



The need for local action to sustain peatlands globally

10th November 2017 @4.45pm

Room 4 (TBC) – Bonn Zone – COP 23



Drained and degrading peatlands contribute 5% of the total global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and increase disaster and climate risks. Maintaining intact peatlands and incentivizing traditional non-drainage uses of peatlands and new, innovative practices by enterprises and local communities should be a priority at all levels; policy makers, international organisations, public and private stakeholders.

Beside multi-national corporations, communities are key players in peat landscapes and need to be supported towards climate-smart management of their peatlands, including improving policies and development plans, enhancing awareness and knowledge and to revive traditional sustainable uses. They can learn and improve approaches to upscale best-practice solutions and find innovative new ways like paludiculture. Paludiculture is the sustainable cultivation of wet peatlands, using peatland-adapted species with economic value. In the **Caribbean Region**, intact coastal peatlands fulfil important roles in the protection against extreme weather events. They are a key ecosystem for adaptation by storing freshwater, blocking salt water intrusion and providing permanent water supply for local communities. The case studies from **Peru** and **Congo**, (where tropical peatlands cover an area of around 145,000 square kilometres) show how traditional non-destructive uses can keep peatlands intact and provide ecosystem services in return. Wetlands International will present the **Indonesian Peatland Partnership Fund** that supports communities with small grants and capacity-building for introducing alternative crops on rewetted peatlands. This fund also provides a platform for exchange on knowledge and experience about climate-smart uses of peatlands.

The side event will provide an opportunity for governments, institutions, stakeholders and partners to exchange and discuss other practical examples and approaches that are advancing efforts to protect peatlands from fires, loss and degradation. It is organized in the frame of the **Global Peatlands Initiative**, an initiative that brings together key UN agencies, Governments, and NGOs to provide best possible support to parties for the conservation, restoration and better management of peatlands, and to facilitate South-South Cooperation.

Websites:

www.globalpeatlands.org
greifswaldmoor.de
succow-stiftung.de
Wetlands.org

Follow us on twitter:

@greifswaldmoor
@WetlandsInt

Contacts

Wetlands International - LEA APPULO Email: lea.appulo@wetlands.org Mobile: +32 496 031996
Succow Stiftung - JAN PETERS Email: jan.peters@succow-stiftung.de Mobile: +49(0)157-58796977

Draft Agenda

- 16.45 – 16.50 Intro by moderator, **Jan Peters**, Michael Succow Foundation, Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre
- 16.50 – 17.00 Global Peatlands Initiative
Tim Christophersen, Coordinator, Freshwater, Land and Climate Branch - Ecosystems Division, UN Environment
- 17.00 – 17.10 The challenge of global peatland management with examples from coastal peatlands in the Caribbean region
Prof. Hans Joosten, Greifswald University, Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre
- 17.10 – 17.20 Community uses of peatlands of Datem del Marañon in Peru
Alberto Paniagua, Executive Director of Profonanpe
- 17.20 – 17.30 Community forestry in peatlands of Democratic Republic of Congo
Rubin Rashidi Bukanga, Director of Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Environment, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 17.30 – 17.40 Indonesian Peatland Partnership Fund
Bas Tinhout, Technical Officer Climate-Smart Land Use, Wetlands International
- 17.40 – 18.10 Discussion
- 18.10 – 18.15 WRAP-UP
- 18.15 Networking reception**