

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

UNFCCC accredited parties and organisations will be able to apply for a [Pavilion space](#) sometime in May/June 2021. This proposal sets out our ambition for a Peatlands Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP26.

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 draft proposal has been developed based on the expressed interests of member states and organizations of the Global Peatlands Initiative. UNEP and the IUCN's UK Peatland Programme have drafted this proposal to elicit feedback and collaboration from all those interested in peatlands, to co-develop a truly international pavilion proposal. Here you can find a link to our online [Pavilion Application form](#) – if you already have an idea of the session that you would like to coordinate and host, please fill it out.

Venue

Depending on social-distancing rules for COP26, there are three options for the location and operation of the proposed Pavilion:

Option A – Dedicated in-person Peatlands Pavilion supported by virtual resources within the Blue (or preferably in Turquoise*) Zone.

Option B – Virtual Peatland Pavilion but with additional offsite in-person opportunities (*i.e.* field trips).

Option C – Coordinated peatland sessions featured in the UNFCCC main events schedule, country Pavilions; or appropriate/specialized pavilions (*i.e.* cryosphere pavilion, nature-based solutions; Climate Action pathways for Water, *etc.*)

Option D – *a combination of any of the above*

* Spaces open to Blue & Green Zone pass holders. This is the preferred location for the Peatland Pavilion *if* supported by Governments to broaden reach beyond Blue Zone and *if* it is available.

Based on discussions with the peatlands community, the **University of East London** have proposed a visual concept for the design and construction of a **Physical Peatlands Pavilion** based on designs from nature and materials sustainably harvested from peatlands as well as developed a concept for the **Virtual Peatlands Pavilion** [Gateway to the Virtual Peatland Pavilion](#)

Programme Proposal

The Peatlands Pavilion will provide:

- Over fifty 60 – 90 minute side-events (four per day)
- Over twenty networking sessions, many thematically linked to side-events (2 per day)
- Workshop, meeting and collaborative space
- Interactive exhibition space

Proposals for side events and networking sessions, collaborative workshops and exhibition material are welcome from the global peatland community, especially those offering evidence-based examples of the role of peatlands in delivering urgent global climate action.

- Side events may be proposed in any of the thematic areas outlined below, and at this stage in the development of our proposal, you may propose additional missing thematic areas. Collaboration between organisations is highly desirable. There is opportunity, for example, for countries to coordinate and /or co-host sessions as subregions or for partner organisations to lead on the programming and delivery of thematic days (including linked networking sessions, workshops and temporary exhibitions). Side events do not have to be linked to networking sessions, workshops or exhibition materials, but they do have to include an element of audience engagement.
- Networking sessions provide opportunity to stimulate multisectoral dialogue and collaboration as well as encouraging multidisciplinary science, practice and policy connections. These hosting opportunities could, for example, bring together policy-makers to connect with scientists and indigenous people of a particular subregion; enable youth to connect with government and scientists around targeted peatland types or connect government and business with peatland and climate scientists. Although we would anticipate that these would typically be linked to side-events, stand-alone networking events may be proposed, for example using methods to facilitate small group work and activities between delegates designed to stimulate structured discussion and engagement.
- Workshop, meeting and collaborative opportunities are more targeted, action-oriented sessions for smaller groups, to be held in the dedicated meeting space of the physical pavilion or in dedicated online spaces. Proposals will typically be linked to a side event and need to identify clear action-oriented outcomes and/impacts that will be sought through the dialogue.
- Suggestions are welcome for permanent contributions to the peatland exhibition, as well as proposals for the use of temporary exhibition space, typically linked to side events or networking sessions.

Some sessions may be repeated in the second week to take account for the turn-over in party delegates and observers.

Safeguarding and restoring peatlands can accelerate progress on the shared challenges of climate change highlighted in the following **GPI priority themes**:

- **Increasing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ambition by including peatlands action** – examples from countries.
- **Scientists Warning on Peatlands (high-ranked publication) linked to UNEA resolution**
- **Peatlands Economics Policy Brief (publication)** a rationale for investment in peatlands protection, restoration and sustainable management as a triple win for the climate, biodiversity and people.
- **Scaling up peatlands ecosystem restoration delivery** by promoting restoration commitments, highlighting green business opportunities and activating communities including youth with links to the UN Decade for Ecosystems Restoration.

And these complementary and overlapping **COP26 Presidency themes**:

- **Adaptation & resilience – to help communities adapt to, and prepare for, the worst impacts of climate change.**
 - Documenting the impacts of peatlands degradation and conversion; highlight impacts on decreased resilience and challenges to adaptation to climate realities.
 - Decreased water retention and quality, including impacts on drinking water, pollution control
 - Risk to disasters, subsidence, floods, and decreased erosion control
 - Highlight strategies for increased resilience:
 - Integrated Fire Management - suppression, fighting and prevention
 - Resilience to disasters, including subsidence, floods, and enhanced erosion control

- Sustainable livelihoods and wet management of peatlands: Paludiculture, wet agriculture advances and conservation use opportunities.
 - Enhanced and joined up action by Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to advance sustainable peatlands management and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - Promote intersectoral engagement and appreciation of historic connection to peatlands including the promotion and awareness of socio-cultural values
 - Building future resilience - Improving knowledge and capacity building through peatland training & education: Engaging, educating & empowering leaders of tomorrow.
- **Nature - to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet's biodiversity.**
 - Conserving peatlands delivers on:
 - Addressing climate change impacts and carbon balance
 - Safeguarding biodiversity and special habitats for migratory species
 - Protecting ecosystem goods and services, including health
 - Restoring peatlands delivers on:
 - Enhancing ecosystem functionality for carbon cycling
 - Enhancing resilience to climate shocks
 - Creates economic opportunity and opportunities for a just transition
 - Evidence for Action is needed:
 - Mapping extent and baseline condition assessment
 - Identifying Hotspots for peatlands priority action
 - Monitoring changes and investing in scenario building
 - Peatlands restoration management and governance
 - Standards and definitions
 - Vertical integration from action to NDCs etc.
- **Finance - to encourage our financial systems to be cleaner to unlock growth and create green jobs.**
 - Carbon market mechanisms and investment opportunities (including the Peatland Code, MoorFutures)
 - Natural Capital – securing ecosystem services (water, food, fibre, etc.) and leveraging payments for ecosystem services.
 - Climate / Green finance – mechanisms for Peatland finance & funding - peatlands economics, implications of Art. 6 negotiations for peatlands, relevance for parties (i.e. potential use of peatlands ITMOs)
- **Energy transitions - to accelerate the clean energy transition by encouraging the use of cheaper renewables and storage.**
 - Maximising climate change benefits of renewables by mitigating risks – employing a holistic approach and design criteria. For example:
 - Windfarm & solar development on peatlands
 - Use of paludiculture to produce biomass for circular bio-economy without overexploitation of forests

Please note: Whilst we aim to assist with travel costs where necessary Pavilion participants should work to procure their own funding if possible. Participants will also need to secure their own access as a part of a delegation to the COP through official UNFCCC accreditation from their government or an accredited UNFCCC Observer.