

## Side event “Wetlands and Peat – Understanding the Potential”

<b>Contact:</b>		
Contact person:	Jaime Webbe	Kathrin Weise
Email:	<a href="mailto:Jaime.webbe@unep.org">Jaime.webbe@unep.org</a>	<a href="mailto:kathrin.weise@jena-optronik.de">kathrin.weise@jena-optronik.de</a>
Tel:	+254 20 762 5260	+49 3641 200160
<b>Event:</b>		
Event title:	Wetlands and Peat – Understanding the Potential	
Thematic focus:	Climate change mitigation and adaptation, Protection of wetlands,	
Speakers:	Representatives from Ramsar Convention, UNEP, FAO, Wetlands International (WI), JOP, Mediterranean Wetland Observatory at Tour du Valat (TdV/MWO), Semide	
Description:	<p>Wetlands are one of the fastest declining ecosystem types worldwide, while at the same time they are hot spot areas for biodiversity and for provision of ecosystem services; such as hydrological buffers against floods and droughts, facilitating climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Although peatlands, a particular type of wetlands, only cover about 4 million km<sup>2</sup>, they store significant amounts of carbon. Peatland degradation is responsible for an estimated 5 per cent of global GHG emissions.</p> <p>Information on the extent of wetlands, their ecological character and level of degradation is scattered, underestimated and difficult to find and access. To address the issue of the lack of data, the side event will present solutions for gathering information, e.g. provided by SWOS, the Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service. In regard to the need to improve the peatland management in order to reduce the GHG emissions, a new global Initiative of nine key organizations will be launched at the event. The participants have the opportunity to contribute to the discussion and share experiences on how peatlands can help countries in realizing their contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement.</p>	

<b>Session Chair:</b> <b>UNEP, Jaime Webbe</b>		
<b>Draft Agenda</b>		
<b>Opening</b>		
10:30 – 10:40 (7 min)	The status of the world wetlands and importance of wetlands for climate change	Martha Rojas-Urrego, Ramsar SG
<b>Part 1 SWOS - the Satellite based Wetland Observation Service</b>		
10:40 – 10:55 (15 min)	How can satellite derived information support the monitoring of the ecological character and degradation in wetlands	Kathrin Weise, JOP
10:55 – 11:05 (10 min)	SWOS use cases	Jean Jalbert, TdV/MWO Eric Mino, Semide/EMWIS
<b>-11:15</b> <i>10 min Direct questions on SWOS</i>		
<b>Part 2 Peatlands</b>		
11:15 – 11:22 (7 min)	Why peatlands matter	Marcel Silvius , WI
11:22 – 11:30 (8 min)	The peatland data we have and the data we need. Some solutions for solving the	Martial Bernoux / Malgorzata Buszko-Brieggs, FAO

	peatland issue	
11:30 – 11:37 (7 min)	The Global Peatlands Initiative	Marcel Silvius, WI
<b><i>Wrap-up</i></b>		
10:37 – 11:57 (20 min)	Questions and Discussion	UNEP / JOP
11:57 – 12:00 (3 min)	Summary	Ramsar / UNEP / JOP