International Workshop

Exploring Synergies for Peatlands –
Detecting and enhancing the global importance of peatlands in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm,

21th – 25th May 2019

Workshop report

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Greifswald Mire Centre / Care for Ecosystems

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1. Executive summary

In response to various international resolutions and decisions[1] that call for cooperation on peatland conservation, restoration and wise use, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) invited the Secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) - the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, CMS/AEWA, Water Convention – as well as contracting parties, international organisations and peatland experts[2] to a workshop at its International Academy for Nature Conservation. The objective of the meeting was to explore existing and potential synergies and opportunities for joint activities to safeguard the multiple ecosystem services of peatlands. Besides, a road map was sketch that identified entry points for enhanced collaboration and the creation of future synergies.

Recent assessments and reports[3] confirm the huge importance of peatlands for the maintenance of global environmental integrity including services related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Therefore, peatland ecosystem services need to be taken into account at all levels of decision making, and synergies should be realized with respect to policy development and implementation, strategic planning, and local activities for safeguarding and managing peatlands wisely.

The workshop identified gaps and opportunities for synergies in the fields of information, policies and implementation and elaborated a matrix of activities with priority for collaboration.

Information

1. The scope of information on peatlands (e.g. to be used by IPCC and IPBES) can be improved by contributions from specialised networks and organisations. The need to integrate indigenous knowledge on peatlands in a fair manner was highlighted. Specifically, the clear lack of expertise and information on hydrological aspects of peatlands in many thematic and geographical spheres was stressed.

Policies

2. Policies related to peatlands are in numerous instances contradictory at different levels and between sectors by either supporting or counteracting peatland conservation and restoration. The implementation of MEAs' and national policies at the local level requires awareness of stakeholders (for the natural capital value of peatlands) and especially the engagement of civil society and the private sector. The effectiveness of implementation of policy could be enhanced if realised through existing global territorial networks such as Ramsar sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WCPA networks.

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[1] E.g.: Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.13: Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction; UNEA-4 Resolution: Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands; CBD Decision 14/5: Biodiversity and climate change.

[2] Representatives of the international organisations: UN Environment/Global Peatlands Initiative, FAO, IPBES, Ramsar STRP and RRI for the Nile Basin, Wetlands International, IUCN UK Peatland Programme, International Mire Conservation Group, International Peatland Society, Greifswald Mire Centre; Representative of National and Subnational governments: Canada, Denmark, Germany, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine; International experts from Austria, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland.

[3] E.g.: Global Wetland Outlook (2019); IPBES Global Assessment (2019)

Implementation

3. Peatland-related strategies and action plans at the regional, national and subnational level serve as effective, integrative tools for the implementation of international policy decisions. (Existing frameworks developed by MEAs and International Organisations are potential platforms for a comprehensive generation and use of information, the development and formulation of policies and their implementation globally.)

4. Economic incentives for the implementation of wise use policies are supported by existing schemes of certification of peatland products/operations. The involvement of the private sector remains insufficient and could be enhanced by the establishment of clear regulations to phase out drainage-based land use including peat extraction, support for adapted land use on wet peat soils and replacement of products derived from drained peatlands.

Cooperation, networks, actors

5. The representatives of MEAs confirmed their commitment to utilize synergy at the global level through cooperation between Secretariats based on existing Resolutions, MoUs and joint working plans. For new formal agreements were not suggested.[4]

6. Synergies could also be realized by more intensified cooperation among international organisations and the private sector (including business and NGOs) and by increasing coordinated efforts focused on implementation of MEAs and involving organisation such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organisation that due to their mandate to some extent relate to peatlands.

7. Existing global area-based conservation networks and initiatives can be effectively used for implementation of an integrative approach to peatlands conservation and wise use at the global level.

8. The Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) was acknowledged as a useful coordination body for partners focused on collating information as well as local action. In the UNEA-4 Resolution on peatlands the UNEP Executive Director was requested to coordinate efforts to create a comprehensive and accurate inventory of global peatlands in consultation with the secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.

Besides, a schedule 2019-21 with the following events as major opportunities for stakeholders to act jointly for peatlands was drawn up. This included: CBD post-2020 framework workshop in Bern (June 2019), Ramsar SC57 in Gland (June 2019), biodiversity conference in Trondheim (July 2019), nature-based solutions session of the UN Climate Summit in New York (September 2019) – Heads of State to engage, Climate COP in Chile (December 2019), CMS COP in India (February 2020), IUCN congress (July 2020), and CBD COP in China (October 2020). Moreover, peatland inputs to the up-coming joint IPCC-IBPES report, the new round of NDC declarations, and the Global Biodiversity and Wetland Outlooks were suggested.

[4] More specifically cooperation could include: Regular liaison between the Secretariats of the MEAs (also via the Biodiversity Liaison Group, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions) and mutual information about Resolutions or Decisions taken and the drafting ongoing process for new Decisions. These exchanges will in turn allow each Secretariat to provide coherent information and policy guidance to its contracting parties (through national focal points).

2. Aim and structure of the workshop

Peatlands cover 3% of the global land area[5] and fulfil a number of ecosystem services critically important for life on earth and human well-being[6]. These services include, for instance, storage and purification of fresh water, biodiversity conservation and the reduction of flood risks. In addition, peatlands contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts through carbon storage or by providing important climate smart livelihood options[7]. Peatlands store twice as much as all global forest above-ground biomass[8]. Peatlands under natural conditions are a long-term net carbon sink. However, carbon dioxide emissions from peatland drainage, fires and exploitation cause emissions equivalent to 5% of global anthropogenic CO_2 emissions[9]. Along with enhanced greenhouse gas emissions, also other ecosystem services deteriorate with drainage.

Peatlands therefore concern a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and international organizations that aim on maintenance of their ecosystem services and to avoid further emissions caused by degradation. As progress in peatland conservation and restoration is urgently needed, efforts should be combined and synergies utilised. At its 4th Session (March 2019), the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a resolution on "Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands" (UNEP/EA.4/L.19). Among others it "urges Member States and other stakeholders to give greater emphasis to the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of peatlands worldwide …".

A workshop held on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, 21-24 May 2019, was jointly organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the Global Peatlands Initiative, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Greifswald Mire Centre, and Wetlands International to follow up on the implementation of this UNEA Resolution. Specifically, the workshop aimed at identifying synergies and related collaborative actions to safeguard peatlands' ecosystem services that evolve from the interest and mandate of relevant MEAs, international organizations, member states, and other stakeholders.

The workshop allowed participants to:

- Better understand synergies that derive from coordinated action on peatlands among concerned MEAs (e.g. UNFCCC, CBD, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNCCD, CMS etc. and international organizations (e.g. UN Environment, FAO, WMO, WHO etc.);
- Based on emerging collaboration and programmatic synergies, discuss major gaps (e.g. peatland inventories) and limitations for safeguarding peatland ecosystem services;
- Identify suitable policies, instruments (e.g. a joint declaration) and action for implementation by different stakeholders and

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[5] Joosten, H. (2009): The Global Peatland CO_2 Picture. Peatland status and emissions in all countries of the World. Wetlands International, Ede. 10 p.

[6] Bonn, A., Allott, T., Evans, M., Joosten, H. & Stoneman, R. (2016): Peatland restoration and ecosystem services: science, practice, policy. Cambridge University Press. 493 p.

[7] Joosten, H., Tapio-Biström, M.-L., Tol, S. (2012): Peatlands - guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use. Mitigation of climate change in agriculture Series 5. FAO and Wetlands International, Rome. 114 p.; Wichtmann, W., Schröder, C. & Joosten, H. (2016): Paludiculture – productive use of wet peatlands. Climate protection – biodiversity – regional economic benefits. Schweizerbart Science Publishers, Stuttgart. 272 p.

[8] Joosten, H. (2009): The Global Peatland CO2 Picture. Peatland status and emissions in all countries of the World. Wetlands International, Ede. 10 p.

[9] Joosten, H., Sirin, A., Couwenberg, J., Laine, J. & Smith, P. (2016): The role of peatlands in climate regulation. In: Peatland Restoration and Ecosystem Services: Science, Policy and Practice (ed. by A. Bonn, T. Allott, M. Evans, H. Joosten & R. Stoneman), Cambridge University Press, pp. 63-76.

° Outline a potential road map of activities to support consolidated processes and activities for conserving, restoring and sustainably managing peatlands that involve a multitude of actors.

To achieve this, a group of dedicated peatland experts from Europa, Africa and North America (see Annex 1) was gathered on the Isle of Vilm. The participants included experts from Austria, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, and United Kingdom, representatives from the Secretariat of Ramsar, UN Environment (Global Peatlands Initiative), FAO, Ramsar STRP and RRI for the Nile Basin, IUCN UK peatlands programme, Wetlands International, Greifswald Mire Centre, International Peatland Society. Several representatives from other MEA secretariats (UNFCCC, CBD, CMS/AEWA; expert for UNECE Water Convention), international organisations/panels (IPBES), and national governments (Sweden and Denmark) were remotely connected for selected sessions. UNCCD apologized, but remains ready for collaboration. All remotely connected contributors had been involved by email correspondence and a newly developed questionnaire to receive written input to all other sessions prior to the workshop.

The workshop has been prepared and facilitated by Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN), Tobias Salathe (Ramsar Convention Secretariat), Dianna Kopansky (UN Environment Programme, Global Peatlands Initiative), Franziska Tanneberger and Jan Peters (both Greifswald Mire Centre), Arthur Neher (Wetlands International), and Tatiana Minayeva (Wetlands International/Care for Ecosystems).

The workshop was funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Workshop preparation was additionally funded through the 2015-2016 BiodivERsA COFUND call for research proposals, with the national funder Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

The workshop report presents main findings of the sessions, both from presentations and interactive work and breakout groups.

