

Eine Zukunftsaufgabe in guten Händen



Why East European peatlands matter globally

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Seminar „Market-Based Instruments for Peatland Conservation and Restoration“

Reception, Berlin, November 17th 2008



Why East European peatlands matter globally

Outline

East European peatlands

Biodiversity

Carbon storage

Greenhouse gases

Fire prevention

International conventions

Conclusions

Outline:

1. East European peatlands – natural range and state
2. Biodiversity values
3. Carbon storage
4. Greenhouse gas fluxes
5. Fire prevention
6. International conventions
7. Conclusions and outlook



Source: Global Peatland Assessment

1. East European peatlands – Natural range and state

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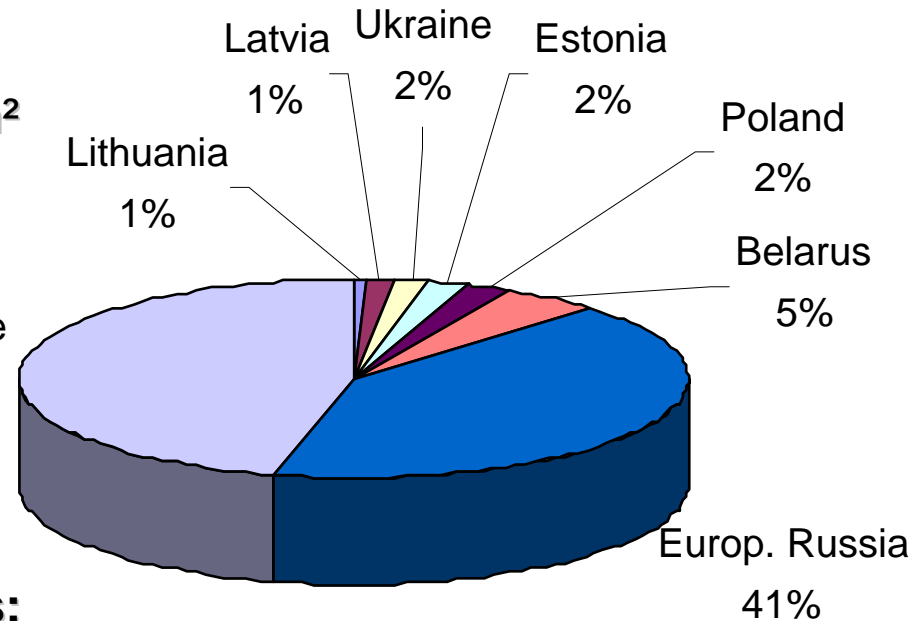
Conclusions

Peatland area in Europe:

Eastern Europe: 277 120 km²

Total Europe: 514 882 km²

Rest of Europe
46%



Data: Carbo Europe

Share of drained peatlands:

Eastern Europe: 35,9%

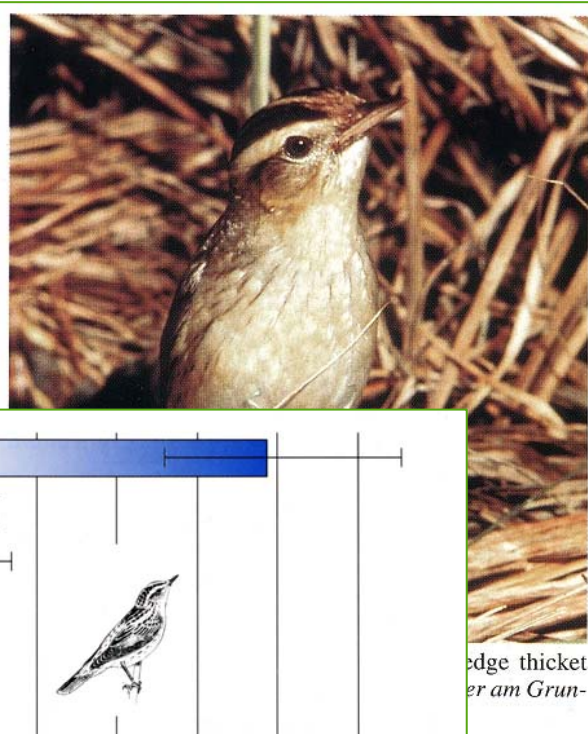
Global: 16%

Total Europe: 40,7%

Germany: > 99%

2. Biodiversity values

Example: Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)



