

Through the restoration of our country's degraded peatlands, we create and manage voluntary carbon capture programmes that mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> plus a host of additional benefits for both landholders and businesses.

PEATLANDS+ links businesses that voluntarily mitigate their carbon footprint with landholders of degraded peatlands. We provide a financial model that gives companies in the private sector control over environmental initiatives coupled with their corporate responsibility portfolio. By preemptively investing in schemes that have tangible results and positively impact the country where their assets are based, PEATLANDS+ creates value far beyond the cost of mitigating carbon.

Our projects represent an innovative process to abate carbon emissions and simultaneously fulfil a range of corporate responsibility initiatives that also sponsor a timely regeneration of the land's natural capital. Our projects adhere strictly to the IUCN Peatland Code comprised of standards and robust science to instil confidence that financial contributions deliver measurable and verifiable ecosystem improvements.

### **WHY PEATLANDS?**

Healthy peatlands are a vitally important natural carbon store. However, when drained, dried and damaged, they are a major source of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Restoring peatlands is therefore one of the most effective things we can do to tackle climate change and recover their natural value:

- The simple math: when healthy they capture, 0.5T CO<sub>2</sub> T per hectare per annum; if degraded they may emit 3.0T CO<sub>2</sub>T per hectare per annum. 6:1
- With 9% of the UK's land area categorised as peatland and nearly 40% considered degraded, positive impact capacity is vastly available
- Reverses Problem: restoration turns a carbon vent back into a carbon sink.
- Healthy peatlands store more CO<sub>2</sub> than all the world's forests combined.
- Environmental impact minimized; transition to a low-carbon economy assured.

### **HOW IT WORKS**

PEATLANDS+ projects are financed through the sale of 'voluntary carbon certificates'. These certificates represent prevented CO<sub>2</sub> emissions plus sequestered CO<sub>2</sub>. The net carbon gains are calculated in tonnes, and buyers acquire the certificates at prevailing market rates. Proceeds fund the entire restoration process, from the preliminary scientific studies guided by the IUCN PEATLAND CODE, through to all works and long-term sustainability. Whilst a rather relatively low carbon credit price may at first glance be construed as collapsed, the favourable price marks an opportune entry point to transform a carbon liability into an environmental asset-permanently. Our projects are qualified through a rigorous and scientifically authenticated process. We operate as project managers and all surplus earnings are directed to our majority shareholder, The European Nature Trust, whose purpose is to preserve and restore our wilderness.

### **BUNDLED BENEFITS**

Restored peatlands deliver multiple benefits beyond CO<sub>2</sub> We call it the '+', and it refers to:

- + Sites identified and qualified through a rigorous and scientifically authenticated process.
- + Improved water quality, mediated flood risks, enriched wildlife, longevity and legacy
- + Local Community Spend: surplus revenues fund UK education and conservation projects.
- + Adhere to IUCN UK Peatlands Code: comprehensive ecosystem guidelines for land management, CO<sub>2</sub> prevent and capture.
- + Enhanced biodiversity: the further value to be gained from restoring the landscape's integrity:
- + Promote longevity and create a lasting legacy.

### **CASE STUDY: ICAP & Alladale Wilderness Reserve Sutherland Scotland**

In 2012, we pioneered the use of degraded peatlands for carbon credit finance. ICAP, the market operator based in The City of London, funded the entire scheme through a voluntary carbon capture programme. Today, 20km of drains across 224 hectares of restored peat bogs once again function as a carbon sink of 50,000T CO<sub>2</sub>.