



UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow 1-12 November 2021

The United Nations global climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, ended with an [agreement among nearly 200 nations](#) to accelerate the fight against the climate crisis and to commit to tougher climate pledges. The two week conference had some significant accomplishments, including [new pledges on methane gas pollution](#), deforestation, [coal financing](#), as well as completion of long-awaited rules on carbon trading and a [notable U.S.-China deal](#). The summit also closed with calls on governments to return in 2022 with stronger pledges to slash greenhouse gas emissions and to provide more available funding for nations most vulnerable to a changing climate. More than 100 countries joined a U.S. and E.U.-led coalition to cut 30% of methane gas emissions by 2030 from 2020 levels, a significant step towards limiting one of the major culprits of climate change. The Global Methane Pledge covers countries that account for nearly half of global methane emissions and 70% of global GDP. Methane is [84 times more potent than carbon dioxide](#) and doesn't last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down. This makes it a critical target for combatting climate change quickly while simultaneously minimizing other greenhouse gas emissions.

The summit negotiations ended with a final deal among nearly 200 nations that for the first time targeted fossil fuels as the key driver of climate change. The deal, however, contained a last-minute change that some officials called a softening of critical language regarding coal power. India and China, some of the world's biggest burners of coal, [insisted on a last-minute change of fossil fuel language](#) in the pact, switching the words from a "phase out" to a "phase down" of coal. Opposing countries fought the request but ultimately conceded.

The U.S. and China, the world's two largest emitters of carbon, agreed to cooperate this decade to prevent global warming from surpassing 1.5 degrees Celsius and ensure that progress result from the conference. The alliance between the rivals surprised delegates during the summit. The U.S.-China agreement lacks specific details or deadlines but emphasizes that Chinese and American leaders will work to boost clean energy, mitigate deforestation and slash methane emissions. The joint declaration said the countries will work together to help accelerate the transition to a net-zero global economy.

- <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/16/un-cop26-climate-summit-what-was-accomplished.html>

Peatlands in spotlight at COP26: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/peatlands-spotlight-cop26>



UNFCCC COP26 Global Peatlands Pavilion

Peatlands can't be overlooked when it comes to climate change mitigation and adaptation and this year, for the first time in history, the beautiful complexity of these ecosystems was brought to the attention of the world in the form of... a water droplet! The Global Peatlands Pavilion and its iconic water droplet were co-developed by the [Global Peatlands Initiative](#) partners together with [UN Environment Programme](#) (UNEP), [Wetlands International](#), [Scotland's Rural College](#) (SRUC), [University of East London](#) (UEL), [The Succow Foundation](#), partner of the [Greifswald Mire Centre](#) (GMC), [National Trust for Scotland](#) and the [IUCN UK Peatland Programme](#) at the [UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland from 1-12 November 2021](#). With more than 45 informative sessions and networking events physically and online on a broad range of topics (see below), the Global Peatlands Pavilion proved to be a great success that gathered an average of 150 participants online for each session. Over 250 speakers representing all types of stakeholders were welcomed and over 2700 people from 100 countries registered to the online platform. As far as we know, peatlands had never gathered so many people in one place before, which shows the growing recognition of peatlands' importance to tackle and abate climate change.



The "Water Droplet" installation is constructed as far as possible from sustainably harvested materials characteristic of peatland habitats. The skeleton consists of green willow, which grow in fen peatlands, and pine which grows naturally on some boreal peat bogs. The outer skin consists of willow screens, while the interior is lined with common reed, a typical species of fen peatlands found in many parts of the world.

In parallel with the physical pavilion and online platform, the Global Peatlands Pavilion organising team also launched a global, captivating and diverse [Virtual Peatlands Pavilion](#), a graceful 3D structure that blends in with the breathtaking peatland landscape all around. The 'peaty structure' has delighted the eyes of peatland enthusiasts worldwide! Designed and curated by Richard Lindsay from University of East London, with support from Ben Clutterbuck, University of Nottingham Trent, and Jack Clough, University of East London, the Virtual Peatlands Pavilion features 200+ contributions from 61 organisations and individuals from across the world. All recordings of the sessions are now available on our "**Global Peatlands Pavilion**" **YouTube Channel**. For direct access to the videos, use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3smK61YbiErWWpl2MntTdQ/videos>. You can also find a particular recording by directly typing the name of the session on YouTube's search bar. The YouTube Channel and the Virtual Peatland Pavilion will serve as a long-lasting resource for the global peatland community to share knowledge. Share the information widely among your peatland networks and **subscribe to the channel** using https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3smK61YbiErWWpl2MntTdQ/?sub_confirmation=1.



[Take a tour of the Virtual Peatland Pavilion here!](#)

Are the world's peatlands better protected after COP26?

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& Julie Loisel ([Texas A&M University, julieloisel@tamu.edu](mailto:julieloisel@tamu.edu))

Peatlands cover [just 3%](#) of the world's land area, but store twice as much carbon as all the trees on Earth combined. The carbon held in these wetlands has been accumulating for millennia and may be "[irrecoverable](#)". This means that, once released, the carbon in the soil would take centuries to re-establish – [way beyond the timescales](#) relevant for tackling climate change. But the world is losing [huge quantities](#) of carbon from peatlands each year. In fact, humans have [already pushed](#) the Earth's peatlands from an overall "sink" of carbon to a "source". This is mainly due to drainage of tropical peatlands to convert land for farming. It is now widely accepted that peatlands can [play a key role](#) in tackling climate change as one of many potential "[nature-based solutions](#)" – both through restoration efforts, but also through "avoided emissions" from protecting pristine peatlands.

The [26th Conference of the Parties](#) (COP26) climate summit in Glasgow in November included a number of [pledges and promises](#) related to the way that the world's land is managed. But what were the implications for peatlands and the carbon they store? In this article, we unpack the importance of peatlands, the implications of the commitments signed at COP26, and why there is no time to lose in preserving the world's peat.

