



## **Policy recommendations and considerations on peatlands & REDD+ for SBSTA.**

**Bonn, 9 June 2011**

**Susanna Tol, Wetlands International**

# Input to SBSTA requests CP.16

1

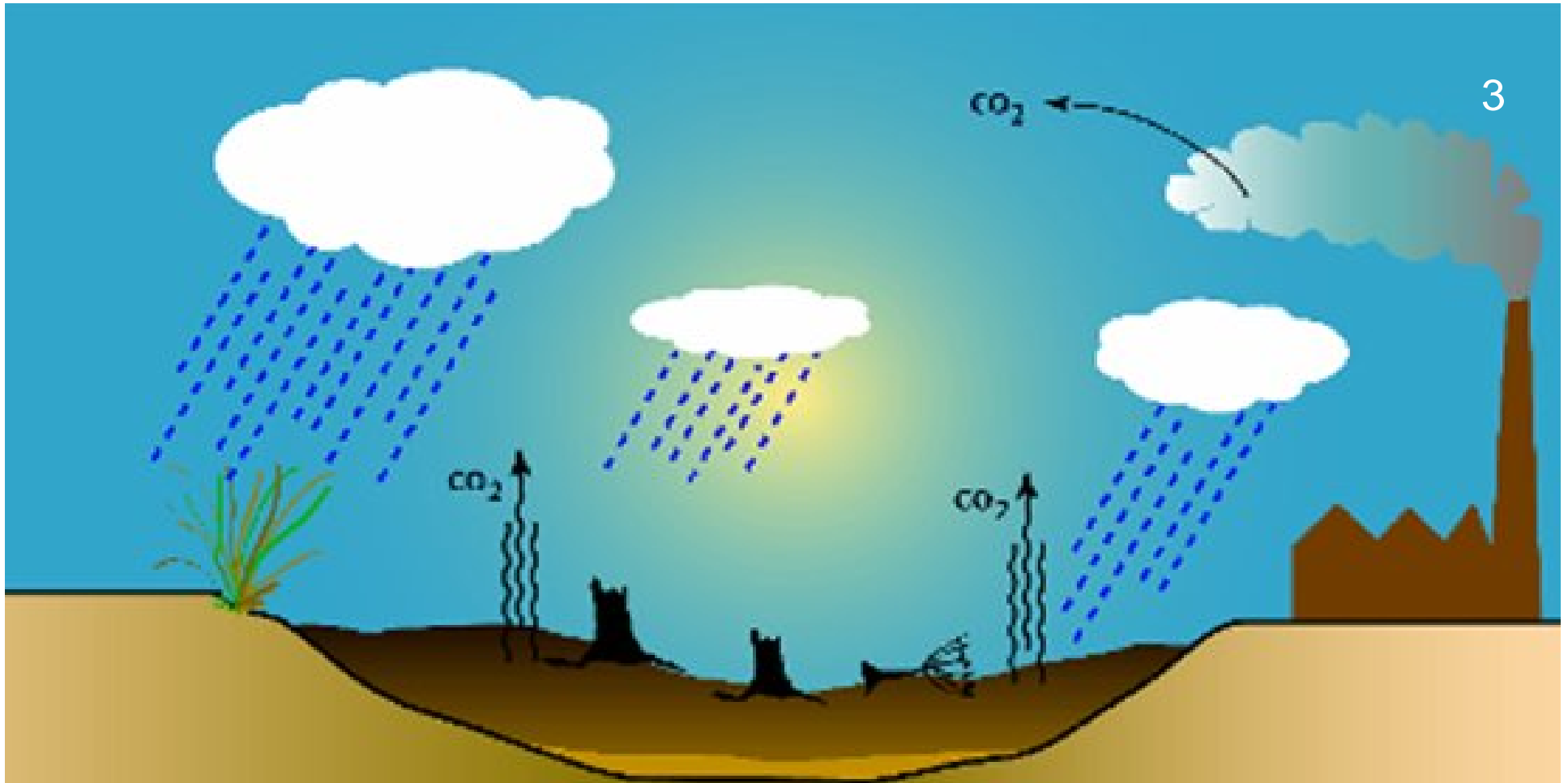
1. Identify LULUCF activities, their mitigation potential, methodological issues and drivers ( Annex II (a))
2. Modalities on MRV of anthropogenic forest-related emissions and removals (Annex II (c))
3. Modalities relating to a national forest reference emissions level (Annex II (b))



