**UK PRE-WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Developing Core Common Outcomes for Peatland Research and Management: Pre-workshop survey**

You have received this questionnaire because you are either taking part in our workshop on developing core common outcomes in peatland research and management or have expressed a wish to be involved in part of the process. Your responses will be used to inform the workshop on **19th March at Newcastle University**.

**Introduction**

**What is a CORE OUTCOME SET?** A Core Outcome Set is the *agreed and standardised* set of required outcomes that should be measured for a specific area of peatland research[[1]](#footnote-1)\*. The COS defines ‘what’ outcomes to measure and ‘how’ they should be measured. In this first step our aim is to define the ‘what’. COS represent the minimum set of outcome measures for an area of research. Please see the diagram at the end of this survey for additional information.

**WHY DO WE NEED COS IN PEATLAND RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT?** COS enable the results of research to be reliably compared across studies in the same field to improve understanding and decision-making.

**PEATLAND CORE OUTCOMES. *Feedback on an initial suggestion*.** Our initial proposal is to define core outcomes for peatlands as those related to ecosystem structure and function e.g. carbon storage, biodiversity, hydrology. Some or all of these core outcomes might need to be sub-divided to make more sense or to be more practical (e.g. biodiversity). However, this is just a suggestion and we hope that the response to this survey and the related workshop discussion will add to or redefine this initial proposal.

*If you wish to make alternative suggestions or sub-divide the suggested COS please do so in question 5 of this survey.*

**THE AIM OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE** is to identify the ***preliminary COS*** and the ***potential outcomes that should be measured*** to provide the minimum COS needed for systematic review and decision-making about peatlands and their management. We have suggested a number of areas/topics and would like you to populate them with potential outcome measures (e.g. for the hydrology COS, a core outcome measure might be water-table depth). Please add to or amend the COS with those you think are needed or missing and suggest their related core outcome measures.

**Returning your survey**

Please provide written answers to the questions below. You have until **17.00 on Tuesday 12th March** to provide your answers to Dylan Young: d.m.young@leeds.ac.uk.

Many thanks for investing your time and effort to complete this survey.

**Survey Questions**

1. **To your knowledge, do any peatland Core Outcome Sets already exist?** If so, please describe them and their related outcome measures.

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1. **Do you know of initiatives underway that are trying to develop common outcome or measurement sets in peatland research and management.** If there are, what are those initiatives, outcomes or measurement sets and who is responsible for them?

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1. **How might you, your organisation or others use peatland COS and what might be the likely benefits of these uses?**

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1. **Please list potential peatland core outcomes and their measurement in each of the three Core Outcome Sets on the following page** (note: the outcomes and measures are initial suggestions. Please add to or delete for your submission to the workshop).

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| --- | --- |
| Core outcome | Core outcome measurements |
| **Carbon storage** | -- |
| 1. Carbon accumulation | Rate of accumulation,  increase/decrease in peatland height, peat depth |
| 2. Greenhouse gas fluxes | Dissolved organic carbon, carbon dioxide emissions, |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
| 6. |  |
| 7. |  |
| 8. |  |
| 9. |  |
| 10. |  |
| **Hydrological functioning** | -- |
| 1. Water table | Water-table depth |
| 2. Groundwater flow | Hydraulic conductivity, peat decomposition (von Post), Tea Bag Index |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
| 6. |  |
| 7. |  |
| 8. |  |
| 9. |  |
| 10. |  |
| **Biodiversity** | -- |
| 1. Species | Abundance, diversity |
| 2. Vegetation | Cover, structure |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
| 6. |  |
| 7. |  |
| 8. |  |
| 9. |  |
| 10. |  |

As noted on the first page, the COS suggested above may need to be further divided. If you think a COS needs to be subdivided or you have new suggestions for COS, please complete this next question.

1. **Do you think we need additional or alternative suggestions for core outcome sets and/or core outcome measures?** Please use this space to add new core outcomes, sub-divisions of core outcomes and/or core outcome measures.

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| *This section could be used to include suggestions about how we might include citizen science and traditional research outcomes.* |

How core outcome sets and core outcome measurements might work in peatland research. Depending on the objective of the research, there may be more than one agreed method for measuring an item in a measurement set.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

1. \* In this context research means measurement by researchers, practitioners, managers or citizens. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)