Water for Climate Impact Programme
Peatlands Impact Call
Guidelines for applicants
About the Water for Climate Impact Programme

IUCN is developing a Water for Climate Impact Programme to catalyse investment into aquatic ecosystems, particularly peatlands, wetlands and coastal ecosystems.

To develop the programme and secure capital to run it we are looking to identify a pipeline of bankable projects that contribute to the protection and restoration of these ecosystems and that offer return on investment.

The peatland impact call is the first of three calls to identify and build a pipeline of bankable projects with potential for replication and scale up.

Selected submissions will be contacted by IUCN for further discussion.
Why invest in peatlands?

- **Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store** though they occupy only about 3% of the world’s land area. For instance, peatlands store twice as much carbon as all of the world’s forests.

- **Conversely, when damaged, peatlands are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions**, annually releasing almost 6% of global anthropogenic CO$_2$ emissions. Peatland restoration can therefore bring significant emissions reductions.

- Peatlands are also critical for preserving global biodiversity, providing safe drinking water, and minimising flood risk.

- **Freshwater ecosystems, such as peatlands, provide sustainable solutions and economic benefits for societies, people, businesses** e.g. water infrastructure has been estimated to provide an added value of USD 29 trillion per year in services, when combined with built infrastructure.
The Peatlands Impact Call: Overview

Goals:
• Increase investment in peatland protection, management and restoration;
• Demonstrate bankable business models that protect peatlands, strengthen local livelihoods whilst yielding financial returns;
• Build partnerships for action, replication and scale.

Types of activities we will support:
• Sustainable paludiculture;
• Wise use of peatland systems;
• Activities that reduce stress on peatlands;
• Sustainable management, protection and conservation of ecosystems in surrounding areas to peatlands;
• Supply chains that improve productivity while securing certification in and around peatlands areas (e.g. NTFPs, horticulture, agro-forestry);
• Re-wetting of peatlands, re-forestation/avoiding deforestation, and fire mgmt.
Selection Process

1. Call for proposals
2. Concept submission
3. Interviews
4. Business plan submission
5. Due diligence and evaluation
6. Selection and contracting

8 to 10 months
# Peatland Call Timeline

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step in the process</th>
<th>Date by</th>
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<tr>
<td>Call for proposals - open</td>
<td>7 December 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept submission</td>
<td>10 January 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>January &amp; February 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business plan submission</td>
<td>15 April 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due diligence and evaluation</td>
<td>30 June 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection and contracting</td>
<td>1 September 2021</td>
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Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for this call, submissions must comply with the following criteria:

- The project contributes to peatland conservation and restoration efforts, reducing risks to and increasing resilience of peatland ecosystems and vulnerable communities that depend on peatlands for their livelihoods.
- The project does no harm (i.e. has no negative impacts on communities or ecosystems it is designed to build resilience in).
- The project offers a profitable revenue model.
Selection Criteria

A set of criteria will be used to evaluate the concept note (CN) and business plan (BP), including:

- **Viability (CN, BP):** market, commercial, financial and technical feasibility of the bankable project.
- **Positive impact (CN, BP):** Potential for improving the resilience of the most vulnerable people and places associated to peatland ecosystems. Contribution to environmental sustainability, nature-based solutions and local livelihoods.
- **Climate potential (CN, BP):** Climate mitigation and/or adaptation impact of project. Contribution to climate-resilient development pathways consistent with the country’s climate change adaptation strategies and plans.
- **Gender integration (CN, BP):** Approaches used build gender equity as a critical component in the project’s success.
- **Risk mitigation (BP):** the ability to identify and mitigate risks related to political, legal, environmental, social, partnerships, amongst others.
- **Sustainability (BP):** Strategies to secure long-term benefits of programme results.
- **Scaling and replication (BP):** Aspects that demonstrate replication and scale up potential of project.
Exclusion list

- The peatlands impact call will not support projects and activities that lead to the unsustainable drainage of peatlands, causing inter alia subsidence, flooding and the emission of greenhouse gases.
- Submissions shall not lead to a reduction in peatland area.
- The programme will also not fund projects that require resettlement of people.
- Applicant businesses shall not be listed on the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Exclusion List, i.e. businesses supporting terrorism, production/trade of weapons, radioactive materials, tobacco, etc.

Damaged peatlands contribute about 10% of greenhouse gas emissions from the land use sector © Shutterstock/Mati Kose
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IUCN Issues brief on peatlands and climate change:
https://www.iucn.org/resources/issues-briefs/peatlands-and-climate-change