



# United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre

## MISSION REPORT

<b>Distribution:</b>  CCB, SMT, Science, Rob Munroe  UNEP UN-REDD	<b>Name of person(s) that undertook mission:</b> Lera Miles	
	<b>Period (including travel days):</b> 31 Aug – 2 Sept	
	<b>Projects:</b> 2650.09 UN-REDD	
	<b>Institution(s) or Meeting(s) and Venue(s):</b> Global Peatlands Initiative first partners meeting, at FAO, Rome	
	<b>Main Person(s) contacted:</b>	
	UNEP: Tim Christophersen, Emelyne Cheney, Johan Kieft (+ remotely: Jaime Webbe, Valentin Foltescu, Volodymyr Demkine)  FAO: Maria Nuutinen, Hector Cisneros, Julian Fox, Liesl Wiese, Naoko Nakagawa, Serena Fortuna, Nina Lande  IFAD: Sunae Kim  UNEP Grid Arendal: Yannick Beaudoin  Wetlands International: Marcel Silvius	PROFONANPE, Peru: Alberto Paniagua  WRI: Fred Stolle  JRC: Luca Montanarella  Griefswald Mire Centre: Jan Peters  Ramsar: Tobias Salathe  Satelligence/Sarvision: Niels Wielaard  Norwegian ambassador to FAO: Inge Nordang  Facilitator: Phil Hadridge
<b>File(s):</b>	<b>Objective(s):</b> Work together to define the scope, scale and challenges of the Global Peatlands Initiative	

### Brief summary:

This was the first partners meeting of the Global Peatlands initiative, a UNEP-coordinated collaboration that has emerged from the interest of the partners in working together to put peatland conservation on the global agenda and to improve peatland data and information.

The meeting was successful in exchanging information and increasing consensus on the goals and proposed activities of the partnership. Working groups were established to follow up on data, an assessment, funding and communication. In the first instance I put my name down for the first three working groups, and have invested most time in the assessment working group.

Working group topics:

#### *Data harmonisation and showcasing*

Multiple relevant ongoing initiatives:

- JRC has agreed funds from ESA to undertake a global peatlands mapping – data from one of the Sentinel missions
- FAO is undertaking country scale mapping of soils through its Global Soils Partnership (carbon to 30cm depth) with regional trainings
- FAO is undertaking participative forest mapping using Google & Collectearth, and will be trialling this approach also to test if peatlands are assessable this way in Indonesia
- CIFOR and USFS are working on a new Global Wetlands Map under the SWAMP programme
- Greifswald Mire Centre holds a Global Peatland Database, comprised of whatever data is available and organised by country (with data sheets at a minimum and GIS datasets in some cases). This database

- underpins the country floodfill maps used by Wetlands International on e.g. national emissions.
- Global Harmonised World Soil Database provides a basic soils map with carbon content to 1 m depth
- UNEP and WRI are aspiring to add a global peatlands layer to Global Forest Watch (coming out of this GPI)
- Sarvision with Wetlands International, WRI Indonesia has developed methods for mapping wetland extent (standing water) with radar and combining with vegetation classes to identify peatlands – in Indonesia. This was also used to find drained areas.

Working group has immediate objective to prepare a splendid presentation in time for the next meeting of the partnership in 6 months time, showing what the partnership can do working together.

Ramsar Secretariat has prepared a table of peatlands in INDCs and associated country info.

### *Rapid assessment of global peatlands*

UNEP DEWA (“soon to be known as the Science Division of UN Environment”) offers to coordinate the assessment, offering 20% of time from Gemma Shepherd for this role. UNEP-WCMC has a small amount of time available to contribute to this assessment under our UN-REDD funding, likely focused on biodiversity and ecosystem services of peatlands and helping to coordinate potential inputs to the 2017 Emissions Gap Report. This WCMC time needs to be spent this year and there are ambiguities around whether the rapid assessment requires additional funding for partners to input or will ‘just happen’ with in-kind authorship.

I took on the task of sketching out an initial [table of contents](#) for the assessment based on the discussion at the meeting (please leave commenting directly on the Google doc to the participants).

The assessment could still take the form of an online atlas / website with links to related tools and resources or an online/print report, but we discussed it as if it were a report.

