

Side Event Bonn Climate Change Conference

Launch of the global 'Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative'

Hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization
(FAO) of the United Nations and
Wetlands International

Thursday 17 May 2012
20.00–21.30hrs

Venue: Room "Wind", Ministry of Environment
(MoE)



Photo: Marcel Silvius

Man on his way to plant Jelutung in rewetted peatland, Indonesia.

Peatlands are major carbon stores. However, when they are drained and used – mainly for agriculture, grazing and forestry – peatlands become significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions from peatlands drainage and peat fires are responsible for almost one quarter of carbon emissions from the land use sector. Peatlands' vital role in avoiding and reducing GHG emissions, as well as in water regulation and biodiversity conservation, is insufficiently recognized. Peatlands conservation and restoration, and improved peatlands management are realistic goals and well within our grasp. It is low-hanging fruit in our efforts to make progress on climate change mitigation, adaptation and climate-smart agriculture.

FAO and Wetlands International invite countries and observers to the launch of the global '**Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative**'. The event presents the activities of the Initiative to promote emissions reductions under REDD+, NAMA's and LULUCF.

Speakers at the event include representatives from FAO, IUCN UK, Greifswald University and Wetlands International.

A new publication '*Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use*' will be launched in the event. Download the publication at www.fao.org/climatechange/micca.

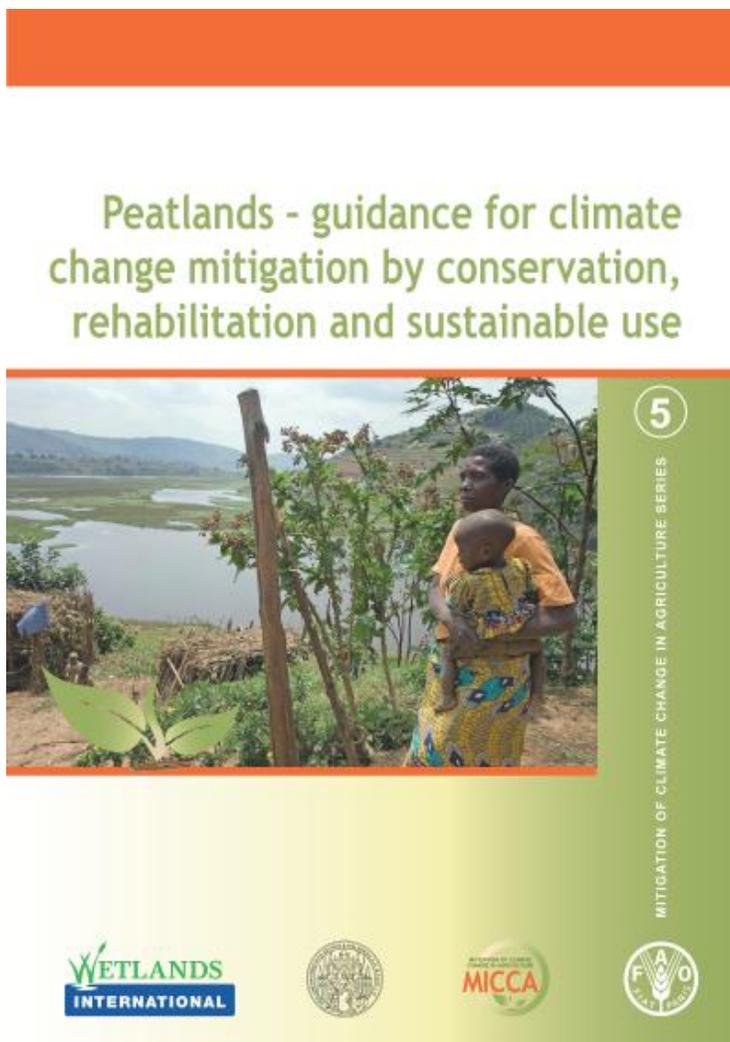
- Catering provided after the event –

The Organic Soils and Peatlands Climate Change Mitigation Initiative is an informal network of organizations and people interested in reducing emissions from peatlands and safeguarding their other vital ecosystem services. Institutions involved in the initiative at the moment include FAO, Wetlands International, Greifswald University, IUCN UK, Global Research Alliance, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Global Environment Centre (GEC), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the University of Helsinki. www.fao.org/climatechange/micca | www.wetlands.org/peatclimate



New report:

Peatlands – guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use



This publication informs on management and finance options to achieve emissions reductions and enhance other vital ecosystem services from peatlands.

A **decision support tree** guides through opportunities for both cultivated and uncultivated peatlands. Methodologies and data available for quantifying GHG emissions from peatlands and organic soils are summarized and practical solutions are given concerning measuring, reporting and verification (MRV) and accounting.

Country-specific **case studies** illustrate the problems, solutions and opportunities of peatland management.

This report is a good handbook for **policy makers, technical audiences and others interested** in peatlands.

The authors of the report welcome any feedback or input to this report and hope that the information provided may support efforts to make a meaningful contribution to combat climate change through conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use of peatland.

The report can be downloaded at: www.wetlands.org/WatchandRead | www.fao.org/climatechange/micca

Contact

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