edge thicket
er am Grun-

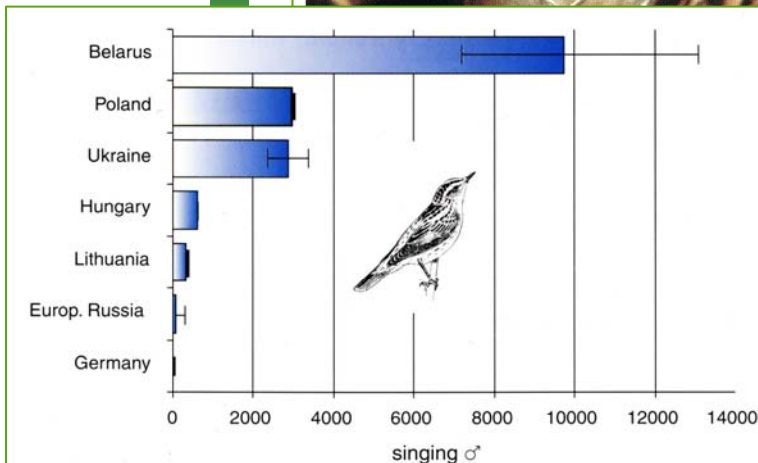


Fig. 1: Distribution of Aquatic Warbler population per country. – Verteilung des Seggenrohrsängers-Weltbestandes auf Staaten.

- European population: estimated a 13.500 – 21.000 singing males (1997/1998)
- Major parts of the population live in Belarus, Poland and Ukraine

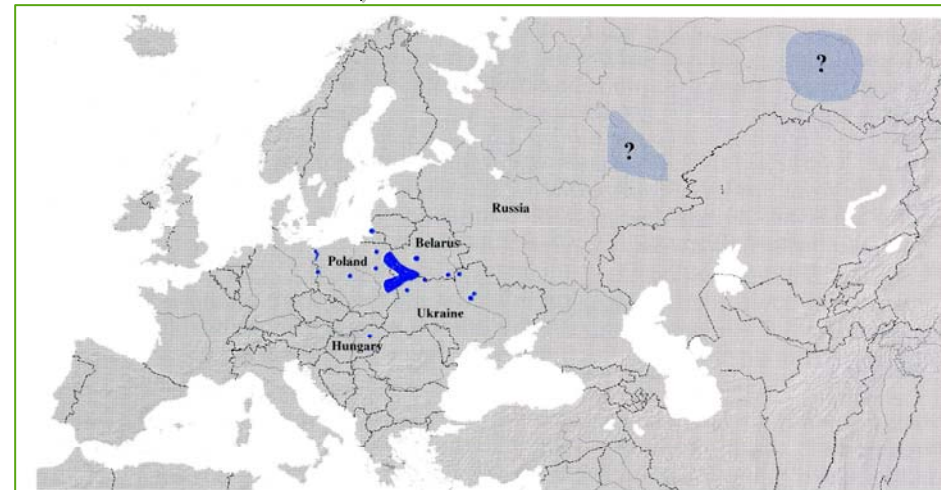


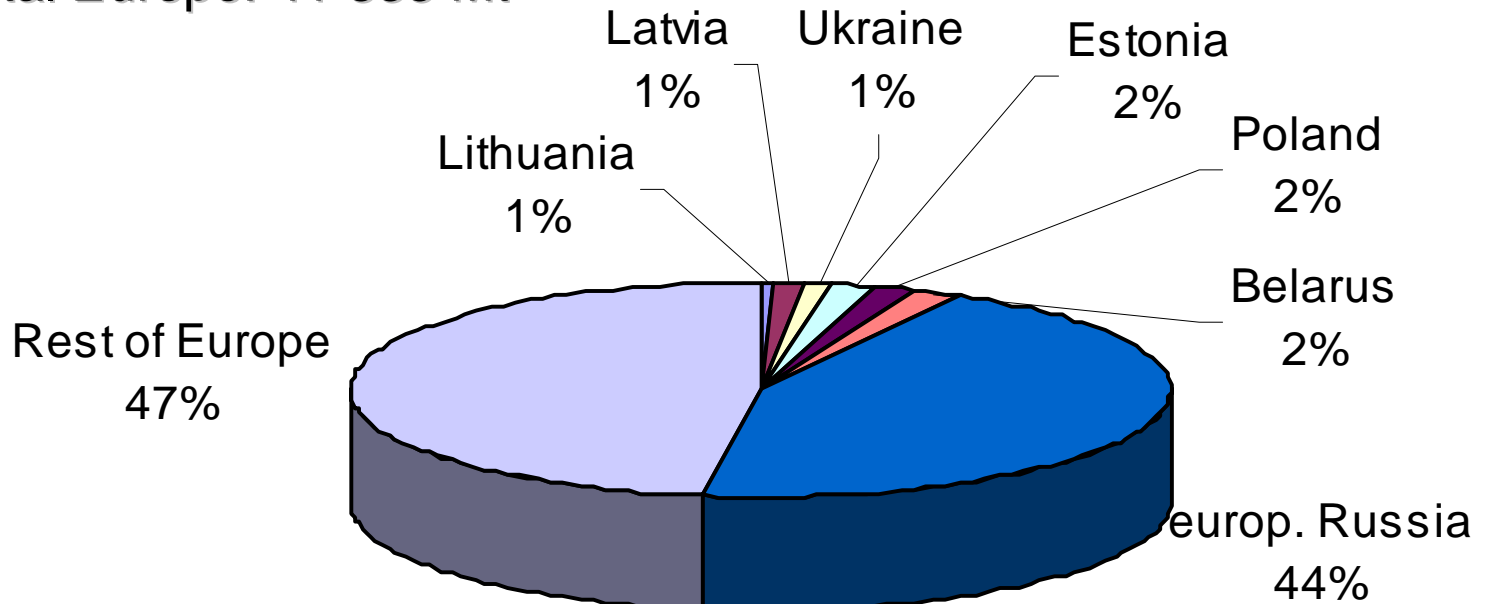
Fig. 2: World breeding distribution of Aquatic Warbler. – Gesamtbrutverbreitung des Seggenrohrsängers.

