International Workshop

Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change

A Contribution to the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm, 11th – 14th September 2016

Workshop report

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Contents

1. Aim and structure of the workshop

Peatlands cover 3% of the global terrestrial area[1] and fulfil a number of ecosystem services important for life on earth and human well-being[2]. These services include, for instance, storage and purification of fresh water, biodiversity conservation and the reduction of flood risks. In addition, peatlands contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts through carbon storage or by providing important climate smart livelihood options[3]. Peatlands store twice as much as all global forest above-ground biomass[4]. However, following carbon dioxide emissions from peatland drainage, fires and exploitation, the degradation of peatlands is becoming a major source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions[5].

At the latest Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Punta del Este in 2015, Contracting Parties discussed the importance of peatlands and adopted Resolution XII.11 on "peatlands, climate change and wise use" (Annex 1). The Resolution highlights several actions to be taken and encourages Contracting Parties to foster implementation aimed at maintaining peatland ecosystem services for future generations. It builds on Resolution VIII.17 (2002) "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands" that provides guidance in seven domains, including policy and legislative instruments, adaptive management, international cooperation etc. In order to review progress and contribute to the implementation of Resolution XII.11, an international workshop has been held on the Isle of Vilm (Germany), 11 – 14 September 2016. The workshop was titled "Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change" and jointly organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Danish Nature Agency and the Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC). The workshop specifically:

- Offered a platform for actors to coordinate concerted efforts around peatlands,
- Highlighted progress and current initiatives as a basis for mutual action and identified necessary future steps,
- Discussed - on the basis of best practices - peatland conservation and wise use, considering policy and technical approaches and barriers and opportunities for implementation and,
- Elaborated on how to foster education and public awareness and identified proven and innovative entry points for communication.

The workshop report presents main findings of the five sessions, both from presentations and interactive work and breakout groups. All workshop presentations are available on the Ramsar Homepage at http://www.ramsar.org/themes/peatlands.

The workshop results are recommendations to help the Parties with implementation of Resolution XII.11 and preparations for COP XIII of the Ramsar Convention in 2018.

2. Main findings from Session „Looking at peatlands today" (Session II)

2.1 Presentations and plenary discussions

Distribution and degradation of peatlands

- Peat (organic) soils cover only 3% of the land (4.46 million km²) but hold more carbon than all global forest above-ground biomass.

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[1] Joosten, H. (2009): The Global Peatland CO2 Picture. Peatland status and emissions in all countries of the World. Wetlands International, Ede. 10 p.

[2] Bonn, A., Allott, T., Evans, M., Joosten, H. & Stoneman, R. (2016): Peatland restoration and ecosystem services: science, practice, policy. Cambridge University Press. 493 p.

[3] Joosten, H., Tapio-Biström, M.-L., Tol, S. (2012): Peatlands - guidance for climate change mitigation by conservation, rehabilitation and sustainable use. Mitigation of climate change in agriculture Series 5. FAO and Wetlands International, Rome. 114 p.; Wichtmann, W., Schröder, C. & Joosten, H. (2016) Paludiculture – productive use of wet peatlands. Climate protection – biodiversity – regional economic benefits. Schweizerbart Science Publishers, Stuttgart. 272 p.

[4] Joosten, H. (2009): The Global Peatland CO2 Picture. Peatland status and emissions in all countries of the World. Wetlands International, Ede. 10 p.

[5] Joosten, H. (2009): The Global Peatland CO2 Picture. Peatland status and emissions in all countries of the World. Wetlands International, Ede. 10 p.

- The Global Peatland Database (GPD) / Greifswald Mire Centre: http://tiny.cc/globalpeat considers all ORGANIC SOILS with a minimum organic matter content of 20% (without applying a depth criterion) and suitable proxy data.

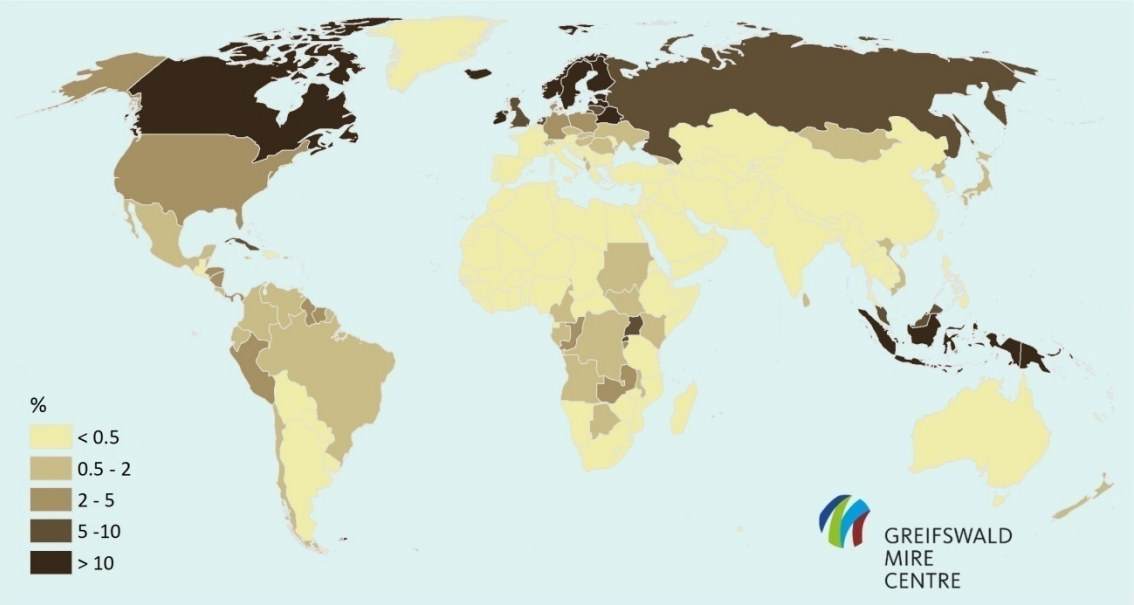


Fig. 1: Global distribution of peatlands/organic soils.

- 15% of these soils (= 0.4% of the land; c. 655,000 km²) has been drained, mainly for cropland, grazing land, and forestry.
- 91% of the drained peatlands are found in Asia and Europe.
- The assessment of location, extent and drainage status of organic soils is 'work in progress' - especially in tropical regions of Africa, Asia and South America.
- Huge areas of undrained organic soils still occur in the boreal zone, e.g. in Russia, Canada, Sweden and Norway.
- The floodplains of main Sub-Sahara rivers still include large areas of diverse and undrained tropical organic soils.
- Several countries of the temperate zone have drained more than 75% of their organic soils.
- Drained organic soils occur in distinct hot-spots, especially in Europe and Asia, but also in Africa.
- Major mapping gap(s): Central and Southern America.

Emissions from drained peatlands

- Meta-analyses have allowed to derive robust emission factors for drained peatlands (IPCC Wetland Supplement).
- Globally drained peatlands emit 5% of the total global anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHG).
- Most (>95%) peat emissions are caused by only 25 UNFCCC parties (incl. EU) (Fig. 2).
- A substantial emission reduction can be achieved by rewetting drained peat soils.
- Rewetting also stops soil degradation, subsidence, salt intrusion, and consequent loss of productive land, and improves water purification, meso-climate, flood control, and biodiversity. Rewetting is thus consistent with a wide variety of global and regional policy agreements.
- Many countries can kick-start national emission reductions by focussing on drained peat soils. In 25 countries, emissions from drained peat exceed 50% of the total emissions from fossil fuels and cement. In an additional 25 countries, emissions exceed 10% of those from fossil fuels and cement.
- Poor data: on drainage ditches/CH_4 from drained peatlands; on GHG from rewetted peatlands previously used as cropland.

