



International Peatlands Workshop

Enhancing Evidence-Based Policy by Developing Core Common Outcomes and Collaborations for Peatland Research and Monitoring

10 July – 11 July 2019

International Tropical Peatlands Center c/o CIFOR HQ

Background

There has been significant investment in peatland data collection across the tropics. However, when it comes to looking at the effects of management treatments and restoration, attempts to synthesize the results of research and monitoring have often proved challenging. Inconsistent choices across projects – for example on what measurement, analysis and reporting indicators to use, or what outcomes and variables to focus on – make it difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile apparently conflicting evidence about important processes or practices. Harder still is the task of creating robust syntheses for national and international decision-makers.

There is growing recognition that more consistency is needed across key measuring and reporting outcomes, so they can be compared and synthesized between studies and provide more robust evidence for policy and practice. This will ultimately increase understanding of peatland processes and the effects of land use and restoration, as well as reduce any research waste resulting from the measuring of different outcomes or poor reporting. For these reasons, the medical community now routinely uses core sets of outcomes, but few attempts

have been made to do this within the natural sciences. Rather than limit or mandate what can be measured, by reaching consensus on the core outcomes that should be measured and reported on, this workshop seeks to empower researchers and practitioners to voluntarily choose approaches that will be comparable and synthesizable (if this is one of their goals), or to knowingly measure and report differently if there is good reason to do so (e.g. if findings may be of limited use beyond the site in which they were collected).

This workshop will contribute to the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of peatlands, both by coordinating the collection and reporting of core common outcome sets for peatland data, and by building interdisciplinary collaborations across tropical peatlands. This will, for the first time, enable a global synthesis of data and trends, to inform future policy at both national and international levels. Through harmonizing data collection and reporting in ways that can better inform international peatland mapping, monitoring and reporting exercises and national restoration projects around the world, the workshop will make a significant contribution to the sustainability of tropical peatlands.

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Agenda

Day 1 | Wednesday, 10 July 2019

10:00	Welcome - Tea/coffee/registration/consent forms	
10:30	Opening address Plan for the workshop and introductions	Agus Justianto Mark Reed and Dylan Young
10:45	How strong is our evidence base: the case for core outcome measures?	Gavin Stewart (via remote)
11:15	Core outcomes, peatland monitoring and the Global Peatland Initiative	Johannes Kieft with Hans Joosten (via remote)
11:30	Forestplots and RAINFOR	Gaby Lopez-Gonzalez (via remote)
11:45	Delphi survey feedback – brief overview	Dylan Young
12:00	Tea/coffee	
12:15	Review of outcome sets and outcomes for carbon	
13:15	Lunch	
14:15	Review of outcome sets for hydrology and biodiversity (in parallel)	
15:15	Tea/coffee	
15:30	Discussion of Day One activities	
16:00	Wrap up and close	
18:00	Group evening meal	

Day 2 | Thursday, 11 July 2019

08:30	Tea/coffee	
09:00	Review of Day one discussions – feedback and comments	
09:30	A: Complete review of outcome sets from yesterday, or B: Discussion of role of core outcomes in Global Peatland Assessment	
10:30	Tea/coffee	
11:00	Discussion of outcomes and outcome sets and next actions	
12:00	Wrap up and close of core outcomes workshop	
12:00	Lunch	
13:30	Structured inter-sectoral networking and collaboration event	
16:00	Close	

Photo by Faizal Abdul Aziz/CIFOR

The International Tropical Peatlands Center is a multi-stakeholder cooperation and collaboration. All of its member countries will each provide input in contributing to its development.