



ASEAN Peatland Forests Project | www.aseanpeat.net

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Workshop on Enhancing Sustainability of Forestry Practices on Peatlands

Dates: 27-29 June 2012

Venue: Bogor, Indonesia

Overview

Peat Swamp forests are a unique ecosystem where the forest grows on a thick peat or organic soil layer, formed in waterlogged conditions over thousands of years. Wet and nutrient poor, this environment is nonetheless an important resource which plays an important role the socio-economy of the region as well as climate change mitigation by storing carbon as well as providing many valuable timber and non-timber forest products; and maintaining, water resources and biodiversity. SE Asia has more than 25 million ha of peatlands comprising 60% of the global tropical peatland resource.

Peat swamp forests can be harvested on a sustainable basis, generating significant local and national benefits – however in much of the region, heavy levels of extraction have led to degradation of many peatlands. This has in turn generated interest to replace the natural forests with timber or fibre plantations. At present there are more than 10 million ha of peatland forests have been logged and a million hectares of forest plantations have been developed on peatlands in Southeast Asia – especially in Indonesia. Most of the plantations are *Acacia crassicarpa* plantations developed for the pulp and paper industry. However there are also plantations of other species especially Jelutong and *Melaleuca*. Many plantations and logged over peat swamp forests have faced challenges due to fires, subsidence and water management as well as difficulties to rehabilitate degraded areas with indigenous species. Unless peatland forests can be rehabilitated or used sustainably there will be more pressure to convert remaining areas for agriculture or other uses.

Degradation and conversion of peatlands is a major cause of GHG emission and also fires and associated transboundary haze which has been identified as a major environmental problem in the ASEAN region. Carbon conservation and reducing climate change have become major environmental issues in the global arena.

To facilitate information sharing and encourage sustainable practices in forest management and plantations, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Global Environment Centre (as Regional Project Executing Agency) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia, is organizing this workshop as part of the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) and SEApeat Projects which aim to promote sustainable management of peatlands in the Southeast Asia region.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are to:

- i) Review the current forestry management and practices of peat swamp forests in the region.
- ii) Identify impacts and document Best Management Practices of peat swamp forests and forest plantations on peat.
- iii) Discuss the need and possible contents of guidelines for existing peat swamp forestry

Proposed Topics to be discussed:-

- Status and trends of peatland forests in Southeast Asia
- Experiences and lessons learned from peatland forest management
- Impacts and benefits of Plantation development on peatlands
- Key principles of BMP for Forest Harvesting and Plantations on Peatlands
- Sharing of experiences and research findings, on Forest management, rehabilitation and development of plantations with *Acacia sp.*, Jelutong (*Dyera polyphylla*) or , *Melaleuca sp.*, Jabon (*Anthocephalus cadamba*) etc.
- Options for community involvement in peatland forest rehabilitation and involvement
- Inputs for proposed Guidelines for forestry practices on peatland

Expected Outputs

- Enhanced understanding on options for sustainable forest management in peatlands.
- A compilation of BMP practices, related to Peatland Forest Management and rehabilitation and Peatland Plantations.
- Enhanced regional cooperation and exchange in relation to sustainable forest plantations on peatlands.

Benefits

- 1) Opportunity to share experiences on impacts and best practices for forest plantations on peatlands
- 2) Contribute your ideas to the development of Regional Guidelines for Forestry Practices on Peatlands.
- 3) Access to recent research findings which can contribute to better management and protection of land resources.

Who should attend?

Generally, all are welcome to this workshop, but it would be especially useful for the following:-

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|---|------------------|
| i) Peatland forest managers | v) Foresters |
| ii) Plantation owners/ developers/ planners | vi) Researchers |
| iii) Policymakers | vii) Consultants |
| iv) Environmental managers | viii) NGOs |

Call for Papers

Prospective presenters are invited to submit an abstract for oral presentation before 21 May 2012.

Participants who would like to present a paper relevant to one of the proposed topics may send **an abstract of 250-300 words** to the secretariat, Ms. Azura Ahmad <azura@gec.org.my> and c.c. Ms. Chin Sing Yun <chinsy@gec.org.my>. The abstract should include the full name and e-mail address of the prospective speaker, title of the paper and keywords. Accepted speakers will be required to submit their presentation before the workshop and manuscript by 15 August 2012.

Important Dates:

Early Bird registration closes	21 May 2012
Deadline for submission of abstract	21 May 2012
Notification of acceptance/rejection of presentation	28 May 2012
Deadline for registration as Speaker	01 June 2012
Deadline for registration as Participant	11 June 2012
Final programme	June 2012
Deadline for submission of presentation	20 June 2012
Deadline for proceeding manuscript	15 August 2012

Workshop Language:

English will be the official language of the workshop and translation services will not be available.

Location:

Bogor, Indonesia (Venue to be confirmed)

Registration

Registration fee is **USD 100** to cover materials and refreshments. Participants should bear their own cost of travel and accommodation. A limited amount of sponsorship is available to support participation. Complete the attached form and return to us by **11th June 2012** to book your seats. Registration fee for the accepted speakers will be waived.

EARLY BIRD OFFER: Sign up for only USD 80 before 21st May 2012. Register NOW!

*** Payment of fees:**

Payments should be in US Dollars (USD) or Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) only. The *equivalent fee is 300 MYR*.

Please make payment to:

Global Environment Centre

UOB Berhad, Damansara Uptown Branch
Ground Floor, Uptown 1
1, Jalan SS21/58, Damansara Uptown
47400 Petaling Jaya
Selangor, MALAYSIA

For transactions **in MYR** : A/C No: 38730040058 (Current Account)

For transactions **in USD** : A/C No: 38704127500

Switch code – UOVBMYLXXX

For further information and assistance, please contact:

Ms. Nathalia Marthaleta ASEAN Secretariat Tel: +62-21 7262991 Ext. 135 Fax: + 62-21 723 0985 Email: nathalia.marthaleta@asean.org	Ms. Noor Azura Ahmad Global Environment Centre Tel: + 60 3-79572007 Fax: + 60 3-79577003 Email: azura@gec.org.my	Ms. Chin Sing Yun Global Environment Centre Tel: + 60 3-79572007 Fax: + 60 3-79577003 Email: chinsy@gec.org.my
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REGISTRATION FORM

Workshop on Enhancing sustainability of Forestry Practices on Peatlands

27-29 June 2012; Bogor, Indonesia

Please complete this registration form by **11th June 2012** and send it to Noor Azura Ahmad (at GEC) by email at azura@gec.org.my and c.c. chinsy@gec.org.my or by fax to +603-7957 7003.

Please (x) where applicable.

() I wish to make an oral presentation on a paper entitled:

() I will attend as a participant

() I will attend as an invited speaker/sponsored participant under the APFP and SEApeat Project (Deadline: 1 June)

Full Name (as in passport/IC)	
Gender	
Title/position	
Department/Section/Division	
Address of Organization/Company	
Responsibilities	
Telephone (O)	(Mobile)
Fax (O)	
Email	
Nationality	
Any restrictions on food and activities due to health or religious reasons? (E.g. vegetarian, asthmatic, allergy etc.)	() Yes () No If yes, please specify _____
Do you need a visa to come to Indonesia and require a support letter?	() Yes () No
The registration fee of USD 100 has been paid (please fax or email a scan copy of the receipts/transaction record together with the registration form to confirm your registration)	() Via bank transfer in () Ringgit () USD Bank name : _____ Transfer date : _____ Transaction number: _____ () will be paid in cash upon arrival.
To be filled by the sponsored participant only:	
Passport number:	Passport expiry date:
Date of Birth:	