**Record and report progress under IUCN Resolution 43 in collaboration with the IUCN CEM Peatlands Specialist Group**

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**Background**

The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has presented 10 elements of strategic actions (see [Executive Summary](http://www.fao.org/3/a-an762e/an762e00.pdf)) that can ensure peatlands contribute their full potential to international sustainable development goals including climate change, water and biodiversity objectives. These include:

* assessing the distribution and state of peatlands
* measuring and reporting emissions from peatlands
* protecting and restoring peatlands with targeted financial support
* stimulating market based mechanisms to support peatlands
* engaging and supporting local communities
* sharing experience and expertise on peatland conservation, restoration and improved management

IUCN Resolution [WCC-2016-Res-043-EN Securing the future for global peatlands](https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/resrecfiles/WCC_2016_RES_043_EN.pdf) supports these strategic elements and encourages their adoption within country-focused peatland programmes. The resolution further recommends:

* A moratorium on peat exploitation until legislation is strengthened to ensure peatlands are protected or managed through wise use principles.

There are at least 175 peatland nations. Of these many have been ranked based upon their extent, coverage within country boundaries and emissions (see [‘Global Peatland CO2 Picture’](https://unfccc.int/files/kyoto_protocol/application/pdf/draftpeatlandco2report.pdf) report.

**Proposal**

As part of the work proposed by the IUCN CEM Peatland Specialist Group, a baseline summary of strategic action in peatland nations is needed. This will be done in two phases:

1. An initial desktop review of available (English language) information (see “data collection”) from all 175 peatland countries including all IUCN member states will identify which countries have peatland strategies in place or in preparation.
2. More detailed information will be sought via a questionnaire to a sub-set of these countries where peatlands are most extensive, emit most GHGs and/or have the most significant carbon stocks This approach will target both countries with a significant peat resource and also countries with have large emissions arising from damaged peatlands, thus fitting closely with the conserve and protect ethos of the IUCN Resolution 43. A suggested list (amalgamated from the ‘Global Peatland CO2 Picture’ report) is provided in Annex 1.

The outputs from this assessment can also feed into the policy sections of the Global Assessment of Peatlands (2018) which is being led by the Global Peatlands Initiative.

**Data collection**

Baseline data will be collected from a number of existing sources and supplemented with information from a questionnaire which will be sent to contacts in the target peatland nations.

Baseline data can be collected from:

* Ramsar tri-annual reports
* ‘Mires and Peatlands of Europe: status, distribution and conservation’ Joosten (2017)
* An online search of peer-reviewed and grey literature

Where up-to-date written information is not available, a questionnaire will be used to structure data collection from peatland countries.

**Draft questionnaire structure**

**Initial contact with IUCN (facilitated by Sandeep Sengupta)**

* **List of countries that are IUCN members? Are IUCN active in this country?**
* **Is there an awareness of Res. 43?**
  + **Yes- has it spurred any dialogue on peatlands?**
  + **No.**

**Direct contact with countries**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Is a wetland/peatland strategy in place to co-ordinate action on peatlands?** | |
| **Yes**  How is it structured?  Does it address all ten elements of the recommended strategic action by the UN FAO?  Please list which ones (tick box assessment with comments as needed)  Are there measures in place to   1. Protect peatlands? E.g. designated sites and prohibited activities 2. Restore degraded peatlands e.g. re-wetting through drain blocking 3. Sustainably manage peatlands? E.g. sustainable agriculture   Does the strategy have actions and targets?  What is the timeline for implementation/delivery of the strategy?  Is the strategy being used/actively implemented?  Does the strategy have a stakeholder group and who administers it?  Is the strategy supported by Government funding specifically for peatlands? | **No**  What policies are in place to address elements of the recommended strategic action by the UN?  Are there measures in place to   1. Protect peatlands? E.g. designated sites and prohibited activities 2. Restore degraded peatlands e.g. re-wetting through drain blocking 3. Sustainably manage peatlands? E.g. sustainable agriculture   Is action being taken on these policies? Action towards targets that is quantifiable?  What challenges are bring encountered at   1. The policy level- is there support for including peatlands in policy? 2. The delivery level- what barriers are there to delivering action on new or existing peatland policies? E.g. funding as a barrier |
| **Is there a moratorium on peat exploitation (peat extraction) in place in the country?** | |

**What’s in it for respondents?**

* Where country governments are IUCN members, there is a clear link in supporting the work of the IUCN and building on commitments made at the last congress.
* For non-IUCN members, establishing dialogue through this work gives the country contact and access to global peatlands expertise through connecting them with the GPI network.
* This work, presented globally at a high level through the work of the IUCN and the GPI will help to showcase a countries achievements and allow for exchange of good practice and new ideas.

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| **Annex 1**  54 countries which have been highlighted in the ‘Global Peatland CO2 Picture’ report (2009)as either being peat-dominated (% of country area), having large areas of continuous peatland, large CO2 emissions from peat or large peat carbon stocks. The table below groups these countries according to whether they possess all (high priority for assessment), or only one of these characteristics (lower priority for assessment). Additional countries can be added where information is readily available. | | | |
| **Countries belonging to 4 categories** | **Countries belonging to 3 categories** | **Countries belonging to 2 categories** | **Countries belonging to 1 categories** |
| Belarus | Brazil | Chile | Angola |
| Finland | Canada | Congo | Amsterdam & St Paul Islands |
| Indonesia | China | Dem. Republic of Congo | Antipodes |
| Ireland | Falkland Islands | Estonia | Auckland Islands |
| Malaysia | Germany | Latvia | Brunei |
| Norway | Iceland | Mongolia | Campbell Islands |
| Papua New Guinea | Uganda | Netherlands | Chatham Islands |
| Russia (Asian part-of) | United Kingdom | Peru | Colombia |
| Sweden | Russia (European part-of) | Poland | Japan |
| USA (Alaska) |  | St Helena (UK) | Lithuania |
|  |  | Sudan | Macquarie Island |
|  |  | USA (southern) | Mexico |
|  |  | Zambia | New Zealand |
|  |  |  | Russia |
|  |  |  | Singapore |
|  |  |  | Tasmania |
|  |  |  | Trindade Island (Brazil) |
|  |  |  | Ukraine |
|  |  |  | Venezuela |
|  |  |  | Vietnam |