2. Main findings from the session 'Setting the scene'

The purpose of this session was to introduce all participants to a goal, objectives and structure of the workshop (Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst), to give insights, inspiration and an idea about potential synergies (Tobias Salathé , Dianna Kopansky), and to identify the background and geographic distribution of the participants (including remote participants).

Introduction about peatlands (Tobias Salathé)

- Peatlands are the most space-effective long-term carbon store and are crucial for meeting the Paris Agreement goals.
- Peatlands emit 5% of all anthropogenic emissions, and to reduce the emissions, undrained peatlands should be protected and drained peatlands restored.
- Making use of synergies will help to involve all relevant sectors.
- NDCs give a good opportunity to use this approach and to address issues beyond climate change - soil conservation, water regulation and management, biodiversity, local livelihoods and sustainable markets.

Proposed focus and possible synergies of using peatland conservation/restoration with NDCs.

Introduction to the Global Peatlands Initiative (Dianna Kopansky)

- UN Environment has the honour of leading the Global Peatlands Initiative - an initiative to save peatlands as the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock.
- Peatlands are believed to be present in at least 180 countries with extensive occurrences in the tropics and in temperate, boreal and arctic zones. However, being poorly understood, peatlands across the globe are under threat from drainage and burning for agricultural, forestry, infrastructure and other developmental uses.
- Under the umbrella of the Global Peatlands Initiative 28 partners are trying to counter and avoid these threats and save peatlands globally.
- Keeping peat carbon in the ground is crucial if the world is to meet the target of the Paris Climate Change Agreement to keep the global average temperature increase under two degrees Celsius. To achieve this target, every country and its citizens need to undertake "business unusual" so that global carbon emissions reach net zero by around 2050 - a date and target just around the corner.

Members of the Global Peatlands Initiative (as of May 2019).

Panel discussion with Tobias Salathé and Dianna Kopansky – key needs and issues raised

- To bring further the message about the uniqueness and importance of peatlands
- To set up priorities and identify synergies
- To meet challenge of rapid environmental changes (e.g. the Congo peatlands have just been discovered and are threatened by land use around them, including oil and gas extraction)
- To fill knowledge gaps – to provide equal knowledge on peatlands all over the world
- To look for balanced approaches, to resolve conflicts, including one between human needs and impact on nature
- To involve new partners connected to peatlands (e.g. the World Health Organisation)
- To unify peatland major concepts and peatland terminology
- To achieve cooperation between relevant organisations spread all over the world

Global distribution and background of participants (Franziska Tanneberger & Tatiana Minayeva)

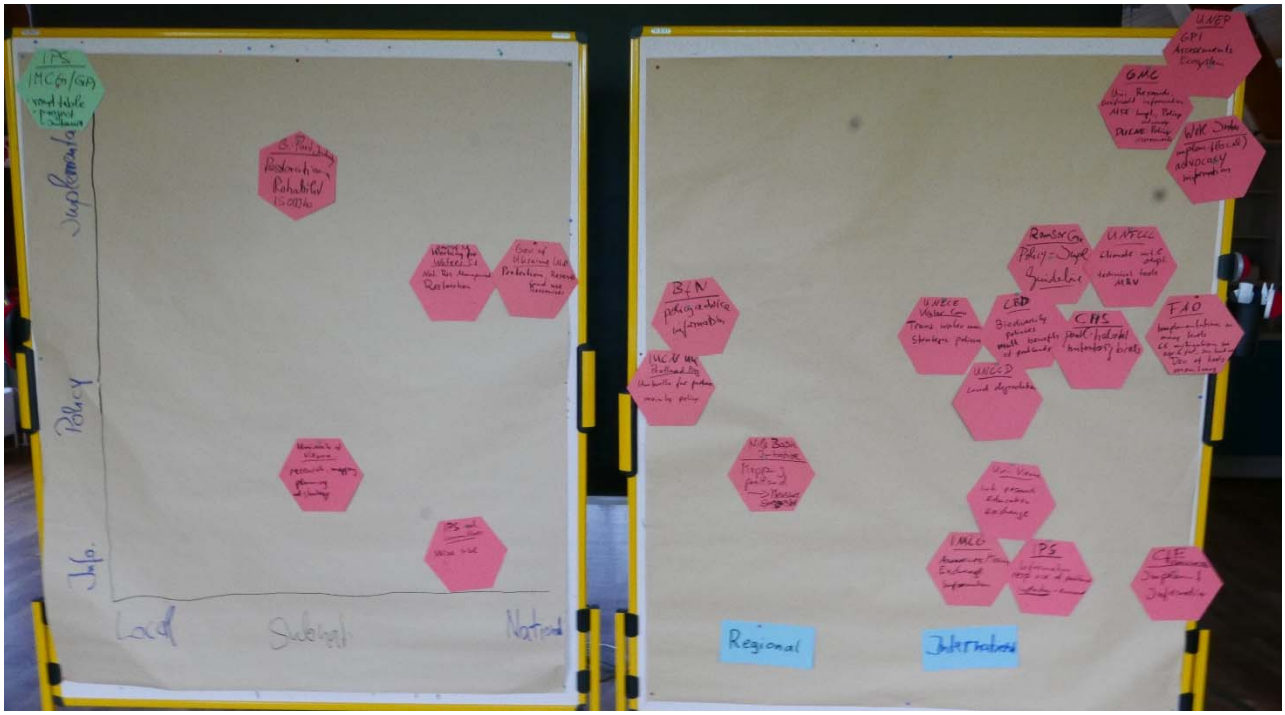
- The workshop was attended by 28 participants (including 6 participating remotely)
- They were presenting governments (5), MEAs secretariats (4), intergovernmental organisations (3), international NGOs (3), other NGOs (3), university/academia (3), business (2) and industry (1). Some of the participants were representing 2 organisations.
- The participants mostly represented (by origin and focus of their activity) Europe, with some presence of Africa, North-America and Southeast-Asia (see Annex 1 for more detail).

3. Main findings from the session 'Identifying synergies to safeguard peatlands and their ecosystem services' (session 2)

The session aimed at identifying synergies and gaps/trade-offs among stakeholders for three over-arching issues: information (including monitoring and reporting), policy, implementation. The work of MEAs is organised along these three main crosscutting areas.

At the beginning, main work areas and level of efforts of organisations present at the workshop (chaired by Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst & Jan Peters) were mapped. This was captured by asking participants to identify and depict the position of the organisation they are working for along the two-dimensional matrix: level of operation (local, subnational, national, regional, global) and area of operation (policy, information, implementation).

The organisations present at the workshop cover a wide range of levels and areas of operation. One organisation could work on implementation at local level, on policy at national level and on information at global level. This fact opens wide opportunities for the expanding synergies vertically and horizontally using existing capacities.



Main work areas of organisations present at the workshop.

Later, the three work areas (information, policy, implementation) were presented in impulses and discussed in the format of a World Café.

Impulse on information on peatlands: concepts, data availability and gaps, harmonisation, monitoring and reporting (Jan Peters)

Information on peatlands and organic soils depends on commonly used concepts and definitions. English and local terms often do not differentiate between peatlands and wetlands with mineral soil and minimum content of organic matter of the "peat" varies across definitions. The 2006 IPCC Guidelines thus largely follow the FAO (1998/2006) definition of "histosol" and link (and even equate) organic soils to peat soils.

Existing global assessments and reports providing information on peatlands are the following:

- GEC/WI Global Assessment (2008)
- FAO Guidance Report (2012)
- GPI RRA „Smoke on Water“ (2017)
- Ramsar Global Wetlands Outlook (2018)
- IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity (2019)
- GPI Global Peatlands Assessment / Inventory (in prep.)

Beside global information, regional, national and local data sets are sources for information. They have higher resolution than global datasets and can be quite accurate addressing location and types of peatlands and organic soils, but often using country-specific definitions, concepts and methodologies. Therefore, it's difficult to ‚harmonise' data for the global level. It is fragmentary in coverage and the data is widespread among archives, the internet, different scientific disciplines and authorities.

Knowledge and information gaps exist on peatland distribution and their relation to climate change and other ecosystem services. Largest knowledge gaps are in the tropics, specifically in alpine/mountain, coastal and floodplain environments. Areas, which are not that huge as Congo Basin or Indonesian peatlands are often neglected although they add considerable areas on national levels. In addition, there is a lack of high-resolution data applicable for national/regional/local spatial planning.

Aggregated outcomes from the discussion on information:

1. How could we achieve that the same basic concepts on peatlands are consistently used by MEAs? → Common definitions on peatlands developed under GPI (e.g. as an introductory chapter/annotated glossary of the Global Peatlands Inventory) which will be adopted by MEAs and parties and which are easily accessible for all stakeholders at a web space.

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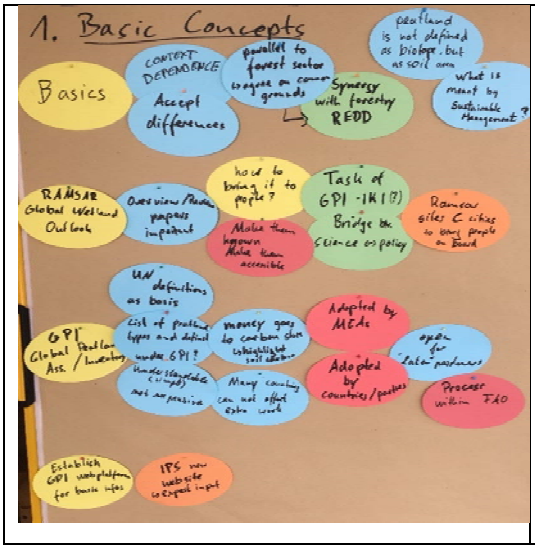
2. Which information is needed, available, still missing to ensure synergies between stakeholders on any policy, plan or action on peatlands? How could the Global Peatlands Inventory improve information for MEAs? → Available sectoral information needs to be integrated into a standard, more holistic database, which includes natural, social, cultural, and economic information to highlight the added value of peatlands and to reach awareness and ownership by civil society, policy makers and private sector.
3. What could be possible synergies in gathering and communicating information (e.g. in MEA's MRV schemes, assessments, studies)? → Minimum standard approaches integrating various available data sets from global earth observation systems to indigenous knowledge could provide clear, consistent basic information on peatland distribution and status for use of MEAs and parties.

