

Peatland Programme

Peatlands in Partnership: A Road to Recovery

13th – 16th September 2021
Virtual event.



Eroding gully in North Pennines © NP AONB Partnership

Programme of Events

Monday 13th September 2021

10am – 10:40am Conference Welcome and Keynote address

Opening of the 2021 IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference: Peatlands in partnership - the road to recovery.

Welcome & Chair: Stuart Brooks, Chair, IUCN UK Peatland Programme & Head of Conservation & Policy, National Trust Scotland

Speakers: Craig Bennett, CEO, The Wildlife Trusts
Clifton Bain, Programme Advisor, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

10:40am - 11am Comfort break

11am – 12:30pm Progress towards UK Peatland Strategy goals

This session will share four country updates on delivering the UK Peatland Strategy.

Chair: Clifton Bain, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

Speakers: Sophie Chapman, Head of Soils & Peatlands team, Defra
Sara McGuckin, Head of Natural Science, Natural Environment Division, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), DAERA
Eilidh Henry & Ben Dipper, Programme Manager/Senior Policy Officer & Head of Peatlands and Land Quality, Natural Resources Division, Directorate for Environment and Forestry, Scottish Government
Andrew Coupar, Policy & Advice Manager, Uplands & Peatlands, NatureScot
Arwel Williams, Senior Manager Business Wales at Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government
Peter Jones, Lead Specialist Advisor – Peatlands, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

12:30 - 1pm Lunch break

1 – 2pm Exhibition Hall & Networking

2 - 3:20pm Global peatlands, climate change and biodiversity

This session will share international peatland action in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the role of peatlands as a nature-based solution and UK peatlands in the climate crisis.

Chair: Stuart Brooks, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

Speakers: Dianna Kopansky, Global Peatlands Initiative Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme
Stewart Maginnis, Global Director of the Nature-based Solutions Group, IUCN
Ian Crosher, Climate Change Mitigation Senior Specialist, Natural England

3:20 - 3:40pm Comfort break

3:40 – 5pm

Conserving and enhancing the most readily recoverable peatlands

This session will share examples of work to conserve and enhance the most near natural & readily recoverable peatlands from across UK peatland habitats.

Chair: Andrew McBride, Principal Consultant, Land and Habitats

Speakers: Iain Diack, Senior Specialist - Wetlands, Chief Scientist Directorate:
Specialist Services and Programmes, Natural England
Steven Andrews, Flow Country World Heritage Project Coordinator
Highland Council
Trish Fox, Senior Technical Officer, Ulster Wildlife, Collaborative Action for
the Natura Network
Patrick Green LIFE Welsh Raised Bog Project Manager, Cyfoeth Naturiol
Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

Tuesday 14th September

9:30 – 10:15am

Welcome to Day 2

This session will provide an introduction to the role of landscape and partnerships in peatland recovery including a Keynote address.

Welcome & Chair: Paul Leadbitter, Peatland Programme Manager, North Pennines AONB Partnership

Speakers: Sylvia Barova, Advisor to EU LIFE Programme funded projects
Ruurd van Diggelen, University of Antwerp & International Mire Conservation Group

10:15 - 10:35am

Comfort break

10:35 - 11:35am

Building successful peatland partnerships

This session will share insight into the role of partnership working in delivering landscape scale peatland restoration with case studies from EU LIFE funded projects Pennine PeatLIFE and MoorLIFE2020 as well as reflections on how collaboration has led to consolidating a larger Great North Bog partnership. The session will also explore the role of land manager engagement in building wider partnerships and developing the peat agenda within the Environment Agency.

Chair: Chris Woodley-Stewart, Director, North Pennines AONB

Speakers: Tim Thom, Peat Programme Manager, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Christopher Dean, Head of Moors for the Future Partnership, Moors for the Future Partnership
Alistair Lockett, Senior Field Officer, North Pennines AONB
Matt Scott-Campbell, Programme Manager – Conservation and Land Management, Moors for the Future Partnership
Katie Aspray, Environment Programme Manager in Yorkshire, Environment Agency
Katharine Birdsall, Senior Adviser for Peat and Nature Strategy, Environment Agency

Tuesday 14th September continued

11:35 - 11:55am **Comfort break**

11:55 - 12:05pm **Peatland Restoration in action**

This session will explore: the necessity, existing principles and gaps associated with defining peatland restoration trajectories across different peatland habitats in the UK; establishing and assessing peatland restoration trajectories of blanket bog and results of restoration work from EU LIFE funded peatland projects.