Peatlands and net-zero

Peat is a wetland soil made of partially decomposed plant debris. The soil being saturated is key to its extraordinary stores of carbon. The water creates "anoxic" conditions in the soil. This lack of oxygen slows down how quickly microbes can break down the organic matter the soil contains. Decomposition without oxygen produces methane, which is why peatlands are [natural methane emitters](#). However, the sluggish pace of decomposition means that peatlands take up carbon more quickly than it is emitted.

Draining a peatland – taking the water table below a certain threshold – triggers a fundamental shift in this ecological balance. With oxygen now available, decomposition speeds up and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions increase. This turns the peatland into a carbon source. Additionally, peat is a fuel and, once it dries, it becomes increasingly easy to ignite. Peat fires are now common in drained or drought-affected peatlands all over the world. For example, during El Niño years, dry conditions in Indonesia can contribute to [widespread peatland fires](#), substantially increasing global land-use emissions. All of these extra emissions increase the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Peatlands can be responsible for [as much as 5-10%](#) of global annual human-caused CO₂ emissions.

Restoring, or “rewetting”, peatlands is, therefore, an important route towards recovering the carbon sink function in these ecosystems. It [has been shown](#) to be efficient in terms of both land area – these are the most carbon dense ecosystems in the world – and financial cost. Even if these rewetted systems emit more methane, reducing their CO₂ emissions will still [help reduce climate warming overall](#). It is also just as important to consider avoided emissions – that is, those emissions that are saved by keeping pristine peatlands in their natural state. The protection and restoration of peatlands also has [knock-on benefits](#) for the wider ecosystem, such as improving water quality and providing habitat for rare and threatened plants and creatures.

Nature-based solutions – also known as “[natural climate solutions](#)” – have the potential to offset [about 30%](#) of the global mitigation needed to achieve 1.5C by 2050. While these measures are not enough to tackle climate change alone – protecting peatlands has been described as “[one of the most important tasks of this decade](#)”.

Peatlands at COP26

Peatlands had a [strong presence](#) at COP26. This is perhaps not surprising considering the host nation, Scotland, is rich in peatlands and its government has [pledged to restore 250,000 hectares of peatland](#) as part of its climate commitments by 2030. Peatlands got their own space at Glasgow – the “[Global Peatland Pavilion](#)” – where scientists and practitioners drew attention to the importance of peatlands in climate change mitigation. The importance of peatlands was also highlighted in pavilions of peat-rich countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Indonesia and Colombia. But beyond their strong presence at Glasgow, what were the main outcomes for peatlands during the summit?

The “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use” was signed by [more than 140 countries](#) promising to “work collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030”. According to the UK government, the commitments are accompanied by \$19.2bn of public and private finance, with at least \$1.5bn earmarked specifically for protecting the forests of Africa’s Congo Basin. Despite the disagreements that [subsequently surfaced](#) about the exact contents of the declaration, it should be beneficial for peatlands. Our interpretation is that the commitment will encompass efforts to help halt the further degradation of these ecosystems worldwide. The Congo Basin, in particular, has [vast areas of peatlands](#). In addition, countries such as Chile, Peru, Indonesia and the DRC [included peatlands](#) in their national pledges under the [Paris Agreement](#) – known as [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDCs) – for the first time.

While these promises are positive, what really matters is what happens on the ground – especially when the pledges are not yet enshrined in law. More to the point, not all peat-rich nations have the same social and financial opportunities to develop nature-based solutions and protect their natural resources. Some countries, [such as Indonesia](#), feel they could only end deforestation and peatland conversion at the expense of other development goals. This means that [climate and social justice](#) comes into play for peatland resources as it does for any other natural ecosystem on Earth.

At COP26, countries also finally reached a deal on [Article 6](#) of the Paris Agreement, which covers international carbon markets. An agreed set of rules on buying and selling carbon credits – [albeit complicated and imperfect](#) – could set the groundwork for peatland protection and restoration to be financed through different kinds of schemes. It is also encouraging for peatlands that multilateral development banks (MDBs) now consider both the extraction of peat and electricity generation from peat to be universally [not aligned with the Paris goals](#) (pdf). This is important because it may change how investments are made in terms of what is considered “sustainable” development. Ideally, such financial incentives should prioritise the preservation of intact peatlands to safeguard the many ecosystem services they provide. This [should be considered](#) low-hanging fruit for nature-based solutions.

Despite the progress at COP26, the future is not yet entirely rosy for peatlands. They are [still undervalued](#) in terms of their role in mitigating climate change and so finding ways to include these large carbon stores in global carbon markets should be a priority. Offsetting human emissions with a natural sink lends itself to being used in a carbon market, but the large stores of peat carbon that took millennia to build do not offer that easy offsetting value. The challenge remains of how to value avoided emissions.

Furthermore, there are often conflicting interests on the ground when it comes to the protection – or restoration – of peatlands. For example, Canada – one of the world’s [most peatland-rich countries](#) – is working to better protect its vast mostly pristine peatlands. At the moment, just 10% of Canada’s peatlands are protected. The Canadian government has signed the “Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use” – mentioned above – yet there is [pressure to increase mineral exploitation](#) in peat-rich areas of its northern territories. Indigenous involvement, which has been historically absent, is beginning to form part of the solutions sought for this peatland region – for example, through the development of [Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas](#) (pdf). Conflicting interests also surround tropical peatlands conservation. For example, Congolese peatlands may fare better after the [Central African Forest Initiative](#) (CAFI) [letter of intent was signed](#) by the prime ministers of the DRC and UK at COP26. This pledges investments of [\\$500m over the next five years](#) (pdf) to protect the rainforest and peatlands in the Congo Basin. However, there are also forestry interests and development needs in the country that may make it [challenging in practice](#) and the government is [planning to lift the ban](#) on new logging concessions.