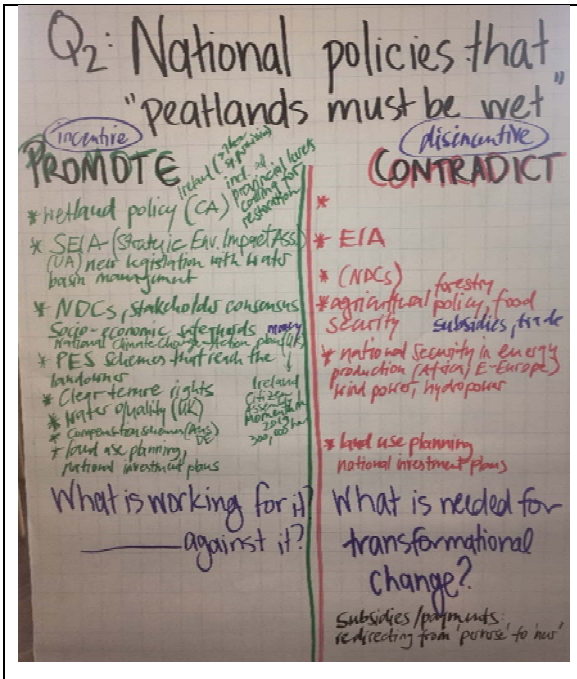


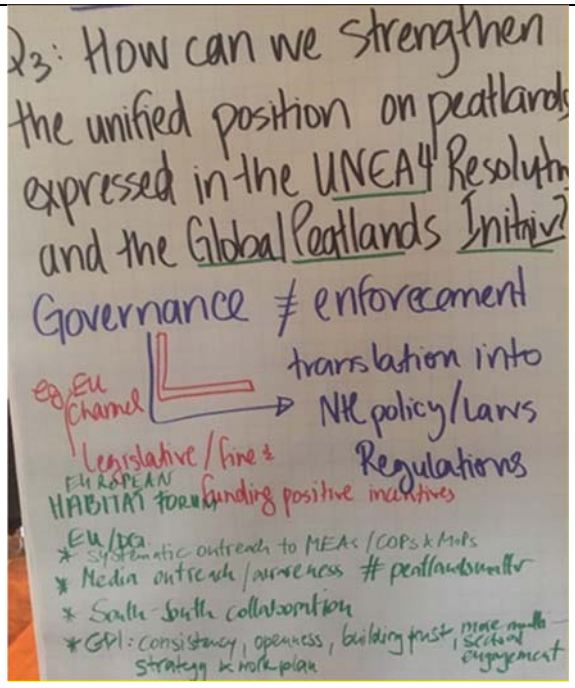
Impulse on policy: making use of synergy (Franziska Tanneberger)

- What kind of policy is needed: 'peatland must be wet' – now!
- Various policy-relevant Resolutions/Decisions on peatlands are already taken by MEAs
- Challenges are to ensure that they are integrated in the Resolutions/Decisions of other MEAs, to ensure that they do not contradict each other, and to upscale successful national policies to regional/global level
- Case study on the Aquatic Warbler: CMS MoU, flagship species for healthy peatlands, relevant to the Ramsar Convention, UNFCCC, CBD etc.
- Information and integration needed: e.g. FAO changed its policy towards peatland rewetting; WHO made inventories for peatland drainage in the 1970s in Africa (can be used as information!), but has not yet officially declared a position on peatlands that considers current circumstances and discussion (clear figures on peatland degradation and health issues are available e.g. for Indonesia and Russia)

Aggregated outcomes from the discussion on Policy

1. What are global/regional policies, which promote or contradict the policy 'peatlands must be wet'? How enforceable are the global agreements, and which incentives can make them more attractive? → Promoting elements widely spread across MEAs but scattered; contradicting at supranational level e.g. EU Common Agricultural Policy
2. What are national polices which promote or contradict the policy 'peatlands must be wet'? What is working for it/what against? What is needed to make the transformational change at the national level? → Promoting e.g. wetland policy (Canada), Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment, NDCs, land use planning, PES schemes that reach the land owner; contradicting e.g. agriculture, food, energy safety policies
3. How can we strengthen the unified position on peatlands expressed in the UNEA resolution and in the GPI partnership? → Translation into national policy/laws is needed as well as for future GPI consistency openness, building trust, strategy and work plan are utterly important





Impulse on implementation: synergy for effective use (Tatiana Minayeva, Wetlands International/CfE)

MEAs have a huge variety of implementation mechanisms and instruments, often unknown to or overlooked by others. For example, all conventions have national reporting or technical documents where some areas are overlapping. At the same time, MEAs usually have developed a number of unique implementation mechanisms and instruments, which could have added values and provide inputs for the implementation of policies. These include:

CBD implementation mechanisms include National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs); Lifeweb for financing Protected Areas; Financial Resources and Mechanism; Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM); Cooperation and Partnerships; Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; Species strategies; Ecosystem restoration target under Aichi targets; Ramsar Convention implementation mechanisms include Ramsar Sites Network and Info Service; Ramsar Advisory Missions; National Ramsar Committees; Regional initiatives and several Grant, Award and thematic programs; MOUs with other conventions; UNFCCC implementation mechanisms – National inventory reports, NAPAs and NDCs; CMS has species strategies and Flyways/species agreements (MoU); Water convention supports river basin management entities etc.

Yet, the impacts of these implementation mechanisms is to some extent limited. There are coordinating attempts in place such as MoUs between MEAs and liaison groups. Peatlands could benefit from the cross-cutting application of conventions' implementation mechanisms and instruments. The discussion aimed to identify which implementation mechanisms could be coordinated, what are challenges and successful examples, and to develop a road map towards synergy.

Questions and aggregated outcomes

1. What are the unique implementation mechanisms focused to keep peatlands wet? Please list any mechanisms used by MEAs, UN programmes, international organisations or alliances of national governments.

The following implementation mechanisms and instruments were recognized as valuable by the participants: UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN); NDC of Paris Agreement; Ramsar Convention: Ramsar sites, ecosystem approach, STRP as think tank; EU:strict governance, possibility of sanctions; SENDAI: ECO-DRR -adaptation, risk reduction with focus on peatlands.

New Mechanisms: GPI: developing synergies among MEAs

2. What are existing overlapping mechanisms focused to keep peatlands wet? Please list any mechanisms used by MEAs, UN programmes, international organisations or alliances of national governments.

MEAs could look at benefits of coordination efforts on peatlands within overlapping implementation mechanisms: MEA Resolutions and Decisions, especially those which are widely discussed; National reporting, especially fed by local and regional initiatives; Water convention and water directive can include peatlands and help to focus on integration of peatlands into the basin management; the CEPA programmes of different conventions should be coordinated and used to promote peatlands; Resolutions of the international organisations (like IUCN etc.) could help to promote the work of the conventions.

Networks and associations: Different regional (e.g. on flyways or river basins) and species strategies; Conservation sites networks (Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves, Bern Convention) (see Decision CBD 14/8. Protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures); National reporting on SDG.

Economic mechanisms: Certifications of peat products/operations: RPP (EU), RSPO, Veriflora (Canada)

3. What suggestions for optimising the use of MEAs' implementation mechanisms do you have, and which new mechanisms can you suggest?

Suggestions for MEAs include: Strengthening the links between conventions; Use funds of some conventions for the benefit of the others (for example climate and nature based solution); Enhance and built in nature based solutions in agreements; Integrate peatlands in the new UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. MEAs and other stakeholders should build up coordinated Awareness framework: Promote result-based actions on peatlands; Analyse cross-cutting benefits of peatlands; Improve knowledge for CEPA – outreach multifunctional role of peatlands; Use feedback from the public on climate change negative events.

Involvement of Economy: Market and finance (main drivers); Certification of products from rewetted peatlands; Connecting Disaster Risk Reduction with business interest (for eg. insurance); Natural Capital thinking should be improved; Traditional non-destructive use of peatlands without changing hydrology; Creating alternatives for peat use.

4. Main findings from the session 'Input in fostering synergies on peatlands' (session 3)

Sub-session 3.1 Input from Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs)

In this session, input from several MEA secretariats (Ramsar Convention, CBD, CMS, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Water convention) was provided and discussed. The MEAs presented their work in relation to peatlands, and reported on MEA-specific mechanisms that could be used to foster synergies.

Caridad Canales Davida (CBD)

- Already in COP9, CBD recognized that peatland conservation is needed for biodiversity and climate protection
- Key ecosystems such as peatlands are important in the context of the debate on planetary

boundaries

- COP14 (Nov 2018) Decisions: on protected areas (peatlands considered as an particularly important ecosystem) and on sustainable use of peatlands
- A 2019 Decision on peatlands would need to be set in relation to global goals, the new Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, Aichi targets…
- It is now very timely to discuss synergies, especially in the CBD context (Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework)
- At COP15 (October 2020) the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework will be approved → create a coherent narrative for this, and not only talk about synergies, but realise them!
- For synergies, the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions is important → it should be used for forging synergies within the UN system and, in general, to foster a more holistic approach.

