK and devolved Governments implementation of the Water Framework Directive and any future EU Soil Framework Directive.
7. Promote inclusion of peatlands in national, devolved and local climate change adaptation strategies and plans
8. Identify key policy areas across the UK where peatland restoration can be given greater priority and promote improvements

9. Demonstrate the opportunities and benefits of cross agency working to deliver landscape scale peatland restoration.
10. Promote the delivery of Blanket Bog and Raised Bog UK Biodiversity Action Plans restoration targets for 2015

Targets

- UK, devolved and local Government plans for adaptation, water catchment management, forestry, deer management and other land uses highlight peatlands conservation benefits and include landscape scale restoration proposals.
- International peatland event in 2011 organised to bring together peatland practitioners and statutory agencies to explore and agree effective policies for restoring peatlands.
- Series of annual seminars held within the UK, identifying opportunities for landscape- scale peatland restoration, using worked case studies 2010 onwards
- Country level targets for restoration of blanket bog and raised bog agreed by devolved Governments by 2010

Objective 2

Champion peatlands and their plight to decision makers and the public by promoting their environmental, social, cultural and economic values.

Only by fully recognising and understanding the range of ecosystem services that functioning peatlands can provide will it be possible to get long term funding and support for peatland conservation. This work will utilise a variety of mechanisms including production of IUCN UK branded briefings, media resources and public events to communicate the benefits of peatlands to a wide range of key players. The Programme will also provide information that can be utilised by other organisations to undertake their own public affairs work on peatlands.

Examples of the benefits already demonstrated at sites across the UK and other parts of Europe will be collated and showcased. Opportunities for novel ways to highlight the value of peatlands including online internet e-communications will be explored with advice sought from communications experts.

A key element of the work will be on understanding the greenhouse gas emissions associated with peatlands, as this is an emerging area of interest. There will also be work on water management and water quality benefits, climate change adaptation benefits and on emphasising the wider range of multiple benefits from a fully function peatland ecosystem.

Key Actions

Provide Government, statutory agencies and NGOs with information and briefings on the range of ecosystem services offered by peatlands and the benefits of restoration.

1. Inform politicians and other decision makers about the range of ecosystem services provided by functioning peatlands and the benefits of peatland restoration.
2. Equip statutory agencies and NGOs with policy relevant briefings on the values of peatlands particularly in relation to carbon and water management.

Targets

- Establish and update IUCN UK Peatland programme website containing briefings and reports 2009-2012
- Set of agreed IUCN UK statements on peatlands their benefits and values produced 2009.
- Regular briefing reports on key peatland ecological services produced for use by statutory bodies and NGOs 2009-2012
- Good practice case studies in peatland management from the UK and internationally produced 2010-2012
- Informed debates about peatlands held in UK and devolved country Parliaments 2009-2012.

Provide peatland messages for use across a wide range of media

3. Encourage media coverage and increased awareness in the wider public about the plight of peatlands.

Targets

- Peatland information resources developed to illustrate key messages for use in national media and in public presentations 2009-2012
- Communications strategy using novel techniques prepared 2010
- High level annual media events held on peatlands 2010 -2012
- Regular articles and stories in national and local media 2009 -2012
- Peatland presentations given at relevant national conferences 2009 -2012

Objective 3

Improve knowledge and understanding of peatland conditions and their functions, particularly in relation to greenhouse gas emissions and water management.

There is much published material on peatlands and their benefits but the information often needs to be carefully synthesised and interpreted before policy decisions can be made. Key issues to be reviewed and summarised include, the implications of different land use activities such as forestry, renewable energy development (wind farms and hydro electric schemes), drainage, burning and grazing on greenhouse gas emissions, water quality and water supply from peatland. The effectiveness of peatland restoration methods in addressing these issues will be examined along with economic valuations of the various peatland services. The impact of climate change on peatland will also be explored, particularly to identify the mechanisms behind any impacts so as to inform remedial, adaptation action.