On the other hand, some [South-South cooperation](#) and sharing of knowledge may help countries such as DRC or Peru learn lessons from peatland management in Indonesia, before their pristine peatlands are lost.

Even in European countries already financially able to consider peatland protection as a tool to reach net-zero goals, the restoration of these ecosystems is not straightforward. It demands a cultural shift as generation after generation of farmers have been “improving” – draining and adding lime to peaty soils to increase yields – the land for centuries. Convincing farmers now to rewet their land takes effort and time. Additionally, some peatlands have been too degraded to be successfully restored as a carbon sink. And for the ecosystems that can be restored, there are still uncertainties as to [how resilient they will be to rising global temperatures](#) and other disturbances. This only highlights the importance of preserving those peatlands that are still pristine.

The protection of peatlands worldwide is a crucial step to tackling climate change. And this starts with an increased appreciation of their value as a carbon sink and the extraordinary biodiversity they hold.

- <https://www.carbonbrief.org/guest-post-are-the-worlds-peatlands-better-protected-after-cop26>

Reflections from the UNFCCC COP26 Peatland Pavilion

In the halls of [Pavilions in the Blue Zone of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties \(COP26\)](#) the first [Peatland Pavilion](#) stood out as one of only a handful of thematic pavilions and one which offered a welcoming, accessible and informative space – thanks to the global peatland community. Between the 1st – 12th November the [Peatland Pavilion](#) hosted a truly hybrid programme of events. The iconic ‘Water Droplet’ installation, designed by Richard Lindsay (University of East London) and erected by a dedicated build team (Jack Clough, Julie Van Offelen and Sarah Proctor), welcomed Cabinet Secretaries, Ministers, civil servants, peatland experts, SEC staff and pavilion visitors from across the UK and internationally whilst our [online platform](#), powered by [CrowdComms](#), connected 1,705 participants from 100 different countries into 45 live-streamed sessions. Constructed as far as possible from sustainably harvested materials characteristic of peatland habitats, the ‘Water Droplet’ structure not only provided a talking point in Glasgow, it represented the central tower of the [Virtual Peatland Pavilion](#) designed by University of East London students Hussein Ali Kasim and Mohammed Patel. Launched during COP26 the [Virtual Peatland Pavilion](#) provided a window to the world, enabling visitors to explore global peatlands from anywhere with an internet connection. This spectacularly innovative resource, curated by Richard Lindsay, provides the largest collection of digital peatland material from across the world and remains an evolving legacy which will go on to promote peatlands at future international conferences and conventions.

Throughout COP26 the [Peatland Pavilion](#) showcased a wealth of evidence, practical action and passion for peatlands which demonstrated their vital role in achieving the [four keys goals identified by the UNFCCC](#):

1. Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach

2. Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats: Protect and restore ecosystems
3. Mobilise Finance: Release public and private finance to achieve above.
4. Work together to deliver: Collaboration between governments, businesses and civil society

The [Peatland Pavilion](#) goal was to raise awareness of the importance of peatlands in the climate and biodiversity crises. Damaged peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, annually releasing approximately 5% of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. Peatland restoration can significantly and rapidly reduce these emissions. The extent of global peatlands is at least 3% of the land area. The more we look for peatlands the more we find and the more immediate action can be taken to rewet them and reduce emissions now. To this end the [Global Peatlands Initiative](#) launched a Global Peatlands Assessment, which aims to fill the knowledge and research gaps on peatland distribution, status and trends, bringing the best available science together in order to get a global overview of the world's peatlands, and Tuesday 9th November saw the launch of the Global Peatland Map 2.0 in a session led by Jan Peters, CEO, [Michael Succow Foundation](#) & [Greifswald Mire Centre](#). Complementing the hub of activity around the Peatland Pavilion were evening receptions at the [National Trust for Scotland](#)'s Pollok House and a [Historic Environment Scotland](#) hosted evening at Glasgow Cathedral. Both events successfully brought together international public and private organisations, academics, practitioners, advocacy bodies and policy makers in a joint appreciation for and realisation of the importance of peatlands. COP26 brought with it wide-reaching opportunities to showcase UK peatlands not only through the Peatland Pavilion but through a wave of national, regional and local media interest including UK peatland restoration images featuring on [Reuters in the run-up to COP26](#); 105 articles with a potential audience reach of 3.7 million during the Conference (see [Media Report](#)) and after the event including a summary of [outcomes for peatland from the summit](#)' from Peatland Pavilion presenters [Prof Angela Gallego-Sala](#) ([University of Exeter](#)) and [Dr Julie Loisel](#) ([Texas A&M University](#)) (see elsewhere in this Bulletin).

A summary of key achievements for peatlands during COP26 is also featured by the Global Peatlands Initiative [here](#) which include:

- "...German and English governments showcased their recently published national peatlands strategies.
- ... individual countries strengthen their climate commitments, with Chile, Peru, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Congo including peatlands on their Nationally Determined Contributions for the first time, as part of their long-term strategies to combat climate change.
- One of the most ambitious peatlands restoration projects in Europe, the Great North Bog, was announced. The project will see more than 7,000 sq km of degraded bog across northern England restored in an attempt to quell the more than 3.7 million tonnes of carbon released annually."

The Peatland Pavilion has been created and coordinated by:



The coordinators are extremely grateful to the following who have provided financial support to make the first ever Peatland Pavilion, online equivalent and its events possible:



- <https://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/reflections-unfccc-cop26-peatland-pavilion>

From rail to COP26: Why peatland protection matters

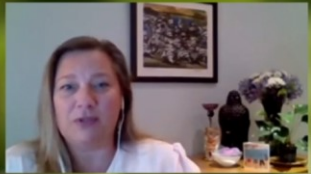
Parallel to CoP26 in Glasgow, [St. Pancras](#), one of London’s busiest railway stations with 36 million passengers each year, highlighted the importance of protecting and restoring the UK’s peatlands. The station’s management are making a contribution for restoration of the Gameshope Loch peatlands in Scotland.