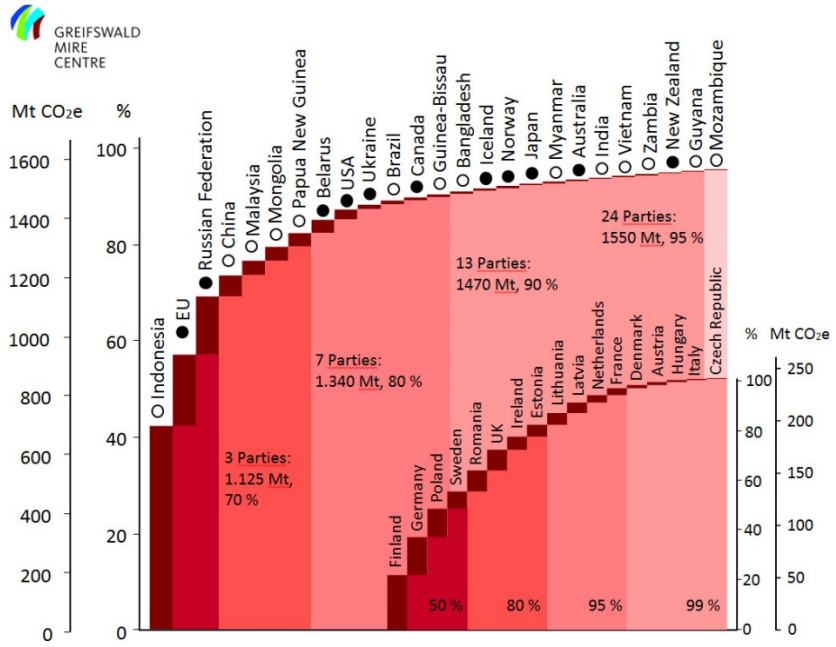


Fig. 2: Emissions from drained organic soils for the 25 UNFCCC Parties responsible for 95% of the emissions in descending order. White dots denote non-Annex 1 Parties, black dots Annex 1 Parties. Red shades indicate where the 70, 80, 90 and 95 percent marks are crossed. The inset depicts the contributions of the 16 EU countries that are together responsible for 99% of EU and 17% of global emissions from organic soils. Presented emissions values concern microbial oxidation only; fires raise the importance of particularly Indonesia and Russian Federation. All data from the Global Peatland Database/Greifswald Mire Centre: http://tiny.cc/globalpeat

Implementation Ramsar Resolution VIII.17: Global Action Plan

- Ramsar declarations stay for ever, do not disappear → use Ramsar! the only convention dealing with wetlands.
- Poor reporting 32 countries point peatlands as not applicable item in their 2005 NRs: Europe - 5 (incl. Greenland!); Africa – 10 (incl. Botswana!); Americas – 7 (incl. USA!); Asia – 4 (incl. Iran and Kyrgyzstan).
- Next steps towards raising capacity of the Contracting Parties to enhance implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GGAPP), Res. VIII.17:

1) To identify gaps in the convention framework and come up with a strategy when relevant.
2) To update information on the status of "peatland related" activities in the countries form existing sources.
3) To identify gaps in knowledge, information and activities and hot spots basing on the previous assessments of GGAPP implementation and other existing sources.
4) To identify criteria for the designation of the Contracting Parties to be addressed (requested by STRP).
5) To develop questionnaire for the obtaining information from the countries.

Global Peatland Initiative

- Official launch end of 2016 (UNFCCC COP22 Marrakech).
- The Global Peatland Initiative has an active implementation duration for 6 years. It is planned as a long term commitment, but duration depends on funding.
- The Global Peatland Initiative will focus of health and social welfare and highlights the overall damage/impact of degrading and burning peatlands.
- Assessment of global status and national assessment in pilot countries → contribution to 'The Emissions Gap Report 2017' elaborated by UNEP/FAO.
- UNEP's role: largely communication; FAO: commitment for at least 6 years, longer duration depends on funding.

Peatland restoration by rewetting in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

- First time re-wetting in extra tropical wetland in South America.
- Legal deficits: no fixed timespan for peatland utilisation (mostly peat extraction) and no after-use requirements in Argentina.

Current paludiculture projects in Europe

- Still only few pilots and even less examples at the company level → but interest and research is growing rapidly.
- The paludiculture biomass heating plant in Malchin (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) is economically profitable.
- Paludiculture is agriculture or forestry (not nature conservation) → crucial to adapt legal frameworks and incentives.
- Food products are rare in temperate peatlands, but much biomass grown on mineral soils today could be shifted to organic soils, food production may thus concentrate on mineral soils.
- Need of integrated land use solutions in Europe – no further export of biomass production for European demand to other countries (see oil palm impact in SE-Asia). To gain other ecosystem services than climate protection in paludiculture would need specific funding and management plans.
- Rewetting organic soils concerns a minor part of total agricultural land only. Reaching similar emission reductions in fertilization and animal husbandry will much stronger affect agricultural productivity.
- Furthermore, rewetting does not imply discontinuation of agricultural use. Paludiculture, the productive use of wet peatlands, provides ample opportunities to continue production while avoiding the environmental burden of drainage based agriculture.

Best technical practices in peatland restoration

- Many nice projects, but lack of long-term monitoring, possibly we are repeating the same mistakes all over again.
- Many books on restoration are available (also from FAO and IUCN) – could Ramsar collect information and elaborate comprehensive guidance e.g. with respect to climate zones? Ramsar already has elaborated a restoration manual.
- Ramsar designations: We should hurry up to designate exactly the areas that are highly relevant for preserving carbon stocks and raise/use international awareness. Ramsar should figure out, what the unique character of a site is, and how this can be transfered to the public and the politicians.

Satellite images for peatland monitoring and management

- SWOS: supposed to become a “service” (not a project), but currently funded only as 3 years, Horizon2020 project.
- Opportunities: soil moisture from radar data, radar penetration > 5 cm depth, BUT: distinction of peat/non-peat is not possible.

2.2 Interactive sessions

Progress made with the implementation of the “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)”

- STRP information paper should be prepared for next Ramsar COP: How Ramsar deals with peatlands: gap analysis, recommendations and findings addressed to Ramsar (CPs) and other MEAs (talk to UNFCCC?), strategic plan.
- Contribution of guidelines for implementation of SDGs and Aichi targets.
- Ramsar should consider not only pristine peatlands, but also drained and used peatlands.
- CCGAP is a framework, any group of people to help Ramsar to implement it, can act as part of STRP.
- In the Ramsar peatlands resolution reporting is forseen only 1 time (COP-9), but could possibly be more frequent.
- Implementation is currently opportunity-driven, it needs to be given more strategic meaning.

Global Peatland Initiative (GPI)

- It is essential to have the big conventions in GPI. Not yet clear what Ramsar will contribute in detail.
- We need also to identify what is the niche of several players (Ramsar, UNEP, FAO, ETC.) is, and what is the additional value of new activities as e.g. the Global Peatland Initiative? Links to IPBES should be made.
- Suggestion is that GPI could act as a kind of ‘umbrella’.

3. Main findings from Session "Exploring options for policy and private sector involvement and identify related research needs" (Session III)

3.1 Presentations and plenary discussions

Global, regional and national policy approaches

- Austria: 20 years of protecting intact peatlands, now sustainable use of drained organic soils is needed to secure the carbon stocks.
- Belarus: Wet use of peatlands is advised, but not focussed on; fires are effectively controlled by the Ministry of emergency.
- Nordic-Baltic peatlands: many examples of NorBalWet national policies/practices; Nordic wetlands conservation book.

