

Support to Peatlands Management in the Nile Basin

The Challenge

Peatlands are recognized by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as the most efficient carbon sinks in the world. Covering approximately 3% of the world's land area, peatlands hold 30% of the world's carbon content. In the Nile Basin, Peatlands dominate the wetlands in the basin but have increasingly been degraded. This is mainly due to lack of awareness of the benefits of peatlands resulting in actions such as: drainage, conversion for agriculture, burning, and mining for fuel. The Kagera basin is estimated to contain more than 50% of all peatlands in the Nile Equatorial Lakes region. The Akanyaru River is part of the Kagera basin, and its peatlands are threatened by agriculture and peat extraction, which makes them a priority area for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Burundi and Rwanda. The Sango Bay-Minziro ecosystem is a large, biologically rich, transboundary wetland that expands across Sango Bay wetlands in southwest Uganda and the Minziro National Forest Reserve in northwest Tanzania. Despite its rich biodiversity, the peatlands in this system are threatened by conversion to agricultural land use and infrastructure development, among other human activities.



Our Approach

Project title	Policy dialogue and knowledge management on climate protection strategies (DIAPOL-CE) – Nile Basin
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Implementing partners	Nile Basin Initiative – Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program Coordination Unit (NELSAP-CU) Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre (MSF/GMC) Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda
Countries	Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
Duration	2021 – 2025



Through the **Dialogues and Assessment of Trans-boundary Peatlands in the Kagera Sub-Basin of Nile** project, GIZ seeks to strengthen the capacity of NBI and its member states in monitoring and assessment of peatlands for climate action. This is through enhancing the scientific knowledge and understanding of socio-economic potential of two transboundary peatland landscapes to leverage climate financing for economic development and green growth.

Through the **Sustainable management of peatlands in Uganda** project component, a collaboration with the Ugandan Ministry of Water and Environment, GIZ seeks to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry in the monitoring and assessment of peatlands for

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climate action. This is through enhancing the capacity of national and local government personnel in peatlands monitoring, assessment and measurement of carbon stocks, validation, and mapping of key peatland systems in Uganda, and catalysing carbon credits through peatlands restoration activities.

Results in figures ...

- 3 regional dialogues on peatlands assessment and management have been conducted.
- 1 mapping of peatlands in the NEL region conducted and published as 1 **Wetland Atlas**.
- Uganda and South Sudan have included **priority mitigation and adaptation measures on peatlands** in their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- The Nile Basin Regional Expert Wetlands Working Group has been strengthened in peatlands mapping, assessment, and management.
- About **80 stakeholders and decision makers** have been trained in peatlands mapping and assessment.
- **3 Paludiculture value chains** for the sustainable use of peatlands have been identified based on the socio-economic valuation and physical characteristics of the peatlands in the Kagera sub-basin of the Nile Basin.



... in stories

"That there has been continuous growth and learning from the first phase of the project up to the point now where member states are more engaged and, as in the case of Uganda, have even included peatland protection in their NDCs."

Statement by a member of the Regional Expert Wetlands Working Group

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Through capacity building, regional and national dialogues on peatlands, sustainable peatlands management is now a priority topic in the Nile Basin and its member states. Two countries of the participating countries Uganda and South Sudan have used the information generated in the assessments to include peatlands as action areas in their NDCs.



.. in a nutshell

Conserving peatland ecosystems prevents Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from being released in the atmosphere while supporting the water cycle, livelihoods, and biodiversity protection therefore, peatlands are the Nature-Based super solution.

Peatland protection and large-scale restoration can readily be included in National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and contribute to the achievement of emission reduction targets. Parties are encouraged to include emissions from organic soils and emission reductions from peatland re-wetting and restoration in national greenhouse gas inventories.

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