- <https://www.digitaljournal.com/tech-science/from-rail-to-cop26-why-peatland-protection-matters/article#ixzz7CsD3QefG>



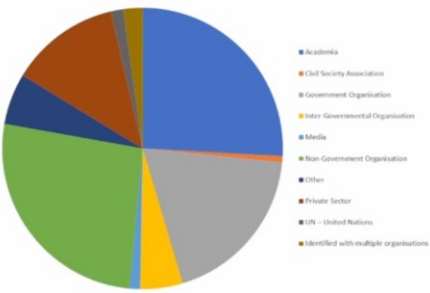
Peatlands exhibition running at St. Pancras in London. Photo: Tim Sandle

Daily impressions from the Peatland Pavilion and beyond.



Global Peatland Pavilion

- In addition to physical pavilion 2,776 people registered to join us online
- Of which 61% joined for 45 sessions online in real-time
- We had on average of 150 participants joining in real-time online per session
- With 84% of those joining online being unaccredited participants



Global Peatland Pavilion Programme for COP26

Bringing delegates together through our physical (p) and virtual (v) peatland pavilion in a truly hybrid (h) approach.

Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow & online.

1st - 12th November 2021

Please note: Times (GMT). Programme details may be subject to change.

Monday 1st November

Peatlands as a Nature Based Solution - Demonstrating Success

Time	Session
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We are delighted to offer our Virtual Peatland Pavilion to explore during CoP26 and beyond.

Hybrid (h) and Virtual (v) sessions will be available via our online platform accessed through the Virtual Pavilion and available to watch again once a session has closed.

Our online Networking Space is open through-out CoP26.

14:00 - 15:30	Protecting and harnessing the power of peat in the fight against climate change (h) Coordinated by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
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17:00 - 18:30	Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) - Opening of the Peatland Pavilion - Countries demonstrating success (h) Coordinated by UNEP & GPI
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18:30 - 20:00	Evening networking with drinks reception (p) Coordinated by UNEP & GPI
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Tuesday 2nd Nov.

Peatlands in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Time	Session
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09:00 - 10:30	Importance of ASEAN Peatlands in Contributing to Global Climate Change Mitigation (h) Coordinated by Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat & Peatland Partners
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11:30 - 13:30	Accelerating peatland action through NDCs (h) Coordinated by Wetlands International
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14:00 - 15:30	Peatlands in climate commitments – Exchange of experience on NDC and Long-Term Strategies (h) Coordinated by Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UNEP & GPI
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18:30 - 20:00	Peatlands restoration for greater resilience and adaptation (v) Coordinated by US Forest Service & Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR): SWAMP
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Wednesday 3rd Nov.

Adaptation & Resilience

Time	Session
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09:00 - 10:30	Restoration and management of peatlands in South Sumatra: Science, policy and practice. (v) Coordinated by CIFOR & AfCO
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11:00 - 12:30	Towards a climate adapted Southeast Asia through Integrated Peatland Management (h) Coordinated by ASEAN Secretariat & Peatland Partners.
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13:00 - 14:30	Scaling-up justice and social equity in the design of fire-free peat land governance (h) Coordinated by University of East Anglia & World Resources Institute.
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15:30 - 17:00	Principles of NbS: Demonstrating Success (h) Coordinated by International National Trust Organisation, National Trust & National Trust Scotland
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20:00 - 22:00	Evening Reception: National Trust for Scotland Pollok House <i>Please note: due to capacity this event is invitation only.</i>
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Thursday 4th Nov.

Mobilizing Finance

Time	Session
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09:30 - 11:00	Unlocking private finance for peatlands (h) Coordinated by Wetlands International
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11:30 - 13:00	Generation peat: investing in Scotland's future (h) Coordinated by Scottish Government
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14:00 - 15:30	Blended finance for peatland restoration (v) Coordinated by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
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17:00 - 18:30	Economics of Peatlands: the case for urgent action (h) Coordinated by UNEP, SRUC & GPI
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Peatlands in climate commitments – Exchange of experience on NDC and Long-Term Strategies
Tuesday, November 2, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO at COP26
Glasgow, 30 October - 12 November 2021

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021

Enhancing Peatlands Ambitions in NDCs and LTS

Martial Bernoux | Senior Natural Resources Officer
Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment & Forestry Division, FAO

Popout Player

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CIFOR-ICRAF AT COP26

Peatlands restoration for greater resilience and adaptation

2 NOVEMBER 2021

06:30-08:00 PM (GMT)