Research and innovation gaps

- Sound screening of potential rewetting sites before projects (eg remaining peat depths; cf. PeatRus project.
- Sulfate, Phosphate and DOC can be high after rewetting: solutions are topsoil removal and using water buffalos for nutrient removal.
- Cost-effective remote sensing methods for wetland mapping are needed still.
- Guidance on which peatlands should be safe/strictly protected and which might be used, on how to balance.
- How to restore peat forming systems on a landscape level?
- How to engage the extracting industry to develop some best practice.
- FAO work on peatlands: Global Soil partnership: global soil organic carbon map starting 2017 (3-5 years, countries will compile the data); many countries are not aware; if GPD is not involved and not enabled financially to contribute, this project will fail.
- Drained peatlands cover globally 10% of the Agriculture, Forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector - wrong impression, entire AFOLU sector wrongly reported, therefore WI/GPD relates peatland emissions to fossil fuels.
- Severe forestry bias in UNFCCC.
- IPCC - AFOLU report due 2019.
- IPCC permafrost group totally neglects peatlands.

3.2 Interactive sessions

Policy approaches and instruments

How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities)?

- Promote specific policies for peatland management in countries.
- Thinking of future scenarios of changes.
- Harmonization and cooperation of conventions, policies, methodology, definitions.
- Need of peatland directive.
- Collecting the policies that different countries already have.
- Promote participative planning processes (including all stakeholders).
- Bring stakeholders to peatlands to see their values.
- Education and public awareness.
- Comments on REDraP (REDucing emissions from draining Peatlands) – specific mechanisms under UNFCCC needed? WDR as accounting option exists; possibilities are there, but outreach poor, REDD got much attention.

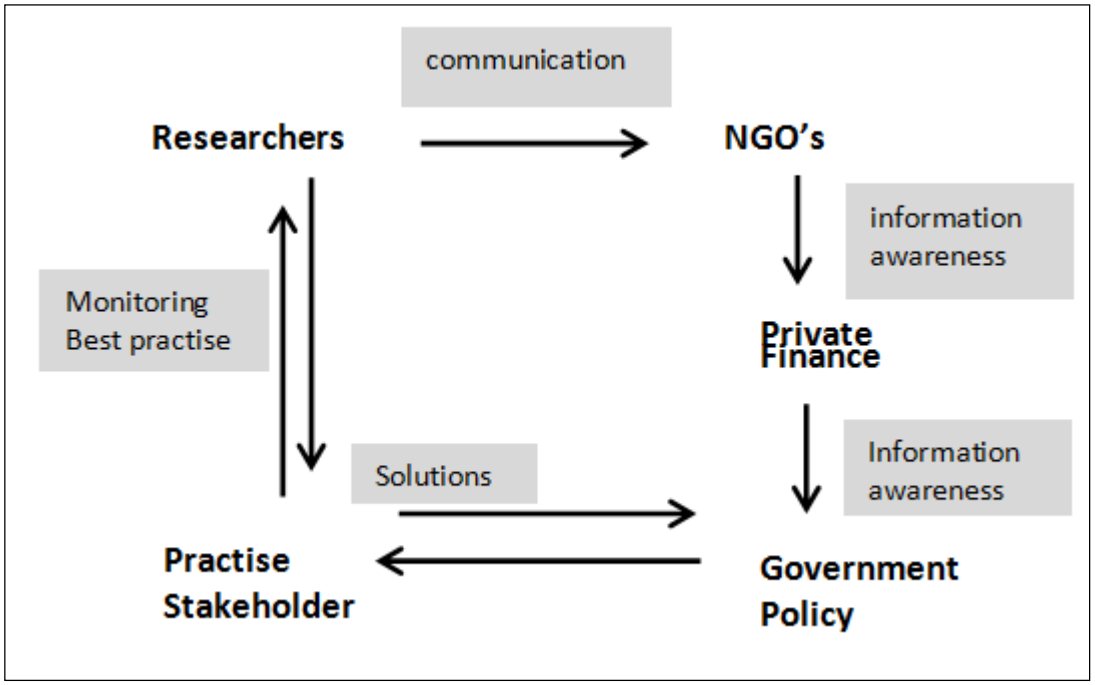
Private sector involvement

How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities)?

- Work with industry that see and respond to changing market conditions (competitive advantage).
- Require paradigm shift to net gain from net lost.
- Awareness building of recent advances in peatland research regarding ESS.

- Promote ‘mitigation sequence’ within full cost accounting.
- Demonstration projects that use ‘chain of flow’ with private sector / conservation sector / government.
- Demonstration projects that have long-term business plan.

Fostering cooperation among policy, private sector and research



- NGOs are needed to translate results from research into (operational) information.
- “…there is a real communication war ongoing” – if you need to have a huge outreach, than you have to be loud. Communication to the press is really important.
- We need to play a ‘serious game’: solutions need to be agreed on platforms that include governments / finance sector / private sector (all stakeholders) / research. Local people need to be integrated in the process of decision making and how have to give them all information (round table).
- Education usually takes 20 years to get the message across.

4. Main findings from Session “Getting the necessary human and financial resources” (Session IV)

4.1 Presentations and plenary discussions

Finance mechanisms

- Microcredits: create respect and interest.
- Ecosystem restoration concessions – can become land banks for offsetting HCV losses and unavoidable C emissions.
- What is missing? Global Peatland Fund.
- International Climate Initiative (ICI): current peatland projects 4 – 3x Greifswald and Turkey, in planning “Peatlands in the ASEAN countries” --> portfolio still small, peatlands are not in the focus.

4.2 Interactive sessions

How to optimise carbon finance

- Bring the message to the 25 top peat parties: REDraP! Peatland restoration is important.
- Analyse issues (and opportunities) of different country and societal groups – see table.

	Annex I countries	Other countries		Target groups				comments
		industrial	developing	Policy makers	Civil society	Private sector	Finance sector	
ISSÙES								
Fire and haze impact on economy and health	1/ Russia:3	2 ASEAN	3	3	3	3	3	Locally relevant and 'hot' item
GHG emissions	2	1	2/3	3	2	3	1	
Soil/landscape subsidence	3	3	3	3	3	3 (assests)	3 (investments and risks)	Relevant to land and food security, lowland peat formation
Land degradation	2	2	3	2-3	2-3	3 (farmers)	2	link to UNCCD
Water (supply, security, retention, purification)	3	3	3	3	2	2-3	3	link to UNCCD
Poverty reduction	Rural Subsidies	Rural subsidies	3	2-3	3	1	2-3	link to SDGs
Biodiversity loss	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	

5. Main findings from Session "Carrying the message further: campaigning strategies for communication, education and public awareness" (Session V)

5.1 Presentations and plenary discussions

Proposed elements of a Ramsar CEPA Strategy for best practices on peatland

- Inform about restoration and wise use on restored peatlands, collect and disseminate restoration case studies.
- Prepare a decision tree for different situations (geographic, peatland types etc.).
- Promote national peatland strategies and policies.
- Enforce obligatory restoration plans for land uses on peatland.
- Raise awareness of the value of peatlands (policy-makers, stakeholders, the general public).
- Adopt peatland-related policy better into legislation.
- Use videos and site visits in communication.
- Involvement in projects.
- Crucial: How to raise policy makers interest?
- Side event COP 13?

5.2 Interactive sessions

Forms of communication/media

Target group	Celebrities	Social media	1-1 meetings	Institutional channels	Excursions infocenters	Briefings, Infographies	Stakeholder meetings	Media/Press (Articles, columns)	training	Press conference	lectures	guidelines
National / governmental	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
Regional (e.g. European Union)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
Provincial governments	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
Private sector	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
NGOs	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Local communities	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Media	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	+/-?	+	+	-	+
General public	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-
Local decision makers	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
Donors, funding sources	?	-	+	+	-	+	+/-?	-	-	-	-	-
Researchers	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Culture	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+
Education	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+

6. Main findings from Session "Overall workshop summary" (Session VI)

Recommendations

- Research, education, implementation, and policy regarding peatlands must be closely linked.
- A strategy how to 'use' science to inform policy is needed (Task: article coordinated by HJ & RM).
- Preparation of a 'State of the World's Peatlands' Report (3 annually) should be considered. The report should reflect the long term involvement of CCGAP, serve as a status report on peatland management and strategies for improvement (GPI), and reflect CEPA on peatland policy-makers → Announcement in Marrakesh?

