

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Stakeholder participation for rewetting and paludiculture in the Neman river basin (SPARPAN)



The partially frozen Neman River near Dukodovskoe, Belarus.

Source: W. Wichtmann

Updated: December 2021

**Beneficiary countries:** Russia (Belarus, Lithuania, Poland)

**Duration:** 11/2019 – 12/2021

**Beneficiaries:** relevant authorities, stakeholders from water management, agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors

**Implementing organisation:**

Michael Succow Foundation

**Project number:** 133785

## Background

The Neman River has the fourth largest sub-catchment area of the Baltic Sea, including five countries. Cross-border cooperation is therefore of great importance. The Kaliningrad region holds many degraded peatlands, which emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as well as nutrients into the waters and ultimately the Baltic Sea. However, there is only little knowledge in addressing the problems caused by drained peatlands. The knowledge on traditional methods has been lost and only little experience on the rewetting and wet management of these areas (paludiculture) exists.

## Project details

The SPARPAN project flanked the [Interreg project DESIRE](#) and involved stakeholders, in particular in the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. The goal was to achieve raised awareness on the positive effects of rewetting and paludiculture among interest groups at all levels. During workshops and conferences, experts offered information to public authorities, public and private enterprises from water management, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, especially regarding nutrient retention by sustainable use of rewetted peatlands. They published a multi-language fact sheet which shows that paludiculture promotes the effect of wet peatlands as nitrogen sinks. In several workshops the stakeholders deepened their knowledge about paludiculture and biomass utilisation. They also learnt about the provision of other ecosystem services such as water storage, regional cooling, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity as a goal of wet peatland management. In the transborder dialogue different stakeholders discussed the possibilities of implementing paludiculture and strategic planning, but also the utilisation of biomass as well as the development and implementation of appropriate projects in the region.

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### Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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