

## **Advice Request – Potential Abatement from Peatland Restoration**

### **Background**

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreed at the Durban Summit in December a proposal to allow wetland management to be included in national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories reporting. In principle this should enable the Scottish Government to record in GHG accounts restoration action taken to reduce GHG losses from peatlands. Following a science review meeting in Edinburgh on 24-26 January, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is aiming to draw up guidelines for the future reporting of GHG emissions averted.

Given the high degree of variability and the many scientific uncertainties involved, the IPCC guidance will be essential in ensuring a credible and consistent approach to reporting emissions abated by peatland restoration measures. In the short term, however, we wish to include *indicative* values for the abatement potential of peatland restoration in our second statutory climate change Report on Policies and Proposals, to be published later this year, i.e. in advance of the IPCC guidance.

We are therefore seeking an expert opinion from ClimateXChange on an appropriate range of values relevant to Scottish conditions to use as indicative emissions factors, an initial indication of the size of the land area where peatland restoration measures would achieve these reductions in emissions, and the timeframes likely to be involved. We are aware of the very wide range of results reported in published literature, as well as the difficulty of applying these to Scottish conditions, and are therefore looking for the *views* of ClimateXChange researchers as experts in GHG emissions and in peatlands, rather than a review of existing literature.

### **Outputs required**

A brief paper providing:

- An expert opinion on provisional 'optimistic' and 'pessimistic' emissions factors (t CO<sub>2</sub>e ha<sup>-1</sup>) which could be used to indicate the GHG abatement potential of peatland restoration measures in Scotland, pending forthcoming reporting guidelines from the IPCC; together with an indication of the uncertainty involved.
- An expert opinion on the approximate area of peatland in Scotland which has the potential to undergo restoration and achieve abatement within this range.
- An expert opinion on the nature of the profile of the abatement potential from restoration measures over time.
- A short rationale for the figures provided.

### **Timescale**

By 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### **Contact**

The key contact for this advice request is Francis Brewis, Natural Assets & Flooding Division.