Jenny Wong & Peter Aarup Iversen (UNFCCC)

- Both from Unit on Sectoral approaches; long-term experience with UNFCCC
- Importance of terrestrial reservoirs & sinks is being recognized → peatlands important here
- Parties are to promote sustainable management →PA Art.5 'Conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs…'
- REDD+ framework: Developing countries encouraged to tackle reforestation and manage forests sustainably, very well taken up
- GHG inventories go through technical review process
- Key mechanisms: through global stocktaking mechanisms
- UNFCCC usually does not talk about 'peatlands' but considers forest & agriculture as very important
- Some countries have recognized that peatlands are important and included them in their national plans
- Climate change summit September 2019: focus on land-based solutions
- IPCC report on climate change and land to be published in August 2019 will include something on peat and carbon
- An important task of the secretariat is to liaise, so that all frameworks under all MEAs are coherent, e.g. when CBD developed a Decision on biodiversity and climate change, CBD contacted UNFCC to achieve coherence → this exchange needs to be more frequent.

Tilman Schneider (CMS)

- Peatlands are not a specific focus of CMS until now; a lot of guidance in this regard comes from CBD
- Migratory birds are the largest group of species under CMS → many synergies here with other MEAs with regard to peatland management & protection, especially towards the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.
- COP12: Outlines importance of synergies & partnerships, part of biodiversity liaison group
- Specific tools for data: Wing & wetlands project, with Birdlife International, for water birds, on monitoring & better conservation, showing best practice, in a number of countries
- CMS climate resilience network
- AEWA: provides online resources, for all water bird species and habitats they depend upon
- Very interested in joined work plans, already have a number of joint work plans (Arctic, CITES, etc.)
- Important: Connectivity of critical habitats, including peatlands
- Have flagship species under convention → useful for conveying messages; maybe peatlands can be part of that?

Tobias Salathé (Ramsar Convention)

- Peatlands used to be underrepresented in the Convention → COP VIII (2002) first Resolution on peatlands
- With climate change coming up higher on the agenda → peatlands gained importance, but there was also a reluctance of some parties that feared Ramsar would deal too much with climate change aspects, which was the mandate of UNFCCC
- COP XII (2015) Resolution on climate change, wetlands & wise use → asked for collaboration with other MEAs, create capacity
- COP XIII (2018) two Resolutions on peatlands (1st Resolution on how to identify peatlands as important Ramsar sites, and how to use GIS for identification; 2nd Resolution more comprehensive than 1st, on climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction, asks countries to report on guidelines adopted in early 2000s, not only including natural peatlands, but also degraded peatlands, on conservation, restoration and shift of agricultural practices to paludiculture
- Reasons to co-organise the workshop: The Ramsar Convention supports the Global Peatlands Initiative; it should foster synergies with other MEAs and organisations; STRP developed a work programme for next years and calls to work on synergies with IPBES & IPCC.

Heide Jeckel (Water Convention, written input)

- The Convention was opened for global accession a couple of years ago → important partner for feedback
- It has been cooperating with a lot of other organisations, also in the nature conservation sector, like with the Ramsar Convention or with IUCN, but not with a focus on special habitats like peatlands
- It focuses on the improvement of transboundary water management, also from an ecosystem's perspective. It is not a nature conservation instrument, but more a strategic or management directive.

The statements were followed by a discussion, with key messages on:

- Joint actions should be coordinated via the Biodiversity Liaison Group through joint work plans, further collaboration should take place in the context of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework
- Use upcoming meetings of MEAs as platforms to interact with MEAs and country delegations
- Apart from the CBD Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, also the IUCN world congress is crucial → expected to create follow up to last congress; no hierarchy between events, existing platforms are equally important
- When anybody would go into a drafting mode for Resolutions for new cooperation on peatlands, other MEAs should be contacted → there was no consensus that a joint MEA peatland declaration would bring added value, better taking advantage of existing Decisions/Resolutions (eg UNEA) and possibly developing a joint work programme
- The parties' reporting burden should be reduced, and better reporting coherence should be achieved
- The UNEA-4 Resolution is something anybody can already commit to and support.

Sub-session 3.2: Input from the viewpoint of international and national organisations

In this session, inputs from international and national organisations such as UNEP, IUCN, FAO, WCMC, IPS, Nile Basin Initiative, national governmental agencies were gathered. The organisations were asked to inform on their capacity and gaps to foster synergies.

Lars Dinesen (speaking about IPBES):

- IPBES has currently two foci: new work programme and global assessment; massive response on global assessment in many countries (e.g. Denmark) → important to stress peatlands in coming 1.5 years
- The Ramsar Convention had proposed to specifically include peatlands in the IPBES process (in the form of an assessment) → outcome: peatlands to be covered in a technical paper by IPBES and IPCC
- Successful collaboration: In Ukraine, IPBES focal point is part of Ramsar committee – living synergies…

Leonard Akwany (NBI):

- Initiative works with 10 countries and helps them to meet obligations of MEAs & reporting → synergies
- Have regional working groups with different sectors represented.

Gilbert Ludwig (IPS):

- Prepared booklet on MEAs

Serena Fortuna (FAO):

- Supports consistencies on reporting, and tries to make countries consider peatlands in their reports & strategies
- Cooperation with several MEA secretariats, but also with parties (on implementation) → collaboration is crucial.

Stuart Brooks & Clifton Bain (IUCN UK Peatland Programme)

- Process towards IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) 2020 → plan to inspire other countries there to adopt similar country level strategies
- GPI emerged at similar time to last WCC; whatever comes up at IUCN progress → has to be delivered through GPI;
- We need to raise the bar, and have high level of ambition in statements
- IUCN Resolution 43: Each country should make a peatland strategy; Newcastle University looked at which countries have a peatland strategy, only few countries have a national strategy

Dianna Kopansky (UNEP):

- UNEP recently published a Frontiers report on emerging environmental issues with chapter on peatlands and permafrost
- UNEP → working with all countries, 'knowledge broker' → share information & innovation
- New work streams on blue economy, and green finance
- Global Peatlands Initiative: Roll out systematic & inclusive process & draw on expertise; assessment on peatlands, calls upon all partners to contribute to that.

Wetlands International (Arthur)

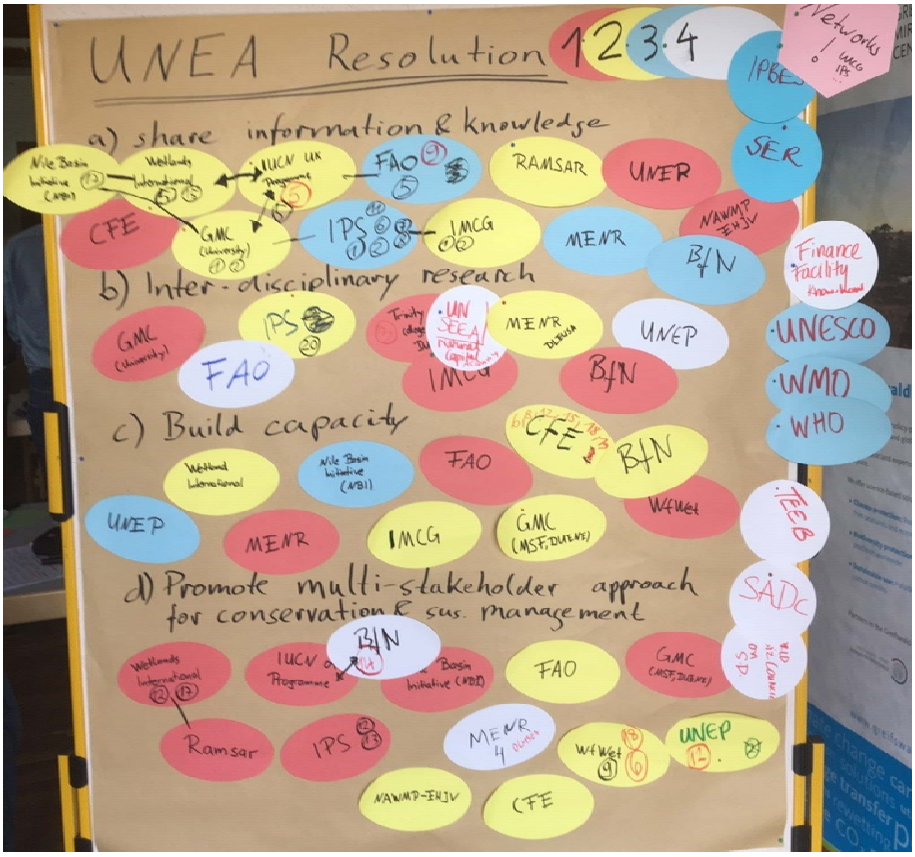
- WI is interested in collaborations, also in supporting others.

5. Main findings from the session 'Best use of existing frameworks' (session 4)

Sub-session 4.1: UNEA resolution on peatlands

Impulse (Dianna Kopansky)

- Glad to discuss how we can use UNEA Resolution as an umbrella
- History: Indonesia drafted the Resolution → 2-week meeting: Indonesia discussion with other countries who were concerned with narrow focus, but also swift support from UK, US & others
- It is a purposeful document that calls for action of national and regional organisations
- Priorities of organizations represented at the workshop regarding UNEA Resolution: a) share information & knowledge, b) conduct interdisciplinary research, c) build capacity, d) promote a multi-stakeholder approach for conservation & sustainable management (see flip chart below).