REGISTRATION



Peatland restoration in (western) Europe

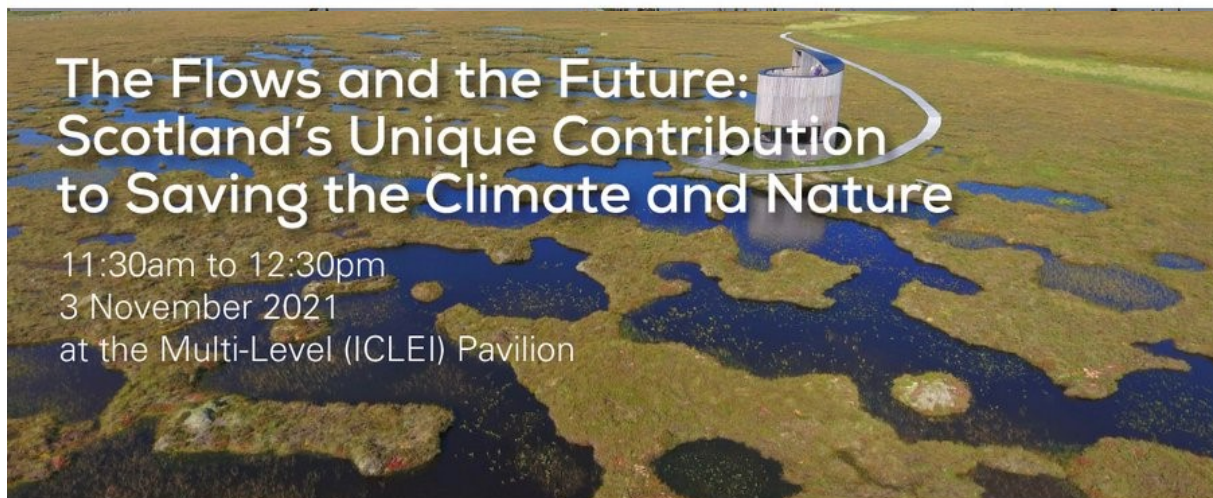
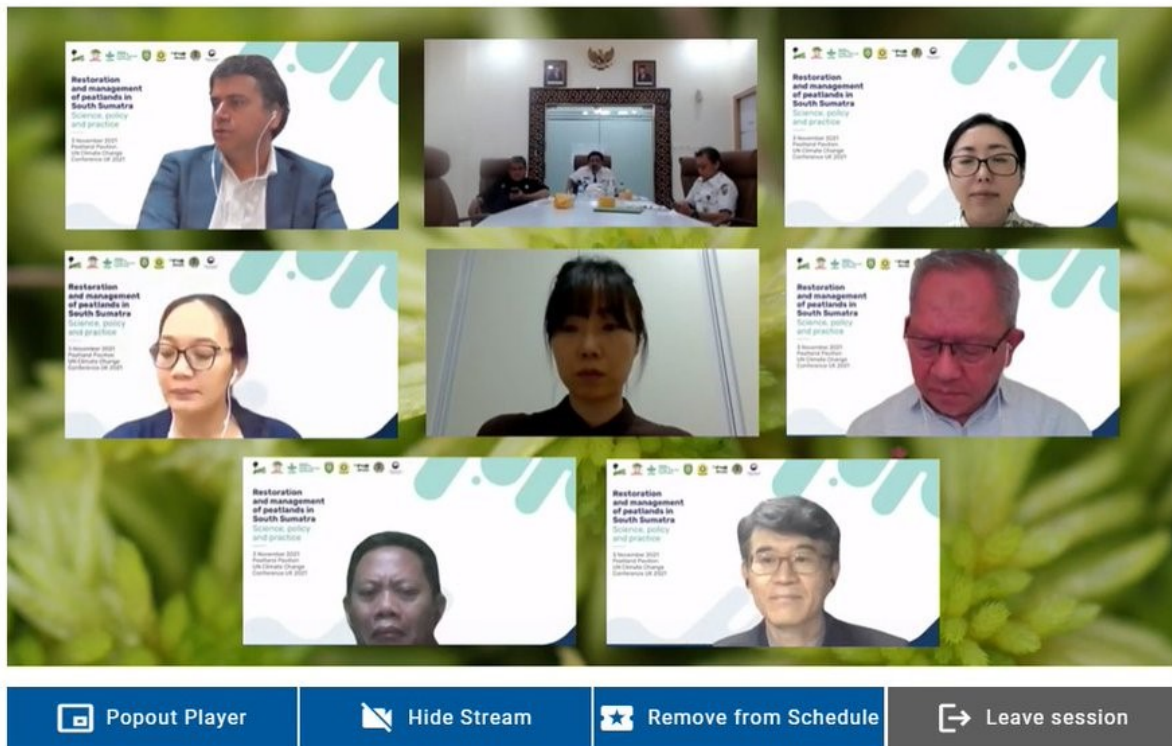
Peatlands restoration for greater resilience and adaptation
COP26
2nd November 2021
Prof Roxane Andersen, University of the Highlands and Islands

© Paul Turner, RSPB

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Restoration and management of peatlands in South Sumatra: Science, policy and practice.

Wednesday, November 3, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM



Towards a climate adapted Southeast Asia through Integrated Peatland Management

Wednesday, November 3, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

The Need for a Regional Stakeholder Platform

The Final Review of ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020

Stakeholder Engagement is KEY

A Regional Stakeholder Platform
an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss **policy issues**, **programmes** and **best practices** to stimulate the enhanced **exchange of data and knowledge**, **joint planning** and programme/project development, **policy dialogue**, as well as **resource mobilisation**

MAHFSA

Towards a climate adapted Southeast Asia through Integrated Peatland Management
November 2021 | Peatland Pavilion UN Climate Change Conference UN 2021

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Principles of NbS: Demonstrating Success

Wednesday, November 3, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

National Trust - Peatland Restoration

Planting Sphagnum moss, creating leaky dams and brush spreading at Marsden Moor, Yorkshire

Working on damaged drainage of the blanket peat bog on High Peak Moors, Derbyshire

Ben McCarthy - National Trust

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Generation peat: investing in Scotland's future
Thursday, November 4, 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

MOTIVATION to restore: awareness

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Blended finance for peatland restoration
Thursday, November 4, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



ECONOMICS OF PEATLANDS: THE CASE FOR URGENT ACTION

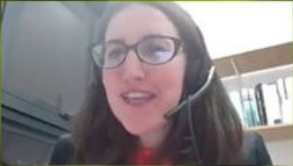
Peatland Pavilion , UNFCCC COP26
Thursday, 4 November 2021 
17.00-18.30 (GMT)
Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow, Scotland





**Options for blending public and private finance
for peatland restoration**

Professor Mark Reed
Director, SRUC Thriving Natural Capital Challenge Centre
Research Lead, IUCN UK Peatland Programme
Co-Chair, UNEP Global Peatland Initiative Research Working Group



