



Peatlands Pavilion Proposal - UNFCCC COP26 – 1st - 12th November 2021, Glasgow

The Peatlands Pavilion will provide a hub for international peatland policy, practice, research and innovation at COP26. This reflects growing international recognition of the importance of peatlands and their role as major global stores of soil carbon but also, in their damaged state, as large sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Peatlands Pavilion will host a broad range of side events and daily networking events to stimulate commitments, sharing of experiences through facilitated discussions across sectors and stakeholder and inspire collaboration for urgent action on peatlands to advance work on key thematic areas. The Peatlands Pavilion will highlight the importance of peatlands globally for the climate, people and the planet as a key nature-based solution to climate change. Events will be designed to facilitate multi-sectoral dialogue and emphasize inclusive networking and participation of audiences including party delegates, observers, scientists, business, civil society, youth groups and other participants.

This proposal has been developed based on the expressed interests of member states and organizations of the Global Peatlands Initiative including Scotland, UK, Iceland, Ireland, Peru, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mongolia and the Nile Basin governments as well as organisations including the United Nations Environment Programme, Wetlands International, RAMSAR, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) UK Peatland Programme, Greifswald Mire Centre, University of East London, Scotland's Rural College and numerous others.

Peatland Pavilion Programme

The Peatlands Pavilion will provide:

- Over forty 60 – 90 minute side-events (four per day)
- Daily networking sessions, many thematically linked to side-events
- Interactive exhibition space
- Meeting, social, and collaborative space
- [Virtual Peatland Pavilion](#) – a vital component of the COP26 Peatland Pavilion proposal. This accompanying resource, which can incorporate an online event platform, affords an interactive hybrid approach enabling inclusivity and accessibility for delegates as well as providing a lasting global community resource.

Safeguarding and restoring peatlands offers countries a strategically, practically and financially achievable opportunity to cost-effectively meet their carbon mitigation targets while achieving their global development and biodiversity goals. Over the course of COP26 the Peatland Pavilion programme will share science, knowledge, experience and information to help delegates make informed decisions during negotiations and provide opportunities for governments, business and global society to connect and join the global effort of the Global Peatlands Initiative. Positive tangible examples of the climate benefit of global peatland action will be demonstrated, synergies for peatland restoration among different stakeholders will be highlighted and ambition for scaling-up future peatland climate action will be explored through-out the Pavilion programme through the following themes:

Day 1 - Demonstrating success: Peatland action is happening, it is achievable, and can help secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5° within reach. Including an introduction to Scotland's Flow Country – a global flagbearer for peatland habitats.

Day 2 - Peatlands in Nationally Determined Contributions: Evidence from successful examples of large-scale peatland restoration will be showcased to inspire increased ambitions for peatlands in Nationally Determined Contributions. Governments of Peru, Russia, Mongolia, and Nile Basin countries will join a collaborative session with the NDC Partnership coordinated by Wetlands International to share their experiences.

Day 3 – Adaptation & resilience: Protecting and restoring global peatlands can increase society's resilience to some of the worst effects of climate change – including drought, flood & fire; enhance environmental integrity and promote a sustainable future for communities. Sessions will include an introduction to the importance of sustainable management in South East Asian countries led by ASEAN, an intergovernmental organization of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Day 4 – Mobilising Finance: Carbon markets are unlocking funding from across sectors for peatland restoration and the resulting reduction in GHG emissions this brings. International organisations and businesses will share their experiences of facilitating and engaging with finance mobilisation for peatland protection and restoration to aid discussions around Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Sessions will include the launch of a Peatlands Economics Policy Brief by United Nations Environment Programme which will outline a rationale for investment in peatlands protection, restoration and sustainable management as a triple win for the climate, biodiversity and people.

Day 5 - Working together: to accelerate action to tackle climate change. Existing peatland partnerships and multi-stake holder groups will share their actions and ambitions to scale-up peatland restoration. The youth movement (Re-PEAT) has started to take a key role and will share their experience and approach to inspiring education and stimulating collaboration.

Days 6 & 7 – Seeing impact first hand: Inspiring opportunities for small groups of delegates to explore peatland sites and see climate action in-person.

Installations, networking and informal meeting space will also be available through-out the weekend in the Peatland Pavilion including virtual field trips.

Day 8 – Demonstrating success: Peatland action is happening, it is achievable, and can not only help secure global net zero by mid-century but provides a wide range of co-benefits to society. Sessions will include knowledge sharing opportunities from across the world, from Asia and Africa to Latin America and Europe.

Day 9 – Peatland science & technology: sharing evidence, tools to demonstrate success and resources to help shape the future ambition for peatland restoration and climate action. Sessions will include presentation of research on protecting the Congo for mitigation and adaptation coordinated by the multi-national CongoPeat Research Programme Team and research led White Paper on Eco Credits presented by Care-Peat, an multi-partner Interreg project working to reduce carbon emissions and restore the carbon storage capacity of peatlands amongst others.

Day 10 – Peatland Policy: An opportunity to share success and ambition from peatland policies around the world. Session will include an exploration of implementation of the UNEA4 Resolution on Peatlands and other relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements. The day will share the innovative approaches that MEA parties and Secretariats are taking to build concrete synergies for scale with support from the German Government, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, United Nations Environment Programme, Greifswald Mire Centre and others; a Centre for International Forestry Research led session on the Governance frameworks in the Congo Basin and a European Alliance hosted high-level policy round-table.

Day 11 – Delivering peatland action in partnership: Transformative climate and nature action at scale requires collaboration and working together. The Global Peatlands Initiative and other specialized networks and partnerships have been coming together, sharing experiences and sharing the latest science, practice, financial mechanisms and policy incentives. New partnerships are being forged across sectors and regions including establishing new, joined up institutions like the International Tropical Peatlands Center -Indonesia as the host of the Center, will share their progress and impact for peatlands conservation, restoration and sustainable management.

Day 12 – Activating multiple stakeholders: The global peatland community have the knowledge, experience and expertise to inspire the step change that is needed in delivering successful peatland action at sufficient scale to secure global net-zero in time. Governments, business and civil society collaborations are ready to step-up to the challenge and scale-up to help tackle the climate crisis. Sessions will include an introduction to Scotland’s billion-pound peatland challenge presented by Scottish Government.

The Peatland Pavilion proposal, co-developed by the Global Peatlands Initiative, Wetlands International, University of East London, Greifswald Mire Centre, IUCN UK Peatlands Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and others will provide a hub for highlighting the important role that peatlands play around the globe.