

Peatland Programme

Peatlands: Investing in the Future

1st October – 3rd October 2019

Europa Hotel, Belfast

Useful contacts

Conference venue

Europa Hotel
Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7AP

T: +44 (0) 28 9027 1066

Stormont Parliament Buildings

Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
Antrim
BT4 3XX

VisitBelfast:

- Getting to Belfast
 - Getting around Belfast
 - Things to see & do
 - Delegate Offers
- <https://meetbelfast.com/attending-a-conference>

Local Taxis

Value Cabs Taxi Service
T: +44 (0) 28 9080 9080

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Wifi network: Europa Public Wi-fi

Password: Hastings1066

Complimentary wireless internet access is provided throughout the venue. Please note this is a public wifi network and shared throughout the building. Connectivity will vary dependent on the number of people accessing it.

Please note that photographs and footage will be taken throughout the conference. These will be used by the IUCN UK Peatland Programme for marketing and publicity in our publications, on our website and in social media or in any third party publication. Please contact info@iucn.org.uk if you have any concerns or if you wish to be exempt from this activity.

Please feel free to share conference pictures and messages via:

 @IUCNpeat #PeatConf19

Fire Procedures



Please note there are no planned fire alarm tests during the conference. If the fire alarm sounds at any time, please make your way to any of the fire exits located within the building. Please do not use the lift during a fire alarm.

The designated meeting point is: Blackstaff square behind Robinsons Bar

Arrangements for specified dietary requirements - please let your server know.

Reduce, re-use, recycle

Bottled water will be available to accompany packed lunches however we suggest using your own re-usable water bottles & hot drinks flask during field visits to reduce single-use plastic consumption. Plastic name badge holders have been reused from previous conferences.

Parking

For residents at the Europa Hotel there is a valet parking service for £25 per 24hours. For delegates not resident at the Europa there is parking available at Great Northern Mall carpark for approx. £2 per hour.

Luggage storage

The concierge, in the Hotel reception will safely store your luggage in the concierge store. The Europa does not accept any liability for damage or loss to any property whilst left on the property.

Smoking is permitted at the designated smoking area located at the front or side of hotel.

This, the 9th in our conference series, celebrates the 10th year of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme partnership. A huge amount has been achieved by the UK peatland community over the last 10 years. There is a growing appreciation of the vital role peatlands play in addressing the climate change and biodiversity crises we now face – investing in peatland health *is* investing in the future.

We would like this conference to provide a forum for delegates to explore:

- How we maintain momentum and monitor progress towards the UK Peatland Strategy goals and share experience internationally;
- How we maximise funding, finance and incentives to deliver healthy peatlands and realise their true value, especially in the face of climate change;
- How we best account for the role of peatlands in meeting national and international agreements.

With investing in the future in mind, over the three days (1st – 3rd October) we will be exploring progress made towards UK Peatland Strategy goals and the international context as well as sharing emerging evidence with reviews of key topics and innovative investment opportunities. We will also be facilitating discussions on current challenges and new ideas around peatland restoration; prioritising research and monitoring and engaging with key stakeholders both strategically and on the ground.

Acknowledgements

The UK is a global leader in peatland restoration. This is only made possible by the enthusiasm and dedication of hundreds of individuals, whether paid staff or volunteers; NGO, Government, academic, business or private land manager. We would like to commend the whole peatland community and particularly the partnerships that drive this work, restoring and protecting peatlands for future generations.

The 2019 IUCN UK Peatland Programme conference is brought to you in partnership with:



And is kindly sponsored by:

With greatly appreciated support from:



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.

Peatlands: Investing in the Future - Forewords



Stuart Brooks

**Chair, IUCN UK National Committee
Chair, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Head of Conservation & Policy,
National Trust for Scotland**

With such a rich natural and cultural peatland heritage I am delighted that we are in Northern Ireland for what is the ninth such gathering of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme. In fact this conference marks the tenth year of our Programme which has already done so much to raise awareness and progress the issue of peatland conservation at home and abroad.

