

Preserving our assets

Peatlands are one of Scotland's most important natural assets. They store carbon, provide us with clean drinking water, help to regulate floods, support our wildlife and are part of our heritage.

In 2013 the Scottish government pledged £15 million to support peatland restoration. In 2015 this will be distributed through SRDP in Scotland and will mostly cover capital costs.

The UK Peatland Code has been developed to facilitate private sponsorship of peatland restoration on top of SRDP funding to make restoration more financially attractive and to provide continued maintenance payments.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is overseeing the Peatland Code. We would like to know:

- What sort of management options are most appropriate in your area
- What would be a fair price for carrying out restoration management
- How best to organise the funding

The results of this study will be used in consultations with the private sector to obtain funding via the Peatland Code.

We need your help to figure out a way to secure the future of Scotland's peatlands.

For more information please contact Kathleen Allen:
a.k.n.allen@sms.ed.ac.uk or 07902792398

Make peatlands part of your business

An extra source of funding..

- Find out about the new SRDP plans for 2015 and where peatlands fit in
- See how to incorporate peatland management with your croft or farm aims
- Get capital costs for work covered through SRDP
- Peatland code will cover income foregone due to changes in peatland management as well as costs of maintaining peatlands
- Find out how it will work and help us to improve it

Peatland restoration does not necessarily mean completely changing the way you manage your land e.g.

- Reduce grazing pressure in specific areas – not all
- Cutting heather in some areas instead of burning

Healthy peatlands can mean a healthier business

- More vegetation for sheep to eat e.g. cotton grass
- Grip blocks act as walk ways for sheep
- Potential marketing opportunities for produce

The workshop will be held on the 7th August at The Shetland Livestock Marketing Group, Shetland Rural Centre, Staney Hill, Lerwick, ZE1 0NA

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Meet the speakers



Mark Reed: Research manager, IUCN Peatland Programme

Mark led the development of the UK Peatland Code; the voluntary standard for peatland restoration projects in the UK that want to be sponsored on the basis of their climate and other benefits. He will be speaking about funding options for peatland management through the peatland code.



Sue White: Shetland Amenity Trust

Sue is currently working as Peatland Restoration Project Officer (funded by SNH Peatland Action) at Shetland Amenity Trust as well as working for RSPB as Conservation Adviser for RSPB's Shetland Farmland Waders Project. Previously she was the Farm Conservation Adviser with Shetland FWAG, working with farmers and crofters preparing agri-environment scheme applications and managing projects aiming to enhance biodiversity and the sustainability of crofts and farms on Shetland.



Kathleen Allen, University of Edinburgh

Kathleen is a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, studying peatland management, both in terms of monitoring carbon emissions and looking at socio-economic aspects. She is very interested to hear the thoughts of landowners and managers regarding peatland management. She will be talking about environmental impacts of different types of peatland management.

What can you expect from the workshop?

10.00 Refreshments on Arrival

Workshop introduction

10.15

As a group, outline causes and effects of peatland damage

10.40

Kathleen Allen, Scientific justification for restoration

11:10 Tea/Coffee

11:20

Sue White– restoration in Shetland

11.50

Sue White and Mark Reed – funding for projects and introduction to the IUCN Peatland Code

12:20

Positive and negative effects of peatland restoration
In groups, look at positive and negative effects

12.50 Lunch

13.30

Personal attachments to peatlands. Think about personal reasons living and working in peatland areas

14.00

Costs and benefits of peatland restoration. Discuss assumptions and management options. Work with feasibility tool to design a project with acceptable costs and revenue. Look at opportunities available through the Peatland Code.

16.00 - Round up the day, discuss how to proceed

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