




Terms of reference

Session: Enhancing climate action through peatlands Event series: “Peatlands and climate commitments”

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| PEATLANDS AND CLIMATE COMMITMENTS Session 1: Enhancing climate action through peatlands | When: Thursday 23 June 2022 |  Supported by  Supported by:  based on a decision of the German Bundestag |
| Register here: https://bit.ly/NDC-Peatlands | Time: Select the best time for you in the registration survey! | Terms of reference |
| | Place Online via Zoom | Contact Maria.Nuutinen@fao.org Elisabet.RamsBeltran@fao.org peatlands@fao.org |

Webinar (via Zoom): **Thursday 23 June 2022**

The session will be offered at 2 occasions to accommodate participants in different time zones.

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/NDC-Peatlands>

Background

The 195 countries, signatories to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) share the common goal to limit global warming as close to 1,5 degrees Celsius as possible above pre-industrial levels, compared to pre-industrial levels. As part of this process, countries communicate their regularly updated nationally determined contributions (NDCs) including the actions they will take to limit their emissions, enhance greenhouse gas (GHG) sinks, and build resilience to adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures. In addition to countries, also other non-state actors, have made commitments to contribute to the Sustainable development goal 13 “[Climate action](#)”.

A climate commitment requires reporting on progress made through the Enhanced transparency framework (ETF) as well as identifying lessons learned and needs for support, such as needs for capacity, technology or other resources. The long-term impact of climate change, however, imposes on humanity a need for sustained, long-term planning. To fulfill this task, the Paris Agreement contains a voluntary invitation to countries to formulate and submit their long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies (LT-LEDS). These long-term goals, referred to as long-term strategies (LTS), help countries to formulate the national vision, and to set climate action in the long-term planning and development context.

Part of countries’ definition of their low emissions and climate-resilient pathways’ is to identify ways on how the climate action will be implemented. [Nature-based solutions](#), such as improved peatland management, have been identified as a key means to strive towards achievement of climate, but also other socio-economic and environmental goals. Covering only 3 percent of global land area,

peatlands represent the largest terrestrial carbon storage in the world. However, GHG emissions from drained peatlands contribute an estimated 5 percent of human-induced emissions globally.

Maintaining peatland carbon storage and sink functions through conservation and restoration have an immense mitigation potential. Furthermore, wet peatlands maintain the adaptive capacity of communities by filtering water, regulating water flows, and reducing the risk of fires, among many other ecosystem services.

FAO and partners ('organizers') support countries' efforts to integrate peatland considerations into relevant national planning and policy processes. These include options for sustainable peatland management, monitoring and reporting. The suggested series of events aims to respond to the questions:

1. How to integrate peatlands in countries' national climate contributions and their implementation?
2. What does this mean for countries?
3. What can be gained from this?

The first session on 23 June 2022 aims at developing participants' knowledge and capacity to integrate peatlands into national climate commitments. During the session, participants are invited to share their ideas, inputs and feedback on the type of support needed to increase inclusion of peatlands in NDCs and LTSs. During the workshop the organizers present the first draft of a support brief, and consult participating stakeholders. The session will focus in particular on the following questions:

1. What are climate commitments: NDCs and LTSs?
2. Why include peatlands in climate commitments, in particular:
 - What are the key benefits and impacts of including peatlands in climate commitments?
 - What countries need to take into account?
3. What are the key elements to have in place for including peatlands in the climate commitments? Challenges and needs.

Tentative agenda

| Topic |
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| Opening words |
| Objectives of the session, the event series & agenda Key terminology used |
| Presentation 1: Why include peatlands in climate commitments? Clarifying Q&A |
| Presentation 2: Peatlands in climate commitments: NDCs and LTSs Clarifying Q&A |
| Participatory exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What challenges and needs do countries have for integrating peatlands into climate commitments? ● What kind of support would be needed? |
| Presentation 3: Country case on climate commitments Clarifying Q&A |

Panel discussion

Collection of feedback, inputs, ideas and requests from participants: Integration of peatlands into national climate commitments:

- (1) What other relevant tools and resources do you know?
- (2) What are the key challenges of countries in integrating peatlands in the climate commitments?
- (3) What are the needs of countries?

Summary of the panel discussion

Feedback and closure

Organizers

The activities are implemented through the project “[The Global Peatlands Initiative: Assessing, Measuring and Preserving Peat Carbon](#)” (GPI project) implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Greifswald Mire Center (GMC). The project is generously funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Ministry of the Environment, the Conservation of Nature and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMU). The series of events are organized in partnership with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Wetlands International and CIFOR, and in close collaboration with other partners, such as the NDC Partnership.

Participation

Practitioners, especially national focal points for peatlands, wetlands, Convention on Wetlands, soil and water, NDC Partnership’s members, in particular, Technical Working group, in particular from the national agencies for environment, agriculture, forestry, energy, land use planning and finance ministries, and academia and private sector, as well as civil society organizations working with communities on implementation.

In addition, the following groups can find the forum useful:

- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) experts of peatland projects,
- Government officers responsible for monitoring and reporting on peatland, climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and
- International partners, such as from: UNFCCC; Global Peatlands Initiative’s 48 member organizations.

All participants and presenters can attend the forum fully from their desktops. The most important requirement is a well-functioning and strong internet connection. Participants will receive in advance supplementary materials and links. Participation is free of charge. The learning forum organizers aim at catering to the needs of the majority of participants. No certificates are offered.