### *Funding*

Tiered funding goals reported back from working group:

- Kickstart partnership (essentially Secretariat funding)
- Global / local action triggers
  - o Input to Emissions Gap Report
  - o Peatland Assessment
  - o Recommendations and Tools
- Liftoff – e.g. work in 25 biggest emitters (noting that this loses the ‘prevent new areas of degradation’ element that was also discussed)

Current UNEP-led funding proposal to IKI on the initiative is awaiting a response. Will know by November. Request also submitted for coordination money under UN Secretariat internal fund for achievement of SDGs.

UNEP GRID Arendal to request to Norway that some GA time is covered to contribute on data and assessment.

UNEP DEPI and others to seek a GEF integrated programme on peatlands akin to the one on forest landscape restoration. Tim C will draft a letter to the GEF CEO.

WCMC asked to identify whether it can follow up with DFID on potential UK funding.

### *Communications*

Initiative likely to be launched during November’s Global Landscape Forum, which has a ‘Launchpad’ series. Could choose also to request one of UNEP’s GLF discussion forums covers this topic, but there was no great enthusiasm in the meeting for this.

### *Partnership next steps*

Governance: Intention is to keep this very light. Proposed partnership commitment, short of an MoU, for member institutions to sign, accompanied by a description of key competencies. Commitment will include some in-kind

contribution (currently for coordination, working groups, meetings). New members to be proposed by existing partner. Partners to seek funding independently referencing the initiative but taking care not to use one another's names without consultation.

Next meeting: likely in Jakarta hosted by Indonesia (Peatlands Restoration Agency) in 6 months time – **Charlotte** might be a good candidate to represent UNEP-WCMC

**Recommendation(s)/Action(s) to be taken (WCMC):**

<b>Follow up action:</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Time-frame (by)</b>
Sketch out table of contents for rapid assessment as Google Doc & share with group	LM	Done
Assess partners commitment for signature (new version yet to come)	SMT	When new version circulated
Put Judith Walcott in contact with Peruvian GCF project for experience sharing	LM	Done
Check with Rob Munroe on scope for DFID approach on peatlands initiative	LM	9 Sept
Inform Charlotte Hicks that ADB is financing a peatland strategy development in Mongolia in case of links to REDD+ mapping work	LM	Done

<b>Detailed report</b> <input type="checkbox"/> incl. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A.	<b>Documents</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> incl. (Annex + project folder - P:\PROJECTS\2600s\2650H 09 UN-REDD GP 2016\Work in progress\2 2 Peatlands meeting) <input type="checkbox"/> list <input type="checkbox"/> non	<b>Date</b> 6 September 2016
<b>Classification</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> restr. <input type="checkbox"/> unrestr.	<b>Signature(s) staff member(s)</b>	<b>Signature(s) supervisor</b>

## DRAFT PARTNERS COMMITMENT

**Global Peatlands Initiative: First Partners Meeting  
Philippines Meeting Room  
FAO HQ, Rome  
September 1 – 2, 2016**

We *name of agency / organization* welcome the Global Peatlands Initiative, coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme, as an opportunity to enhance collaboration and strengthen support for sustainable peatland management.

We acknowledge that the Global Peatlands Initiative is a multi-partner effort, with the main objective of ensuring peatlands receive the policy attention they deserve due to their importance for Sustainable Development Goals on Water, Climate Change, Life on Land, and others. The Global Peatlands Initiative aims to:

At the global level: Providing an updated overall assessment of the status of peatlands and their importance in the global carbon cycle and for national economies, with emphasis on their role in enabling the achievement of global commitments to mitigate climate change, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

At the national level: Responding to the needs of pilot countries with substantial peat coverage through building the knowledge base and developing options to reduce degradation and improve the sustainability of peatland management.

As a partner to the Initiative we commit to:

1. Respecting the expertise and contributions of all partners;
2. Sharing our knowledge and expertise on peat and sustainable peat management in an accessible and transparent way, while respecting intellectual property rights as appropriate;
3. Committing staff time and/or other in-kind resources to the coordination of the Initiative, including attending meetings and contributing to working groups, as appropriate;
4. Coordinating our contributions to the Initiative with other relevant partners and the Initiative coordinator in order to avoid overlap and maximize synergies;
5. Supporting the dissemination of deliverables and outputs of the Initiative through our networks and among our colleagues; and
6. Exploring and leveraging opportunities to mobilize funding for activities undertaken by our organization in support of the Initiative.

We recognize that, as a partner to the Initiative we might not participate in all activities but rather will focus our expertise in order to leverage our comparative advantage and contribute to the overall aims of the Initiative.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 by \_\_\_\_\_.

*Signature Line*