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PROJECT INFORMATION

Improvement of peatland conservation in the EU



Protected raised bog in
Estonia

Source: Michael Succow
Stiftung

Background

Peatland conservation in Europe is influenced by various EU regulations and programmes in the field of environment, nature conservation, agriculture, forestry and infrastructure. A comprehensive analysis of respective effects is missing yet and measures seem to be insufficient to guarantee an effective conservation of peatlands. In the Eastern EU member states the proportion of undrained peatlands is higher than in Central Europe. 35 % of Estonia's and 16 % of Poland's peatlands are considered as undisturbed, in Germany less than 1 %. With the accession of Estonia and Poland to the EU in 2004, the EU legislative framework became applicable and was implemented into national legislation which now impacts mires in various ways.

Project

The project documented positive and negative effects of the EU legislation on the status of peatlands and organic soils in the EU, in particular in relation to nature conservation and ecosystem services. An integrative, in-depth analysis of the impact of the EU *acquis communautaire* identified inherent legal problems. The environmental and nature conservation law, the common agricultural policy (CAP), impacts of climate legislation, structural, regional and rural development policies were investigated. Conflicting goals, gaps in legislation as well as lack of efficiency were identified and recommendations for policy makers were derived.

One case study focused on the member state Poland which harbours many fen peatlands; another one on Baltic raised bogs in Estonia which are used for peat extraction in large scale. Based on them, exemplary pictures of the impacts of EU regulations and funding mechanism on peatlands were drawn. A [publication](#) presents the findings and recommendations of this project for a better protection of peatlands in the EU comprehensively.

Target country: Estonia, Poland

Duration: 05/2015 – 10/2016

Beneficiaries: Estonian Ministry of the Environment (Keskkonnaministeerium), Estonian Environmental Board (Keskkonnaamet), General Directorate for Environmental Protection Poland (Generalna Dyrekcja Ochrony Środowiska, GDOŚ)

Implementing organizations:

Michael Succow Stiftung, Silvestrum VoF, Estonian Wetland Society, Siim Vahtrus, Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP), WKB Wierciński Kwieciński Baehr spółka komandytowa

Project number: 56344

Thematic management:

Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)
Mareike Vischer-Leopold
Tel.: +49-228-8491-1544
mareike.vischer-leopold@bfn.de
German Environment Agency (UBA)
Corinna Gather
Tel.: +49-30-8903-5165
corinna.gather@uba.de

Project coordination:

AAP Project service unit
Katharina Lenz
Tel.: +49-340-2103-2243
katharina.lenz@uba.de

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, Building and Nuclear Safety

AAP Project service unit:

AAP-info@uba.de

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