The Programme aims to lead the development of a more coordinated approach to peatland research with agreed terminologies and methodologies as well as encouraging a more joined up approach to research. Peatlands as well as having a variety of forms also occur in many different states, depending on the type of land use and extent of previous damage. Appropriate management and restoration in one area may not always be applicable elsewhere. Equally, the contribution of peatland to greenhouse gas emissions and water management depend on the condition and type of the peatland. In recent years peatland research has shifted away from ecology to other sciences covering carbon and water quality for example. However in order to fully interpret the findings and apply these it is important that we also understand the biotic condition and response and so need to combine peatland ecology with the other disciplines. Forging such multidisciplinary approaches to research is essential if we are to properly understand the consequences of land management on peatland functions. Equally it is important that there are agreed terminologies and methodologies used in research on peatlands in order to provide a level of consistency that allows effective advocacy and policy decisions to be made.

There are still very few UK studies on peatlands able to provide answers to some of the key questions about peatlands and their functions. The Peatland Programme will encourage a targeted approach to monitoring and research aimed at answering those questions most pertinent to delivery of conservation and restoration objectives.

Key Actions

Identify and facilitate consensus on the key conclusions relevant to policy from peatland research.

1. Provide scientific review and synthesis on the impact of peatland management on greenhouse gas emissions, water quality and water management
2. Provide an overview of economic assessments of peatland services
3. Assess the implications of climate change on UK peatlands from current research

Targets

- Review Atlantic blanket bog greenhouse gas emissions to inform IPCC baselines and international Voluntary Carbon Standards for peatlands by 2009
- Organise a Commission of Inquiry into peatland ecosystem services, benefits and values 2009/2010
- Organise a series of consensus building seminars to develop scientific agreement on peatland mechanisms, and identify research gaps and future priorities 2010-2012
- Publish series of advisory notes on peatlands and peatland functions 2009 - 2012
- Publish literature in peer reviewed journals reviewing key peatland issues 2010-2012

Provide a standard basis for defining peatland and monitoring change to inform peatland conservation, research and impact assessment

4. Develop consensus on terminologies for peatland types and condition and agreed methodologies for monitoring change and assessing impacts of developments and management of peatlands
5. Encourage a coordinated approach to peatland research, with common methodologies across the UK and identify research priorities aimed at informing policy.

Targets

- Produce a guidance manual on peatland terminologies and initiate field based training 2010
- Agreed Monitoring standards produced 2010
- Work with IEEM to develop good practice guidance on environmental impacts assessment on peatlands 2010 –2012
- Establish a peatlands expert panel to identify opportunities for peatland research and the most relevant methodologies to inform policy 2010- 2012

Objective 4

Improve information sharing and knowledge exchange within the community of peatland practitioners, policy makers and researchers.

There are many organisations undertaking peatland management and commissioning research on peatlands but there is little in the way of coordination across the UK and no centralised resource summarising the research being undertaken. The Programme will provide some support for networking and facilitating knowledge exchange through conference and field based events and maintaining web-based portals for peatlands research and restoration projects.

Key Actions

Provide a knowledge exchange platform and opportunities for information sharing through web based resource and events.

1. In consultation with key research bodies, facilitate the development of effective website resources to sign post UK peatland research and restoration projects
2. Organise conferences for peatland practitioners, policy makers and academics

Targets

- Website portals established, listing peatland research projects and restoration work 2009
- Arrange annual UK conferences on peatland 2010-2012

Provide good practice information and training on peatland management and restoration techniques

3. Facilitate the production of guidance on peatland restoration techniques and field based training events in partnership with other peatland initiatives.

Targets

- Coordinate annual field based training events on peatland 2010-2012
- Coordinate production of Peatland restoration guidance to be published 2010-2012

Objective 5

Promote good practice within industry, amongst private landowners and the business sector to help conserve peatland and identify the economic opportunities for the private sector from peatland restoration.

Within the private sector, there are a number of examples of peatland conservation and restoration being undertaken, particularly in the water industry. The Programme will summarise these initiatives as case studies for promotion elsewhere. Opportunities exist for innovative forms of sustainable economic activity on peatland including sphagnum growing and wildlife tourism. These will be explored and promoted where appropriate.