Tasks

- A letter to UNCCD should be prepared.
- The message from Vilm should be further elaborated, in particular with respect to the top 25 peatland GHG emitters and to tropical peatlands.
- A side event at UNFCCC COP2 Marrakesh should be prepared. Possibilities to use other side events at the German pavilion to bring in the peatland topic (e.g. to introduce the idea of the 'State of the World's Peatlands' Report) should be checked.
- Outreach to the finance sector needs particular attention.

Annex 1: Resolution XII.11 on "peatlands, climate change and wise use"

Wetlands for our future

12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Resolution XII.11

Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention

1. RECOGNIZING that the ecological functions and ecosystem services performed by wetlands, including peatlands in all geographical regions, which contribute to human well-being, including of indigenous peoples and local communities, can be seriously degraded if the ecosystem is not managed wisely and AWARE that increased attention of the Ramsar Convention may be required to address this threat;

2. RECALLING that paragraph 13 of Resolution XI.14 recognized that scientific reports indicate that degradation and loss of many types of wetlands is occurring more rapidly than in other ecosystems and that climate change is likely to exacerbate this trend, which will further reduce the mitigation and adaptation capacity of wetlands and since the conservation and wise use of wetlands have the potential to halt this degradation, the designation of Ramsar Sites together with their effective management, as well as that of other wetlands, can, in some regions, play a vital role in carbon sequestration and storage and therefore in the mitigation of climate change;

3. RECALLING that paragraph 29 of Resolution XI.14 encouraged Contracting Parties and their representatives to reach out to their counterparts in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its relevant subsidiary bodies, in order to initiate and foster greater information exchange on the actual and potential roles of wetland conservation, management, and restoration activities in implementing relevant strategies, as appropriate, in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through enhancing carbon sequestration and storage in wetlands;

4. ALSO RECALLING paragraphs 32, 35 and 38 of Resolution X.24, which urged relevant Contracting Parties to take urgent action as far as possible and within national capacity, to reduce degradation, promote restoration, improve management practices of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant greenhouse gas sinks, and to encourage expansion of demonstration sites on peatland restoration and wise use management in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation activities; called on Ramsar Administrative Authorities to provide expert guidance and support, where appropriate, to the respective UNFCCC focal point, within the context of UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.13 on the joint policies and measures that are aimed to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from wetlands, such as peatlands where practical; and encouraged Contracting Parties to utilize peatlands to showcase the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness activities for implementation of the Convention in the context of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change;

5. FURTHER RECALLING that paragraph 4 of Resolution VIII.17 recognized the importance of peatlands for global biodiversity and for the storage of the water and carbon that is vital to the world's climate system, and that paragraph 3 of the Annex to Resolution VIII.17 states that peatlands are recognized throughout the world as a vital economic and ecological resource;

6. NOTING that paragraph 17 of Resolution X.25 encouraged Contracting Parties to consider the cultivation of biomass on rewetted peatlands (paludiculture), and AWARE that the sustainable rewetting and restoration of peatlands, while maintaining their sustainable productive use, is a promising option to enhance the climate change mitigation potential of peatlands;

7. ALSO NOTING that in its Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that most global estimates do not include emissions from peat burning or decomposition after a land use change; and that particularly, the decomposition of carbon in wetlands and peatlands is not reflected in models despite the large amount of carbon stored in these ecosystems and their vulnerability to warming and land use change;

8. AWARE that the IPCC has completed the *2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands* (Wetlands Supplement) and the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol*, providing detailed guidance on methods for estimating anthropogenic emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from wetlands and drained soils including by rewetting and restoration of drained peatlands; and ALSO AWARE that the IPCC refers to the Ramsar Convention as a global and regional online resource providing for metadata sets for developing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from wetlands and organic soils;

9. AWARE of the adoption by the UNFCCC through Decision 2/CMP.7 of a new activity *"Wetland Drainage and Rewetting"* for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which enables Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that have joined the second Commitment Period to account for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks resulting from wetland drainage and rewetting;

10. NOTING the summary of the findings of the global *Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change* as referred to in part D of Decision IX/16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on *Biodiversity and Climate Change*;

11. FURTHER NOTING Decision X/2 adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD – Aichi Target 15): *"By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification"*;

12. AWARE of Resolution 1/8 adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on ecosystem based adaptation;

13. RECOGNIZING that peatland drainage may lead to rapid soil degradation and the loss of productive land and AWARE of the role that wetlands, including peatlands, play in reducing the impacts of natural disasters;

14. RECOGNIZING the efforts and successes of many Contracting Parties in rewetting and restoring degraded peatlands, the benefits of sharing practical methods and experiences and of having knowledge-based best-practice guidance;

15. ACKNOWLEDGING the Wetlands Supplement, which provides methods for estimating anthropogenic emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from lands with wet and drained soils and constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, and that Box 1.1 of the Wetlands Supplement recognizes that rewetting can also restore wetlands to a state where net CO_2 emissions are greatly reduced or even become negative, causing the wetlands to function as a net remover of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere;

16. FURTHER AWARE that Paragraph 10 of Resolution VIII.11 *Guidance for identifying and designating peatlands, wet grasslands, mangroves and coral reefs as Wetlands of International Importance* acknowledges the capacity of peatlands to regulate local and regional climates and that Paragraph 139 of Ramsar Handbook 17: *Designating Ramsar Sites* (Ramsar Handbooks 4th edition, 2010) refers to the hydrologic role of wet peatlands in regulating the local and regional climate via evapo-transpiration cooling;

17. ACKNOWLEDGING the distinct mandates and independent legal status of conventions and AFFIRMING that the UNFCCC and IPCC are the key references for the terms *mitigation, adaptation, carbon sequestration, emissions reductions, greenhouse gas emissions* and *carbon storage* used in this Resolution, as they pertain to climate change;

18. RECOGNIZING the UNFCCC as the primary multilateral forum on addressing climate change and the IPCC as the leading international body for the scientific assessment of climate change;

19. REAFFIRMING that the Ramsar Convention is the primary multilateral forum on addressing wetland issues; and

20. NOTING the Policy Brief on *Peatlands, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation* and the report *Peatlands and Climate Change in a Ramsar context – a Nordic Baltic Perspective* developed under the Ramsar regional initiative NorBalWet as inspiration for other Ramsar regional initiatives and Parties, as appropriate;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

21. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to consider limiting activities that lead to drainage of peatlands and may cause subsidence, flooding and the emission of greenhouse gases and URGES greater international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building to address this;

22. FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties as appropriate to designate as Wetlands of International Importance at least one peatland area that is also suitable for communication, education and awareness raising about the conservation, restoration and wise use of peatlands and the services they provide, such as their role in relation to climate change, the protection of habitats for rare and threatened species and the provision of water supplies;

23. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and other organizations to facilitate information exchange and cooperation among the administrative or managing bodies of these sites;

24. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) with respect to its Work Plan related to the 4th Strategic Plan, consider in conjunction with interested Contracting Parties and Ramsar International Organization Partners (IOPs):

    a. developing guidelines for inventories of peatlands for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance;
    b. developing guidelines for the further application, as regards peatlands, of Criterion 1 for the selection of Wetlands of International Importance and in particular paragraph 121 of Annex 2 to Resolution XI.8 as pertinent to this Resolution;
    c. evaluating the progress made with the implementation of the "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands"; and
    d. advising the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands;

25. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to utilize their national and regional inventories to map the distribution of their peatlands with a view to determining the extent to which they sequestrate carbon;

26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to facilitate national and regional capacity building to enable Contracting Party experts to create inventories of peatlands;

27. INVITES the STRP National Focal Points to contribute to this work of the STRP in order to provide national and regional perspectives and contribute expertise from their in-country networks of peatland scientists and other experts;

28. REQUESTS the Secretariat, working with the STRP, IOPs and other stakeholders, to compile best practices in peatland restoration techniques to support the work of wetland managers and share them through the official Ramsar Convention website;

29. ENCOURAGES Ramsar bodies to collaborate with relevant international conventions and organizations including UNFCCC bodies, within their respective mandates, on the relationship between peatlands and climate change; and

30. INVITES the Ramsar Administrative Authorities to bring this Resolution to the attention of the national focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to promote collaborative work among the national focal points of these MEAs in support of its implementation.

