



# Peatlands and agriculture - mitigation, livelihood opportunities and incentives for developing countries

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# Topics covered

1. **Importance** of peatlands for mitigation
2. Priority areas: **agriculture and livelihoods**
3. Incentives for **developing** countries
4. **Initiative** for peatland mitigation
5. Activities of the Initiative & FAO



# Peatlands & organic soils – hotspots for climate change mitigation

- Huge C reserve
- **Threats:** fires, drainage and degradation because of **plantations, agriculture, forestry and grazing**
- Huge, **continuing** emissions from drained peatlands & fires
- **Emissions reductions** and **other benefits** from:
  - 1) conservation
  - 2) rewetting & wet agriculture - paludiculture
  - 3) adapted management.



# Adapted management – less emissions

- Minimizing drainage → reduction in peat oxidation and **land degradation**
- **Choosing crops:**
  - adapted to high soil moisture
  - permanent crops
  - shade reduces surface temperatures
- Avoiding plowing & land clearing by fire
- Limited fertilization
- **Well managed grazing:** limited heard sizes



# Benefits of restoring peatlands

- Water retention: better **flood protection** & adaptation to water level changes
- Safeguarding **water quality**
- Biodiversity conservation: nutritional & medicinal plants, natural protection, game & fishing opportunities
- Securing the **carbon storage**
- Reducing risk of wildfires



# Livelihoods for communities on peatlands

- Developing paludiculture on rewetted peatlands for food, feed, energy & fibre, e.g. construction materials, rubber, raw materials for biochemistry
  - Other possible livelihoods from peatlands: aquaculture, fishing, hunting, tourism, fire-fighting, gathering...
- Need to develop livelihoods in cooperation with the stakeholders & put **safeguards** into place



# Finance for peatland projects for developing countries

## Opportunities:

### Development projects



Funds for

REDD+

Capacities

Planning

CDM

Afforestation

Reforestation

Voluntary market

Afforestation

Reforestation

## Not yet operational:

NAMA

REDD+

Green Climate Fund



# Global 'Organic soils and peatlands climate change mitigation initiative'

- **Aims:** reduce emissions from peatlands & safeguard the other vital ecosystem services peatlands provide.
- **Informal network**
- **Online community for all interested** – contact [micca@fao.org](mailto:micca@fao.org)

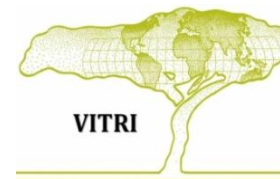


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Peatland Programme

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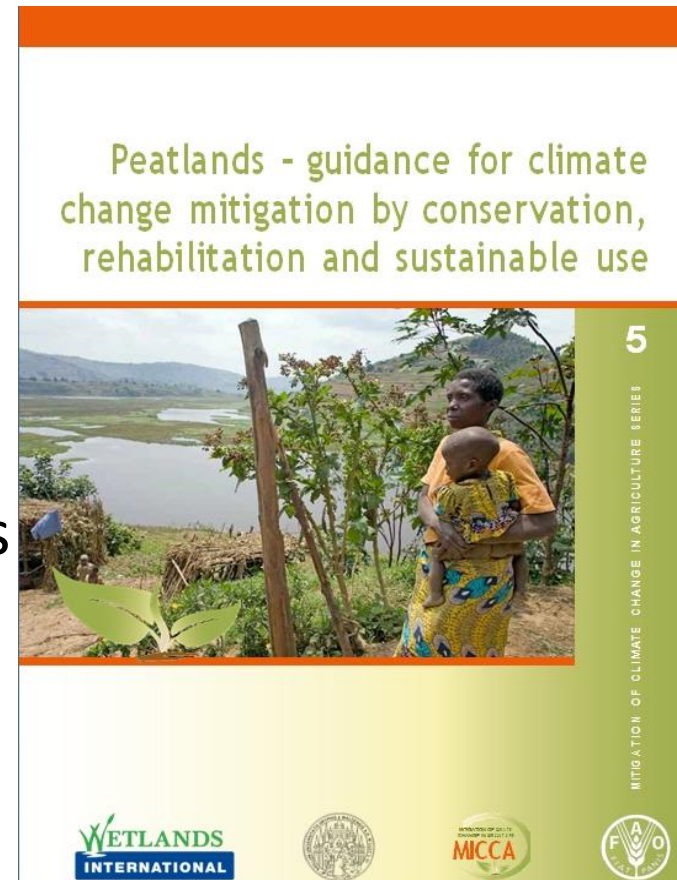