There are also a number of threats to peatland particularly from windfarm development, burning, forestry and trackways. The Programme will seek to encourage good practice with the private sector in reducing these threats. It is proposed that through working with the renewable energy industry, a peatland protocol can be agreed to avoid damage to peatlands and assist in restoration, research and monitoring.

Key Actions

Identify and summarise examples of business investing in peatland conservation and explore economic opportunities from sustainable management of peatlands

1. Produce case studies summarising examples of business investing in peatland conservation 2009 - 2012
2. Produce briefs identifying economic opportunities from sustainable peatland management 2010 -2012

Support the development of a sustainable approach to renewables development on peatland

3. Develop protocols with the renewables industry on peatland conservation

Targets

- Case studies of water industry peatland restoration projects 2010
- Commission a review of projects with sustainable harvests from peatland areas 2010
- Windfarms and Peatlands protocol agreed with the renewables industry 2009

Key Programme Outputs

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| Briefings | Policy relevant briefings offering consensus view on key issues including the impact of different forms of land management on carbon emissions, water and the impact of climate change. |
| Technical seminars | Series of meetings with experts to build consensus on key scientific issues concerning the functioning of Peatland |
| Commission of Inquiry | Examining impact of land management on peatland ecosystem services with expert witnesses. Final outputs in the form of published reviews. |
| Advocacy Events | Bringing together senior decision makers, peatland specialists, the policy community and academics. |
| Published Research | Results of research reviews including outputs from Commission of Inquiry. |
| Field Events | Site based training days on peatland management techniques. |
| Web Based Network | Website resources listing relevant peatland research, with key contacts and a compendium of peatland restoration projects. |

RESOURCING AND MANAGEMENT

Staff capacity

This programme divides into four key areas: advocacy, research work (synthesis and collaboration), public relations (conference, press, publications and reports, web-site) and networking (web-site, restoration guidelines, training events). Based upon the work programme set out above the following capacity is suggested:

Full time Director responsible for programme management and high-level advocacy

Part time Peatland Research Manager focused on research and information collation

Part time Communications Officer responsible for external communication of programme outputs

Budget

Taking staff capacity into account and the strategic programme outputs and actions set out above, the following outline budget (expressed in £1,000s) can be prepared.

| Resources required | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Steering group facilitation | 10 | 10 | 10 | 30 |
| Advocacy programme | 56 | 57.7 | 59.4 | 173.1 |
| Synthesis and research | 37.8 | 38.7 | 39.6 | 116.1 |
| Networking | 7 | 2 | 2 | 11 |
| Public Relations and Print | 24.6 | 25 | 25.4 | 75 |
| Total | 135.4 | 133.4 | 136.4 | 405.2 |

Programme management

The Programme will be run by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Director and managed by a Steering Committee, which will include a representative of the IUCN UK Executive Committee. The Strategy is supported by annual workplans and quarterly progress reports. Staff employed or seconded to the project will formally report to the Executive Chair of the programme although Steering Committee members will also support.

Greening policy

As an initiative centred on advocating conservation values and helping in the fight against climate change it is essential that the programme itself operates in a sustainable manner.

This will include:

- Monitoring and carbon accounting of all travel undertaken by the Programme Director and any employees of the programme
- Ensuring that alternatives to travel are explored including videoconference. Where travel is necessary to use public transport, walking and cycling. There will be no internal UK flights and international travel will be by train for journeys of six hours or less
- Ensuring sustainability and fair trade considerations when procuring goods and services
- Minimising and efficiently using energy in offices and at events



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- 1 UK Peatland Workshop Report, October 2008.
 - 2 IUCN Pan-European Programme 2009-2012 http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/iucn_european_programme_2009_2012_may_2008.pdf
 - 3 Wetlands International 2008, Fact book for UN-FCCC policies on peat carbon emissions
 - 4 Rowell, T.A. (1988). The peatland management handbook. Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.
 - 5 Brooks, S. & Stoneman, R. (1997). Conserving Bogs: The Management Handbook. The Stationery Office, Edinburgh

Photograph credits: Stuart Brooks (ditch dams), Neil Cowie (Sphagnum moss)

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