**Peatland restoration: an
economic analysis**

Klaus Glenk & Julia Martin-Ortega
Peatland Pavilion UNFCCC COP26
04.11.2021





Economics of Peatlands Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management

A Policy Report by Edward B. Barbier and Joanne C. Burgess for the Global Peatlands Initiative



11/4/2021

Barbier - COP 26

Edward B. Barbier
Department of Economics,
Colorado State University

**Economics of Peatlands:
the case for urgent action**
4 November 2021

**Peatlands Pavilion -
UNFCCC COP26**



Department of Economics

1



interreg North-West Europe Carbon Connects + interreg North-West Europe Care-Peat

Data Science Institute Internet of Things, Stream Processing and Intelligent Systems Research Unit

Insight

**White Paper
Peatland Eco Credits**
CarePeat & CarbonConnects
Presentation to COP26
**Blended Finance
for Peatland Restoration**
4th November 2021

Presentation by Niall Ó Broicháin
NUI Galway OR Gaillimh

EU Gov

Connected Technologies and Science for a Sustainable World

Global Peatland Pavilion Programme for COP26

Bringing delegates together through our physical (p) and virtual (v) peatland pavilion in a truly hybrid (h) approach.

Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow & online.

1st - 12th November 2021

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Friday 5th November

Working together	
Time	Session
09:30 - 10:30	South-South Collaboration and working together (h) Coordinated by UNEP, ITPC, GPI & CIFOR
11:30 - 13:00	Peatland Partnerships in Climate Change Mitigation and Nature Recovery (h) Coordinated by International Peatland Society (IPS)
13:30 - 15:00	Peatland restoration and climate change mitigation challenge; open meeting of Eurosite Care-Peat Restoration and Management Group (h) Coordinated by Eurosite
15:30 - 16:30	Connecting Peatland Research Coordinated by SRUC, UNEP & GPI
17:00 - 18:30	The Indigenous Peoples Platform to face Climate Change in Peru (h) Coordinated by Ministry of the Environment of Peru (MINAM)
19:00 - 20:30	Getting to know Peatlands, the largest natural land carbon stores on Earth (h) Coordinated by C-PEAT & Future Earth

Saturday 6th Nov.

Virtual peatland field trips	
Time	Session
	Opportunities to explore peatlands around the world from the physical and virtual Peatland Pavilion.

Sunday 7th Nov.

Virtual peatland field trips	
Time	Session
	Opportunities to explore peatlands around the world from the physical and virtual Peatland Pavilion.

Monday 8th Nov.

Demonstrating Success	
Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	We walk the talk; inspiring peatland restoration success stories in Russia and the Congo (h) Coordinated by Wetlands International
11:00 - 12:30	Partners for Wetlands: Decade for Wetland Restoration (h) Coordinated by Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
13:30 - 15:00	Organic soils and peatlands in the Baltic countries: Mitigation measures & monitoring, paludiculture and Carbon farming approaches (h) Coordinated by the Michael Succow Foundation, GMC & Silava
16:00 - 17:30	Peatlands, Climate Change and Cultural Heritage - Global Perspectives, Problems, Solutions (v) Coordinated by Historic Environment Scotland
18:30 - 20:00	The essential carbon service provided by northern peatlands and the case study of the Hudson Bay Lowlands (v) Coordinated by Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Peatland Partnerships in Climate Change Mitigation and Nature Recovery venerdì 5 novembre, 12:30 - 14:00

The screenshot shows a live video stream. On the left, a man with glasses is speaking. The main part of the screen displays a presentation slide with the following content:

IPS - Commission Peatlands and Environment

What can the different sectors and uses contribute?

Use of peatland soils in % - Umweltbundesamt (UBA) 2020

Legend:

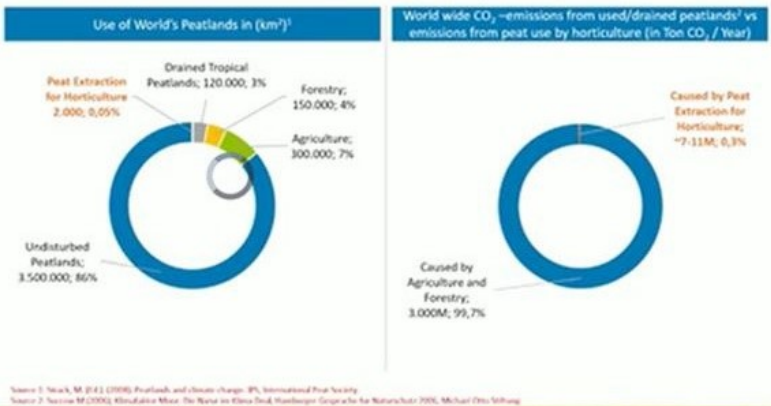
- Peat extraction
- cropland
- grasland
- forest
- wetlands
- water
- settlements

Data source: Umweltbundesamt (2020): Berichterstattung unter der Klimarahmenkonvention der Vereinten Nationen und dem Kyoto-Protokoll 2020 - Nationaler Inventarbericht zum Deutschen Treibhausgasinventar 1990 - 2018

At the bottom of the video player, there are controls for 'LIVE', 'Popout Player', 'Hide Stream', 'Remove from Schedule', and 'Leave session'.



Assessment of climate impact of peat use in horticulture



Peatland restoration and climate change mitigation challenge: open meeting of Eurosite Care-Peat Restoration and Management Group
Friday, 5 November, 14:30 - 16:00



How can we maintain and restore our peatlands?