Annex 2: List of Participants

Title	Surname	First Name	Organization	Country	E-Mail address
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Annex 3: Programme and workshop notes of Session „Looking at peatlands today" (Session II)

Session	Facilitator/Speaker	Interactive Session (format, content)	Expected Products (e.g. re. Res. XII.11)
2 Looking at peatlands today: 2.1 Status quo of peatland conservation, wise use and restoration 2.2 Current initiatives, programmes and projects	Facilitator: Hans Joosten 2.1 Status quo of peatland conservation, wise use and restoration Global overview on the distribution and degradation of peatlands *Alexandra Bathelmes, IMCG* Emissions from peatlands *John Couwenberg, GMC* Implementation Ramsar Resolution VIII17: Global Action Plan *Tatiana Minajewa, Independent Consultant* 2.2 Current initiatives, programmes and projects Global Peatland Initiative *Maria Nuutinen, FAO* Peatland restoration by rewetting in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina *Rodolfo Iturraspe, University of Tierra del Fuego* Current paludiculture projects in Europe *Franziska Tanneberger, GMC* Best technical practices in peatland restoration *Peter Hahn, Nature Agency, Denmark* Satellite images for peatland monitoring and manag. *Kathrin Weise, Jena-Optronik GmbH*	Working Groups setting (3 – 5 WGs) 1 - STRP task 2.4: Assessment of the progress made with the implementation of the "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)", to gather inputs for a report and a webinar on the subject, draft questionnaire, feedback for a report (Tatiana) see marcela 2 - Next steps for Global Peatland Initiative (Maria N.) 3 - Draft outline for Technical Report on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands (Rodolfo and Franziska and Peter Hahn) see Marcela (4 - Review and develop guidelines for tropical peatlands' inventories to be designated as Wetlands of International Importance) 4 – 6 … may develop from the discussion	Marcela: WG on STRP task 5.3, "Advice for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands" which seeks to produce a Ramsar Technical Report that reviews the links between practical restoration and rewetting methods for peatlands in order to prevent carbon transfer from soils and vegetation to the atmosphere. Expected output for the workshop: a draft outline Marcela: WG on STRP task 1.2, "Development of guidelines for inventories of peatlands for possible designation as Wetlands of International Importance" - Focus on part 1 of the task: Review and develop guidelines for tropical peatlands' inventories for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance. The "best practice" scientific and technical guidelines will be discussed in a Briefing Note, covering extent, depth, quality, elevation and survey methodologies. - Expected output for the workshop: outline and key messages of guidelines

Group II/1: STRP task 2.4: Assessment of the progress made with the implementation of the "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)", to gather inputs for a report and a webinar on the subject, draft questionnaire, feedback for a report - presenter: Tatiana Minaeva

- STRP information paper
    - For next COP: How RAMSAR deals with peatlands: gap analysis, recommendations and findings addressed to Ramsar (CPs) and other MEAs (talk to UNFCCC?), strategic plan.
    - Contribution of guidelines for implementation of SP, SDGs, Aichi targets.
    - Implementation of resolution (gather information).
    - Implementation flow: draft content of information paper → questionary design → annoted content of information paper.
    - Resources are on the way.
    - Involve network of peatland experts to review the draft report.

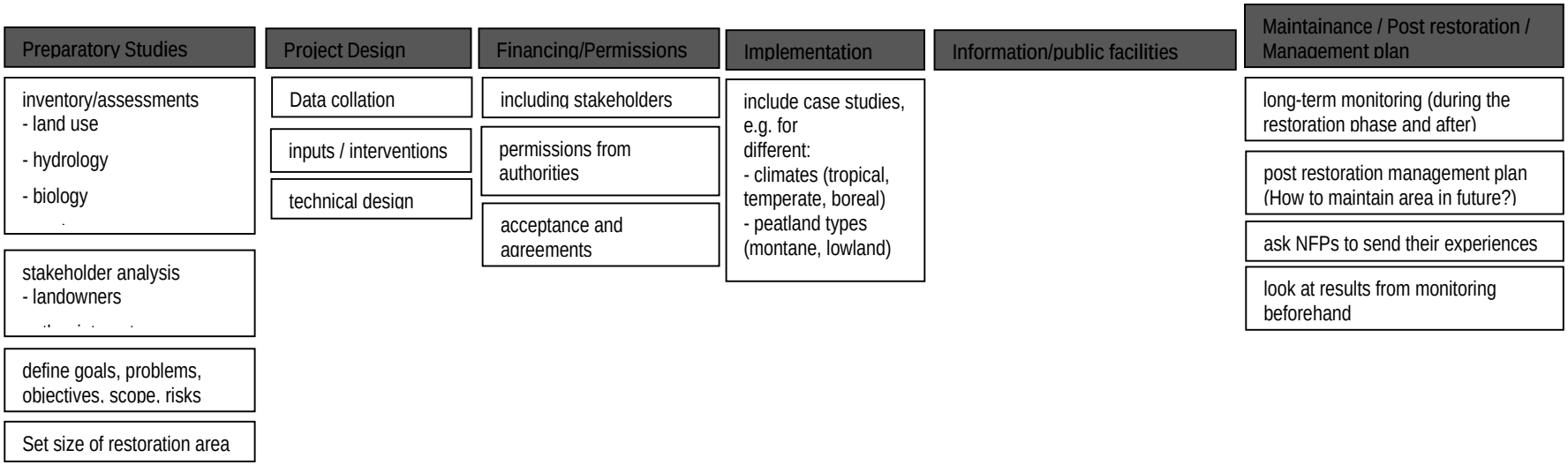
- Questionary
    - Better to address all CPs. Is recommend to involve other stakeholders (IOPs, NGOs, etc).
    - National Ramsar reports of countries should be read first, to avoid the setting of questions that have already been answered.
    - For countries getting the questionary: Ramsar may give peatland information from IMCG Global Peatland Database (e.g. total and drained peatland extent) and requesting a statement for the presented data.
    - Time lines: Get the draft reviewed by the CCGAP and STRP; 3 months deadline for country replies.
    - Questionary should include:
        - general part (aware GGAP/CCGAP exist; Do you report peatlands to other Conventions? Is the peat assessment in your country correct? Implementation capacity?).
        - particular parts (no overlap with NR and RIS): 3 pages maximum, tick boxes, limited free text.

