

UK Peatland Strategy and updates from the four countries: Wales

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914 km²



Session 2: Peatland Strategy and four country highlights: Thursday 4th October, Loch Lomond

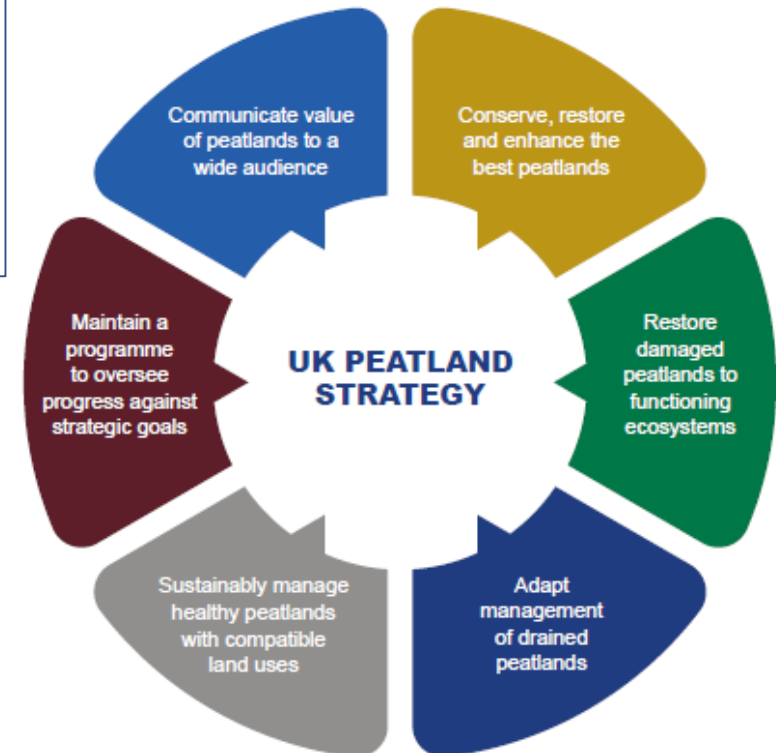
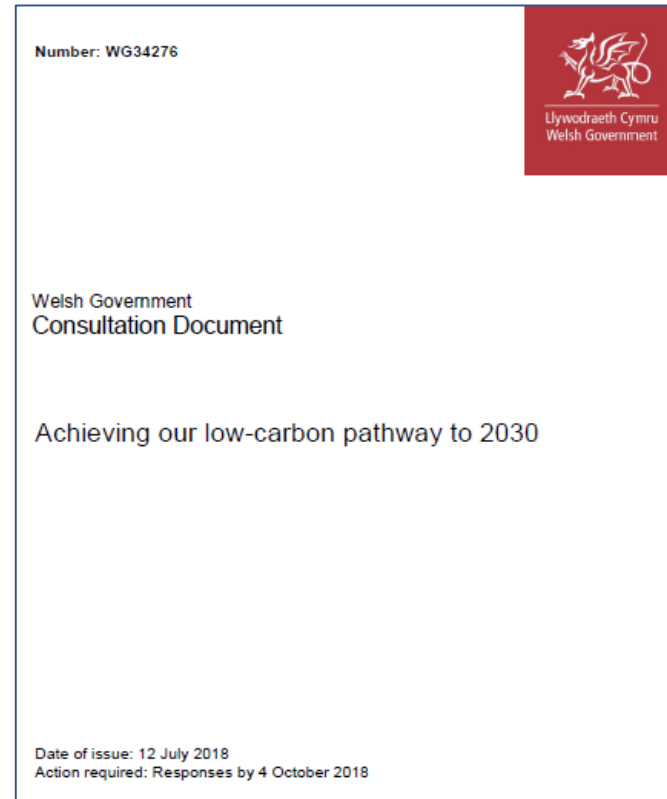
Country update - Wales

Welsh Government Ministerial
Commitment:

Ensure that all peatlands supporting semi-natural habitats are under active management by 2030 by supporting, enabling and co-ordinating the restoration and sustainable management of peatland, as well as utilising and maximising associated funding opportunities.

