

PROJECT INFORMATION

Updated: April 2010

Climate relevance of the Zehlau mire in Russia



The raised bog Zehlau in the Kaliningrad region, Russia
(Photo: A.Strauss)

Background

The project builds on the long history in bilateral cooperation in the fields of environment and nature conservation between Germany and Kaliningrad region, Russia. In addition to its historical dimension as one of the formerly oldest German protected areas, the raised bog Zehlau (Russian: „Zehlau“, „Osjorskij“) has a high ecological value. Storing carbon dioxide, and being a potential carbon sink, the mire has considerable climate relevance. However, the peatland has suffered from fires, deforestation and oil extraction during the last years. A scientific study on the state of the mire and an estimation of the current and potential climate relevance are still missing. The area is under tenure of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation. The establishment of a protected area on the site was planned in the past, but has not been implemented so far.

Project

The Russian-German cooperation project shall serve to analyse the ecological state of the mire and its climate relevance. Measures for protection of its ecosystem services, especially regarding the avoidance of CO₂-emissions and its potential carbon sink function, will be proposed. This approach can also serve to provide suggestions for peatland conservation in other parts of the Russian Federation. In this context, a research visit to Greifswald University on peatland ecology and climate change mitigation will be made organized for a student of Kaliningrad University.

Project results shall be presented on occasion of the 100th anniversary of the first establishment of a protection regime for the Zehlau mire, at the German-Russian days of environment 2010 in Kaliningrad. Thus, the project can contribute to bilateral cooperation in the fields of environment and nature conservation between Germany and Kaliningrad region, Russia.

- Target country/region: Russia
- Duration: 10/2009 – 10/2010
- Beneficiary: Natural Heritage, Kaliningrad University, Ecological-Historical Museum Lake Wystitskiy
- Implementing organisation: Michael Succow Stiftung, www.succow-stiftung.de
- Project number: 380 01 217