

Workshop N. 4
Implementation of Global Action Plan for Peatlands by Ramsar Contracting Parties
May, 4th2008, afternoon session: 16.30- 18.30

Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP) have been adopted by the Ramsar Convention Conference of Contracting Parties (COP8, resolution VIII.17).

The GAPP requests activity by countries within the wide range of areas – scientific, education, management, protection etc.

As a result of resolution VIII.17 a large division on peatlands has been included into the National Report format. Analyses of the National Reports from Europe and Asia for 2002-2005 gave a lot of information on peatland wise use policies and activities. The key problems identified for both regions are that 1) countries do not realise they have peatlands, 2) peatlands are not identified within existing Ramsar sites, even when they make up a significant part of them, 3) very few countries designate Ramsar sites especially for their peatland character, 4) no special management options exist for Ramsar sites with peatlands, and 5) only few countries have special policies including legislation on peatland wise use.

The resolution VIII.17 also defined the instalment of the Coordination Committee for Global Action on Peatland (CC GAP) for monitoring GAPP implementation.

CC GAP has the capacity 1) to provide the Contracting Parties (CPs) with technical information on peatlands and recommendations on peatland policy and management, and 2) to provide feedback from the Contracting Parties to implement these recommendations and policies.

CC GAP had launched within the Convention the book 'Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands' as a manual for decision makers (COP8) and the brochure 'Peatlands: Do You Care' as an education and public awareness tool (COP9). CC GAP provides the opportunity to submit a technical or informational paper on peatlands to each COP. An 'informational paper' is the proper format to inform the CPs on the trends in peatland conservation during the three years between the COPs and to present a review of actual problems that have to be addressed by individual countries and globally.

To learn more about countries needs on peatlands action, results and problems – a feedback form have been prepared.

Countries are invited to share information raised in feedback forms as well as to comment on GAPP implementation process on national and international level as well as propose priorities in content and format of CC GAP further activities.

Presentations and countries comments are expected on:

- GAPP implementation by European countries
- CC GAP activities in past and future
- Key issues on peatlands in Europe for the next triennium
- Synergism of international processes for peatlands

Please fill in the feedback form in advance and send it to tminaeva@ecoinfo
Please be prepared to introduce your national and international experience during the
workshop
Peat library will wait for you!