



Photo by M. Rifky/CIFOR



Interim Secretariat

Rationale for the International Tropical Peatlands Center

In the spirit of international, multi-stakeholder and multi-donor South-South cooperation with an eye to partner with the international community, the International Tropical Peatlands Center (ITPC) is built on the principle of true cross-sector collaboration and integration, building a resilient and holistic platform for science, policy and practice, and attracting the best minds working on research and practice in this field.

The Government of Indonesia with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, the Government of Peru announced in Jakarta, 30 October 2018, a collaboration to form ITPC.



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA



The launch was the next step after the historic 2018 Brazzaville Declaration to promote better management and conservation of the world's largest tropical peatlands, the Cuvette Centrale region in the Congo Basin, and to undertake other peatland initiatives.

At this point in time, it is essential to establish the ITPC in the global South to:

- Serve as a go-to space for South-South and international cooperation which will support the dissemination of strategies and practices for tropical peatland management, through coordinating and supporting collaborative international relationships and connecting different stakeholders;
- Conduct and disseminate scientific research on tropical peatland management for sustainable development;
- Become a center of excellence for tropical peatland research to support policy development;
- Provide capacity building and technical services.

Representatives of the governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, and Republic of Indonesia met in Jakarta on 30 October 2018 in Jakarta to cooperate on establishing the ITPC. The event was preceded by a three-day visit to showcase Indonesia's sustainable peatland management and readiness in fighting forest and land fires.

Representatives from Peru did not attend the launch but are committed to the establishment of the center.

Objectives

ITPC's main objective is to ensure that policy makers, practitioners and communities have access to sound, credible and legitimate information, analyses, and other tools needed to design and implement conservation and sustainable management of tropical peatlands.

The interim secretariat will be responsible for organizing, planning, coordinating and providing administrative support for the establishment of the ITPC.

Its primary functions will include:

- Establishment of the ITPC by December 2019
- Preparing necessary arrangements, including the rule of procedures for the establishment of ITPC as an entity with appropriate status
- Inviting other countries (particularly with peatlands), international organizations, private sectors, and research institutions to contribute and join the ITPC.

Purpose

The interim secretariat to the international steering committee of the ITPC is responsible for the establishment of the Center within one year.

An Interim Secretariat will be hosted by Indonesia, coordinated by Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

The interim secretariat will prepare the necessary arrangements, including rule of procedures for the establishment of ITPC as an entity with appropriate status.

The interim secretariat will invite other countries (particularly with peatlands), international organizations, the private sector, and research institutions to contribute and join the work.

Stakeholders with relevance to the ITPC include governments, international organizations, universities and research centers, the private sector, civil society, donors and practitioners.

Output

Within the first 10 months of 2019, ITPC outputs will include:

- Legal establishment of the ITPC;
- A masterplan that paves the way of South-South and international cooperation on science-based strategies and practices of peatland management;
- A roadmap of funding streams and mechanisms;
- A governance system that represents the interests of public, private and academic elements.

Reporting

The interim secretariat, through its coordinator, will report on its activities monthly.

In addition, a communication plan will be developed by the interim secretariat to define how information will be communicated, internally and externally, in the future. Part of this plan may include the use of <http://www.tropicalpeatlands.org>, the official ITPC website.

Organisation



The interim secretariat will comprised of 10 people, including:

- Senior Coordinator (1 person)
- Admin and Program (3 people)
- Communication and Outreach (2 people)
- Research and Development (2 people)
- Capacity Development (2 people)
 - Coordinator: Responsible for developing and leading the planning and carrying out of technical and administrative efforts.
 - Coordinator Support Team: Responsible for collaborative planning, and coordinating and providing both technical and administrative services

Plan of Activities 2019

Strategic Priority/ Outputs	Activities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Output 1 Interim secretariat of ITPC is established	Develop ITPC infrastructure, including establishing an interim secretariat	X											
	Establish ITPC communications, network and outreach	X											
	Organize a regular meeting with member of IS	X			X								
	Promoting ITPC in the national, international communities					X							
Output 2 Masterplan of the ITPC that paves the way of South-South cooperation on science-based strategies and practices of peatland management	Develop a short-, medium-, and long-term strategic plan for the ITPC, including a research agenda		X	X									
	Organize a general meeting with all stakeholders to present the above mapping exercises				X								
	Finalize a short-term five-year program and associated priorities								X				
Output 3 Roadmap of funding streams and mechanisms	Identify financial measures to self-sustain the ITPC in the near future		X	X									
	Assess the economic cost of and legal framework for various, alternative long-term sustained monitoring systems				X	X	X	X	X	X			
	Finalize the set-up of the physical facilities of the ITPC										X		
Output 4 Governance system that represents the interests of the public, private sector and academic elements	Decide on and formalize the regulations of the function and management of the ITPC, including monitoring performance and transparency									X	X		
	Legally establish and launch the ITPC before the end of 2019											X	

The International Tropical Peatlands Center is a multi-stakeholder organization focused on cooperation and collaboration. All of its member countries will provide input to contribute to its development.