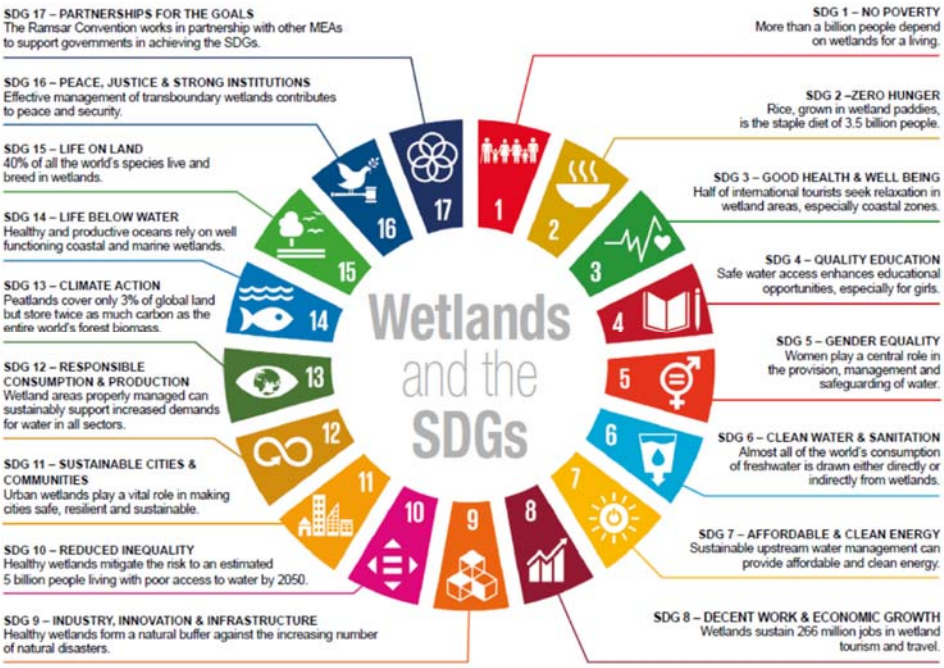


Sub-session 4.2: SDGs and Synergies on Peatlands

Impulse (Arthur Neher)

Sustainable Development Goals – the framework which involves various stakeholders in the reporting on sustainability. It became recently common practice to involve stakeholders based on their commitment to meet SDGs. At national levels various sectors are reporting on SDGs. It is wise to use the SDGs for engaging multilateral stakeholders to work for synergy on peatlands.

The figure below, taken from the Global Wetland Outlook (2018) published by the Ramsar Convention provides a useful example for linking individual SDGs with issues and current facts related to wetlands. A similar exercise for peatlands would be useful, also as a communication tool.



Workshop participants are invited to identify which action on peatlands could contribute to which SDG. An interactive session had been organised to plot inputs of different activities on peatlands (negative and positive) against all 15 SDGs.

Output of interactive session: according to the participants, the most relevant SDGs in which actions on peatlands would contribute are SDG 2 (hunger), 3 (health), 4 (education), 6 (water), 13 (climate), and 15 (life on land). Water and climate are at the most affected by the negative actions on peatlands.

The discussion highlighted diverging opinions on the effectiveness of using the SDG framework for enhancing synergies on peatlands. The representatives of MEAs and International Organisations stated that the SDG framework is effective, it involves a wide range of stakeholders, has concrete indicators and a reporting system and a mechanism of joint messaging – which is important. Other participants expressed concern that the SDG approach is too multidimensional and complex, and should be simplified in application for peatlands.

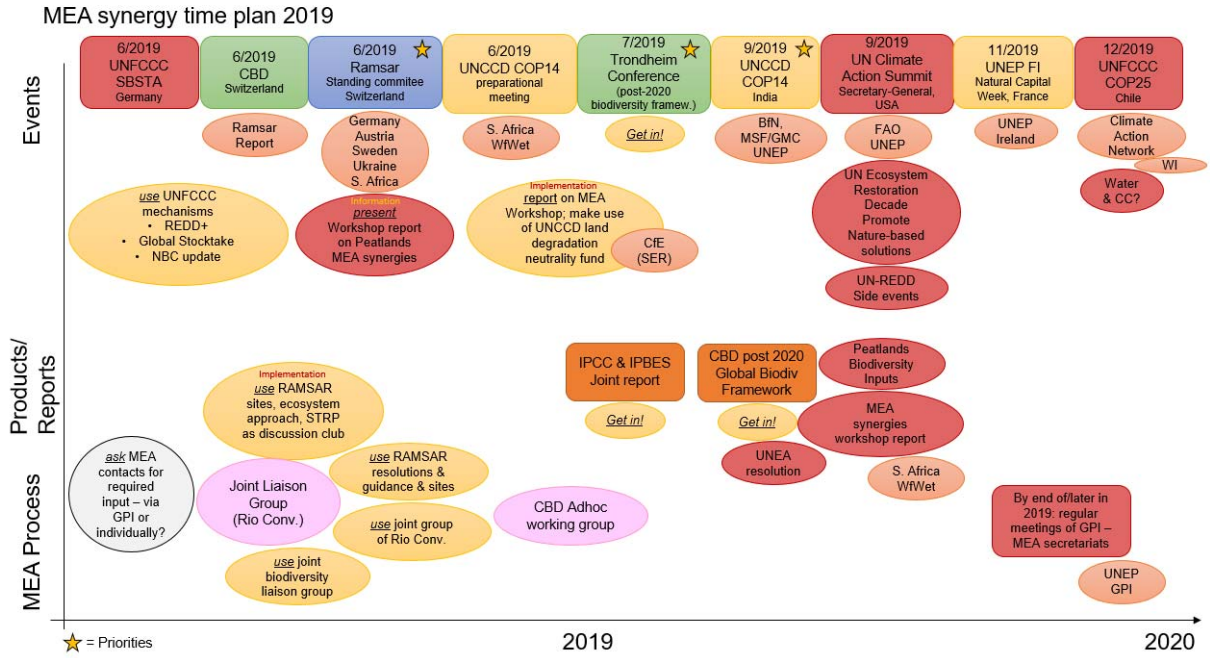
6. Main findings from the session 'Developing specific follow-up steps and a road map for better utilizing synergies (session 5)

A List of action points was discussed and organisations represented at the workshop indicated their current or future action regarding the points listed (allocation of organisations not complete and not exclusive! see Annex 1 for abbreviations regarding names of organisations):

1. Create a standard, more holistic database on peatlands (GMC, IMCG, IPS)
2. Make common peatland definitions of GPI accessible at a neutral webspace (GMC, IMCG, IPS)
3. Involve World Forum on Natural Capital (Trinity College)
4. Address and involve the European Habitat Forum more intensively
5. Share successful means of communicating policies promoting wet peatlands (WI, IUCN UK PP)
6. Capture stories how peatlands provide ecosystem services worldwide (cf. IUCN demonstrating success) (WI, WfWet, IPS, CfE)
7. Promote GPI as a cross-cutting mechanism/initiative (all)
8. Integrate peatlands into UN Ecosystem Restoration Decade (UNEP, FAO, CfE)
9. Identify champions & approach countries/celebrities to be champions …all benefits of synergies (WfWet)
10. Use existing UNFCCC Paris Agreement Article 5
11. Use & disseminate UNEA-4 Resolution on peatlands (IPS)
12. Realize public-private-partnerships (WI, IPS, UNEP)
13. Motivate countries to more interaction between conventions (BfN)
14. IUCN to request National Peatland Strategies
15. Help countries in MEA reporting (WI, CfE)
16. Bring other conventions into Ramsar National Committee (cf. Ukraine)
17. Make use of river basin management entities (WI, NBI)

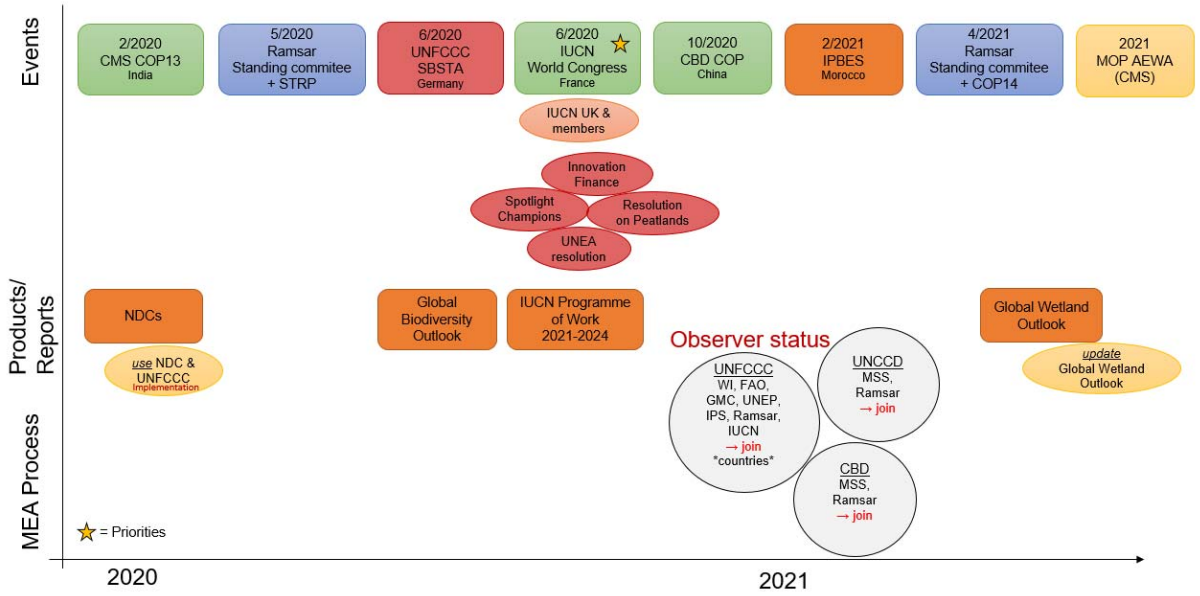
18. Improve methods for MRV of peatlands (coverage and restoration) (FAO, GMC, WfWet, CfE)
19. Foster country collaboration to develop peatland strategies (IUCN & BfN)
20. Study alternatives to drainage-based land use and seek opportunities to accelerate the use of such alternatives (IPS, GMC)
21. IPBES – propose topics for inclusion of peatlands into upcoming assessments.

In a second step, a time plan for MEA synergy activities on peatlands was drafted for the years 2019 and 2020. Several overarching, permanent activities were identified (below, on top). Then key events with their products/reports were discussed and topics were identified to be addressed prior to and during the events. In addition, also MEA internal processes were discussed (below, at the bottom) and meeting times identified. There was agreement that MEA contacts should be asked for the required input, ideally via GPI. At the end, organisations with observer status to conventions were identified (below, bottom right).