Efforts on the international front received a major boost earlier this year with global endorsement of the resolution for the “Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands” at the United Nations Environmental Assembly in March. Building on the IUCN resolution put forward through this Programme and endorsed at the IUCN World Congress in 2016 this new global commitment puts emphasis on the role that peatlands play in the effort to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our conference this year will be looking towards 2020 when world leaders will be agreeing strategies and targets to reverse the loss of biodiversity. Peatlands, the ultimate integrated nature based solution, must feature strongly. Cinderella’s time has come.

One of the objectives and pleasures of our annual gatherings is the opportunity to connect with colleagues working across all areas of peatland science, policy and practise. Enjoy your discussions over dinner, in the field, in conference discussions and at the bar. I hope they spawn new ideas to propel our community and the cause of Peatlands forward to realise our collective ambitions.



Helen Anderson

**Director of Natural Environment
Division, Northern Ireland
Environment Agency (NIEA),
DAERA**

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, I’m delighted to welcome delegates from across the UK and further afield to the 9th IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference which is being held for the first time in Northern Ireland.

Peatlands are among the most valuable ecosystems on earth and here in Northern Ireland, we have an extensive resource of Blanket Bogs, Lowland Raised Bogs and Fens, covering approximately 12% of the land area here. Unfortunately, the majority of these habitats have been degraded by both past and current practices and this is something that we are determined to tackle, given the many benefits which can be realised through the restoration of our peatlands to active, fully functioning ecosystems.

Last year, the IUCN UK Peatland Programme published the UK’s first collaborative Peatland Strategy which identifies a common way forward for us all in safeguarding this important part of our natural environment. We, like other regions, are committed to playing our role in delivering the Strategy’s objectives.

We are currently working on our own Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy, which will guide the future direction of the Department and our partners. In recognition of the multiple benefits provided by healthy peatlands, we intend to work closely with our farmers and land managers, our NGO’s, other government bodies and the public to ensure that our peatlands are being conserved and restored and that everyone appreciates how important they are – for their unique biodiversity, for clean water, for flood alleviation, for carbon storage and sequestration to combat climate change, for recreation and as a repository of evidence of our past history.

The theme of this year’s conference is “Investing in the Future” and we are all aware that investing in our peatlands now is vitally important to secure the valuable ecosystems services they can provide for future generations. To achieve this, we must have a shared agenda, secure funding, effective partnerships, and the right knowledge and skills. This conference and the networking opportunities it affords will help us achieve that.

I hope you all enjoy the conference and your visit to Northern Ireland and that you leave more inspired than ever to safeguard our precious peatlands.

Bringing the outdoors in through Virtual Reality



360 Virtual Reality (VR) and 3D views can be used to generate useful descriptions of peatland sites.

QR codes above, from left to right:

- Google Photos Album of the LIFE+ New LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project - 360 degree panoramas for Esgyrn Bottom, Carmel, Waun Ddu and Rhos Goch;
- A set of three iStaging higher definition 360 degree panoramas, with embedded information, for Carmel, Waun Ddu and Rhos Goch;
- A set of three iStaging 360 degree panoramas, with embedded information, for Plantlife's Munsary Peatlands, Caithness;
- A set of Google Photos 360 degree panoramas of Block D in the Hard Hill Experimental Plots on Moor House.

Viewing Guidelines

- Download a QR code reader app onto your Smartphone
- Scan a QR code above

Google Photos Manual scrolling

1. Select a photo, hold the phone in landscape mode and tap the rotate symbol when it appears in the centre of the screen.
2. Scroll around by swiping the screen with your finger.
3. To make the screen rotate as you rotate, tap the screen to make a little compass icon appear in the bottom left corner. Tap this compass icon and the view will then scroll round as you turn.