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# Support for countries

- **Policy** support:
  - New report and materials
  - Workshops
- **Knowledge:** 
  - Mapping of degraded organic soils started
  - Data development
- **Future:** support for peatland NAMAs



# Thank you!

More information:

[www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/peat](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/peat)

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Monitoring and assessment of GHG emissions

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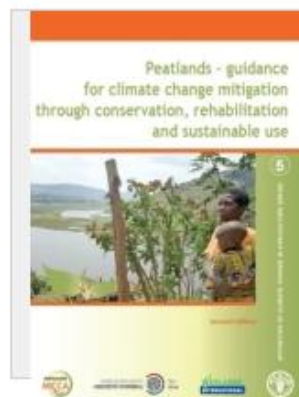
Mitigation potential

Supporting policy and decision making

Life Cycle Analysis

Tenure

## Organic soils and peatlands



### Just released:

#### **Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation through conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use**

This report is a handbook for policy-makers, technical audiences and others interested in peatlands. It is the second edition of the report, which was first published in May 2012. The new edition has additional information about grazing on peatlands, and includes updates on options for financing as well as measuring, reporting and verifying emissions and emission reductions.

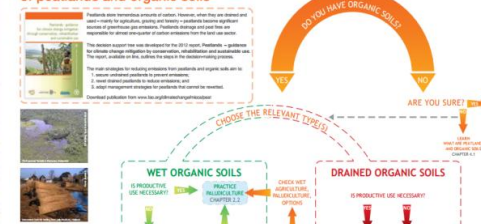
Peatlands store tremendous amounts of carbon. However, when they are drained and used – mainly for agriculture, grazing and forestry – peatlands become significant sources



### Join in!

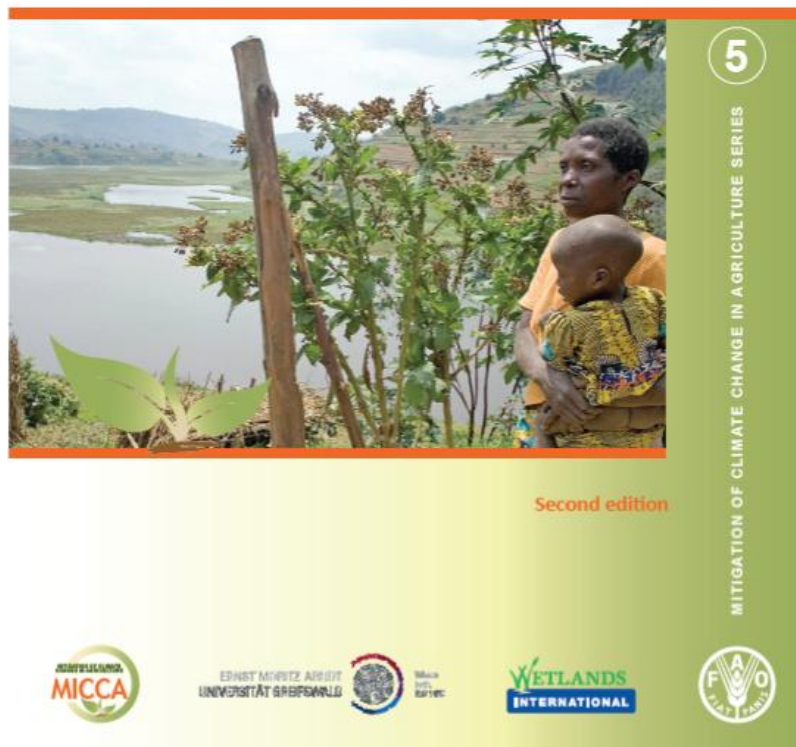
Are you interested in peatlands and climate change mitigation? You can join our peatland community by sending an introductory email to [micca@fao.org](mailto:micca@fao.org)