Group II/2: Assessment and monitoring of peatland extent and status (presenter: R. Milton)

- A state of the world's peatlands: Where are key peatlands located? Why are they important for biodiversity?
- Identify gaps of knowledge: a lot is known, available area GIS-data is worst in the Tropics, but also bad for several European countries/regions.
- We have to point out that governments often do not know what they are talking about if considering peatlands or organic soils. Which countries have an 'up-to-date' peatland policy?
- Countries have responsibility for peatland types within their biogeographical regions (RAMSAR/biodiversity).
- We need to know the status and to figure to what extent this can be mapped and monitored with remote sensing.
    - What are the indicators of peatland status (deforestation, de-vegetation, state of the vegetation, excavation, drainage, forestry, palm oil - especially Tropics: fire, biodiversity, subsidence, rates of conversion; rate of restoration).
    - We have to identify key threats.
    - Economic/social aspects.
- We may establish regional baseline information and give governments the opportunity to respond.
- Key steps on national scale.
    - Collate data / improve knowledge and awareness.

- Indication of key national peatlands:
  - at best: official data and science based input.
  - develop methodology that combines existing data with applicable, cost effective methods (e.g. remote sensing technologies).
- Develop monitoring indicators for peatland status assessments.
- Develop and disseminate best management practise for peatland use.
- Assess to which extent peatlands are covered by protected areas.
- Identify threats to peatlands.
- Undertake policy actions to improve peatland protection.
- Awareness raising on ESS.
- What may be perverse incentives at national scale that trigger non-sustainable use of peatlands?
- Provide opportunities for rewetting.
- Countries should report to Ramsar where peatlands used for drained agriculture are located, and on the rate of awareness for peatland issues.

Group II/3: Draft outline for Technical Report on practical rewetting methods for and restoring peatlands (presenter: P. Hahn)



Group II/4: Review and develop guidelines for tropical peatlands' inventories to be designated as Wetlands of International Importance

- Guidelines for tropical peatland inventories not discussed.
- National peat inventories:
    - Other criteria (use in awareness rising tool):
        - Peat, plants, water, area.
        - Peatland types (fens, bogs, etc.).
        - Size of site (buffer zone).
        - Intactness of hydrological system (intact sites, excavated sites, and other criteria).
        - History and culture (peatland formation, livelihoods, land use).
        - Accessibility of site.
- Awareness rising & education:
    - Highlight ESS and values (regardless of peatland type and amount of carbon).
    - Local communities involvement (i.e. Asia , S-America).
    - Highlight value of small areas of peatlands within larger sites.
- Inventories on climate regulation - ESS (local water cycle regulation, climate change regulation, carbon storage).
- Ramsar sites are designated for conservation and often because of international pressure or support.
- Nice if an inventory for the intended site is available.
- If no inventory is in place:
- If there is no time to do a comprehensive biodiversity assessment:
    - Focus on other ecosystem services that may improve acceptance for rewetting (e.g. carbon, water supply and purification). For example focus on high altitude peatlands and highlight their role of water supply for lowland cities.
- If pressure is too high, it might be useful not to design this Ramsar site - consider control and defensibility of the designated site.
- We should hurry up to designate exactly the areas that are highly relevant for preserving carbon stocks and raise/use international awareness.
- Ramsar should figure out, what the unique character of a site is, and how this can be transfer to the public and the politicians.
- In Peru exist large tropical peatlands often with indigenous people that rely on ESS - it might be worth to consider the designation of a Ramsar site there.

Group II/5: Next steps for Global Peatland Initiative (presenters: M. Nuutinen & M. Morgado)

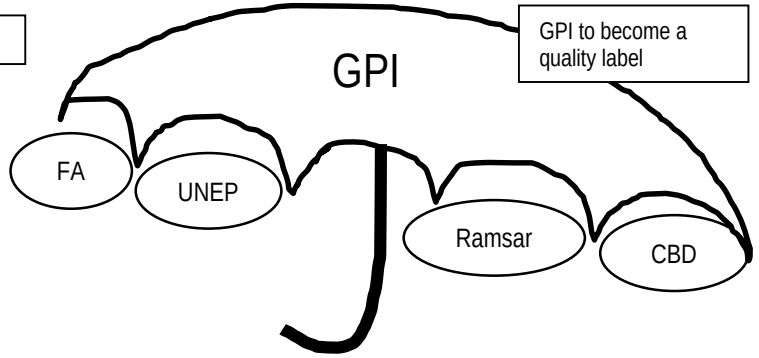
- The suggestion is that GPI could act as kind of 'umbrella' (see below).

Policy, Governance, restoration in countries	Ramsar and GPI	Assessment and data	Resource mobilization	Communication on advocacy
support on policy development	Ramsar national action plans to push GPI	data and monitoring	GPI/Ramsar develop a network of actors	GPI/Ramsar joint workshops in the future
disseminate GPI aspects and turn them into policies	GPI to benefit certain Ramsar sites	link to Ramsar missions	policy recommend-ations on the basis of ESS/economic valuation	part of communications and outreach
technical expertise			expertise on valuation of peatland ESS	products
restoration guidance and collection of examples				↓
				improved coordination

NEXT STEPS

multi-stakeholder platform ← private sector

Ramsar mandate?



Annex 4: Programme and workshop notes of Session "Exploring options for policy and private sector involvement and identify related research needs" (Session III)

Session	Facilitator/Speaker	Interactive Session (format, content)	Expected Products (e.g. re. Res. XII.11)
3 Exploring options for policy and private sector involvement and identify related research needs 3.1 Global, regional and national policy approaches 3.2 Private sector involvement 3.3: Research and innovation gaps	Facilitator: Tobias Salathé 3.1 Global, regional and national policy approaches The Austrian peatland strategy *Gert-Michael Steiner, University of Vienna* Belarusian strategy for the conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands *Alexandre Vintchevski* Nordic-Baltic peatland policy *Jari Ilmonen, Finnish Ministry of the Environment and Mara Pakalane, Cooperation of Nordic Baltic NGOs in Peatland Conservation* African peatlands *Collin Oloya, Wetlands Uganda* UNEP's peatland strategy *Maria Morgado, UNEP Brussels* 3.2 Private sector involvement Responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat *Gerald Schmilewski, Klasmann-Deilmann Produktionsgesellschaft Nord mbH & Co. KG* 3.3: Research and innovation gaps (short statements highlighting major gaps) *Anastasia Markina, Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences* *Dominik Zak, Leibnitz-Institut of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries,* *Randy Gordon Milton, Peatland Ecology Research Group* *Maria Nuutinnen, FAO work on peatlands*	World Café (4 Tables, 3 rounds à 30 minutes) Peatland conservation, wise use and restoration 1 Policy approaches and instruments needed 2 Private sector involvement 3 Research gaps and needs 4 Fostering cooperation among policy, private sector and research Questions/issues to be dealt with at each table : 1. Round What are the issues; discuss the context/status quo related to the tables topic; 2. Round What are the opportunities and challenges for peatland conservation , wise use and restoration 3. Round How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities) and /address the challenges/problems	

Group III/1: Policy approaches and instruments

What are the issues?

- Sectoral policies, lack of specific policies for peatland management.
- Lack of coordination between local authorities and site managers.
- Conflicting legislation.
- Reluctance to change from land owners, lack of understanding.
- Conservation not prioritized.
- Neglecting of national obligations.
- Perverse policy incentives.
- Overlap of national and regional agreements.

What are the opportunities and challenges for peatland conservation, wise use and restoration?

- Non-traditional and non-regulatory incentives → financial incentives, technical support.
- Green economy / green farming.
- Regional initiatives.
- Climate change.
- Linking peatland policies to SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
- Support policy makers and communication officers.
- Landscape approach, spatial planning.
- Green Climate Fund (and other funds).
- Carbon markets.
- Include LULUCF sector in international accounting.

How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities)? Address the challenges and problems.

- Promote specific policies for peatland management in countries.
- Thinking of future scenarios of changes.
- Harmonization and cooperation of conventions, policies, methodology, definitions.
- Need of peatland directive.
- Collecting the policies that different countries already have.
- Promote participative planning processes (including all stakeholders).
- Bring stakeholders to peatlands to see their values.
- Education and public awareness.
- Comments on REDraP (REDucing emissions from draining Peatlands) – specific mechanisms under UNFCCC needed? WDR as accounting option exists; possibilities are there, but outreach poor, REDD got much attention.