Purpose of action:

“to drive action that ensures Wales is leading the way in contributing to and achieving the vision and goals set out in the UK Peatland Strategy”

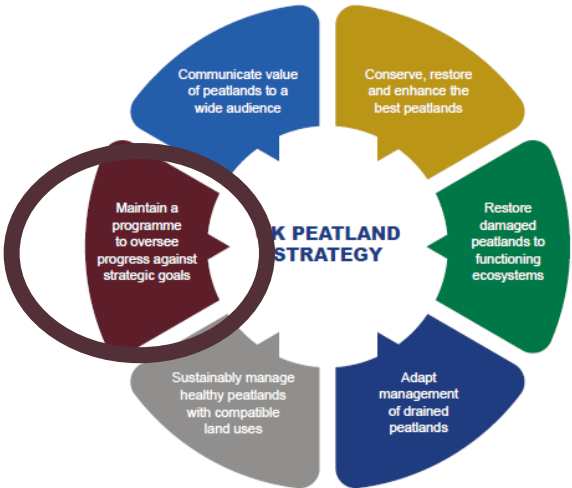


Coordination

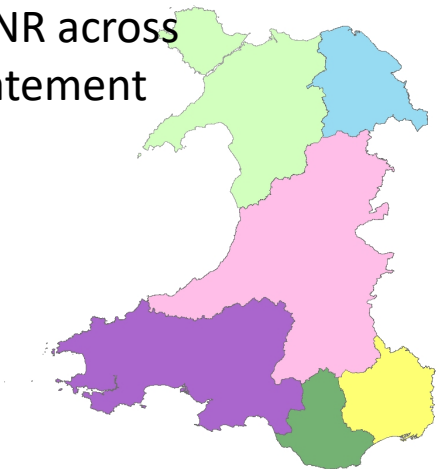
- Welsh Peatland Action Group.
- Proposal to appoint a Peatland Policy Officer within Government.
- Requirement for an action programme to deliver the Ministerial commitment.



Action Code	Action name	Summary description	Link to UK PS objectives
LRB.1	National action programme for Lowland Raised Bogs	Implement a national conservation/restoration programme to ensure all 55 Welsh raised bogs are resilient to future change and support the characteristic ecosystems of active raised bog, thus maximising the security of carbon stocks and enhancing the provision of core ecosystem services such as greenhouse gas regulation and natural flood management.	C, R
R.4	Tackling hotspots of greenhouse gas emissions in Wales	Develop projects to reduce carbon emissions from drained hyper-modified lowland peatland soils, with improvements in the resilience of adjacent or nearby semi-natural peatlands a linked objective. The Dyfi floodplain is the national priority site for this work.	R, AM

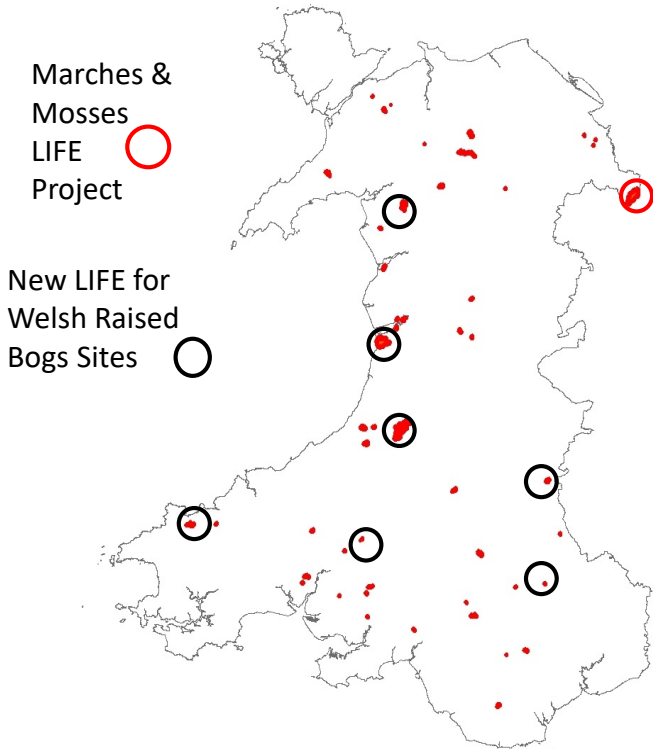
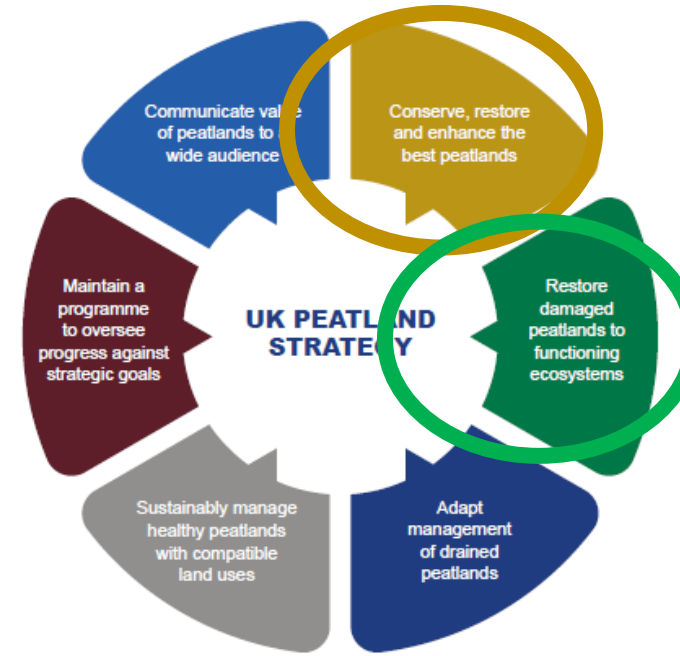