3. Carbon storage

Carbon-Store in European peatlands:

East Europe: 23 691 Mt

Total Europe: 41 835 Mt



Data: Carbo Europe

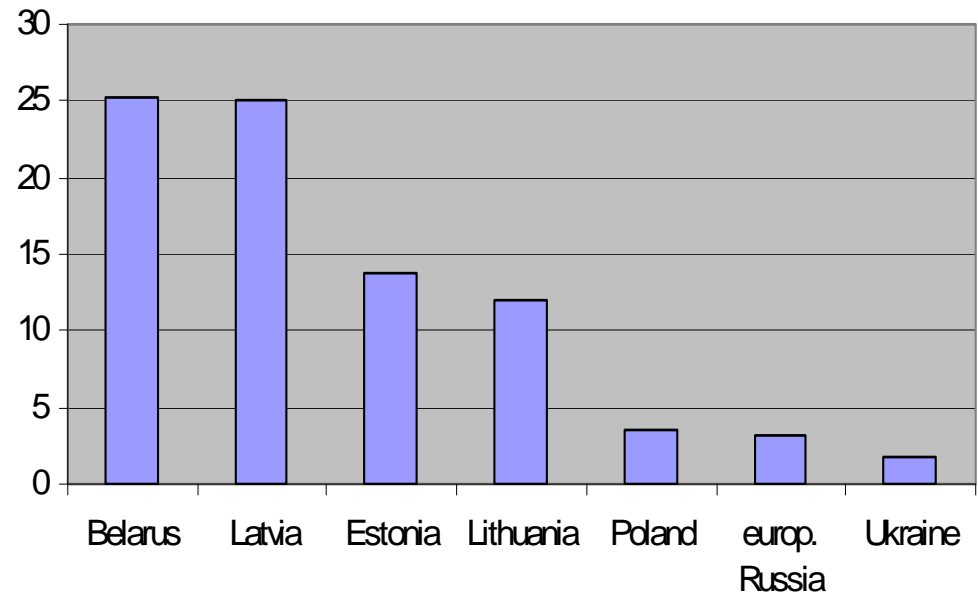
4. Greenhouse gas fluxes

GHG emissions from degraded peatlands in CO₂-equ.:

Eastern Europe: 118 Mt

Global: 3 000 Mt

Total Europe: 189 Mt



GHG emissions from degraded peatlands compared to total national greenhouse gas emissions without LULUCF in %

Data: Carbo Europe, UNFCCC

5. Fire prevention

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2 500-3 000 fires
occur on degraded
peatlands annually in
Belarus

Extended peat fires
in Russia in 1999,
2000 and 2002



Burning peatlands, Indonesia

Source: Global Peatland Assessment

6. International conventions

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- **Convention on Biological Diversity**
COP 9 Decision IX/16 “Biodiversity and
Climate Change”

- **Convention on Climate Change**
Kyoto Protocol

- **RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands**
COP 10 Resolution DR24 Rev. 2 “Climate
Change and Wetlands” (Nov. 2008)

