

Revealing global peatland hotspots for climate action: Bridging science and policy

Official side event – UNFCCC COP29 Baku, Azerbaijan

Thursday, 21 Nov 2024 16:45—18:15

Location: Side Event 2, Blue Zone

Background and objectives

We urgently need climate action in priority areas revealed in the **Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas** launched at [the event](#). The Atlas bridges science and policy through thematic maps and visuals, uniting stakeholders to set ambitious targets and leverage funds for climate action on peatlands and wetlands.

The event is a call to action for scaling up efforts under the Global Peatlands Initiative, towards peatland conservation, restoration, and sustainable management. By presenting the latest knowledge in an engaging format, it aims to attract a broad audience and raise awareness of the vital role of peatlands found in nearly every country. It seeks to bridge discussions within the international frameworks of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, emphasizing that success in one convention is linked to the others.

The session will highlight the importance of integration, showcase available tools and data, and emphasize the urgent need for scalable financial solutions to support peatland actions that address climate change, enhance biodiversity, and ensure water security. Distinguished panelists with representatives from various countries will share their efforts in sustainable peatland management, highlighting successful initiatives and collaborative approaches that can inspire further global action.

Preliminary agenda

Theme	Speaker
Part 1	Moderator: Amy Duchelle , Team Leader, Forests & Climate, FAO (confirmed)
Opening remarks	Bruno Pozzi , Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division, UNEP (confirmed)
Presentation: Revealing global peatland hotspots for climate action: Bridging science and policy	Jan Peters , Managing Director, Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre (confirmed)
Presentation: Sustainable finance in Southeast Asian Nations	Faizal Parish , Director, Global Environment Centre (confirmed)
Questions and answers	Moderator: Amy Duchelle
Part 2 – Country experiences	Moderator: Jerker Tamelander , Director, Science and Policy, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (confirmed)
1.	Democratic Republic of the Congo: Ève Bazaïba , Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (tbc)

2.	Germany: Steffi Lemke , Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (confirmed)
3.	Malaysia: Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad , Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (confirmed)
4.	Indonesia: Mohammad Noor Andi Kusumah , Director of Peatland Ecosystem Degradation Control, Ministry of Environment (confirmed)
5.	Colombia: Mauricio Cabrera Leal , Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (tbc)
Q&A from audience	
Closing remarks: Call to action	Jerker Tamelander , Director, Science and Policy, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Plant-Based Canapés outside the event room	

Guiding questions:

1. How can countries better align peatland efforts across UNFCCC, CBD, and the Convention on Wetlands? Can you share examples of how your country is advancing **integrative goals**? How can global data such as the Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas be effectively leveraged to advance this?
2. Peatland conservation and restoration require substantial long-term funding and political commitment. What **specific strategies or funding mechanisms** (e.g. public funding allocations, subsidy reforms, blended finance) is your country exploring or implementing to ensure sustained financial support for peatland initiatives, and how can **international cooperation** strengthen these efforts?
3. How is your country ensuring the active participation and benefits for **Indigenous Peoples and local communities** in peatland management? What best practices can you share for balancing conservation with economic development?

Audience

The target audience for this event includes a broad range of stakeholders with varying levels of knowledge about peatlands and wetlands, including policymakers, practitioners, NGOs, indigenous communities, local governments, scientists and academics, and industry representatives.

Organizers

This event is organized under the efforts of the [Global Peatlands Initiative](#), with the Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Wetlands International, Global Environment Centre, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations guiding the efforts.