Chair: Peter Jones, Natural Resources Wales

Speakers: Richard Lindsay, Head of Environmental and Conservation Research Sustainability Research Institute, University of East London & Senior Research Advisor, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Emma Shuttleworth, Lecturer in Physical Geography and Programme Director of Geography with Professional Placement, University of Manchester
Jenny Sharman, Peatland Restoration Officer, Pennine Peat LIFE project, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Alistair Lockett, North Pennines AONB
Chris Fry, Conservation Quality Manager, Moors for the Future Partnership
Eerika Tapio, Project Manager, HydrologyLIFE

1:05 - 1:35pm **Lunch break**

1:35 – 2:30pm **Exhibition Hall & Networking**

2:30 - 3:30pm **Monitoring peatlands on a landscape scale**

This session will explore the use of UAVs in peatland monitoring, the role of peatland mapping in accelerating peatland restoration in Northern Ireland and peat mapping project across England.

Chair: Kate Morley, Programme Office Manager, Moors for the Future Partnership

Speakers: Ben Clutterbuck, Lecturer in GIS and Remote Sensing, Nottingham Trent University
Adrian Yallop, Cranfield University
Chris Osborne, GIS & Remote Sensing Officer, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Matt Aitkenhead, Soils Modeller, James Hutton Institute
Ian Garner, Peatlands Innovation Project, Ulster Wildlife Trust
Andrew Webb, Principal Adviser – England Peat Map, Natural England

3:30 - 3:50pm **Comfort break**

3:50 - 5:10pm

Peatland restoration: economics, financing mechanisms and carbon

This session will share an assessment of the economic value of peatland restoration in Northern Ireland and carbon assessment associated with the Peatland Code. It will also explore the integration of other ecosystem system benefits within finance mechanisms, the carbon sequestration of recovering blanket bog and the potential to scale-up peatland restoration financing.

Chair: Tim Thom, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Speakers: Philip Carson, Policy Officer for Sustainable Farming, RSPB
Andrew Stimson, Peatland Support Officer, North Pennines AONB
Renée Kerkvliet-Hermans, Peatland code Coordinator, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Fred Worrall, Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Durham University
Chris Evans, Professor of Biogeochemistry, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Dan Hird & Richard O'Brien, Head of Corporate Finance, Triodos Bank

Peatland Film Night

7:30 - 8:30pm

A series of peatland-themed films from a variety of filmmakers and people who are passionate about the importance of these landscapes and the benefits they have for us all.

Featuring:

- *Film Premier* from Pennine PeatLIFE and Land & Sky Media Film showcasing peat restoration and the people behind it
 - Atlas - Official Music Video introduced by artist Sarah Smout for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 - Film shorts from the British Mountaineering Association (BMC) introduced by Catherine Flitcroft, Access and Conservation Officer, BMC
 - Peatland Protectors from MoorLIFE 2020 introduced by Jackie Wragg, Youth Engagement Officer, Moors for the Future Partnership
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09:30 - 10:25am Welcome to Day 3

This session will provide an introduction to wetter ways of farming including lucrative, innovative and achievable examples from across the globe; paludiculture as wetter ways of farming and an overview of GHG emissions from UK lowland peatlands.

Chair: Olly Watts, Senior Climate Change Policy Officer, RSPB

Speakers: Hans Schutten, Programme Head Climate-smart Land Use, Wetlands international
Jan Peters, Peatlands & Climate Change Coordinator, Griefswald Mire Centre
Chris Evans, Professor of Biogeochemistry, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology

10:25 - 10:45am Comfort break

10:45 - 12pm Adaptive management: Innovation, adaptation & diversification

This session will share examples of wetter ways of farming in action including: an introduction to wet agriculture in the UK; developing a landscape vision at Store Vildmose; the need for agricultural adaptation in the UK; examples of UK trials and a demonstration for climate friendly building materials.

Chair: Deborah Land, Senior Advisor Peatlands & Restoration, Peatland Capital Grant Scheme, Natural England

Speakers: Harry Mach, Project Manager - CANAPE Project, Broads Authority
Andrea Kelly, Environment Policy Adviser, Broads Authority
Peter Hahn, Project manager – LIFE Forest Fit for Future, Naturstyrelsen
Ross Taylor, CEO, Buffalo
Kate Carver, Project Manager – The Great Fen, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Lorna Parker, Great Fen Restoration Manager, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Anke Nordt, Paludiculture Pilot projects (MoorZukunft), Griefswald Mire Centre

12 - 12:30pm Lunch break

12:30 - 1:30pm Exhibition Hall & Networking

1:30 - 2:45pm Reintroduction of Sphagnum moss and its potential as a climate crop

This session will explore the importance of Sphagnum moss in the fight against climate change and share results from the re-introduction of Sphagnum as part of peatland restoration works as well as results from carbon farming trials. It will also share experience of rethinking farmed lowland peat.

