



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR COMMUNITIES LIVING ON PEATLANDS

Buying Living Tree System

Buying Living Tree System (BLTS) is a conditional cash transfer approach pioneered in Kalimantan, Indonesia that engages local communities in reforestation activities over a period of 4 - 5 years for ensuring optimal seedling survival. The system has been replicated in the Philippines.



Seedling Buyback

In Malaysia, local communities collect seedlings to be raised and sell them when they are needed for rehabilitation. This system contributes to local economy while rehabilitating degraded peatlands.



Green Contract: Community Livelihood Development

Green Contracts were established for local communities living in buffer zones of peatland National Parks in Viet Nam to enhance their livelihoods. They plant crops on land allocated to households and are engaged as park custodians who monitor poaching and fire hazards.




Sorjan Farming

Sorjan farming is an intensive method for growing crops on alternately raised beds and troughs. Suitable where population density is high and space for planting limited; sorjan farming is usually practised in swampy or flooded areas.



Floating Gardens

The floating garden concept was developed in the Philippines. It is mainly used in Leyte and Mindanao where floods inundate lands for 3-4 months each year. Floating gardens allow crops to be planted when the land is inundated with water.



Peer Learning

Sharing a combination of traditional practice, local communities' experience and technical knowledge from experts can rapidly enhance knowledge. Peer-to-peer learning programmes help communities to directly learn from other communities.



Community Fire Prevention and Control

Fire is a major risk in peatland areas. Efforts to prevent widespread peatland fires include promotion of preventive measures such as raising water table in peatlands, zero burning practice for land clearing etc. Local communities also need capacity for fire control.




In many ASEAN Member States, there are communities living in and around peatlands. They fish, gather non-timber forest products such as honey, plants or practice agriculture on suitable land areas to support their livelihood. Some of these activities being practiced by the peatland community are recognised as good management practices which are using peatland areas in a sustainable manner.

Water Management

Water management is essential for peatland conservation and sustainable use. Drains dry the peat and make them prone to fires and subsidence. Blocking unused drains is one of the ways to restore the water table, reduce fire risk and increase productivity of forest and agricultural products.



Research & Development

Research for new ways to safely compost or burn organic waste to create ash for fertiliser, more efficient ways to use fertilisers, intercropping and other innovations are important to encourage sustainable use of peatlands. In Riau, cattle waste is used to produce biogas and fertiliser for smallholders' crops.



Ecotourism

Ecotourism is an increasingly popular way to utilise peatland areas with limited damage to the ecosystem. It creates awareness among the public while providing income opportunities for local communities through tourism related businesses.



LEGEND

- Demonstration site *
- Peatland areas
- * A designated location to demonstrate sustainable peatland management practices

ESTIMATED PEATLAND AREA PER COUNTRY (HECTARES)

Indonesia	20,695,000	Thailand	64,555
Malaysia	2,588,900	Vietnam	20,000
Myanmar	12,500	Lao PDR	1,500
Brunei	90,900	Cambodia	14,000
Philippines	21,203	Singapore	50

Apfp-SEApeat

ASEAN Peatland Forests Project - Sustainable Management of Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia

Projects funded by

- IFAD
- gef
- European Union

Projects implemented by

- Global Environment Centre