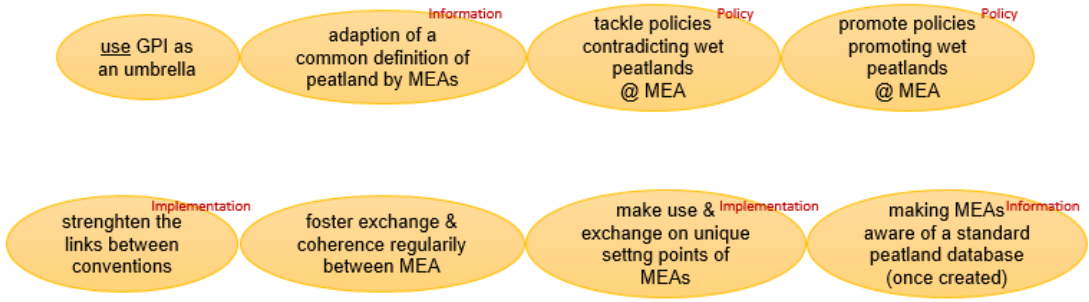
MEA synergy time plan 2019. Orange: products of MEAs; pink: MEA internal processes; red=UNFCCC, blue=Ramsar Convention, green=CBD/CMS/other biodiversity.

MEA synergy time plan 2020 - 21



MEA synergy time plan 2020-21. Orange: products of MEAs; pink: MEA internal processes; red=UNFCCC, blue=Ramsar Convention, green=CBD/CMS/other biodiversity.

In addition, the following overarching issues were identified:

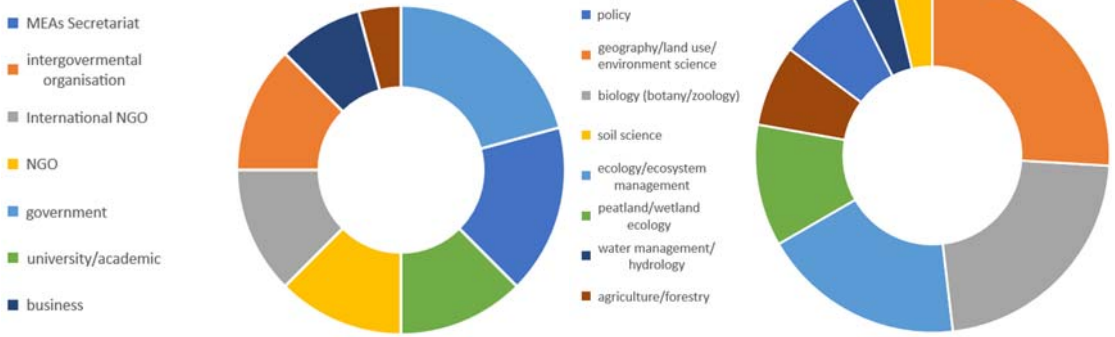


Annex 1: List of Participants and results of the survey about the participants' background

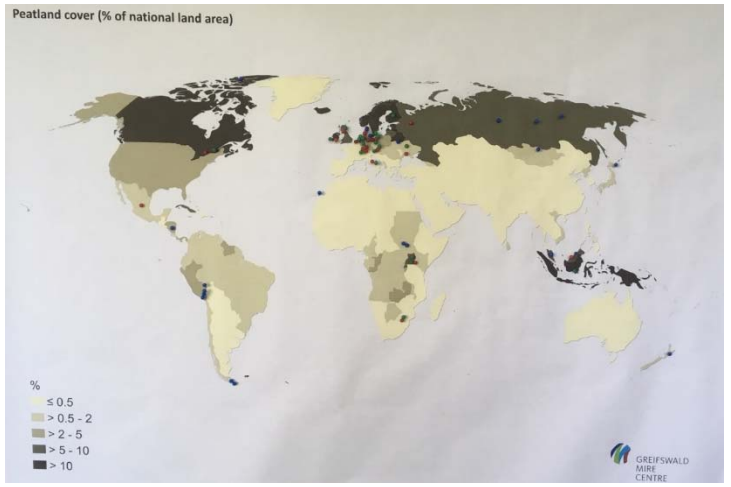
Name	Institution
Leonard Akwany	Nile Basin Initiative (NBI)
Adina Arth	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
Caridad Canales (remote participation)	CBD
Clifton Bain	IUCN UK Peatland Programme (IUCN UK PP)
Stuart Brooks	IUCN UK Peatland Programme (IUCN UK PP)
Lars Lundgaard Dinesen	Head of Section Danish Nature Agency Ministry of Environment
Dr. Catherine Farrell	Peatland Ecologist, Trinity College
Serena Fortuna	FAO
Prof. Dr. Stephan Glatzel	University of Vienna
Dr. Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
Jenny Lonnstad (remote participation)	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Dianna Kopansky	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
Dr. Gilbert Ludwig	International Peatland Society (IPS)
G. Randy Milton	Department of Lands and Forestry, Manager, Ecosystems and Habitats
Dr. Tatiana Minayeva	Care for Ecosystems (CfE)
Jürgen Nauber	Care for Ecosystems (CfE)
Arthur Neher	Wetlands International (WI)
Jan Peters	Michael Succow Stiftung, Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)
Fabian Petrick	Michael Succow Stiftung, Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)
Dr. Olesya Petrovych	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Prof. Jack Rieley	UK Peatland Society
Tilman Schneider (remote participation)	CMS
Gert Michael Steiner	Vienna University Dept. Botany & Biodiversity
Dr. Franziska Tanneberger	Greifswald University, Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)
Jenny Wong (remote participation)	UNFCCC

Global distribution and background of participants

- The workshop was attended by 28 participants (including 6 participating remotely)
- They were representing governments (5), MEAs secretariats (4), intergovernmental organisations (3), international NGOs (3), other NGOs (3), university/academia (3), business (2) and industry (1). Some of participants were representing 2 organisations.
- The background education of participants is in geography/land use/environment science (7); biology: botany/zoology (6); ecology/ecosystem management (5); peatland/wetland ecology (3); agriculture/forestry (2); policy (2); soil science (1); water management/hydrology (1).



Type of organisation and background education of participants.



- Participants designated the following initial personal sources of information on peatlands: education (9); job (7); childhood/life (3); conferences (1); international organisations (1)
- The participants indicated to have an expertise in the following fields of knowledge regarding peatlands: biodiversity (12); restoration (9); policy (9); management (6); carbon balance (6); hydrology (4); agriculture (3); forestry (2); economics (1); peat extraction (0)
- The participants mostly represented by origin and focus of their activity Europe, with some presence of Africa, North-America and Southeast-Asia, while the focus of interest is more widely spread – in Siberia, South America, Oceania, Central and West Africa and Caribbean.

Annex 2: List of peatland contacts and stakeholders in MEAs and international organisations

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)				
CBD	CBD has initiative to have a Peatland Declaration	Ms. Caridad Canales, caridad.canales@cbd.int Programme Officer for Inland Waters Biodiversity and Agriculture at the CBD Secretariat (recently appointed)		Took part remotely
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Convention has a lot of work on peatlands, many resolutions, actively involve other conventions to this work	Mr Tobias Salathe	Coordinated work on peatlands in Ramsar for more than 20 years.	Participated
CMS	clear mechanism for habitat protection which are very often peatlands; they work a lot with livelihoods	Mr Tilman Schneider tilman.schneider@un.org		Participated remotely
CMS/UNEP-AEWA	The same	Ms. Nina Mikander nina.mikander@unep-aewa.org	Nina participated in side event on Synergy for peatlands during Ramsar COP 13 with very active interventions	Not invited
UN CCD	CCD is dealing with land degradation, protection of carbon in soils and organic soils, has strong mechanisms.	Dr. Sasha Alexander salexander@unccd.int External Relations, Policy and Advocacy (ERPA)Policy Officer	Sasha was many years Ramsar STRP member, worked a lot on wetlands. Supported initiative on synergy for peatlands. Monique Barbuit (Chair) recorded speech for the “Synergy for peatlands” side event during Ramsar COP13 in 2018	Letter exchange, no participation, excused himself
UN CCD		Dr. Barron Joseph Orr bjorr@unccd.int co-lead author of the Scientific Conceptual Framework on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)	Barron was speaker at our side event in Katowice “Towards a joint peatland declaration: Synergies of MEAs to reverse the trend on peatland degradation” Organisers: Global Peatland Initiative, UN Environment, Wetlands International	Excused himself

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
UNFCCC		Ms. Patricia Belz-Othieno, pbelz-othieno@unfccc.int	Secretariat of Secretary General	Refused participation
UNFCCC		Mr. Frick, Mfrick@unfccc.int Secretariat Senior Director for Policy and Programme Coordination	Provided foreword for GMC's paludiculture handbook (when still at FAO)	Excused himself
UNFCCC		Ms. Jenny Wong Lai Ping, jwong@unfccc.int Secretariat Programme Officer, Mitigation, Data and Analysis	Jenny is working with secretariat more than 15 years. Very often involved in the events of different organisations promoting synergy	remote participation
UNFCCC Secretariat		Mr Peter Aarup Iversen Team lead for Sectoral Approaches (LULUCF, REDD+ and Agriculture) Mitigation, Data and Analysis programme, Transparency Framework Sub-programme	Peter has a strong background in the topic of land use and worked at FAO, UNDP and UNFCCC	Remote participation
Water Convention	The Water Convention strengthens transboundary water cooperation and measures for the ecologically-sound management and protection of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters. The Convention fosters the implementation of integrated water resources management, in particular the basin approach. The Convention's	Ms. Heide JEKEL Co-Chair of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety Division WA I 4 / Cooperation in International River Basins, Freshwater Management Conventions, International Freshwater Protection Law P.O. Box 12 06 29 D – 53048 Bonn Germany Tel: + 49 228 99 305 2521 Fax: +49 228 99 305 2397 E-mail: Heide.Jekel@bmub.bund.de	Very interested in the topic	Participated remotely (written answer), gave very detailed input

