

CAN-PEAT PROJECT:

BRINGING TOGETHER PEATLAND EXPERTS TO ADVANCE NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS



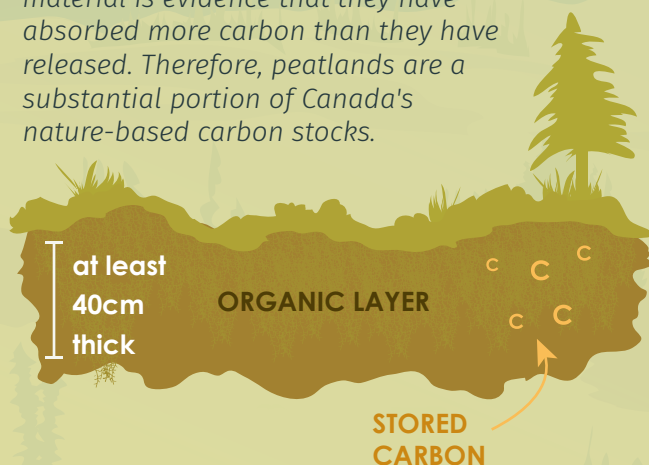
PEATLANDS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN CANADIAN AND GLOBAL CARBON STORAGE.

While a lot of research and data exists on peatlands, much of this work is not accessible or being shared which has led to knowledge gaps and duplication of efforts. There is a need for collaboration across scientific, Indigenous, and policy domains to improve the accuracy of peatland carbon modeling, advance peatland management and support the protection, responsible use and restoration of peatlands.

In September 2022, the Can-Peat project began with funding from the ECCC Environmental Damages Fund to help meet Canada's 2030 and 2050 climate change targets. This five-year project aims to highlight the potential of peatland management as a nature-based climate solution, by recognizing that peatlands are a critical component of the Canadian landscape and a significant source of the country's carbon stocks.

WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT PEATLANDS?

Peatlands are highly specialized wetland ecosystems that have built up a thick soil organic layer. This accumulated organic material is evidence that they have absorbed more carbon than they have released. Therefore, peatlands are a substantial portion of Canada's nature-based carbon stocks.



Canada has over 1.13 million km² of peatland area, accounting for approximately 12% of its land area and representing a quarter of all global peatlands.

Despite their importance, Canada's peatlands are threatened by:



climate change



land development



CAN-PEAT IS BUILDING A NETWORK OF PEATLAND EXPERTS TO IMPROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW DIFFERENT PEATLAND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS CAN REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND TO EVALUATE POLICY TOOLS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE ACTIONS.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CAN-PEAT PROJECT INCLUDE:



- 1 **The network:** Create a Canada-wide peatland research network.

✧ *Indigenous Advisory Council to guide research.*



- 2 **Data repository:** Compile a data portal where users can access information on peatland carbon stocks, greenhouse gas exchange, and supporting data.

✧ *The **Local Contexts Hub*** allows communities to express local and specific conditions for sharing and engaging in future research and relationships in ways that are consistent with community rules, governance and protocols.*



- 3 **Advance models** of peatland carbon cycling from site to national scale. Apply these models to evaluate future peatland greenhouse gas uptake and emissions under changing climate and disturbance scenarios.

✧ *Indigenous data sovereignty best practices.*



- 4 **Implementation:** Investigate mechanisms to implement peatland nature-based solutions in Canada and develop a decision-support framework for peatland management.

- 5 **Outreach:** Communicate findings to knowledge users and provide the tools needed for climate-friendly peatland management and greenhouse gas emission reporting. This helps identify key knowledge gaps and areas where policy decisions can have the biggest impact.

✧ *Indigenous Advisory Council to guide outreach.*



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NETWORK?

Can-Peat is actively seeking researchers, students, land managers, industry, all levels of government, Indigenous governments and communities, and others who are interested in Canadian peatland management and research.



To join the network, visit:
uwaterloo.ca/can-peat/network

✧ SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND THE INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES IS A KEY PRIORITY FOR CAN-PEAT:

Indigenous communities have stewarded peatland areas for millennia and their generations of knowledge about peatlands is important for present and future peatland conservation.

Defn' of Indigenous Data Sovereignty:
the right of Indigenous Peoples, Nations and Communities to govern the collection, ownership, and application of data about and from their members, knowledge systems, customs, or territories and resources.

*See the **references** section for how Can-Peat is supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty and how you can collaborate.*



Canadian
Conservation
and Land
Management

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAN-PEAT AND THEIR WORK CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES AND MORE AT WWW.CCLMPORTAL.CA

Can-Peat's data portal is underway and is guided by FAIR and CARE principles.

Access the **Local Contexts Guide** for more information on supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty within the Can-Peat project: Can-Peat - Local Contexts Guide - Part 1 - V1

***Visit the Local Contexts Hub** to learn how you can identify the presence of Indigenous Data in your work: Local Contexts – Grounding Indigenous Rights

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