

MID-TERM EVALUATION CONSENSUS REPORT

Water management for sustainable use and protection of peatlands (WATERPEAT)

Name of Coordinator: Dr. Bjorn Kløve

Project code: WaterWorks2017- WATERPEAT

Duration of project:

Start date: 1.4.2019

End date: 31.3.2022

FOLLOW-UP GROUP

Please include the data of the FG members reviewing the report

Name	Organisation
Teppo Vehanen	Natural Resources Institute Finland
Antoni Lo Porto	Istituto di Ricerca Sulle Acque IRSA-CNR (Water Research Institute)

I. Scientific and technological progress (Maximum 250 words)

Waterpeat project has been progressing well according to the research plan, and the COVID 19 pandemic has not had a strong impact so far, except for the activities regarding stakeholder contacts. There has been some delays (2 out of 5 deliverables delayed, no explanation given), but these do not appear to threaten the project to meet its objectives.

The work carried out so far has not yet been fully integrated; it has been mostly devoted to place research instruments in the study areas, in collecting RS data and information on previous studies. The kind of work done can be considered to be mostly preparatory. The Irish partner has collected field data by remote sensing. Soil cores were also collected and analysed in the lab. The Finnish partner has gathered a peat hydraulic and physical properties database from an ongoing and past research projects, made a literature review and worked in the lab Jar test). The Norwegian partner is developing novel methods (digital photogrammetry and use of lidar data) to enable cost-efficient measurements of subsidence (an indicator for peat loss) remotely. Work was started with partners on Indonesian peatlands.

The project promotes multi-disciplinary work on different scales from remote sensing of large areas to field work at local scale and experimental work, thus the activities carried out employ a strong multi-disciplinary approach

The project has started to disseminate its result through scientific papers (three papers listed) and also other communications, such as the newsletter.

The Mid Term Report is written in a hasty and rather disordered way. There is no reference to WorkPackages, the organization of the text is not homogeneous along the report, the numbering of figures is chaotic: there are several reference in the text to figures not included, there are 5 different "figure 1" and 3 "figure 2", no figures 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, whilst exist figure 27 and figure 28.

2. Collaboration, coordination and mobility within the Consortium (Maximum 250 words)

The Consortium has put in place a strong and efficient collaboration within the partners which also has generated several cases of transnational joint operations. The clearly gains transnational value from its transnational structure, as it comes to peatland management. Especially the collaboration among the three main partners, Finland, Norway and Ireland appears to be effective, while the role of the Indonesian partner remains more unclear. According to the mid-term report the collaboration among partners has been staff and field sites visits and joint analysis of results. Some mobility, like PhD candidate or PhD student visits, and a work visit by the coordinator, has also taken place.

3. Coordination with other international project funded by WaterWorks2017, or other instruments (Maximum 250 words)

The project reports of some collaboration with MYR (?) project funded by NFR and Finnish foundations such as Kone foundation. Overall coordination with other international projects, consortium or instruments appears to be weak, and could be improved. For example, There is no reference to collaboration with other WaterWorks2017 funded projects. This is a pity, since the project could find good cooperation with the project ReformWater.

4. Coverage of the themes and sub-themes of the call (Maximum 250 words)

The project actions and results cover the call theme one, Enabling sustainable management of water resources. Especially the sub-theme 1.1. Sub-theme 1.1. Promoting adaptive water management for global change is in the core of the work. From the theme two it covers Sub-theme 2.1 (Integrating economic and social analyses into decision-making processes) an, Sub-theme 2.4 (Promoting new governance and knowledge management approaches). The relation with other SubThemes is rather weak or questionable.

5. Stakeholder/industry engagement (Maximum 250 words)

Some activity with stakeholders has been carried out, some are delayed by the pandemic The project has arranged stakeholder meetings Finland and Ireland but the meeting in Norway was cancelled due to Covid. Irish partner has also been in contact with the industry/stakeholder, government-funded organization responsible for the management of peatlands in Ireland. Project newsletter has also been sent to stakeholders.
Stakeholder involvement is one of the main aspects of the study (WP: Stakeholder involvement and communication to outline best management options). To fulfill this task project could do more to engage industry, managers and landowner toward the end of the project. Their views could also bring additional value for the project.

6. Recommendations for improvements/amendments of the report (Please complete Table below)

Page	Modification	Rationale for change
All	Revise figure numbering and figure references in the text	

All	Add text regarding the progress made in a "per WP" fashion	

7. General Assessment Comments (Maximum 250 words)

The Waterpeat project is in rather good progress to meet the project objectives. The project could gain added value by increasing cooperation with other international consortiums/projects. Stakeholder engagement could also be improved, as they are an important group that would utilize the project results.