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*Addressing evidence
gaps in greenhouse gas
and carbon flux from UK
peatlands*

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Background (1)

- Peatlands contain over half the c. 10 billion tonnes stored in UK soils.
- Much degradation of UK peatlands and loss of carbon through organic decomposition, GHG flux and as particulate or DOM.
- Pressure to restore peatland function for biodiversity, archaeology, landscape
- But also some evidence that drainage can decrease methane emissions

Background (2)

- Role of management in GHG/ carbon flux is recognised but lack of good data
- Assessment of GHG/ carbon flux (including fluvial losses) in UK are based on limited studies.
- These studies don't reflect range of peatland types, management, land uses

Why do we need the information?

- GHG flux reporting
- Climate change mitigation
 - Role of UK peatlands in climate change
 - Management for climate change mitigation
- Informing restoration
 - Restoration practice
 - Emissions trading

Proposal

- Gather information on current and planned initiatives measuring GHG and carbon flux (build on other work)
- Produce review [review of reviews?]
- extent and limitations of current evidence covering different management, vegetation, peat condition
- Inventory of current peatland monitoring sites and long-term experiments
- Design a programme to provide information on GHG/ carbon flux from different types of peatlands in different conditions and managements

Key points

- Work will draw on recent reviews, not repeat them.
- Focus will be on design of evidence programme to address gaps.
- Project endorsed under *Living with Environmental Change* programme

Expected outcomes

- Key output - business case for at least 5 years complete, reliable and representative information on greenhouse gas flux from peatlands of different origins and different status types in the UK.
- Report to be produced in spring 2010