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
		Ms. Lea KAUPPI Co-Chair of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management Finnish Environment Institute P.O. Box 140 00251 Helsinki Finland Tel: +358 9 4030 0706 Fax: +358 9 4030 0789 E-mail: lea.kauppi@ymparisto.fi	Knowledge on the topic	Was consulted
International organisations				
UN Environment	Hosts GPI, is a mechanism to harmonise. Adopted Resolution on "Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands" (UNEP/EA.4/L.19).	Dianna Kopansky	Dianna is leading GPI providing involvement in peatland work numerous stakeholders and	participated
FAO	The last 5 years very active on peatlands, have several global programs focused on peatlands	Serena Fortuna serena.fortuna@fao.org		Participated
		Maria Nuutinen	Maria is actively participating in numerous peatland related initiatives and events, organising discussions and publications	Supported, but not participated
Wetlands International	Key peatland related stakeholder in Europe and Globally	Arthur Neher Tatiana Minayeva	Being at the beginning co-initiators of synergy idea co-organised number of events in support during 2018	Organisers
Greifswald Mire Center	Key peatland related stakeholder in Europe and	Franziska Tanneberger Jan Peters	Being at the beginning co-initiators of synergy idea co-organised number of	Organisers

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
	Globally		events in support during 2018	
IUCN UK	IUCN UK Peatland Programme	Clifton Bain Stuart Brooks	Clifton and Stuart are key specialists on peatlands in the Program, initiate and support plenty of events in UK and globally	Participated
WCMC	Participating in Global assessment on peatlands			Delegated to IUCN/GMC
UNESCO	Plenty of mechanism (world heritage, biosphere reserves, geoparks, monitoring and scientific networks, remote sensing networks) which are not involving peatlands at all as special subject. Becoming active in ecosystem restoration	Requested participation Mr. Miguel CLÜSENER-GODT Director, Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme m.clusener-godt@unesco.org copy to Mr. Peter DOGSE MAB Research and Policy: Ecology and Biodiversity (ESP) Programme Specialist Mail: p.dogse@unesco.org Tel: +33 (0) 1 45 68 06 20	Form our letter: UNESCO and specifically Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme developed impressive capacity to support the global environmental policies which are currently generalised in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Among other valuable mechanisms MAB hosts the Statutory Network of Biosphere Reserves which could be the ideal framework for implementing comprehensive policy on peatlands in relation to climate change, biodiversity and other ecosystem services maintenance. UNESCO already had highlighted the potential of Biosphere Reserves for climate change adaptation and mitigation in its report “For life, for the future: Biosphere reserves and climate change. A collection of good practice case studies” (2011)	NO ANSWER
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	They start to work with Ramsar, but still have wrong perception of peatlands for example as sources of methane. Do not consider their positive role for climate mitigation, microclimate control and disaster reduction	Letter sent Dr. Elena Manaenkova Deputy Secretary General, World Meteorological Organisation 7 bis, avenue de la paix 27tepha, CH-1202 emanaenkova@wmo.int dsgo@wmo.int Dr.Johannes Cullmann	From our letter: The WMO community declared the plans to contribute to the partnership, plans and mechanism, as well as to other collaborative forums aimed achievement of SDGs by “establishing an even stronger role in protecting life and property, and in building weather and climate resilience”. The recent	No answer

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
		Director of the Climate and Water Department jcullmann@wmo.int copy to Oksana Tarasova otarasova@wmo.int	cooperation of your organisation with Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is a promising example of bringing together the knowledge on physical and ecosystem driven processes for better decision making.	
World Health Organisation	Peat fires, water pollution, disaster management and reduction – we can use mechanisms of the organisation to promote this role of peatlands They had a large report with Ramsar https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/rtr6-health.pdf	No person assigned, Letter was sent to vice president Dr. Zsuzsanna Jakab Deputy Director-General World Health Organization WHO Headquarters in Geneva Avenue Appia 20 1202 Geneva Telephone: +41-22-7912111 jakabz@who.int contact@euro.who.int	From our letter: We are very glad to hear that World Health Organisation recently had liaised with one of our partners – Ramsar Convention on Wetlands - Secretariat on the mutual activities during World Wetland Day 2019.	No answer
Governmental organisations and regional initiatives				
Austria, Ramsar National Commitee	Austria traditionally supports peatland work in Ramsar	Prof. Gert Michael Steiner gmst@live.at Vienna University Dept. Botany & Biodiversity	Michael was from the beginning in the process of integration of peatlands in Ramsar and further other conventions	Participated
dito		Prof. Dr. Stephan Glatzel stephan.glatzel@univie.ac.at University of Vienna	Stephan started recently very effectively to work as Michaels successor	Participated
Denmark, Danish Nature Agency Ministry of Environment	Denmark is active participant of peatland work in Europe via different initiatives: projects funded by DANCEE, Nordic-Baltic Ramsar Initiative	Lars Lundgaard Dinesen lars.dinesen@bio.ku.dk	Lars was initiator and active supporter of the report for Northern Peatlands	Remote participation
Germany, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)	Germany is imitator of the Initiative	Dr. Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst bettina.hedden-dunkhorst@bfn.de Head of Division in the Working Group on International Nature Conservation	Bettina is promoting and supporting international cooperation on peatlands, she is involved with several MEAs (e.g. Ramsar STRP focal point)	Organiser

Organisation	Rationale of participation of organisation	Name of contact person, position, contact	Rationale for participation	Participation in Vilm workshop
Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)	Germany is initator of the Initiative	Frank Barsch frank.barsch@bmu.bund.de Division N I 4 International Cooperation on Biodiversity	Frank was panel speaker at side event on MEAs synergy on peatlands at Ramsar COP13 (Dubai) in October 2018 Frank was working om peatlands restoration before he joined the Ministry	Cancelled participation
Sweden, Environmental Protection Agency		Jenny Lonnstad Jenny.Lonnstad@naturvardsverket.se Vice chair od Ramsar Standing Committee	Jenny is active IMCG member and supporter of all peatlands initiatives	Remote participation
Ukraine, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine	Ukraine has plenty of issues with peatlands and had implemented IKI project in peatlands.	Dr. Olesya Petrovych petrovych.o@gmail.com Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Chief Specialist in the Department of Econet and Protected Areas	Olesya for 10 years works on implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Ukraine and is the National Focal Point of the CEPA programme of the Ramsar Convention. Olesya Petrovych is known for the effective implementation of several international environmental agreements in her country due to the synergy on the national level. She has contributed to the establishment of many protected areas and Ramsar wetlands in Ukraine, and has organized several scientific seminars and a training programme for protected areas staff.	participated
Nile Basin Initiative	Starts to work on peatlands for 10 countries based on the intersectoral approach	Leonard Akwany lakwany@nilebasin.org	Currently deeply involved in peatland work	Participated

Annex 3: Workshop programme

"Exploring Synergies for Peatlands - Detecting and enhancing the global importance of peatlands in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals", Isle of Vilm, Germany, 21-24 May 2019

Facilitators and input presentations: Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN), Tobias Salathe (Ramsar Convention Secretariat), Dianna Kopansky (UN Environment Programme, Global Peatland Initiative), Franziska Tanneberger and Jan Peters (Greifswald Mire Centre), Arthur Neher (Wetlands International), Tatiana Minayeva (Wetlands International/CfE)

21st May, Tuesday	22nd May, Wednesday. Challenges and Best Practices	23rd May, Thursday. Way towards Synergy	24th May, Friday
	7:30 - 9:00 Breakfast	7:30 – 9:00 Breakfast	7:30 – 8:00 Breakfast
Arrival Please take a ferry from Lauterbach Mole (the latest ferry departs 18:10) For ferry schedule see: https://www.bfn.de/ueber-das-bfn/das-bfn-auf-vilm.html	09:00 Welcome and brief introduction to the Isle of Vilm 09:10 **Recap of day 1** 09:30 **Interactive session: Identifying Synergies to Safeguard Peatlands and their Ecosystem Services** 10:15 **Impulses for the group work**: • Information on peatlands: Concepts, data availability & gaps, harmonisation • From international decisions to national policy: making use of synergies • Implementation mechanisms of MEAs: synergy for effective use *10:45 Coffee break* 11:00 **World café on the synergies in information, policies and implementation**. 30 minutes for each session	09:00 **Input from FAO monitoring workshop on information (from Rome)** 09:30 **Recap of day 2 and plenary discussion** 10:00 **Round table on the UNEA resolution on peatlands** • Impulse: UNEA resolution – status, content, stakeholders • Interactive discussion UNEA resolution Framework for Synergies *11:00 Coffee break* 11:30 **Round Table on SDGs and Synergies on Peatlands** • Impulse: SDGs as a Framework for Synergies • Overall interactive discussion Peatland action contribution to SDGs	08:00 Departure Optional excursion on the mainland "Restored coastal flood peatland Karrendorf meadows and Greifswald"
	12:30 Lunch	12:30 Lunch	
	13:30 Vilm Gallery 14:30 Reporting from world café on three topics 15:00 **Input on fostering synergies on peatlands from MEAs (including remote session)** • Inputs from: Ramsar Convention, UNFCCC, UNCBD, UNCCD, CMS, Water convention • What MEA specific mechanisms should be use to foster synergies? *16:30 Coffee break* 17:00 **Potential Synergies from the viewpoint of international and national organisations** • Inputs from: UNEP, IUCN, FAO, WCMC, IPS, Nile Basin Initiative, national governmental agencies; including remote input from other organisations	13:30 Guided tour around the Isle *14:30 Coffee break* 15:00 **Developing specific follow up steps and a road map for better utilizing synergies** • Impulse: Summarizing reports from previous discussions - actions • Working groups 17:30 **Finalisation of the outcomes of the discussion on the road map and way forward**	13:00 End of the excursion (at Greifswald train station)
18:15 Dinner	18:30 Dinner	18:30 Dinner	
19:00 **Setting the Scene** • Introduction to the workshop and its broader context • Introduction of participants and their organisations' work on peatlands (interest, focus, functions) 20:30 **Informal Gathering**	19:30 **"Side Events":** Presentations of participants' peatland activities that would benefit from making use of synergies: case studies	19:30 **Summing up the workshop results, presenting a draft road map** **Followed by Informal Farewell Evening**	

