COP26 Climate Change and Sediment Management Pledge[1]

November 2021

Climate change is an existential threat. In the lead up to COP26[2], commitment to tackling the climate and ecological emergencies has never been greater. There is a need for urgent action, across all sectors, to decarbonise – while at the same time strengthening resilience and adapting to the changing climate.

Sediment managers – scientists and researchers, water managers, port and waterway operators, flood protection managers and similar, as well as those in the dredging and construction sector – all have an important role to play.

Infrastructure and operational resilience are often intertwined with the resilience of the natural environment. Climate change will impact on both. Nature-based solutions are moving rapidly up the international climate change agenda as a potential win-win solution to help address both the climate and ecological crises.

Sediments are an integral part of aquatic systems, the building block for natural habitats and an inherent component of many ecosystem services. Sediments and their associated aquatic habitats – blue carbon stocks – also play a vital role in sequestering and storing carbon.

The organisations endorsing this pledge recognise that understanding and working with these critical, inter-related natural processes will enable sediment managers to identify and deliver solutions that benefit not only climate and nature, but also society and economy.

To this end, *these organisations[3] will strive to:*

- Promote, capitalise on, and where appropriate positively exploit **sediment's carbon storage** properties
- **Attain net zero** emissions from their sediment management activities, including through selection of methods, equipment and transport, while at the same time seeking opportunities to save costs
- Reconcile **sustainability** and adaptation needs with ongoing human activities
- Find innovative but effective ways to deal with **climate change uncertainties** including using improved knowledge and monitoring abilities to support **adaptive management**
- Consider and where appropriate apply **nature-based solutions** for societal/infrastructure resilience and nature co-benefits: take action to **scale up** such solutions, including **facilitating dialogue** to help change entrenched current practice
- Develop specific **technical** and scientific **know-how** where gaps are identified; continue to support relevant technological innovation and research
- Seek and exploit sustainable **financing** opportunities, taking advantage of **green recovery** initiatives
- Engage, as stakeholders, in discussions to ensure **policy instruments** reflect the position set out in this pledge
- Through all of the above, contribute to achievement of UN **Sustainable Development Goals**

[1] This COP26 Pledge started life as an outcome of the virtual workshop 'Sediment management opportunities to address the climate change challenge' hosted by Navigating a Changing Climate (https://navclimate.pianc.org/) and SedNet (https://sednet.org/). The workshop summary document can be downloaded at https://sednet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Summary-and-outcomes-NavClimate-SedNet.pdf

[2] The COP26 summit in November 2021 will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; see https://ukcop26.org/

[3] Listed below in alphabetical order

The undersigned (in alphabetical order):

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Geoscience for a sustainable Earth brgm	BRGM	Bruno Lemière, Projects leader, international
Cefas	Cefas	Stuart Rogers, Prof Stuart Rogers CSci FIMarEST FMBA Chief Scientist Cefas, Hon Professor UEA
crea Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria	Council for Agricultural Research and Economics	Stefania Nin, Researcher of CREA - Research Centre for Vegetable and Ornamental Crops
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	Earth Info Services	Henry Odunsi, CEO and Founder
	EcoShape	Luca Sittoni, Program Manager.
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	EuDA, European Dredging Association	Alan Lievens, Chairman
	Exo Environmental Ltd	William Coulet, Managing Director
	HAN University of Applied Sciences	Dr.ir. Jeroen Rijke, lector sustainable river management
	Jacobs	Adam Hosking, Vice President and Global Solutions Director for Water Resources

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	Rohde Nielsen A/S	Jeanette Rohde, Managing Director
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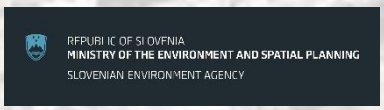	Slovenian Environment Agency	Florjana Ulaga, MSc Hydrologist

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