- Have an **impact** on policy and decision makers – conservation first!
- **Attract** investors and public money (Global Peatlands Initiative!)
- Mobilise researchers to **find** optimal technical **solutions** (Care-Peat!)
- **Implement** together with stakeholders and local communities (Care-Peat, Life Peat Restore)
- **Maintain** results by implementation of business models (carbon credits!, Life MultiPeat)
- Cooperate closer on Pan-European scale (**European Peatlands Initiative/Collaboration**: to be discussed here on 12th November)

Peatland restoration and climate change mitigation challenge: open meeting of Eurosite Care-Peat Restoration and Management Group

Friday, 5 November, 14:30 - 16:00

Peatland Restoration Policy
Eurosite PRMG
@COP26
Friday 5th November 2021

Connected Technologies and Science for a Sustainable World

<p>Knowledge platform fits for all: An all-in-one solution to exchange information on tropical peatlands</p> <p>5 November 2021 Indonesia pavilion, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021</p> <p>13.20-14.40 (Glasgow) 20.20-21.40 (Jakarta)</p> <p>Registration: bit.ly/indonesiaunfccc</p> <p>For more Information: bit.ly/itpc5nov www.indonesiaunfccc.com</p> <p>FOUNDING MEMBER STATES: </p> <p>COORDINATING PARTNERS: </p>	<p>Alue Dohong Vice Minister Ministry of Environment and Forestry Republic of Indonesia</p>	<p>Haruni Krisnawati ITPC Lead Coordinator</p>	
	<p>Dianna Kopansky Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), UNEP</p>	<p>Tsuyoshi Kato Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd.</p>	
	<p>Hans Joosten Greifswald Mire Centre</p>	<p>Daniel Murdiyarto CIFOR</p>	<p>Moderator Michael Brady CIFOR</p>

The essential carbon service provided by northern peatlands and the case study of the Hudson Bay Lowlands

With Dr Constance O'Connor, Dr Justina Ray, Dr Lorna Harris, and Vern Cheechoo

Global Peatland Pavilion at UNFCCC COP26

Monday 8 November - VIRTUAL
11:30 MT (13:30 ET/18:30 GMT)

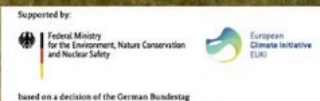
Register at:
<https://globalpeatlands.online/PeatlandPavilionCOP26Registration>



COP26 Monday 8th Nov 1:30-3 p.m. Glasgow time
at the Peatland Pavilion Blue Zone Hall4 PV2

Organic soils and peatlands in the Baltic countries

Mitigation measures & monitoring,
paludiculture and carbon farming approaches



<https://globalpeatlands.online/PeatlandPavilionCOP26Registration>

CONNECTING PEATLAND RESEARCH

Peatland Pavilion , UNFCCC COP26
Friday, 5 November 2021
15.30-16.30 (GMT)
Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow, Scotland



Picture by Tompkins Conservation

Join the Global Peatlands Initiative and Partners at the Peatland Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP26



Join us online through our Virtual Peatland Pavilion!
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3pW7zvj>

Monday 8th November 16:00-17:30

Programme

Rosie Everett & Ben Gearey - **Wet Futures**
Clifton Bain - **IUCN**
Kat Hopwood-Lewis - **Natural England**
Hannah Fluck - **Historic England**
Tobias Salathe - **RAMSAR**
Dianna Kopansky - **UNEP GPI**
Prof. Andrew Millar - **CSA-ENRA (Scot)**
Tom Gardner - **Historic Environment Scotland**



Peatlands, Climate Change and Cultural Heritage - Global Perspectives, Problems, Solutions

A virtual Peatlands Pavilion COP26 Policy
Event

A discussion on the role of policy
and the contribution that
cultural heritage can make to
global peatland restoration

NB. Session to be recorded and available online after event



Global Peatland Pavilion Programme for COP26

Bringing delegates together through our physical (p) and virtual (v) peatland pavilion in a truly hybrid (h) approach.

Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow & online.

1st - 12th November 2021

Please note: Times (GMT). Programme details may be subject to change.

Tuesday 9th November

Peatland science & technology	
Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	Managing C-rich Peatlands: from Research to Policy Action (h) Coordinated by CIFOR, ITPC, US Agency for International Development & IKI
11:00 - 12:30	Technology and data collection for peatlands management (h) Coordinated by JICA, UNEP, MINAM, DRC-MEDD & ESA
13:30 - 15:00	New advances in monitoring peatlands – Standardising what we measure where (h) Coordinated by SRUC, CIFOR & GPI
16:00 - 17:30	State of peatland knowledge - Global Peatlands Assessment & Mapping (h) Coordinated by GMC, UNEP, FAO & UNEP-WCMC
18:30 - 20:00	Protecting the Congo peatlands for climate mitigation and adaptation (h) Coordinated by CongoPeat, University of Leeds, University of Exeter, University of Kisangani, Marien N'Gouabi University & UNEP- WCMC

Wednesday 10th Nov.

Peatland policy	
Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	Irish Peatlands Gathering 2021: a new beginning (v) Coordinated by Peatlands Gathering 2021
11:00 - 12:30	Governance frameworks for peatland conservation and sustainable management in the Congo Basin (h) Coordinated by CIFOR & USFS
13:00 - 14:30	The England Peat Action Plan (v) Coordinated by DEFRA & Natural England
15:00 - 16:30	Peatland protection in Germany – a new policy approach (h) Coordinated by German Ministry of Environment (BMU), GMC, UNEP & GPI
17:00 - 18:30	Leveraging MEA synergies: Peatland protection and restoration for climate outcomes (h) Coordinated by Ramsar, UNEP, BfN, UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC & GPI
19:00 - 20:00	Peatlands of the Nile Basin - NBI countries recognize their key role as nature-based solutions (h) Coordinated by GIZ, GMC, MoWE Uganda, South Sudan

Thursday 11th Nov.