Group III/2: Private sector involvement (presented by R. Milton)

What are the issues?

- Legislation and policy requires change to address fully cost accounting.
- Civil society is not being effective moving government legislation policy.
- Global competition disparities.
- Policy advisors that do not consider pillars of sustainability.
- Peatland awareness at different levels: social, economic, ecologic.
- Perverse incentives – sustainable products more expensive.
- Accepted methodology for evaluation of ESS to use in supply chain economics.

What are the opportunities and challenges for peatland conservation, wise use and restoration?

- Increased demand for limited natural resources.
- Markets demanding change.
- Business needs to change with markets to survive.
- Certification programs.
- "Polluter pay principle" – full costs accounting.
- Mitigation credits trading between industry.
- Use existing 'platforms' for groups to come together.
- Work with industry for sustainability – still a need for products.
- Work with industry see and respond to changing markets (competitive advantage).
- Private sector has resources to invest in alternatives.
- Nature tourism – increase awareness of ESS of peatlands.

How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities)? Address the challenges and problems.

- Work with industry that see and respond to changing market conditions (competitive advantage).
- Require paradigm shift to net gain from net lost.
- Awareness building of recent advances in peatland research regarding ESS.
- Promote 'mitigation sequence' within full cost accounting.
- Demonstration projects that use 'chain of flow' with private sector / conservation sector / government.
- Demonstration projects that have long-term business plan.

Group III/3: Research gaps and needs (presented by H. Joosten)

What are the issues / gaps?

- How to address conflicting aims (between e.g. biodiversity and other ecosystem services)? Reducing conflicts between biodiversity and ESS, solve in scientific way but acknowledge that it involves choices.
- Better predictive models for undertaken actions/importance of modelling.
- Better proxies for ecosystem services (ESS).
- 'Critical mass' needed in centres of excellence etc. preferably from different disciplines.
- Which information can be gained from satellite images regarding ESS?
- Monetarisation (of ESS?).
- Comparing methodologies / indicators to describe/assess interventions in habitats (practical assessments – and is harmonization possible)?
- Aquatic fluxes need to be considered / some smart, technological solutions are needed (e.g. from hydrochemistry).
- What are the boundaries of paludiculture?
- Balancing social-ethical, economic aspects related to peatland.
- Needs of future generations (as a guidance)?
- Transformative value of peatlands.
- Pressure for publications hampers integrated studies.

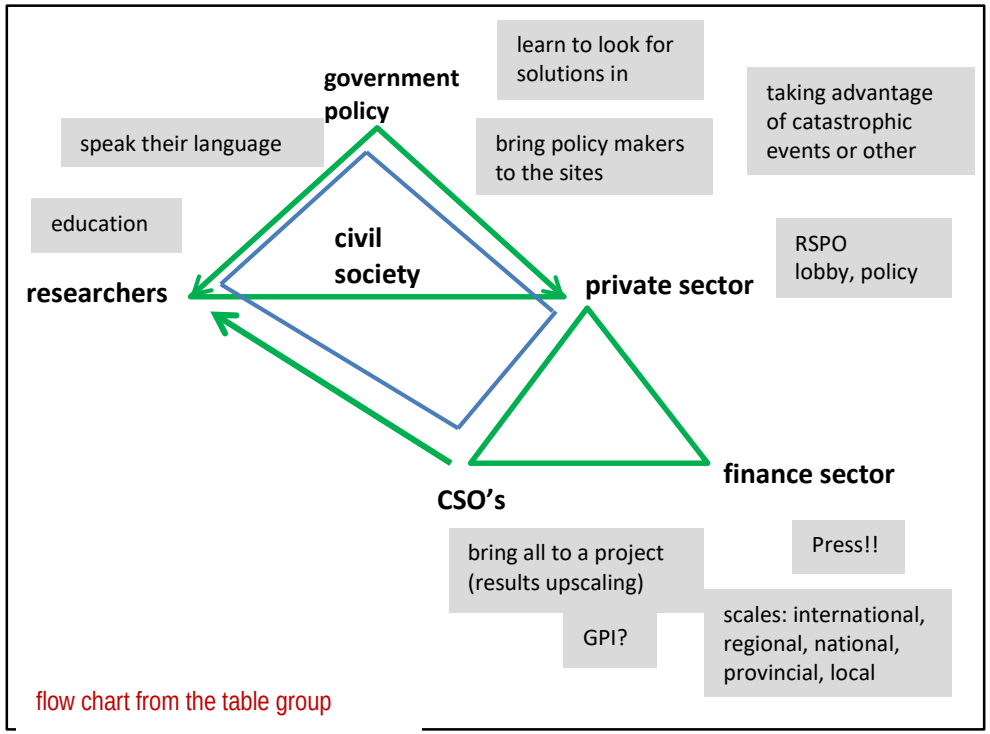
What are the opportunities and challenges for peatland conservation, wise use and restoration?

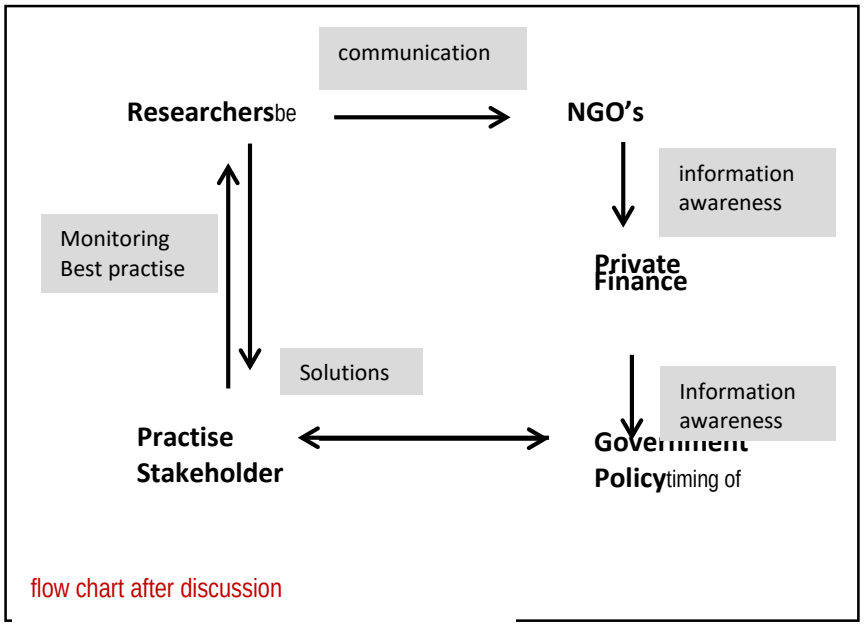
- Next steps: stimulation of opportunities.
- Wise Use Book – take it as a basis, already much work done.

How to move the agenda forward (use opportunities)?

- Address the challenges and problems*!*

Group III/4: Fostering cooperation among policy, private sector and research (M. Nuutinen)





- In reality the private sector and the finance sector are leading and not the governments (that just pretend that they are ahead).
- NGOs are needed to translate results from research into operational information.
- "…There is a real communication war ongoing" – if you need to have a huge outreach, than you have to be loud. Communication to the press is really important.
- We need to play a 'serious game': solutions need to be agreed on platforms that include governments / finance sector / private sector (all stakeholders) / research. Local people need to be integrated in the process of decision making and how have to give them all information (round table).
- Education is operational, but usually takes 20 years.

