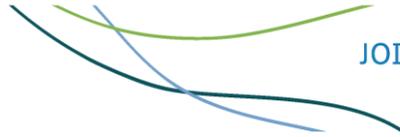




Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development



JOINT CLIMATE ACTION –  
SHAPING OUR FUTURE

## BMZ Side Event

### Getting to the Point:

### The relevance of wetland ecosystems for increasing NDC ambition

*7 December 2018, 14.00 – 14.45*

**German Pavilion (E11)  
UNFCCC COP24, Katowice, Poland**

*As of 5 December 2018*

The decisive role of wetland ecosystems for advancing NDC ambition.

Wetland ecosystems serve as important, natural carbon sinks and can, therefore, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas mitigation.

A disproportional high share of the world's soil-carbon is stored in wetlands. For instance, peatlands cover only 3% of the world's land surface, but they store twice as much carbon as the world's forests.

Despite this potential, only a few countries include wetlands in their NDCs as a promising approach to mitigation and the achievement of their national climate targets.

Furthermore, wetlands provide essential ecosystem services, including water purification and storage capacity, which can significantly help to buffer the effects of climate change and climate variability, particularly related to flood and drought regulation.

The overall land area of the planet's natural wetlands has been in constant decline in recent centuries, mostly due to drainage and changing land-use patterns. This trend has quickened in recent decades. On a global scale, natural wetlands in both coastal and inland areas, declined by about a third between 1970 and 2008. The average estimated annual rate of natural wetland loss (-0.78%/yr.) is three times higher than the average annual rate of loss of natural forests (-0.24%/year) between 1990 and 2015.

The event aims to highlight the relevance of wetland ecosystems for both climate change adaptation and mitigation, while addressing their importance for increasing NDC ambition. During the event, the panelists and the audience will address the overall question of how NDCs can be improved.

*Thematic cluster: How can we improve NDCs? (5)*

*Further information: [www.german-climate-pavilion.de/](http://www.german-climate-pavilion.de/) and [www.bmz.de/en/cop24](http://www.bmz.de/en/cop24)*

*Information on programme: [monika.zimmermann.cop24@online.de](mailto:monika.zimmermann.cop24@online.de) & [marcel.servos@giz.de](mailto:marcel.servos@giz.de)*

*Hashtags for your tweets: #JointClimateAction #GermanPavilion #COP24*

**Programme** (as of 5 December 2018)

14.00 *Video message on wetlands from Uganda*  
*Paul Mafabi, Director Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Water & Environment, Uganda*

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14.05 **Welcome by Moderator**  
*John Matthews, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)*  
*Monika Zimmermann, Senior Consultant COP 24, BMZ/ GIZ*



14.07 **Opening on behalf of the BMZ**  
The potential of wetlands for climate mitigation and safeguarding the environment  
*Frank Fass-Metz, Deputy Director General, Commissioner for Climate Policy and Climate Financing, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)*



14.10 **Ignite Talk**  
*Arthur Neher, Senior Technical Officer Climate Smart Land Use, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands*

Topics include:

- Wetland Ecosystems: Strengthening the mitigation potential to reach the targets of the Paris Agreement
- How can the restoration/conservation of wetlands be practically linked to global agendas, such as the 2030 Agenda and Paris A.
- Co-benefits of climate mitigation: Positive effects of healthy wetland ecosystems and their services to alleviate negative water-related impacts of climate change



14.15 **Panel Discussion**

- *Alfred Okot Okidi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water & Environment, Uganda*
- *Francisco Rilla, Representative Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland*
- *Lisa Schindler Murray, Policy Advisor, International Climate Change, The Nature Conservancy, Arlington, USA*
- *Arthur Neher, Senior Technical Officer Climate Smart Land Use, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands*



Possible guiding questions:

- How can wetland ecosystems contribute to raising NDCs ambitions?
- What is the global potential of wetlands to mitigate GHG?
- What role do non-CO2 atmospheric gases play (e.g. methane, trade-offs)?
- How can approaches of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and the GHG mitigation potential of wetland ecosystems through ecosystem services be further integrated (-> "Ecosystem-based Mitigation")?



14.40 **Summary and conclusions**

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14.45 **Welcome to snacks, drinks and informal exchanges**

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