Integration of peatland actions in the analysis of priorities, risks and opportunities for achieving SMNR across the 6 Area Statement regions.



Country update - Wales

- 8 new full-time staff now engaged in peatland restoration in Wales through LIFE and SMS programs.
- 2 Bog LIFE projects on the go – IUCN 2020 is in Aberystwyth!
- Purchase of 30 ha of degraded bog habitat completed.
- NRW peat group established



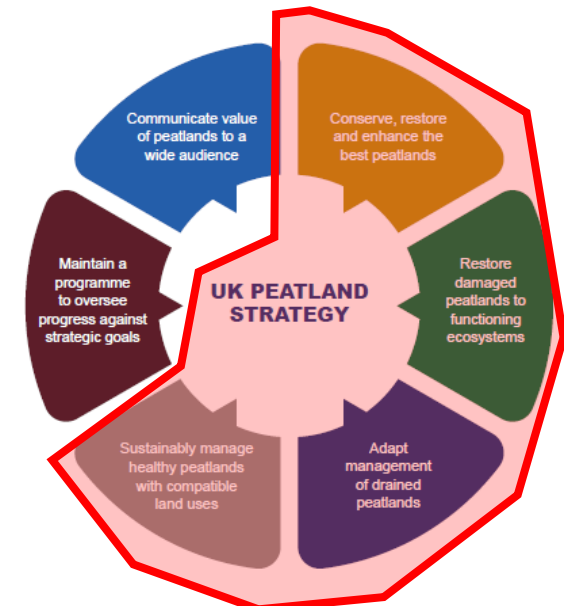
Realising the Natural Capital of Welsh Peatlands SMS project

- £1.3M project over 3 years supported by the Sustainable Management Scheme (SMS) of Welsh Governments Rural Development Programme.
- Snowdonia NP the project leader (Dr Marian Pye).
- 10 major elements – focus today on 8



Country update – Wales: SMS project

- Site restoration element – 40+ sites identified and plans being compiled, but limited budget.
- Developing, testing and promoting PES mechanisms and potential applications for Peatland Code Funding.
- Challenges:
 - Too damaged (not enough peat left e.g. Brecon Beacons)
 - Financial feasibility (difficult to meet 15% carbon finance e.g. small / costly sites)
 - Aim to boost carbon £££ by identifying & marketing benefits ‘beyond carbon’



Country update – Wales: SMS project

- Working with the wider PES Pioneers Collaborative Learning Group to share the Pumlumon approach on developing bespoke agreements and opportunities beyond carbon.
- Development of standardised field monitoring protocol for peatlands.
- Appointment of a research hub coordinator.
- Developing accredited training to ensure best practice.
- Engagement at events – including World Bog Snorkelling Championships



**Canolfan
Ecoleg a Hydroleg**

CYNGOR Y CHWIL YR MGYLCHEID NATURIOL



Prifysgol Abertawe
Swansea University

Closing date 14th Oct



Celebrating the cultural significance of Welsh peatlands Cyfoeth ein Corsydd (Wealth of our Bogs) project

- 20 month HLF funded project led by SNPA
- Recording oral histories of peat cutting from local people
- Events & guided walks to celebrate our past use of peatlands and their importance to society
- Planning a travelling exhibition to tour the peaty areas of Wales
- Further details: Haf.Roberts@eryri.llyw.cymru



Ellis Evans, 'Hedd Wyn'



First poem (age 11)
'Y Das Fawn'



Country update – Wales: closing comments

Rich in ambition



Getty Images/iStockphoto

Limited resources for
delivery



Country update – Wales: closing comments

Rich in ambition



Getty Images/iStockphoto

Limited resources for delivery



UKPS conservation outcome #2
“95% of peatlands (supporting semi-natural vegetation) are protected under local, national and/or internationaldesignations”

55%