# *Peatlands*

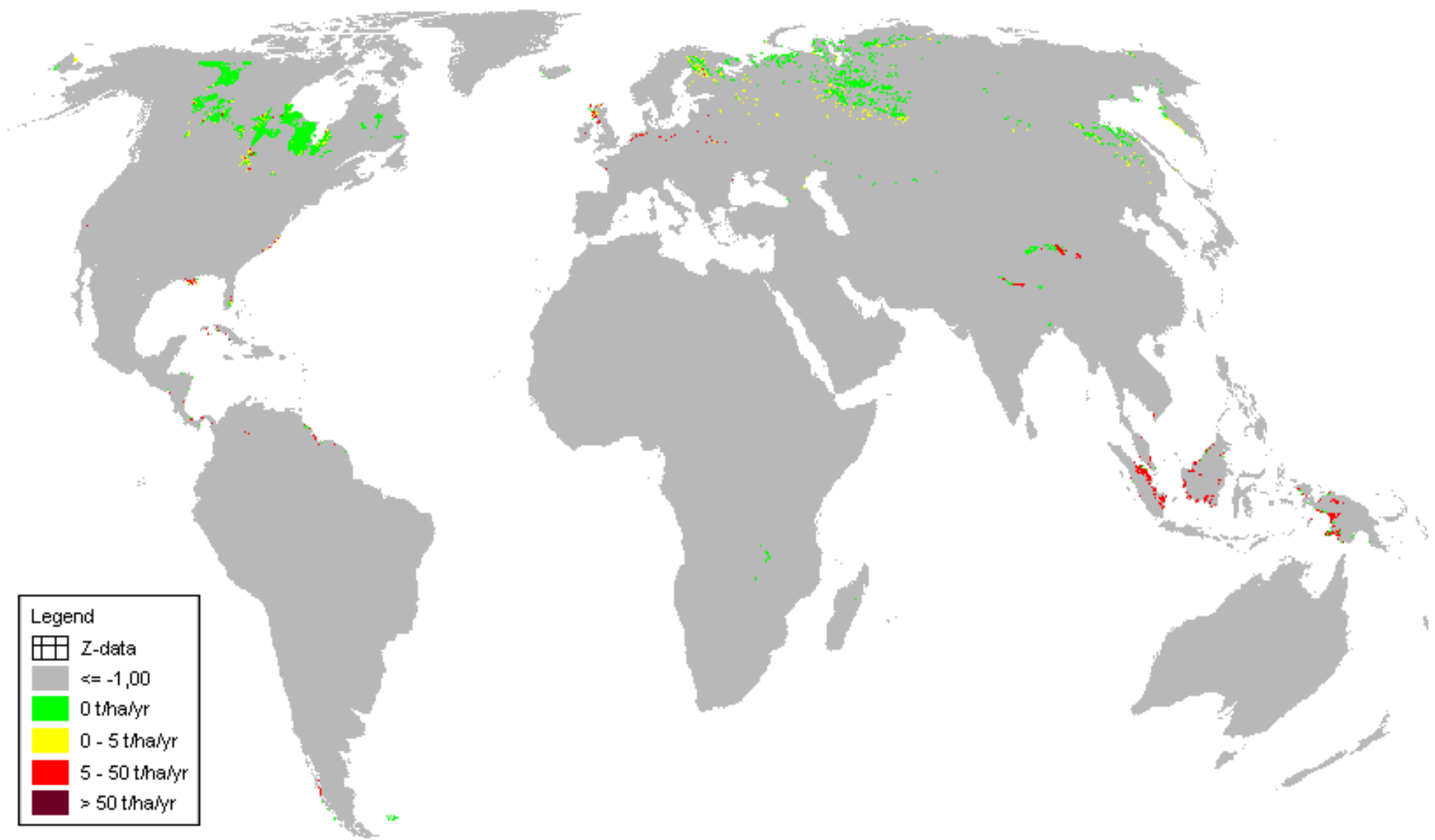
Peatlands cover 3% of global surface and are important for:

