



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ASSESSING, MEASURING AND PRESERVING PEAT CARBON THROUGH THE GLOBAL PEATLANDS INITIATIVE (GPI)

Drained, degraded or otherwise unsustainably managed peatlands contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions. This project, under the umbrella of the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), was designed to support sustainable peatland management in four key tropical peatland countries (i.e. the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru) through capacity development and the inclusion of peatlands in key national action plans and strategies. The project was implemented by FAO, the Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

FAO provided technical assistance and policy support, raising awareness on the importance of peatlands in the context of climate change with the help of partners. High-level political support for peatland issues was garnered by FAO and UNEP, and the focal ministers in the targeted countries advanced South-South Cooperation through concrete discussions and field visits. The project gave rise to several processes, including the consideration of livelihoods in landscapes with rewetted peatlands in Indonesia; contributions to national peatland definitions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru; and the development of capacity for peatland mapping and monitoring, as well as the integration of peatlands in national climate action plans in all project countries. FAO technically supported the preparation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement and globally analysed how countries consider wetlands in these commitments.

Additionally, FAO supported the inclusion of peatlands in three documents in Peru: (i) the National Environmental Policy; (ii) a tentative programme to implement climate change mitigation measures in Amazonian peatlands; and (iii) a preliminary proposal on guidelines for the identification of peatlands. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the project contributed to consultations for a National Peatland Roadmap.

The momentum generated by this project and the partnerships it created led to the mobilization of resources to increase support for global and national agendas and projects on peatlands.

IMPACT

The results of the GPI project are expected to contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change at the global level by increasing long-term sustainable peatland management and livelihoods and promoting biodiversity conservation in the targeted countries.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 526 525

Duration
August 2019-February 2023

Resource Partner
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Partners
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany (BMUV); Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC); Ministère de l'Environnement et Développement Durable de la République Démocratique du Congo; Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et du Bassin du Congo de la République du Congo; Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia; Ministry of Environment of Peru; and UNEP

Beneficiaries
Government ministries responsible for peatland management in the participating countries; and GPI member organizations



ACTIVITIES

- National peatland data was identified and updated to serve as a basis for peatland management and the estimation of carbon stocks, and to provide information on emission avoidance. (This was a joint activity implemented with the project's partners).
- FAO supported a review of key national strategies, policies, frameworks, processes and regulations to identify data and opportunities to integrate peatland issues in the policies and practices of the targeted countries.
- A needs assessment was conducted on areas requested by local and national stakeholders to ensure the long-term sustainable management of peatlands and on integrating peatland management into policies and plans.
- Major drivers of peatland conversion, perverse incentives and other threats to peatland management, ecosystems and local populations were identified and documented. The project also shed light on policies, plans and regulations that contribute to the degradation to peat, and good practices for addressing these issues were suggested.
- In connection with the global work package on data harmonization, capacity was built on peatland mapping, monitoring and reporting through 13 national workshops and follow-up technical support in the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Peru.
- Best practice approaches, including gender-responsive approaches, to promote the sustainable management and restoration of peatlands in the pilot countries were identified, documented and published.
- Synergies with key initiatives and priority national activities were identified, and joint efforts between GPI members working in the countries were coordinated to mobilize resources for advancing sustainable peatland management.
- Global policy advice was delivered, and capacity was developed through coaching, close collaboration with key focal points in national entities, and online learning opportunities. Communities of Practice were facilitated, and a new Community was established for the GPI to support the inclusion of peat into key policies and/or plans to strengthen climate and biodiversity outcomes.



Project Title

The Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI): Assessing, Measuring, and Preserving Peat Carbon

Project Code

FAO: EP/GLO/909/UEP

Contact

Maria Nuutinen (Lead Technical Officer)
NFO-Director@fao.org