

PEATLAND CODE

Peatland Code: A means to secure carbon finance for peatland restoration

What is the Peatland Code?

The Peatland Code is a certification standard for UK peatland projects wanting to sell the carbon benefits that will result from restoration.

By certifying a project under the Peatland Code a buyer is reassured that the carbon benefit is real and of good quality. It also provides assurance that the carbon benefit will be measured and monitored over time, essential when the benefits will arise for many years after the purchase has been made.

Why should restoration projects consider using the Peatland Code?

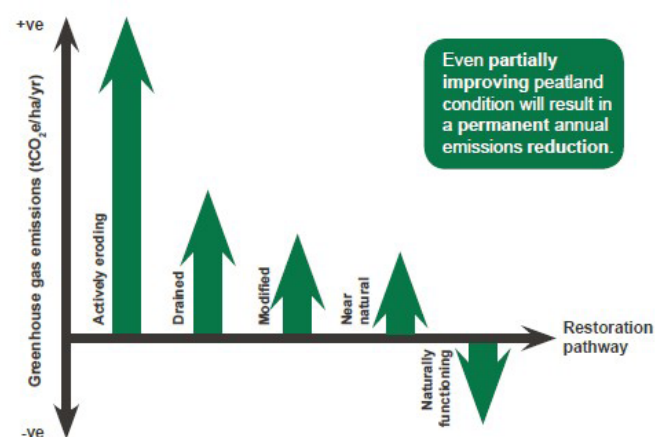
By using the Peatland Code land managers can generate a new income stream.

Previously, the only funding for peatland restoration was through government grants such as agri-

environment payments. These typically only pay for the restoration activities (drain blocking etc), ignoring the costs of managing and maintaining the peatland in an improved condition for the long-term.

Now, a project can get funding from both government grants and carbon payments. Peatland restoration and long-term management of improved condition can therefore become a financially attractive option.

How does peatland restoration result in carbon benefits?



Peatland in a damaged condition emits carbon and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere contributing to climate change. By preventing further damage and improving peatland condition through restoration activities, significant carbon emission savings can be made. These carbon savings, or benefits, can then be sold on the Voluntary Carbon Market.

The scale of carbon benefit will depend on the extent of damage prior to restoration, the size of the project (in hectares) and the time length of the management agreement (e.g. 30 years, 50 years). The Peatland Code provides calculation methods for each project to calculate this individually.





Opportunities presented by well-manged, restored peatlands.

Why would a business purchase the carbon benefit?

Many companies are striving to become more environmentally sustainable. By purchasing carbon benefits from peatland restoration they can contribute to tackling climate change and also support additional benefits such as improved biodiversity and water quality, associated with healthy or recovering peatlands.

Current examples of carbon buyers in the UK include high street retail chains, national transport operators and infrastructure developers.

How would a restoration project obtain a buyer?

A public register of all available Peatland Code projects is available [online](#), allowing potential buyers to search for one that meets their requirements. Alternatively, projects can use the services of a specialist carbon broker to actively search for a buyer on their behalf, rather than wait for them to make the approach.

A sale can also result from a direct relationship, for example between a land manager/owner and a local business.

Projects can sell the carbon benefits at any time over the duration of the project, with the majority selling the total upfront once 'validation' of the restoration plan under the Peatland Code has been achieved.

How does a project become Peatland Code certified?

To demonstrate the compliance of a project to the Peatland Code, each project is required to do the following prior to restoration activity:

- survey the pre-restoration peatland condition and predict potential carbon benefit
- establish a restoration and management plan
- complete a Project Design Document (template provided) outlining how the project meets Peatland Code requirements.

These components are then assessed by an approved certification body and 'Peatland Code Validation' is awarded if successful.

Post-restoration, the project must be periodically 'Verified' by the certification body to demonstrate that it is delivering the predicted carbon benefits and continues to meet Peatland Code requirements.

How does a restoration project get involved?

To find out more and discuss if your peatland restoration project is eligible for Peatland Code certification, then please get in touch with the IUCN UK Peatland Programme team and visit our [website](#).

Contact us

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CODE**

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The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) UK Peatland Programme exists to promote peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice.

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