

Summary and Key message of a side event July 6, 2022, Libreville, Gabon

Peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands: climate responses in the Congo Basin

Slot 1: Current scientific activities on peatlands (and other wetlands) in the Congo Basin

Slot 2: Early responses to protect and manage peatlands in the Congo Basin

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Context/objective: to better include peatlands, mangroves, and other wetlands in climate and environmental action in the Congo Basin, the side event comprises 2 slots during which oral presentations were made by those physically present in Libreville and from online. Presentations were followed by exchanges with participants (present physically in Libreville and those attending online). The following key message can be retained.

Technical issues:

Besides the expanse of peatlands in the cuvette central; pockets of peatlands exist in other areas in the Congo basin forest.

- There's a need to measure the area extent of all peatlands in the Congo basin forest;
- There's a need to study and understand the biodiversity, composition, and carbon content (physical and chemical properties) of the different peat and peatland areas in the Congo basin;
- Remote sensing-based techniques (RADAR, optical and ancillary data) coupled with ground measurements can be used to measure and monitor the area extent of peatlands and disturbances in the peatland ecosystems;

Governance and cross-cutting issues:

An analysis of the economic valuation of peatlands (biodiversity, carbon content, etc.) is an important step in their conservation and sustainable management considering Article 6 of the Paris Agreement;

An in-depth analysis of the threats to peatlands and other competing land uses in peatland areas as well as engaging strategic dialogue with private sector are essential for the development of strategies and measures for the sustainable management and protection of peatlands

Explore the feasibility to establish innovative financing mechanisms such as for example, sustainable Finance Facilities, collaborative partnerships with private sector aimed at raising development capital to drive sustainable development in the peatlands landscape. The

conservation and management of peatlands should be done in a holistic manner, taking into consideration other national processes like REDD+, national land use planning, agriculture policies, etc.

Establish a legal and institutional framework, as well as strategies and measures to ensure the sustainable protection and management of peatlands in the Congo basin, helping the countries to implement the [Brazzaville Declaration](#);

Continue to raise awareness (locally, nationally, and internationally) on the importance of peatlands and the important role they play in the stabilization of the global climate; consider peatlands in national adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Strengthen the exchange of information, best practices and experiences in peatlands conservation and sustainable management between Congo basin countries and countries in other tropical basins (Amazon and Southeast Asia), taking advantage of already existing international initiatives (UNEP Global Peatlands Initiative and others) and enabling the implementation of the [UNEA-4 resolution on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Peatlands](#).

YouTube Link (First slot)

[Peatland, mangrove, and other wetland and climate responses in the Congo Basin](#)

