



CARBOPEAT Project

Carbon-Climate-Human Interactions in Tropical Peatlands

EU-funded Specific Support Action

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Background

Peatlands are vital components of global carbon soil-atmosphere exchange processes and will be important in UNFCCC negotiations.

Tropical peatlands are high carbon density ecosystems that are vulnerable to destabilisation through human and climate induced changes.

They contain 50-70 Gt carbon (3% global soil carbon) but land use changes and fire are reducing this carbon store and contributing to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

A failure to account for these emissions will lead to underestimates of future rates of increase in atmospheric GHGs and the extent of human induced climate change.

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Project Aims

Develop an integrated, multidisciplinary understanding of the role that tropical peatlands play in the global carbon cycle.

Build partnerships with a broad spectrum of stakeholders (including scientists, public agencies and private organisations) so that this understanding is applied effectively to the management and wise use of tropical peatlands and to the rational implementation of public policy.

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Objective 1

- **Integrate** and synthesize existing information and knowledge on tropical peatlands to identify key issues and critical gaps in the understanding of carbon-climate-human interactions.

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Objective 2

Establish an international network of experts involved in scientific research, data modelling, carbon accounting and policy formulation to address global and regional issues of tropical peatland carbon balance.

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Objective 3

Facilitate access to knowledge and expertise on carbon relations of tropical peatlands and integrate with similar information for boreal and temperate peatlands.

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Objective 4

Investigate potential carbon offset and trading mechanisms with respect to tropical peatlands.

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Objective 5

Disseminate information and prepare implementation strategies and policy guidance targeted at international conventions, industry and Governments.

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Working Groups

Five project **Working Groups** are addressing:

- Extent and Global Significance of Tropical Peatland Carbon Pools
- Past, Present and Future Carbon-Climate-Human Interactions of Tropical Peatlands
- Assessment of Risks to, and Vulnerabilities of, Tropical Peatland Carbon Pools – Mitigation and Restoration Strategies
- Carbon Offset and Trading Mechanisms for Tropical Peatlands
- Policy Guidance on Tropical Peatland Carbon-Climate-Human Interactions

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Partners

Principal Partners:

University of Leicester, UK

Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia

Wageningen University and Research Centre, Netherlands

University of Helsinki, Finland

University of Nottingham, UK

University of CanTho, Vietnam

Plus **Associate Partners** in the RESTORPEAT project (an additional 7 partner institutes located in SE Asia and the EU);

And an **International Expert Network** comprising:

Scientists; Land and resource managers; Government officials; NGOs; and other stakeholders with an interest in tropical peatlands.

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Project events

- **International Symposium on Tropical Peatlands**
 - Yogyakarta, Indonesia
 - 27-31 August, 2007
 - Further information: <http://www.soil.faperta.ugm.ac.id/CT/>
- **International Peat Society Congress**
 - Tullamore, Ireland
 - 8-14 June, 2008
 - Further information: <http://www.ipcireland2008.com>
- **International Symposium on Tropical Peatlands**
 - Kuching, Sarawak
 - August, 2008

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Further information

- Please go to:
www.carbopeat.org
- Or contact:
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