Chair: Sarah Johnson, Project Lead, The Lancashire Peat Initiative, Lancaster Wildlife Trust

Speakers: Andrew Davidson & Neal Wright, BeadaMoss® (Micropropagation Services)
Tia Crouch & Jemma Benson, Moors for the Future Partnership
Anna Keightley, Research Associate in Peatland restoration, Manchester Metropolitan University
James Brown, Director, Polybell Farm

2:45 - 3:05pm

Comfort break

3:05 - 4:35pm

Peat & horticulture: Demonstrating Success.

This session will provide an update on the diversity of solutions engaging with the peat-free campaign plus view from industry

Chair: Niall Ó Brolcháin, Research Associate-Insight Centre for Data Analytics ,
National University of Ireland

Speakers: Jenny Hawley, Policy Manager, Plantlife
Paul Alexander, Technical Support and Product Development Manager, Bulrush Horticulture
David Denny, Futures and Sustainability Manager, Horticultural Trades Association
Steve Harper, CEO, Southern Trident
Mark Gush, Head of Environmental Horticulture, Royal Horticultural Society
Ali Morse, Water Policy Manager, The Wildlife Trusts
Diane Sammons, For Peat Sake

Thursday 16th September

10 - 11:20am

Welcome to Day 4

This session will explore the sustainable management of peat soils followed by examples of sustainable peatland management across Yorkshire Water, the Outer Hebrides and the South West of England.

Chair: Rachel Brice, CEO, Yorkshire Wildlife trust

Speakers: Jordan Stanley , DEFRA
Robert Caudwell, Chair, Lowland Agricultural Peat Task Force
Andrew Walker, Catchment Strategy Manager, Yorkshire Water
Benjamin Inglis-Grant, Peatland ACTION Project Officer Carloway Estate Trust,
NatureScot
Morag Angus, Mires Manager, South West Peatland Partnership

11:20 - 11:40am

Comfort break

11:40 - 1pm

Risks to sustainable peatland conservation & management

This session will explore risks to delivering sustainable management including overlooking the historic environment; the role of finance for payment for public goods and the risks and opportunities associated with competing land use including forestry and renewable energy.

Chair: Rob Stoneman, Director of Landscape Recovery, The Wildlife Trusts

Speakers: Ben Gearey, Lecturer Environmental Archaeology, University College Cork
Brendan Turvey, Policy and Advice Manager, NatureScot
Naomi Oakley, Natural England
Clifton Bain, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Louise Gunstensen, Senior Conservation Planner, RSPB
Peter Robson, Ecology and GIS Manager, Scottish Power Renewables

1 - 1:30pm **Lunch break**

1:30 - 2:30pm **Exhibition Hall & Networking**

2:30 - 3:40pm **Peatlands, climate change, adaptation and risk management**

This session will explore the climate change risks to peatlands in the UK as well as the role of peatlands in risk management associated with wild fires, natural flood management and slope stability.

Chair: Sarah Proctor, Head of Development & Communications, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

Speakers: Kathryn Brown, Director for Climate Action, The Wildlife Trusts
Roxane Andersen, Professor of Peatland Science, University of the Highlands and Islands
David Chandler, Science Programme Manager, Moors for the Future Partnership
Julie Foley, Director of Flood Risk Strategy & National Adaptation, Environment Agency
Richard Lindsay, Head of Environmental and Conservation, Research Sustainability Research Institute, University of East London & Senior Research Advisor, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

3:40 - 4pm **Comfort break**

4 - 5pm **Continuing on the road to recovery**

This session will share a motivational round-up of international action for peatlands including positioning peatlands at COP26 and COP15.

Chair: Stuart Brooks, Chair, IUCN UK Peatland Programme & Head of Conservation & Policy, National Trust Scotland

Speakers: Sandeep Sengupta, Global Coordinator, IUCN Climate Change Portfolio, Global Policy & Programme Group IUCN
Tobias Salathe, Senior Advisor for Europe, RAMSAR
Hans Schutten, Programme Head Climate-smart Land Use, Wetlands international
Hans Joosten, Professor of Peatland Studies and Palaeoecology, Griefswald University
Dianna Kopansky, Global Peatlands Initiative Coordinator, United Nations Environment Programme

Opportunity to join speakers Networking Space.

Conference Close

The 2021 IUCN UK Peatland Programme conference is brought to you in partnership with:



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a global organisation, providing an influential and authoritative voice for nature conservation. The IUCN UK Peatland Programme promotes peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice.