

Implementation of Ramsar Resolution VIII17: Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands

Tatiana Minayeva (Minajewa)

Care for Ecosystems UG

associate with Wetlands International



What is GGAP?

Recommendation 7.1 “A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands”

“People and Wetlands: The Vital Link” 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999

Resolution VIII.17 Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands

"Wetlands: water, life, and culture“ 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP) – key statements of resolution

Reviews how convention addressed peatlands

Identify resources to work on peatlands – for example refers to Global Peatland Initiative

Calls CPs

- to carry out inventory of peatlands and to designate further peatlands
- within their territories for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance
- include information on the status and trends of their peatland resources in their National Reports
- to include peatlands as a theme in their implementation of national action plans for education and public awareness through the Convention's Outreach Programme
- to consider peatlands as of the importance of the archaeological and cultural heritage features of peatlands

REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau, working with interested Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the International Mire Conservation Group, the International Peat Society, the Convention's International Organization Partners, and other non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other bodies, to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands, and ALSO REQUESTS this Coordinating Committee, once established, to prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands

report on the progress in implementing these Guidelines, including



Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP) – key statements of resolution

REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau, working with interested Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the International Mire Conservation Group, the International Peat Society, the Convention's International Organization Partners, and other non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other bodies, to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands, and ALSO REQUESTS this Coordinating Committee, once established, to prepare an implementation plan for global action on peatlands

REQUESTS that a report on the progress in implementing these Guidelines, including recommendations on future priorities, be submitted to Ramsar COP9



Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP)

Resolution VIII.17

Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP) - the Framework for action on global, regional and national level, addressing needs in global coordination of actions within following priorities:

- A. Knowledge of global resources
- B. Education and public awareness on peatlands
- C. Policy and legislative instruments
- D. Wise use of peatlands
- E. Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity
- F. International cooperation
- G. Implementation and support

Guidelines defines main threats, problems, emerging issues and priorities for actions in peatland conservation; provide the approach and methodology.

More about Ramsar and Peatlands on:

http://www.ramsar.org/types_peatlands.htm



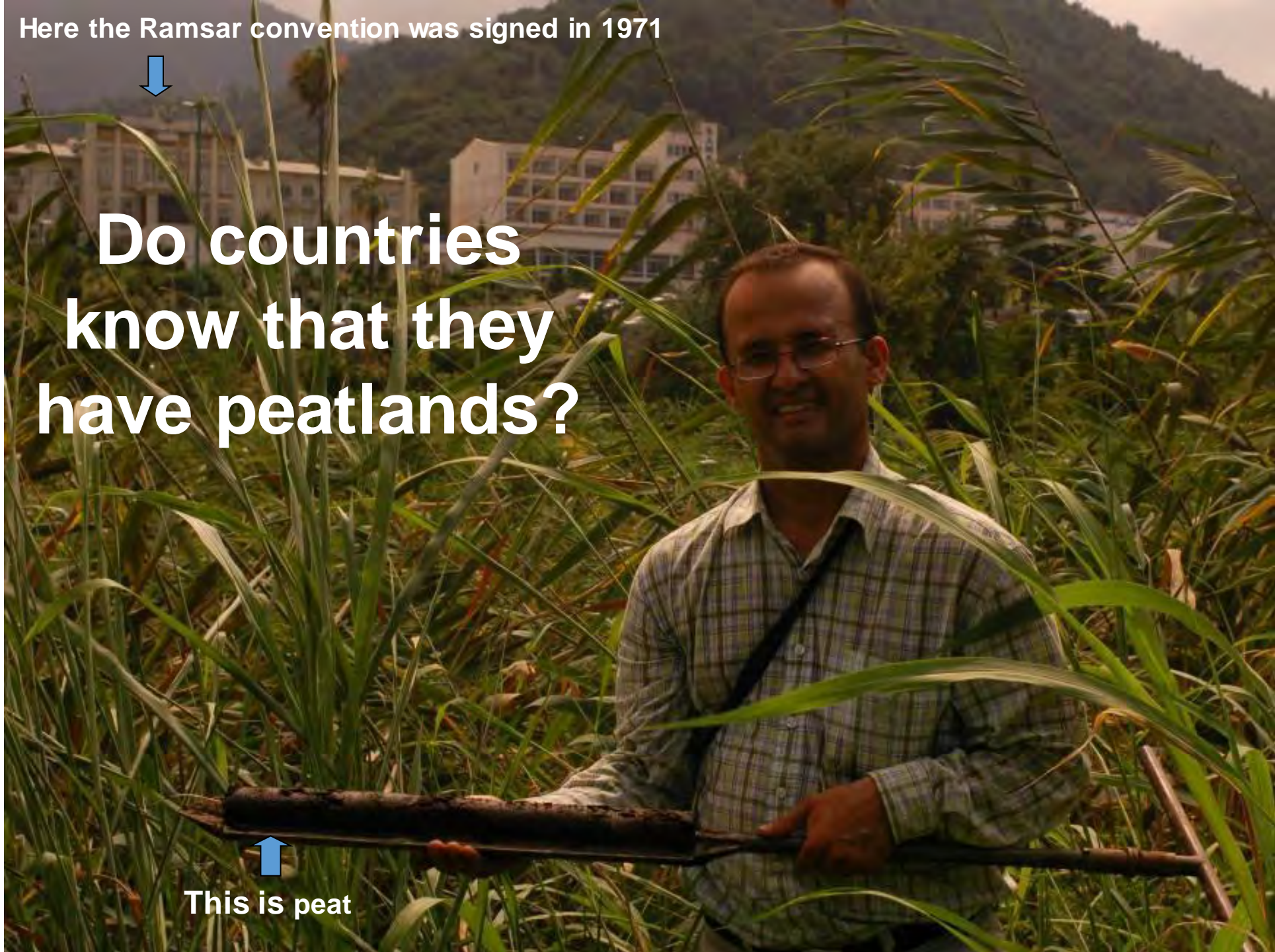
Here the Ramsar convention was signed in 1971



**Do countries
know that they
have peatlands?**



This is peat



Do countries know that they have peatlands?

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)

In 2008 NRs only 20 countries remained declaring this:

Europe – 3

Africa – 10 (incl. Madagascar, Nigeria, Zambia)

Americas - 5

Asia – 2 (incl Srilanka)

Do countries know that they have peatlands?

Between COP10 and COP11 – 10 sites with peatland as dominating type had been designated

Argentina - 1 (2760 ha)

Austria - 1 (48 ha)

Algeria – 1 (729 ha)

Norway – 4 (5422 ha)

France – 1 (33 ha)

Estonia – 3 (25798 ha)

Do countries report about their peatlands?

countries mentioned peatlands in NR 2012	48
carbon/climate	18
restoration/management	27
biodiversity/inventory	15
hydrology/flood control	5
new Rams sites	9
other protected areas	6
projects	14
legislation/policy	16
private sector	7
industry/threats	9
livelihoods	8
cultural values	3
CEPA	10

Do countries report about their peatlands?

Countries which did not mentioned peatlands !

- **Turkey!**

Just published Inventory of peatlands of Turkey, 2012

- **Lithuania!**

Implemented 5 Life projects on peatlands restoration

- **Botswana!**

Implemented large restoration projects

And many others!

Do countries report about their peatlands?

“Peatland” countries which did not submit national reports to COP12:

- **Poland**
- **Russian Federation**

“Peatland” countries which do not use term peatland describing peatland work in NR to COP12:

Austria, Georgia, USA, Slovenia, all African countries.

Dynamic of implementation

- Conservation management of peatland biodiversity in Eastern Europe (Darwin Initiative 1998-2001)

Countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine

- Central European Peatland Project (1999-2002
Dancee, LNV direct reference to rec. 7.1)

8 countries in the Baltic-Black Sea corridor: Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine

- Quick Scan on Peatlands of Central and Eastern Europe (2007-2009, BBI Matra)

Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia and Turkey



Global Peatland Initiative



The Global Peatland Initiative

Objectives

- increasing awareness of peatland functions and values
- fostering partnerships between conservationists, scientists, research institutes and the private sector
- enhancing incomes from public values of peatlands
- establishing networks and partnerships nationally, regionally and globally to address peatland problems
- supporting certification of peatland products.

Means of achieving objectives

- promoting the IPS/MCG "Wise Use Guidelines for Peatlands Globally", and the
- Royal "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP)"
- providing financial support to key projects
- building vital bridges between different peat and peatland stakeholders, for example, conservationists, ecologists, economists and the peat industry.

Priorities

- key peatland areas and sectoral needs in those parts of the world where information is currently very limited (e.g. in Africa, South America, north Asia and Southeast Asia)
- peatlands in developing countries and countries in transition (the latter is only in Eastern Europe)
- strategic vision of peatlands globally and provision of key international activities.

How does it operate?

The GPI operates through one or more of its partners. Decisions are taken by a Steering Committee, which consists of representatives of the core organizations that lead the GPI partnership. The Steering Committee decides upon the direction of the GPI, its aims and objectives, structure and operating mechanisms.

Donors and project funding

The GPI acts as a clearinghouse to enable donors and project proposers to identify needs and resources. Wetlands International currently chairs the GPI and manages the funding provided by the Netherlands Government (DGIS). The GPI strives to create a broad international funding basis for wise use of peatlands. It provides mainly part-funding or seed funding to new projects and may co-finance existing projects to enable them to become more effective. To be eligible for funding, projects must have clear aims, objectives and outputs that can be delivered within time scales acceptable to the GPI Steering Committee. Projects must be endorsed by relevant authorities and local stakeholders.

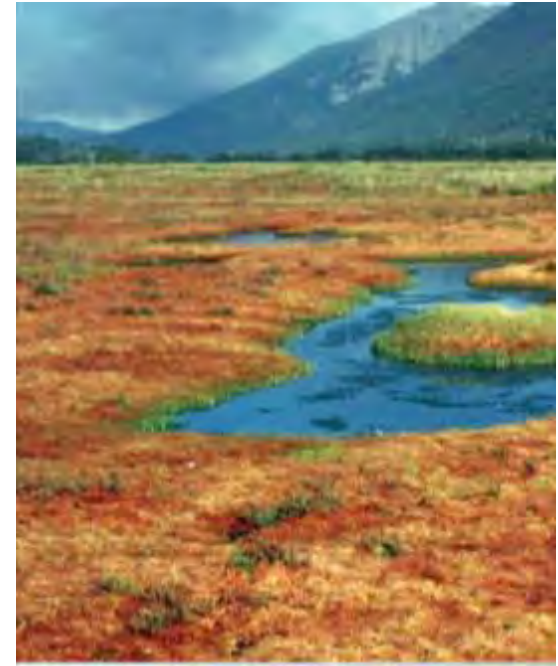
GPI Achievements

- In Phase 1 of activities (2001/2002) projects were funded for a total of Euro 700,000 to assist key peatlands projects in Africa, Russia, South-east Asia
- Under Phase 2, over 20 new projects will be supported, amounting to another Euro 750,000
- GPI has contributed to several policy development workshops, resulting in the IPS/MCG Joint Statement on Wise Use of Peatlands (Wageningen, 2001) and Statement on Wise Use of Tropical Peatland (Jakarta, 2001).

GPI focal areas

Focal areas for GPI activities are:

- Integrated development
- Biodiversity conservation
- Climate impact
- Water resources
- Poverty alleviation



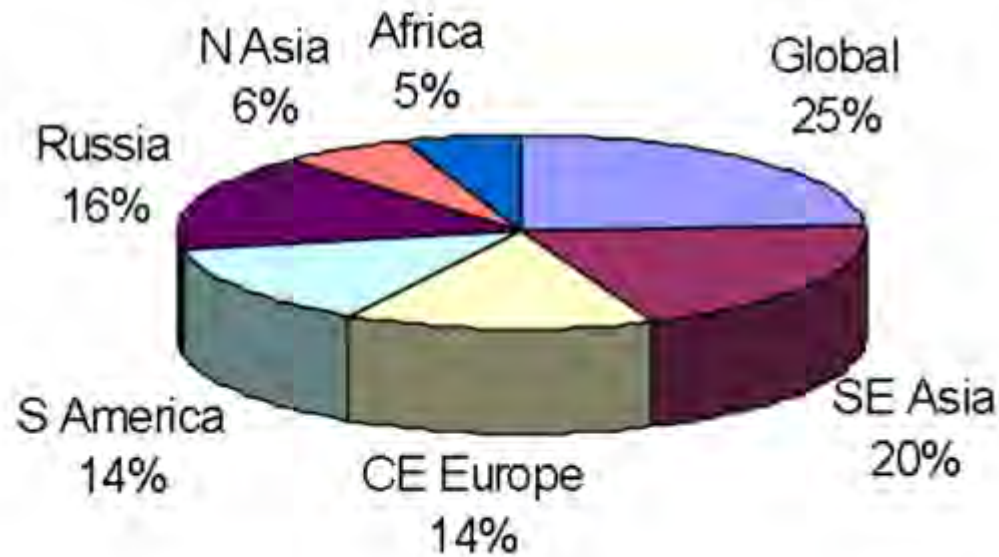
Our contact details

GPI projects & DGIS funding
Att. Marcel J. Silvius - Wetlands International
PO Box 471, 6700 AL Wageningen, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 317 479961 - Fax: +31 317 479950
E-mail: silvius@wetlands.org.nl
Web: www.wetlands.org/projects/GPI
GPI secretariat
Phone: +31 317 479933 - Fax: +31 317 424800
E-mail: GPI@alterra.wag-ur.nl
Web: www.globalpeatlands.net



Funding distribution of GPI

GPI funding distribution



The chart on the left provides an overview of the distribution of the DGIS funding under GPI Phase 1. It should be noted that the DGIS funding (Euro 707,000) has successfully leveraged over EUR 3,9 million in co-funding, particularly in SE Asia where several projects have generated commitments from donors, including CIDA (Canada) and GEF. Regional and national projects have invariably had outputs that contribute to the science base and international capacity required to support the necessary innovation of international policy frameworks (e.g. conventions).

Instruments of Ramsar Convention

To meet CPs demand, peatlands issues have been integrated into Ramsar Convention tools and instruments:

New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (adopted 2002)

with specific reference to peatlands

Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance (adopted in 2005)

– peatlands as underrepresented wetlands type

Strategic plan for 2002-2008 - cover mechanisms for the delivery of all three pillars of the Convention (Strategic Plan General Objectives 1-3) in peatland wise use and conservation

National report format triennium 2002-2005 – included the special division on peatlands - point 3.2 on GAP implementation

National report format triennium 2005-2008 included indicator

question: Has national action been taken to implement the Guidelines to Global Action on Peatlands (Res. VIII.17)?

No Special Questions in National Report for 2008-2011 – but reporting on peatlands increased

CC GAP mechanism – existing partnership for peatlands conservation and wise use



Peatlands conservation instruments

To meet CPs demands CC GAP and involved organisations have developed several helpful documents addressed countries and global implementing agencies:

Global Peatland Initiative (1999-2002) - initiative to support peatland work all over world – capacity for contribution to convention

Wise use of mires and peatlands (2002) – provides framework and background information on peatlands for decision makers

Peatlands Wise Use Statement (2002) – provides short overview of wise use principles related to peatlands in all convention languages and additionally – in Finnish and Russian

Brochure “Peatlands – Do You Care” (2005)

Explaining peatlands functions and values and refreshing emerging issues on peatlands

Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate change (2009)

Review of the latest scientific information with key finding as background for decision making, endorsed by CBD COP

2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Green House Gas Inventories – Chapter 7 – Wetlands, focus on peatlands under extraction

New IPCC Guidelines – Wetlands supplementary 2013



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) to discuss in the interactive group

To identify gaps in the convention framework and come up with strategy when relevant

- Capacity in the secretariat
- Capacity in the STRP
- CCGAP – which format could be suitable
- Involvement of IOPs
- Update analysis how peatlands are represented in guidelines, resolutions, national reports and assessment templates

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) to discuss in the interactive group

- 2) To update information on the status of “peatland related” activities in the countries from 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)

Proposed criteria:

- CPs having peatlands but not reporting on their presence, status, activities, including those countries which are generally non active in Ramsar.
- CPs with peatlands under threat (active peatland development projects or known facts of significant losses, threats or legal framework changes).
- CPs with peatlands under climate change related specific threats (peatlands at the edge: high longitude, high altitude, arid).
- CPs with known examples of the best practices including national actions.
- CPs with possible presence of peatlands but not specifically addressed neither by countries, nor by experts.

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) to discuss in the interactive group

5) To develop questionnaire for the obtaining information from the countries.

- Purpose of questionnaire (why we need it?)
- Target countries (Should we address all countries or chosen countries as STRP recommends)
- Do we have capacity to chase countries and think over outcomes of questionnaire?

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) to discuss in the interactive group

Possible approach – first group of questions – GGAP Framework

Information on plan:	Are you aware that the GGAP exists? Are you aware that CCGAP exists?
Reporting on plan:	Is Ramsar national report template and other Ramsar documents' templates sufficient to report on GGAP to Ramsar? Do you use information on peatlands to report on the other international agreements?
Implementation capacity and framework:	Do you need the further assistance for GGAP implementation in the country? If yes, what sort of expert? technical? organisational? Additional guidelines?
	Do you report on peatlands to other conventions? If yes please choose: CBD UNFCCC CCD MC EU conventions other (which)
	Do you have a national peatland action plan?
	Are peatlands reflected in the other national strategic documents?
	Do you need a national peatland action plan?

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) to discuss in the interactive group

Possible approach – second group of questions – The chapters of GGAP

A. Knowledge of global resources	Are you part of any global network presenting information on peatlands
B. Education and public awareness on peatlands	Is Ramsar information sufficient; Do you need additional support; How peatlands are presented in regular education schemes
C. Policy and legislative instruments	Are statements on peatlands inventory, conservation or wise use integrated in the national overall or sectoral legislation?
D. Wise use of peatlands	Are peatlands addressed specially in specific regulations regarding development: Spatial planning Water management EIA Forestry Rehabilitation Habitat protection/protected areas.
E. Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity	
F. International cooperation	
G. Implementation and support	

Let us discuss together and
find solutions