- **Habitats Directive (European Union)**

7. Conclusions and outlook (I)

Outline

East European peatlands

Biodiversity

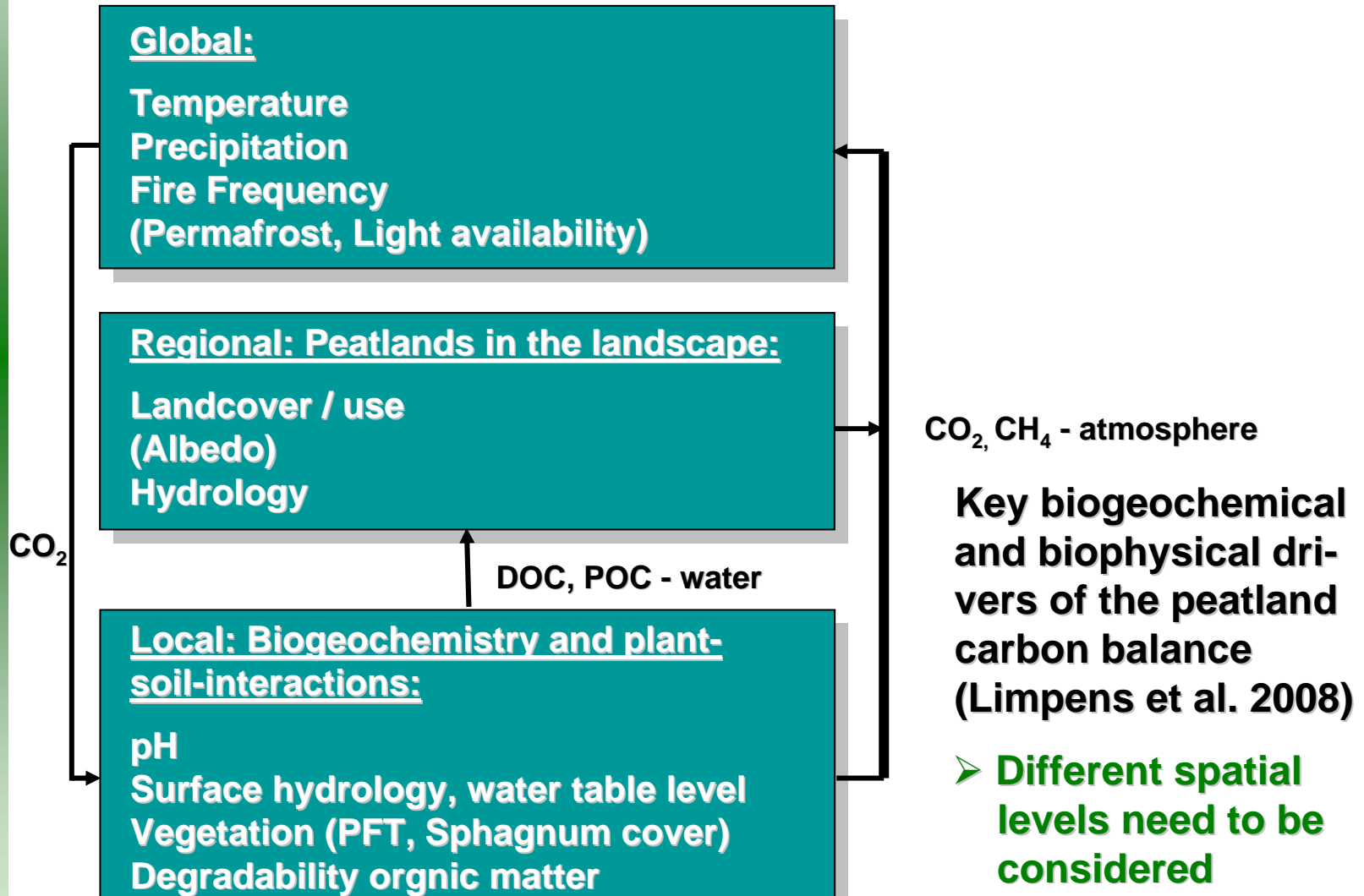
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7. Conclusions and outlook (II)

Measures in the field of peatland-conservation:

- Maintenance + enhancement of the developed system of protected areas and securing intact peatlands outside of protected areas;
- Special consideration for mires vulnerable to climate change;
- Transboundary cooperation in mire conservation;

Measures in the field of peatland-management:

- Rewetting and restoration of mires – especially of abandoned peatlands;
- Environmentally friendly management of peatlands;
- Integrative approach to mire ecosystems management;
- Alternatives to exploitation of peat.

7. Conclusions and outlook (III)

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Framework requirements:

- Designation of peat as non-renewable energy resource;
- Minimization of industry development in mires;
- Improvement of knowledge base and intensification of research
- To link international conventions (UNFCCC, CBD etc.) and make use of their mechanisms;
- Development of market-based instruments for the ecosystem services of peatlands, e.g. within Post-Kyoto.

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***Thank you
for your attention !***

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