#### Decision support tree for management of peatlands and organic soils



# Key resource

Peatlands - guidance  
for climate change mitigation  
through conservation, rehabilitation  
and sustainable use



Updated 2<sup>nd</sup> edition:

- **grazing** on peatlands
- options for **financing**
- options for MRV

Download:

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# Decision support tree for management of peatlands and organic soils



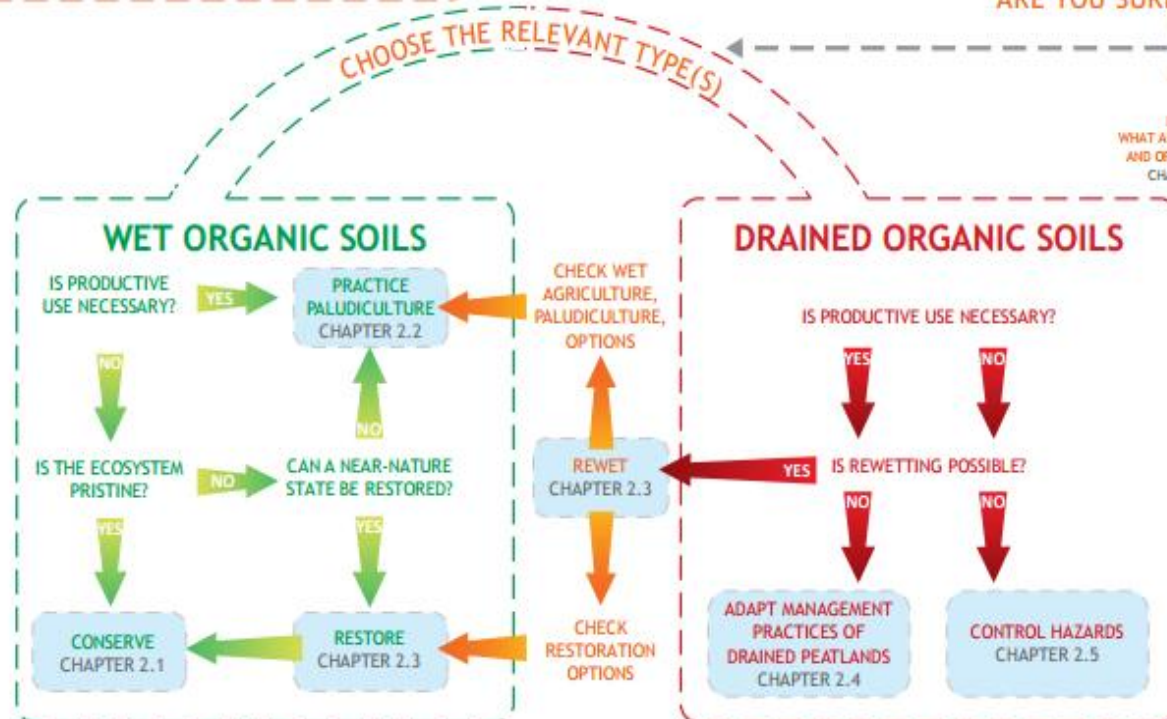
Peatlands store tremendous amounts of carbon. However, when they are drained and used – mainly for agriculture, grazing and forestry – peatlands become significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Peatlands drainage and peat fires are responsible for almost one-quarter of carbon emissions from the land use sector.

This decision support tree was developed for the 2012 report, *Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use*. The report, available on line, outlines the steps in the decision-making process.

The main strategies for reducing emissions from peatlands and organic soils aim to:

1. secure undrained peatlands to prevent emissions;
2. rewet drained peatlands to reduce emissions; and
3. adapt management strategies for peatlands that cannot be rewetted.

Download publication from [www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/peat](http://www.fao.org/climatechange/micca/peat)



The Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative has been established to increase awareness about peatlands and promote strategic action for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands and organic soils. The Initiative, an informal network of organizations and people, also aims to safeguard vital peatland ecosystem services, as well as contribute to food security and poverty reduction. Contact the initiative through: [micca@fao.org](mailto:micca@fao.org)

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