Delivering peatland action in partnership	
Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	Working Together for the Great North Bog (v) Coordinated by North Pennines Area of Natural Beauty, Great North Bog Partnership & UNEP
11:00 - 12:30	Peatlands, people and partnerships (h) Coordinated by RSPB & Cairngorms Connect
13:30 - 15:00	Ancient Peatlands for the Present and Future: A Youth Call for Action (h) Coordinated by RE-PEAT, YEW, IFSA, IAAS & GPI
16:00 - 17:30	Patagonian Peatland Initiative: conservation partnership for thriving peatlands (v) Coordinated by WCS Chile, MMA Chile, University of Tierra del Fuego Argentina, Ensayos, Manfred Hermsen Stiftung, GMC & GPI
18:30 - 20:00	Canada's Peatlands as a Nature-based Solution to Climate Change (v) Coordinated by Interdisciplinary Centre on Climate Change and Water Institute (University of Waterloo), UNEP & GPI

Friday 12th Nov.

Activating multiple stakeholders	
Time	Session
09:00 - 10:30	Activating stakeholders in peatland restoration – successes and failures (h) Coordinated by Government of Iceland & GPI
11:00 - 13:00	Dialogues towards a European Peatlands Initiative (h) Coordinated by Irish Government, Bax & Company, UNEP, GPI, Eurosite & GMC
13:30 - 15:00	Peatland Rights and Cultures (h) Coordinated by Scottish Government
17:00 - 18:30	Global Peatland Pavilion Closing Session: Key messages & way forward for CoP26 & Beyond (h) Coordinated by IUCN UK Peatland Programme & GPI
The Virtual Peatland Pavilion will be available beyond CoP26 and will evolve to continue showcasing the importance of peatland action at future events.	

TECHNOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION FOR PEATLANDS MANAGEMENT

Peatland Pavilion , UNFCCC COP26

Tuesday, 9 November 2021

11.00-12.30 (GMT)

Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow, Scotland



STATE OF PEATLAND KNOWLEDGE – GLOBAL PEATLANDS ASSESSMENT & MAPPING

Peatland Pavilion , UNFCCC COP26

Tuesday, 9 November 2021

16.00-17.30 (GMT)

Blue Zone, Hall 4, SEC, Glasgow, Scotland



Picture by Roberta Bondar

Join the Global Peatlands Initiative and Partners at the
Peatland Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP26

Join us online through our Virtual Peatland Pavilion!
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3pW7zvj>

Picture by Hans Joosten

Join the Global Peatlands Initiative and Partners at the
Peatland Pavilion at the UNFCCC COP26

Join us online through our Virtual Peatland Pavilion!
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3pW7zvj>



Technology and data collection for peatlands management



Tuesday, 9 November



Peatland Pavilion and online



11:00–12:30 (Glasgow time)

State of Peatland Knowledge – Global Peatlands Assessment and Mapping



Tuesday, 9 November



Peatland Pavilion and online



16:00–17:30 (Glasgow time)



Register at: <https://bit.ly/PeatNDC>



Leveraging MEA synergies:

Peatland protection and restoration for climate outcomes

Date: 10 November 2021

Time: 17:00 – 18:30 UTC

Venue:

Peatland Pavilion, Hall 4 COP26
(hybrid event: register online at globalpeatlands.online)

Languages:

Simultaneous translation into English, French and Spanish with Worldly platform.



The importance of peatlands for the planet, the climate and people has only recently been internationally acknowledged. Under the umbrella of the Global Peatlands Initiative, launched at COP22 in Marrakech (2016), many partners and multilateral environment agreements (MEA) have started to cooperate towards a common aim to save peatlands as the world's largest terrestrial organic carbon stock and to prevent this stock from being emitted into the atmosphere.

Panellists and participants explore together common interests and areas of cooperation for peatland restoration among practitioners, donors, multilateral institutions and governments.

Moderated by:

Moritz von Unger, Policy Director, Silvestrum Climate Associates LLC

Speakers (in order of intervention):

Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Alfredo Mamani, Vice-Minister of Strategic Development and of Natural Resources, Perú

Jean-Jacques Bambuta, Coordinator Peatland Management Unit, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Thomas Graner, Vice-President, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, Germany

Tobias Salathé, Senior Advisor, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Tina Birmpili, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention to Combat Desertification

Jamal Annagylyjova, Regional Liaison Officer, Convention to Combat Desertification

Jenny Wong, Programme Officer, Framework Convention on Climate Change (tbc)

Dirk Nemitz, Team Leader AFOLU, Framework Convention on Climate Change (tbc)

Dianna Kopansky, UNEP-GPI Coordinator

COP26 Wednesday 11th Nov 3 p.m. Glasgow time
at the Peatland Pavilion Blue Zone Hall4 PV2



Peatland protection in Germany - a new policy approach



<https://globalpeatlands.online/PeatlandPavilionCOP26Registration>

CANADA'S PEATLANDS

as a Nature-based Solution to Climate Change





“Peatland was long one of the unsung heroes of the climate crisis, and for centuries were drained for agriculture or dug up for fuel. But research has found that despite covering only 3% of the Earth’s landmass, they store almost twice as much carbon as forests – and the need to save them is rocketing up the climate agenda.”

“The Global Peatlands Pavilion was beautiful. It was also one of very few "science" pavilions. **This fact alone: that peatlands are important enough to be granted a Pavilion that was well organized and filled with talks and people from around the world for an entire 2 weeks, speaks volume.** At the pavilion, scientists and practitioners drew attention to the importance of peatlands in climate change mitigation, mainly as natural climate solutions. The vast majority of the other pavilions were sponsored by individual countries showcasing new technologies, ideas to reach net-zero, etc. Prior to this year, peatlands were discussed at COPs, but in a less organized way, with a few talks here and there, for example at the Indonesian pavilion or the like.”

- <https://pastglobalchanges.org/news/c-peat-cop26-follow>