Selected Global Peatlands Initiative highlights in 2019 and a spotlight on Germany

Franziska Tanneberger, Greifswald Mire Centre

Peatland monitoring advances

Maria Nuutinen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Peatland scientists and conservationists exchanged with MEA secretariats and UN agencies (via video link)
Strategic planning of input to upcoming global events & reports...

MEA synergy time plan 2020 - 21

2/2020 CMS COP13 India
5/2020 Ramsar Standing committee + STRP
6/2020 UNFCCC SBSTA Germany
6/2020 IUCN World Congress France
10/2020 CBD COP China
2/2021 Ramsar Standing committee + COP14
4/2021 IPBES Morocco
2021 MOP AEWA (CMS)

2020

NDCs
use NDC & UNFCCC

Global Biodiversity Outlook
IUCN Programme of Work 2021-2024

Observer status
UNFCCC WI, FAO, MSF, UNEP, IPS, Ramsar, IUCN → join
UNCCD MSF, Ramsar → join
CBD MSF, Ramsar → join

2021

Global Wetland Outlook
update Global Wetland Outlook

*= Priorities
Global peatland monitoring work kick-started

- Objective: Support in particular developing countries in understanding better the status of their peatlands, reporting on them and, ultimately, reducing carbon losses from peatlands.
- Building on peatland rewetting monitoring in Indonesia,
- Inspired by and benefitting from advances in the UK and other temperate and boreal countries,
- Work coordinated globally by FAO
- May 2019: 35 peatland experts from 4 continents met in Rome for four days of technical exchanges
Results: Recommended priority actions I

1. Start with **countries’ needs**, and with **institutions mandated** to collect, analyze, use and report on the data.

2. Focus on harmonized **map**, is still the most important hindrance for countries to effectively monitor peatlands and their GHG fluxes. – **Including shallow peat!**

3. **Update the globally accepted guidance*** with the latest GHG emission measurement data for peatlands.

4. **Make guidance** on methods, approaches and tools for peatland monitoring **more accessible** to countries and develop capacity.

5. Bring together not only the national institutions, policy-makers and research partners, but also people with concrete **field experience** to better understand the local realities and knowledge when developing capacity.

6. Improve **methods** to collect, analyze, manage and share ground truth data, which currently is the biggest limiting factor.

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Wetlands Supplement (IPCC, 2014)*
7. Integrate peatlands into holistic land use monitoring systems, making sure their unique characteristics are being understood (water!).

8. Aim for monitoring systems that allow reporting to various aims and conventions in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Start work streams on peatland mapping and fire monitoring.

Invitation for European colleagues:
- Invest in harmonized assessment and monitoring methods – and share your results: Join the Peatland monitoring online community of practice through https://dgroups.org/fao/peatlands/events/monitoring/join

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Bringing GPI into practice – through a collaborative project

• Project funded for 2019-2022 by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry of Environment (BMU) - 2M Euro

• Implementing organization: UN Environment

• Partner institutions: FAO, Governments of Indonesia, Peru, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo

• Contributions by other GPI members

• Main objectives:
  1. Emphasize status and importance of peatlands
  2. Increase knowledge and data accessibility
  3. Build capacity in partner countries, and

Implemented by:

Supported by:

based on a decision of the German Bundestag
GHG emissions from peatlands in NE-Germany

Sources:

Map: F. Reichelt (2019)
To reduce peatland emissions, peatlands are being rewetted and paludiculture (=wet agridulture/forestry) demonstration sites are established – e.g. this cattail cropping paludiculture site established on 8 ha in September 2019
We have developed a paludiculture land classification to assess areas with least nature conservation restrictions for paludiculture.

**Nature Conservation restrictions for paludiculture**

- **Paludiculture impossible** 17 km²
- **Strong restrictions** for paludiculture, 288 km²
- **Limited restrictions** for paludiculture, 499 km²
- **No restriction** for paludiculture, 855 km²
- **Peatlands without agricultural use**, 1,255 km²

LM MV 2017, Tanneberger et al. in prep.
We have developed a country-specific transformation pathway for peatlands in line with the Paris Agreement.

GMC (2019); data for Germany
... to clarify the boundaries of peatland rewetting works until 2050

Global total net CO₂ emissions

Billion tonnes of CO₂/yr

In pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot as well as in pathways with a higher overshoot, CO₂ emissions are reduced to net zero globally around 2050.

Four illustrative model pathways

Very recent analysis of radiative forcing effects of methan and carbon dioxide: Hurry up!

Günther et al. in prep.
Current 'hot topics’

• National Peatland protection strategy under development (2019/2020)
• Climate protection programme 2030 presented 20.09.2019: no concrete measures on peatlands → strong protest of scientists, including peatland scientists (GMC position paper)
• Paludiculture pilot sites: 46 Mio Euro funding approved to start 4 sites over 10 years in 2020
• GAP issues: active lobbying and networking, e.g. lunchtime seminar about paludiculture at DG Agri 18.10.2019 in Brussels
Thank you for your attention!

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