Annex 5: Programme and workshop notes of Session "Getting the necessary human and financial resources" (Session IV)

Session	Facilitator/Speaker	Interactive Session (format, content)	Expected Products (e.g. re. Res. XII.11)
4 Getting the necessary human and financial resources	Facilitator: Marcel Silvius Finance mechanisms Marcel Silvius, Wetlands International The International Climate Initiative *Jasmin Hundorf, Programmbüro Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative*	Gather indications in Plenum on: - current funding sources and modalities on the basis of current R & D projects - human resources requirements at different levels Break up in Working Groups to discuss: - cooperation in projects and for knowledge sharing (human resources) - partnerships - funding institutions and fund raising - ….	WG on STRP task 1. Parties (COP13).

Group IV/1 Community based peatland conservation (presenter Marcela Bonells)

Funding

- Differentiation between developing and developed countries necessary.
- Wetland mitigation banking.
- Polluter pays principle.
- Traditional incentives.
- Government funding.
- Community investments.

Community based

- Understand first the needs of community.
- Community traditions driven by economic incentives.

Activities

- Labelling.
- Recognition of suitable practices.
- Capacity building – understand the value chains and show communities the benefits of sustainable practices.
- Global inventory of best practices – focus on sites with issues.
- Education.
- Biosphere reserve designation.

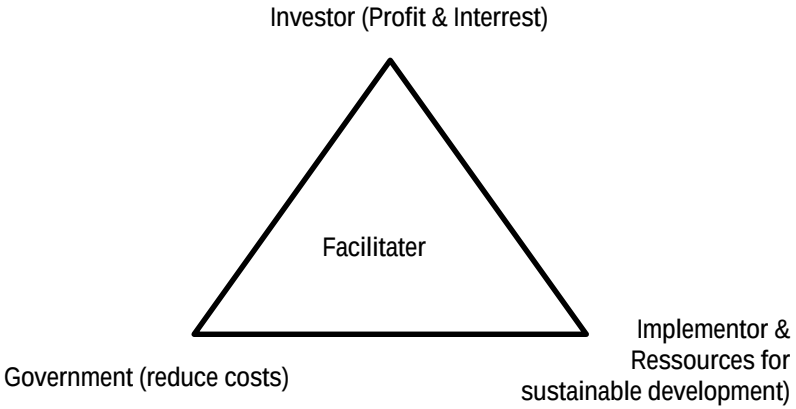
Group IV/2 How to optimise carbon finance (presenter John Couwenberg)

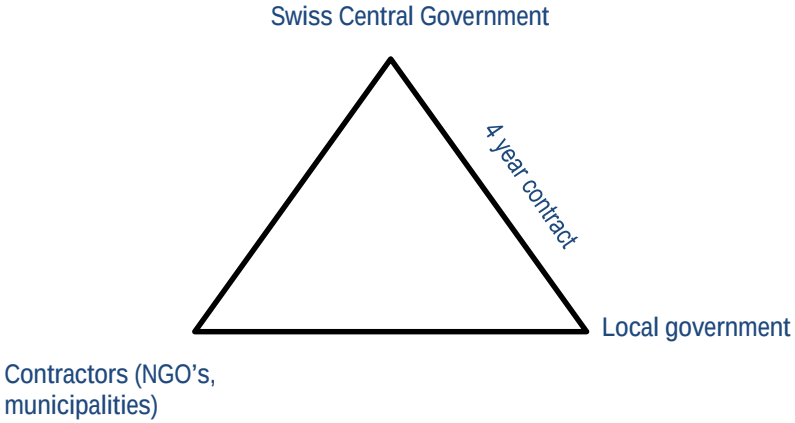
- The message for the 25 top peat parties: Importance of rewetting and REDraP!

	Annex I countries	Other countries		Target groups				comments
		industrial	developing	Policy makers	Civil society	Private sector	Finance sector	
ISSÙES								
Fire and haze impact on economy and health	1/ Russia:3	2 ASEAN	3	3	3	3	3	Locally relevant and 'hot' item
GHG emissions	2	1	2/3	3	2	3	1	
Soil/landscape subsidence	3	3	3	3 (costs)	3	3 (assests)	3 (investments and risks)	Relevant to land and food security, lowland peat formation
Land degradation	2	2	3	2-3	2-3	3 (farmers)	2	UNCCD
Water (supply, security, retention, purification)	3	3	3	3	2	2-3	3	UNCCD
Poverty reduction	Rural Subsidies	Rural subsidies	3	2-3	3	1	2-3	SDGs
Biodiversity loss	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	
LACK OF:								
Awareness	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	
Alternatives	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	
Investments	2	2	3	2	1	3	3	
Mechanisms/targeted finance instruments	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	
Integrated strategies/landscape appr:	3	3	3	3	2/3	2/2	2	
Incentives	1	1	3	2	2	3	3	
Integrated research	3	3	3	2	1	2	3	
Economic assessments	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

Group IV/3 Green Impact Bounds (presenter: Jari Ilmonen)

- Risk Analysis.
- WLENLF cooperation.
- Option for in-kind payment.
- Offsetting for compensation payments.
- Independent auditor.
- Examples/Opportunities: in Netherlands (paludiculture upscaling); in Finland (addressing abandoned unprotected peatlands), Canada (restoration of saltmarshes), Denmark (low lying villages in peatlands), Russia (prevention of peat fires).





Group IV/4 Influencing finance sector (presenter: Hans Joosten)

- Put your money in the swamps!
- Convince finance that peatlands are a business opportunity.
- Assets:
    - Urgent and large scale problems.
    - Concentrated problems = cost effective.
    - Positive feedback.
    - Synergies in mitigation, adaptation, production (cf. paludiculture), security/stability, biodiversity.
- Link the assets to the specific properties of peatlands.
- Compare with other land use (esp. forestry).
- Explain peatlands in financial/investment language.
    - Peat grows for free and ever.
    - Capital providing interest.

Group IV/5 Global peatland Fund (presenter: Franziska Tanneberger/Tom Kirschey)

- Niche: exclusive for peatlands.
- Focus: peatland restoration (including monitoring.
- Target groups: NGO's, industry, land management, at small scale community based.
- Governance: under Ramsar convention advisory.
- Who pays?
    - Private donors.
    - New found or priority shifting: GEF, Worldbank, Ramsar, SGF.

Annex 6: Programme and workshop notes of Session "Carrying the message further: campaigning strategies for communication, education and public awareness" (Session V)

Session	Facilitator/Speaker	Interactive Session (format, content)	Expected Products (e.g. re. Res. XII.11)
5 Carrying the message further: campaigning strategies for communication, education and public awareness	Facilitator: Lars Dinesen Strategies for education and public awareness on peatlands wise use, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina *Adriana Urciuolo, University of Tierra del Fuego* Ramsar CEPA Strategy *Tobias/Marcela*	4 Working Groups to develop a communication strategies each: Each group focusing on a specific target group (international policy, national policy makers, the public, private sectors, education sector (curriculum development), research community) Each group to come up with tangible suggestions for action (who can do what, when; expected results)	Marcela: WG on STRP task 1.2, "Development of guidelines for inventories of peatlands for possible designation as Wetlands of International Importance" - Focus on part 2 of the task: Revised guidelines as an Annex to a Draft Resolution to be submitted to Standing Committee and the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13).

See main findings.

Annex 7: Programme and workshop notes of Session “Overall workshop summary” (Session VI)

Session	Facilitator/Speaker	Interactive Session (format, content)	Expected Products (e.g. re. to Res. XII.11)
6 Paving the future path: workshop summary, finalization of workshop documents and definition of next steps	Facilitator: Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst	Plenum discussion: - Documents: Report (what format, target group); Policy Brief; - Concrete next steps: outputs from Vilm (suggestions for Marrakesh and other events and Ramsar COP XIII, follow up (brainstorming)	

See main findings.

Evaluation of the workshop