Google Photos immersive scrolling and VR immersive viewing – with goggles

4. Having tapped the screen to make the compass icon appear (above) you will also notice a little goggles icon in the bottom right of the screen.
5. Tap this goggles icon and wait while the two-eye view loads.
6. Put the smartphone into the VR viewer.

iStaging manual scrolling and information labels

1. For the iStaging views, on your smartphone screen tap one of the views, then tap the small 'down arrow' in the middle of the screen below the little 'thumbs-up fist' to remove the other scenes.
2. Tap the 'expand arrow' box to the right of the iStaging banner to remove the banner and scroll around by dragging your finger on the screen.
3. Tap on various information labels embedded within the view.

iStaging immersive scrolling, VR immersive viewing and information labels – with goggles

4. To make the screen rotate as you rotate, tap the white cross at top right to bring back the banner and viewing controls then press the 'double-ellipse' gyro icon.
5. To view immersively using a VR viewer, with the iStaging banner visible, turn your smartphone upright back to portrait mode.
6. Tap the three-line icon that appears in the top right of the screen.
7. Tap on the 'google' VR mode.
8. Place the smartphone in a viewer and rotate your head around. Point the small central dot on information features and they will open. Take the dot off the feature and it will close. Be sure to look down as well as around (some information is at your feet).

Be sure to close the app afterwards to halt data usage.

Warning: To avoid dizziness don't try to follow the scene while it's in motion. Stop when you want to look at the chosen view, pause a second to let the image stabilize, then focus on the view. Trying to follow the scene while it is moving can create a sense of motion sickness.

Courtesy of Richard Lindsay, University of East London and the LIFE for Welsh Raised Bogs project.

Programme of Events

Tuesday 1st October 2019		Europa Hotel, Belfast
9:30am – 11am	Registration opens	1st Floor
10am - 11am	Refreshments & poster set-up	Exhibition Centre, Ground floor
11am – 11:15pm	<p>Conference welcome A welcome from our hosts and introduction to the vital role peatlands play in addressing climate change.</p> <p>Chair: Stuart Brooks, IUCN UK Peatland Programme. Speakers: Sandeep Sengupta, Global Coordinator, IUCN Climate Change Portfolio Global Policy & Programme Group IUCN. Helen Anderson, Director of Natural Environment Division, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), DAERA</p>	Grand Ballroom, 1st floor
11:15 – 11:45am	<p>An international perspective This session will share progress from the Global Peatlands Initiative including monitoring of IUCN Resolution 43.</p> <p>Chair: Mark Reed, IUCN UK Peatland Programme Speakers: Dianna Kopansky, Global Peatlands Initiative Coordinator, UNEP Franziska Tanneberger, Greifswald University, Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre</p>	
11:45 – 12:40pm	<p>UK Strategy progress This session will share four country updates on delivering the UK Peatland Strategy.</p> <p>Chair: Jennifer Fulton, Ulster Wildlife Speakers: Sophie Chapman, Defra Sara McGuckin, NIEA Natural Environment Division Andrew Coupar, Scottish Natural Heritage Peter Jones, Natural Resources Wales</p>	
12:40 - 1:30pm	LUNCH	Exhibition Centre, Ground floor
1:30 – 2:15pm	<p>Commission of Inquiry update This session, the first of three, will provide an introduction to the Commission of Inquiry process and overview of key topics under review including peatland biodiversity, catchments and peatlands and forestry.</p> <p>Chair: Peter Jones, Natural Resources Wales Speakers: Emma Goodyer, IUCN UK Peatland Programme Tim Allott, University of Manchester Peter Robson, ScottishPower Renewables</p>	Grand Ballroom, 1st floor
2:15 – 2:50	<p>This session will provide an introduction to the Commission of Inquiry topic review of paludiculture and fen peatlands.</p> <p>Chair: Iain Diack, Natural England Speakers: Sarah Johnson, Lancashire Wildlife Trust Richard Lindsay, University of East London</p>	

