

Peatland Code – Executive Board

Terms of Reference

February 2026

Purpose of the Executive Board

To make all management decisions regarding the Peatland Code on behalf of the IUCN UK National Committee and be responsible for strategic development of the Peatland Code in line with the objectives of the IUCN UK National Committee Peatland Programme.

Governance and Membership

The Peatland Code an initiative of the IUCN UK National Committee.

Peatland Code Executive Board members, and the Chair, shall be appointed by the IUCN UK National Committee to make decisions on their behalf. Appointments are for a period of three years but subject to renewal by the National Committee.

The Executive Board shall consist of a minimum of five members of which one shall be a member of the IUCN UK National Committee.

The Executive Board shall be facilitated and supported by the staff of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme.

The Executive Board may appoint an Advisory Board to provide technical oversight and recommendation. The chair of the Advisory Board shall be a member of the Executive Board.

The Executive Board may establish informal Stakeholder Groups, as required, to provide industry insight and contribute to strategic development.

Meetings

Meetings shall take place a minimum of two times per year to be organised by the staff of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and held at venues offered by member bodies. Members are asked to cover their own costs of travel and attendance at the meetings.

Meetings will be minuted and minutes made available to the IUCN UK National Committee and other stakeholders on request.

Roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board

Specific tasks shall include but are not restricted to:

- Issue, review and update of the Peatland Code
- Operate the Peatland Code within the boundaries of the Peatland Code Strategy and budget
- Appoint validation/verification bodies
- Approve the validation/verification process
- Dispute resolution
- Facilitate capacity building, communication and promotion of the Peatland Code

- Report on the uptake of the Peatland Code and evaluate against the Peatland Code Strategy
- Appoint and Engage with Advisory Board
- Appoint Stakeholder Committee(s) as required
- Ensure synergy with Woodland Carbon Code and other emerging UK and international voluntary and compliance standards
- Ensure synergy with national government Carbon accounting methodologies.

Decision Making

Decisions are made by majority vote. In the case of a split decision, the Chair holds the casting vote. If the Executive Board is unable to reach a decision or consensus on a tabled matter, the Peatland Code Manager and team will carry out any additional actions required and record the outcome in the evidence log. This will be noted in the minutes, including that no decision was reached and that further discussion may be required until a resolution can be achieved.

Conflict of Interest:

All Executive Board Members before joining the as a member need to adhere to the terms of reference and complete a Conflict-of-Interest form.

Any declarations relating to conflicts of interest (COI) will be reviewed by the Peatland Code team and kept on file, but they will not be made public. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the nature of the conflict, a board member may either be removed from the board or required to step out of discussions and meetings concerning the project, organisation, or issue to which the conflict relates.