- carbon storage (550 GT C globally)
- diverse goods and service to local livelihoods
- biodiversity conservation, services such as water regulation
- climate change adaptation



Drained peatlands emit large amounts of carbon:  
2 Gton  $\text{CO}_2$  /year from about 50 million ha of  
degrading peatlands.  
50% directly relevant to REDD+  
Or more, depending on scope REDD+

# Hotspots of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from drained peat 4



**Globally almost 2 Gtons of CO<sub>2</sub> can be mitigated annually by protecting and restoring peatlands**

In LULUCF new accounting activity:  
**Drainage and rewetting.**

## **Activities to reduce emissions from peatlands**

1. Halting conversion of 12 million ha remaining peatswamp forests in SE Asia (net gain 1 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)
2. Restoring half of the already drained peatswamp forests in SE Asia (net gain 0.5 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)
3. Restoring half of the degraded peatlands in the temperate zone (net gain 0.2 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>)
4. Development of paludiculture (wet agriculture) as an alternative to drainage based agriculture



# Peatland drainage

7



The Mega-Rice Project: 1,2 million ha without rice

2 8'03



# Rewetting: re-installing water level and appropriate vegetation



# Methodological issues REDD+ in peatland 9

- Current work on revision of methodological guidance for wetlands → revision to 2006 GL
- VCS guidelines for Peatland Rewetting and Conservation (PRC).
- Many running methodology development efforts to MRV emissions reductions from peatland rewetting and conservation.

- Each Party should account for all changes in peat forest soils except when transparent and verifiable information is provided that the pool is not a significant source (criteria and procedures by SBSTA).
- REDD activities are reported in accordance with the most recently adopted IPCC Guidelines and any subsequent clarifications agreed by the Conference of Parties (as per CP.4/15)
- SBSTA should establish a work programme for joint effort to support countries that lack capacity to use methodological guidance.

- All peatlands should be included in the baseline, including peat forests deforested in the past: remaining forest areas although temporarily destocked.
- Emissions from drained peatlands continue until the entire peat is depleted or being rewetted.
- In BAU (no REDD) almost all undrained peatswamp forests will be converted to deeply drained plantations.
- Simply reducing the conversion rate will for the atmosphere only slow down the increase in emissions, but still increase in decline of carbon stocks. Rewetting to be done simultaneously.



# Addressing the drivers of degradation of peatlands:

13

- No more conversion of undisturbed peatlands. But, plantations on peat will be discouraged by accounting for carbon losses related to drainage in the below ground carbon pool.
- Existing concessions (for pulp wood and palm oil plantations) must be revoked and shift to already degraded mineral soils.
- Palm oil and pulp wood supply chains to exclude products from drained peatlands

# Safeguards and peat forests

14

- Peatlands biodiversity, environmental services such as water regulation, climate change adaptation
- Participation of local stakeholders in peatland conservation, restoration and sustainable development , e.g. bio-rights



# Further reading..

15

*Global Peatland CO<sub>2</sub> Picture, downloadable from [www.wetlands.org/peatclimate](http://www.wetlands.org/peatclimate) and [www.imcg.net](http://www.imcg.net)*

*Bio-rights: [www.bio-rights.org](http://www.bio-rights.org)*

**THANK YOU**