2:50 - 3:10pm	BREAK Refreshments available	Exhibition Centre
3:10 – 3:50pm	<p>Climate change, peatlands and greenhouse gas accounting This session will provide an introduction to the Commission of Inquiry topic review of the state of UK peatlands and climate benefits of peatland restoration.</p> <p>Chair: Ian Crosher, Natural England Speakers: Rebekka Artz, The James Hutton Institute Ross Morrison, Centre of Ecology and Hydrology Mhairi Coyle, The James Hutton Institute</p>	Grand Ballroom
3:50 – 4:20pm	<p>Peatland funding and finance news This session will present an introduction to natural capital in the context of peatlands, an update on the Peatland Code - an innovative funding mechanism for peatland restoration and funding after LIFE projects.</p> <p>Chair: Alan Hampson, Scottish Natural Heritage Speakers: Bruce Wilson, Scottish Wildlife Trust Jillian Hoy, IUCN UK Peatland Programme Tim Thom, Pennine PeatLIFE</p>	
4:20 - 4:40pm	COMFORT BREAK	
4:40 - 5:30pm	Break-out sessions	
A	<p>Funding AfterLIFE - an opportunity to discuss the funding horizon beyond EU LIFE funded peatland restoration projects. <i>Led by Tim Thom, Pennine PeatLIFE</i></p>	Grand Ballroom
B	<p>Identifying the priority evidence gaps to deliver sustainable management of peatlands. <i>Led by Jonathan Walker & Cindy Froyd, Swansea University</i></p>	Grand 5
C	<p>An introduction to the England Peat Strategy Pilots. <i>Led by Naomi Oakley, Natural England</i></p>	Library
D	<p>An opportunity to discuss restoration goals, approaches and techniques for the restoration of Valley Mires. <i>Led by Morag Angus, South West Water</i></p>	Grand 4
E	<p>An opportunity to for those in interested in the forestry sector to discuss issues relating to forests on peatlands. <i>Led by Russell Andersen, Forest Research</i></p>	Grand 3
6:30pm	Coach leaves Europa for Stormont Parliament Buildings (Formal Networking ticket holders only)	Glengall Street, directions available from Europa Hotel reception if needed.
7pm - 10:30pm	<p>Formal networking evening & dinner Sponsored by Cathal Boylan, Sinn Féin spokesperson on Environment, Energy & Climate and Pam Cameron , Democratic Unionist Party. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction from Helen Andersen, Director of Natural Environment Division for NIEA Guest speaker Manchan Magan, writer and documentary maker. 	Coach departs back to Europa Hotel at 10:30pm

Guests not attending the Formal Networking evening are welcome to meet in the Piano Lounge on the 1st floor of the Europa Hotel.

Wednesday 2nd October - Field trips

8am – 9:15am

COLLECT PACKED LUNCHES

Main reception area,
Europa Hotel

Coach Departure All Coaches depart from **Glengall Street** between the Europa Hotel and Grand Opera House.

08:30am

A - Cuilcagh Mountain SAC & Cuilcagh Anierin Uplands SAC

Led by Ulster Wildlife

B - Killyconny Bog & St. Killians Heritage Centre

Led by The Living Bog Project

9am

C - Ballynahone Bog SAC & Peatland Park

Led by Ulster Wildlife & DAERA

D- Garry Bog National Nature Reserve & Garron Plateau

Led by DAERA, RSPB, Queens University Belfast and NI Water

The above field trips are due back by 5pm

9:30am

E - Montiaghs Moss, half day

Led by RSPB, Butterfly Conservation & DAERA

Due back at 1pm

Please note: Further information about field trips, including appropriate footwear can be found here:
<https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/conference-series/conference-2019>
or is available at the Conference Registration desk.

Evening events open to all delegates with 3-day or Wednesday (Day 2) tickets.

6:30 – 7:30pm

Poster Exhibition

Exhibition Centre,
Ground floor,
Europa Hotel

7:30 - 8:30pm

Hot buffet dinner

8:30 - 10:30pm

Live music from Brigid O'Neill

10:30 'til late

Drinks & networking

8:45 – 9:00am

Welcome to Day 3 of the Conference

Sarah Proctor, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

Pic of the Day photos from Day 2, shared via #PeatConf19

09:10 - 09:50

Parrallel Sessions: Peatland Restoration - emerging ideas and current challenges

A

Problems, potential and best practice? Peatland archaeology, heritage and related issues.