Annex 4: The latest resolutions and decisions on peatlands

UNITED NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.4/L.19

Distr.: Limited
9 March 2019

Original: English

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
Fourth session
Nairobi, 11–15 March 2019

Conservation and sustainable management of peatlands*

The United Nations Environment Assembly,

Recalling the commitment made by heads of state and government in the outcome document agreement of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) titled "The Future we want" that recognized ecosystem conservation, regeneration, and restoration and resilience as important in the face of new and emerging challenges,

Recognizing that peatlands occur in more than one hundred and eighty countries across different regions of the world, and the fact that although covering only about 3% of the earth's land area[1], peatlands contain a far higher proportion of global organic soil carbon, making them one of the world's largest carbon storage, and contributing to global climate change mitigation through sequestration of carbon,

Bis. Recognizing that degraded peatlands caused by multiple activities contributes to biodiversity loss, environmental degradation as well as a substantial source of greenhouse gas emissions globally

Considering the benefits and values of peatlands including but not limited to providing vital ecosystem functions and services reducing the scale and mitigating the impact of flooding and drought, preventing, preserving biodiversity, and supplying food and water that maintains ecological systems and improves human livelihoods,

Recognizing the value of improving the management of peatlands to improve their carbon storage capacity on degraded sites, strengthen resilience and improve socio-economic livelihoods of population around peatlands and increase biodiversity, noting that such actions can contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Water Fowl Habitat, the Ramsar Convention the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2030, the Convention on Migratory Species and the convention on biological diversity, as

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

[1] Parish F., Sirin A., Charman D., Joosten H., Minayeva T. & M. Silvius (eds.) 2008. Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change: Main Report. Global Environment Centre, Kuala Lumpur and Wetlands International, Wageningen. P. 179, P. 99-117 Available at http://www.imcg.net/media/download_gallery/books/assessment_peatland.pdf (Accessed 8 March 2019).

well as specific peatland related initiatives such as the Brazzaville Declaration on the Third Peatland Partnerships Initiatives, the Global Peatland Initiative, and the International Peatlands Society,

Recognizing also that actions to advance sustainable peatland conservation and sustainable management can also contribute to address climate change,

Noting United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution 3/5, entitled "Investing in Innovative Environmental Solution for Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", which urge member states to adopt, as appropriate, measures for preventing, reducing and reversing ecosystem degradation and loss in order to sustainably use and manage natural resources towards sustainable development,

Bis. Recalling Ramsar Convention Resolution XIII.13 on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction

Recognizing common interests among countries in different global regions towards enabling better management of peatlands, and on-going efforts by governments to conserve and sustainably use peatlands,

Bis. Willing to increase respective capacity through collaboration to promote best practices for conservation and sustainable management of peatlands,

Ter. Appreciating the engagement in the above-mentioned endeavours, of partners such as UNEP, FAO, CIFOR, the [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance] where appropriate, and national research institutions,

Quater. Recognizing that policymakers', practitioners and local communities need access to sound, credible and science-based information, analysis, and relevant tools needed to design and implement conservation and sustainable use of peatlands and consistent with laws and regulations in respective countries,

1. *Urges* Member States and other stakeholders to give greater emphasis to the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of peatlands worldwide in support of the sustainable practice of the peatland management including through existing effort implemented by institutions such as UNEP and FAO;

2. *Requests* the UN Environment Programme Executive Director, within existing resources and in consultation with the Ramsar Secretariat, to coordinate efforts to create a comprehensive and accurate global peatlands inventory, which will be crucial as a basis to identify the extent of peatlands around the world, determine the appropriate interventions, understand carbon sequestration value and potential, and plan for sustainable peatlands management;

2 *bis. Welcomes* the development of technical guidance on peatlands, including tropical peatlands, and in that regard noting the guidance in Resolution XIII.13/Ramsar Convention as an important way of encouraging improved ecological functioning of degraded peatlands, as well as further welcomes collaboration efforts, and in that regard noting CBD Resolution 14/5 Biodiversity and Climate Change;

3. *Encourages* member states and other stakeholders to enhance regional and international collaboration for the conservation and the sustainable management of peatlands, including but not limited to:

(a) Share information and knowledge, and best practices in conservation and sustainable management of peatlands;

(b) Continue inter-disciplinary research to advance the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands;

(c) Build capacity for the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands; and

(d) Promote a multi-stakeholder approach for the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands, involving private landowners, business sectors, concession holders, and other relevant stakeholders;

4. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, private sector, and a
actors involved with peatland conservation, management and restoration, at national and regi
levels including, inter alia, the International Tropical Peatland Centre which has been establi
Indonesia, to cooperate with existing national, regional, and international peatland manageme
organization and all actors including the UN Global Peatland Initiative to foster the conserva
sustainable management of peatlands.

UNEP

CBD

Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fourteenth meeting
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018
Agenda item 21

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

14/5. Biodiversity and climate change

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing the critical role of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services for human well-being,

Recalling Article 2 of the Paris Agreement,[1]

Deeply concerned that failing to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels would place many species and ecosystems with limited adaptive capacity as well as the people that depend on their functions and services, especially indigenous peoples and local communities and rural women, under very high risk,

Deeply concerned also that escalating destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems would reduce the capacity of ecosystems to store carbon and lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the resilience and stability of ecosystems, and make the climate change crisis ever more challenging,

Recognizing that climate change is a major and growing driver of biodiversity loss, and that biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, significantly contribute to climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction,

Recognizing that, limiting the global average temperature increase to 1.5°C compared to 2°C above pre-industrial levels would reduce the negative impacts on biodiversity and on the people that depend on ecosystem functions and services, especially indigenous peoples and local communities and rural women, especially in the most vulnerable ecosystems, such as wetlands, small islands, and coastal, marine and Arctic ecosystems,

1. *Adopts* the voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, taking into account domestic priorities, circumstances and capabilities, to make use of the voluntary guidelines, in line with the ecosystem approach,[2] when designing and implementing ecosystem-based approaches to climate change

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

[2] Decision VII/11.

adaptation and disaster risk reduction, recognizing that this may also jointly contribute to climate change mitigation;

3. *Also encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, when undertaking the design, implementation and monitoring of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction:

(a) To conduct such activities, recognizing that the effects of climate change are disproportionate, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and elders, appropriately recognizing and supporting the governance, management and conservation of the territories and areas of indigenous peoples and local communities, and, as appropriate, in coordination with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform;[3]

(b) To encourage activities at the local level led by indigenous peoples and local communities, including consideration and integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge, practices, plans and institutions; subject to the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, and consistent with national policies, regulations and national circumstances;

(c) To ensure that the activities do not contribute to the drivers of biodiversity loss or ecosystem degradation, or negatively affect the indigenous peoples and local communities that depend on ecosystem functions and services;

(d) To take into account transboundary approaches at the regional level;

(e) To enhance synergies among different policies and implementation strategies;

(f) To engage broadly with civil society organizations, the private sector and other key actors;

(g) To encourage, where relevant, activities at the local level which support vulnerable groups, including women, youth and the elderly;

(h) To strengthen protected area management effectiveness and conservation of natural ecosystems, including the biodiversity conservation approaches of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(i) To consider the key messages outlined in annex I to the report of the workshop on "Biodiversity and climate change: integrated science for coherent policy";[4]

(j) To strengthen ecosystem integrity for the conservation of natural ecosystems;

4. *Encourages* Parties, pursuant to decisions IX/16, X/33, XII/20, XIII/4 and XIII/5, to further strengthen their efforts:

(a) To identify regions, ecosystems and components of biodiversity that are or will become vulnerable to climate change at a geographic scale and assess the current and future risks and impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods, considering the use of biodiversity models and scenarios, as appropriate, while taking into account their important contribution to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;

(b) To integrate climate change issues and related national priorities into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem integrity considerations into national policies, strategies and plans on climate change, such as nationally determined contributions, as appropriate, and national climate change adaptation planning, in their capacity as national instruments for the prioritization of actions for mitigation and adaptation;

[3] Established under paragraph 135 of decision 1/CP.21 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (see FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1).

[4] CBD/COP/14/INF/22.

Annex 5: List of presentations during “Side Event” presenting case studies on peatland activities that would benefit from making use of synergies

Experiences in implementing SDGs for mires and peat soils in Austria (Stephan Glatzel)

Nile Basin Initiative (Leonard Akwany)

Towards achieving peatland conservation objectives in MEAs: The role of formal and informal initiatives in southern Africa (Piet-Louis Grundling)

Contribution of peatland related work in Canada to MEAs implementation (Randy Milton)

IUCN UK Peatland Programme including reference to the IUCN World Congress motion on peatlands agreed at Hawaii in 2016 (Stuart Brooks, Clifton Bain)

The Greifswald Mire Centre’s work on peatlands (Franziska Tanneberger)

Annex 6: List of abbreviations.

AEWA	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
BfN	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CfE	Care for Ecosystems
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FI	Finance Initiative (UNEP)
GMC	Greifswald Mire Centre
GPI	Global Peatlands Initiative
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPS	International Peatland Society
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MSF	Michael Succow Foundation
NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
RRI	Ramsar Regional Initiative
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel (Ramsar)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

SER Society for Ecological Restoration

UK PP UK Peatland Programme (IUCN)

UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNEA United Nations Environment Assembly

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

WCPA World Commission on Protected Areas

WfWet Working for Wetlands

WHO World Health Organisation

WI Wetlands International

WMO World Meteorological Organization