IUCN | National Committee United Kingdom

PEATLAND CODE

Peatland Programme

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme was set up in 2009 to promote peatland restoration in the UK. The Programme advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice.

What is natural capital?

"Stocks of assets in an ecosystem, which interacts to yield a flow of goods or services."

Natural Capital Coalition

Natural capital is often overlooked: if too much is taken from a financial system we end up bankrupt or owing a debt. The natural world is the same. If we continue to take without replenishing stocks or allowing nature to recover we could end up with ecosystem collapse.

Supporting ecosystems through sustainable management, conservation and restoration can yield economic benefits by driving revenue and providing cost-savings. This creates scope and justification for business investment through natural capital financing. The Peatland Code is an example of natural capital financing.

The Peatland Code

The Peatland Code is a voluntary standard for UK peatland restoration projects, where claims are made about climate mitigation.

Independent validation and verification to this standard provides assurance and clarity for business and other investors in peatland restoration projects. The Code works on the basis that during restoration, carbon savings are made through rapid emissions reductions.

Currently the Code allows for implementation and monitoring in blanket bogs and raised bogs, which cover 95% of peatlands in the UK. As more data becomes available fens will be considered for future inclusion in the Code.

Peatland Code process:

Actively eroding / drained peatland → Project plan validated against Peatland Code → Funding agreed / restoration begins → Ongoing management, monitoring & verification → Project ends
* Minimum 30 year project

Why and how to get involved

Action now to invest in peatlands will avoid far greater future costs to businesses and wider society from climate change and environmental harm resulting from damaged peatlands.

The Peatland Code provides standards and assurances for businesses wanting to make a real impact on climate change and improve our environment through peatland restoration.

A wide range of peatland projects across the UK are available for funding with tried and tested methods available to deliver restoration. We are keen to hear from anyone who may have additional projects to bring forward.

Resources, information and support are available for projects wishing to promote this mechanism to business contacts.

To find out about restoration projects and funding opportunities available please visit our website or email info@iucn.org.uk.

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Visit: www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/peatland-code