In this session, we are encouraging delegates to share their experiences and knowledge of archaeology, heritage and related issues in the context of peatland conservation and restoration programmes.

Grand Ballroom

Chair: Richard Lindsay, University of East London

- **The Cinderella syndrome? Archaeology and peatland restoration.**
Dr Ben Gearey, UCC, Cork, Ireland
- **Exmoor : A Case Study, peatland restoration and the historic environment.**
Morag Angus, Exmoor Mires
- **WetFutures? Peatland Heritage, Perception, Protection and Policy**
Dr Kim Davies, UCC, Cork, Ireland

B

Approaches to vegetation cutting for conservation management purposes.

This session explores the use of vegetation cutting as a peatland restoration tool - promoting discussion around the scenarios and peatland habitats in which vegetation cutting may be used to achieve restoration goals. Presenting new technical approaches, knowledge gaps and areas for development.

Grand 3

Chair: Chris Dean, Moors for the Future Partnership

- **An introduction to vegetation cutting approaches across peatland habitats.**
Iain Diack, Natural England
- **Using the Pistenbully to achieve site based raised bog restoration goals.**
Jack Simpson, LIFE Welsh Raised Bogs
- **Using state of the art cutting machinery to achieve site based blanket bog restoration goals.**
Erin Madden, Moors for the Future Partnership

C

The role of the peatland restoration community in going peat-free

This session shares experiences from both peatland restoration partnerships who have adopted peat-free purchasing policies, exercising their purchasing power to reduce demand for horticultural products grown in peat, as well as the innovations and challenges associated with supplying peat-free peatland plants for landscape scale restoration.

Grand 5

Chair & overview: Tim Thom, Pennine PeatLIFE and Yorkshire Peat Partnership

- **Going peat-free in practice: a peatland restoration partnership perspective**
Alistair Lockett, Pennine PeatLIFE
- **Going peat-free in practice: innovations and challenges of supplying peat-free plants for landscape scale restoration purposes.**
Matthew Barney, Micropropagation Services

D

Restoration of milled peat sites

This session discusses the successes, challenges and need to restore peat extraction sites.

Library

Chair: Emma Goodyer, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

- **Rehabilitation of industrial cutaway peatlands**
David Fallon, Bord na Móna
- **Restoring milled peat sites: successes, challenges, lessons learnt from Bolton Fell moss and Wedholme flow.**
Deborah Land & Emma Austin, Natural England, Cumbrian Bogs LIFE+

09:50 - 10:40

Delegates having rotated, above sessions are repeated to new audiences

10:40 - 11:00am **BREAK** Refreshments available

Exhibition Centre

11:00 - 11:40 **Parallel Sessions: Prioritising monitoring, research and evidence**

- A**
Grand Ballroom
- Peatland condition assessment & monitoring**
This session will discuss ways of evaluating peatland condition from low-tech solutions to virtual reality (VR) visualisations.
- Chair:** Iain Diack, Natural England
- **Describing peatland condition through simple, consistent and robust monitoring: 'Eyes on the Bog' and beyond.**
Richard Lindsay, University of East London
- B**
Grand 3
- Peatland Exposure to Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition**
This session will discuss researching ecosystem sensitivity, response & recovery of peatland habitats exposed to atmospheric nitrogen deposition.
- Chair:** Sara McGuckin, Head of Natural Science, NIEA Natural Environment Division
- **Nitrogen Deposition and the threat to our Natural Environment – An Overview**
Keith Finegan, NIEA Natural Environment Division
 - **Long-Term Impacts of Nitrogen Deposition & Evidence of Recovery – Whim Bog and Moninea Bog**
Netty Van Dijk, Centre of Ecology & Hydrology (CEH)
 - **Atmospheric Nitrogen Input to Ballynahone Bog SAC: Measuring, Modelling & Understanding Ecological Impacts**
Áine O'Reilly, NIEA Natural Environment Division
- C**
Grand 5
- Filling evidence gaps to inform sustainable management.**
This session introduces a research and monitoring initiative in Wales that aims to more effectively and efficiently fill priority evidence gaps in the sustainable management of Welsh peatlands. Delegates are encouraged to help develop and deliver this initiative by sharing their experiences, feedback, ideas and opportunities.
- Chair:** Emma Goodyer, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
- **Developing a network of research sites across Welsh peatlands**
Dr. Jonathan Walker, Swansea
 - **Identifying and filling evidence gaps towards the sustainable management of peatlands in Wales.**
Professor Cindy Froyd, Swansea University
 - **Standardised peatland monitoring protocols to more widely and consistently monitor changes in the condition of Welsh peatlands.**
Dr. Alan Radbourne, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
- D**
Library
- Demonstrating ecological restoration of recovering peatland sites.**
This session shares evidence from long term research and monitoring of peatland restoration sites.
- Chair:** John Martin, RSPB
- **Monitoring peatland rehabilitation in Ireland – progress and challenges**
Mark McCorry, Bord na Móna
 - **Past, present and future of monitoring of raised bogs in Ireland by National Parks & Wildlife Service.**
Fernando Fernandez, National Parks & Wildlife Service
 - **Blanket bog restoration monitoring at RSPB Geltsdale**
Steve Garnett, RSPB

11:40 - 12:30 **Delegates having rotated, above sessions are repeated to new audiences**

12:30 - 1:20pm

LUNCH

Exhibition Centre

1:20 - 2pm

Parallel sessions: Engaging with key stakeholders at a practical & policy level

A

Bringing peat to broad audiences

Grand Ballroom

Chair: Sarah Proctor, IUCN UK Peatland Programme

- **Below the Blanket – a landscape art installation at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh as part of the International Fringe Festival.**
Caroline Eccles, Flow Country Partnership
- **Engaging rural & urban audiences with the interactive, mobile Bogtastic van.**
Erin Madden, Moors for the Future Partnership
- **Give peat a chance: Using a giving campaign as an engagement tool**
Lyndon Marquis, Yorkshire Peat Partnership

B

Implementing policy and acknowledging international significance across peatland habitats.

Grand 3

Chair: Jennifer Fulton, Ulster Wildlife

- **An introduction to working collaboratively across peatland habitats & with internationally significant designation**
Trish Fox, Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN)
- **An opportunity for discussion: Establishing England Peat Strategy Pilots in a cross-section of different peatland ecosystems and farming systems**
Naomi Oakley, Natural England
- **Developing a UNESCO World Heritage Site bid in the Flow Country**
Joe Perry, Flow Country World Heritage Site Working Group

C

Community driven peatland restoration and engagement

Grand 5

Chair: Chris Dean, Moors for the Future Partnership

- **Introduction to The Abbeyleix Bog Project, a local community project, established in 2000 to conserve and protect the bog which was threatened with harvesting for peat moss, is now responsible for its management over the next 50 years.**
Chris Uys, Abbeyleix & Community Wetlands Forum
- **Engaging local communities to assist with Living Bog project actions**
Ronan Casey, The Living Bog Project

D

Engaging land managers in practical restoration - Using the Peatland Code to access new funding streams

Library

This session shares experience of using The Peatland Code to engage business with peatland restoration.

Chair: Tim Thom, Pennine PeatLIFE

- **An introduction to The Peatland Code - an innovative voluntary mechanism for business to engage with peatland restoration.**
Jillian Hoy, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
- **Using the Peatland Code in practice - case studies**
Chris Miller, Pennine PeatLIFE
Marian Pye, Welsh Peatland Sustainable Management Scheme

2:10 - 2:50pm

Delegates having rotated, above sessions are repeated to new audiences

3pm - 3:10pm

Closing remarks

Ballroom

A quick look back at what has been discussed over the last three days and setting out next steps to ensure peatlands are well embedded in future UK policy decision making: investing in the future.

Thank you and safe journey home.



Peatland Programme

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www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

Image © Clifton Bain