



**Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark**
Nature Agency

International Expert Workshop

Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change

—

A Contribution to the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention

11th – 14th September 2016

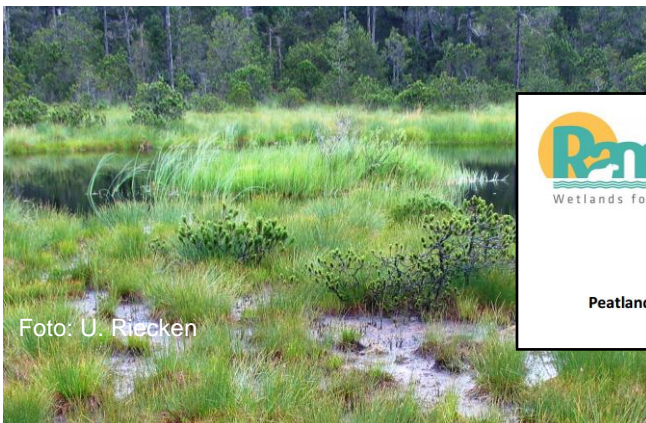


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12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to
the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Resolution XII.11

Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar
Convention

**International Academy for Nature Conservation
Isle of Vilm
Germany**

Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change – A Contribution to the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention

Peatlands cover 3% of the global terrestrial area, or about one third of global wetland areas, and fulfil a number of ecosystem services important for life on earth and human well-being. These services include, for instance, storage and purification of fresh water, biodiversity conservation and the reduction of flood risks. In addition, peatlands contribute to the mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts through carbon storage or by providing important climate smart livelihood options. Peatlands store the same amount of carbon as the overall terrestrial biomass or twice as much as all global forest biomass. However, following carbon dioxide emissions from peatland drainage, fires and exploitation, the degradation of peatlands is becoming a major source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

At the last Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, held in Punta del Este in 2015, Contracting Parties discussed the importance of peatlands and adopted Resolution XII.11 on “peatlands, climate change and wise use”. The Resolution highlights several actions to be taken and encourages Contracting Parties to foster implementation aimed at maintaining peatland ecosystem services for future generations. It builds on Resolution VIII.17 (2002) “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands” that provides guidance in seven domains, including policy and legislative instruments, adaptive management, international cooperation etc.

In order to review progress and contribute to the implementation of Resolution XII.11, an international workshop will be held on the Isle of Vilm (Germany), 11 - 14 September 2016. The workshop is titled “Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in the Context of Climate Change” and jointly organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Danish Nature Agency and the Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC). More specifically we seek to:

- Offer a platform for actors to coordinate concerted efforts around peatlands,
- highlight progress and current initiatives as a basis for mutual action and to identify necessary future steps,
- discuss - on the basis of best practices - peatland conservation and wise use considering policy and technical approaches and identify barriers and opportunities for implementation, and
- elaborate on how to foster education and public awareness and identify proven and innovative entry points for communication.

As a main workshop result, we aim to develop tangible outputs and recommendations for the implementation of Resolution XII.11 to be presented at COP XIII of the Ramsar Convention. Hence, the workshop will be divided into input sessions and several breakout groups.

Programme

Sunday, 11 September 2016

18:10 Last ferry prior to the start of the workshop from Lauterbach/Mole to Vilm

18:30 *Dinner*

19:30 **Session 1: Setting the Scene**

Facilitator: *Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, BfN*

The workshop background & objectives will be jointly presented by the organisers, putting an emphasis on Ramsar Resolution XII 11. Participants will have the opportunity to introduce themselves and their area of expertise on peatlands as well as formulate expectations for the workshop. The evening session will close with a movie on Nordic Baltic Wetlands.

*Tobias Salathé, Ramsar Convention Secretariat
Hans Joosten, Greifswald Mire Center (GMC)
Lars Dinesen, Danish Nature Agency*

Monday, 12 September 2016

As of 07:30 *Breakfast*

09:00 **Welcome and brief introduction to the Isle of Vilm**
Gisela Stolpe, International Academy for Nature Conservation, BfN

09:10 **Session 2: Looking at Peatlands Today**

Facilitator: *Hans Joosten, GMC*

The objective of this session is to present and discuss the current state-of-the-art in peatland conservation, wise use and restoration, including technical approaches. Participants can draw on experience gained in global, regional and national initiatives.

Sub-session 2.1: Status quo of peatland conservation, wise use and restoration

Global overview on the distribution and degradation of peatlands
Alexandra Barthelmes, International Mire Conservation Group

Emissions from peatlands

John Couwenberg, GMC

Implementation of Ramsar Resolution VIII17: Global Action Plan

Tatiana Minajewa, Independent Consultant

– Discussion –

Sub-session 2.2: Current initiatives, programmes and projects

Global Peatland Initiative

Maria Nuutinen, FAO

Peatland restoration by rewetting in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

Rodolfo Iturraspe, University of Tierra del Fuego

Current paludiculture projects in Europe

Franziska Tanneberger, GMC

Best technical practices in peatland restoration

Peter Hahn, Nature Agency, Denmark

Satellite images for peatland monitoring and management

Kathrin Weise, Jena-Optronik GmbH

– Discussion –

11:30

Related interactive session

In breakout groups, participants will discuss challenges and potentials of different approaches and elaborate further ideas. Data needs, research and implementation gaps and open questions will be identified.

12:30

Lunch

13:30

Nature hike: Getting to know the Isle of Vilm

Jutta Stadler, BfN

15:00

Presentation of results of interactive session

15:30

Session 3: Exploring choices for policy and private sector involvement and identifying related research needs

This session aims at addressing policy and private sector options with regard to peatland conservation, wise use and restoration. We will discuss how scientific findings and new initiatives can foster policy and private sector choices that secure ecosystem services of peatlands. The discussion will consider innovative forms of cooperation between science, policy, the private sector and civil society and identify new paths to overcome implementation barriers.

Facilitator: *Tobias Salathé, Ramsar Convention Secretariat*

Sub-session 3.1: Global, regional and national policy approaches

The Austrian peatland strategy

Gert Michael Steiner, University of Vienna

Belarusian strategy for the conservation and wise use of peatlands

Alexandre Vintchevski

Nordic-Baltic peatland policy

Jari Ilmonen, Parks and Wildlife Finland

Mara Pakalane, Cooperation of Nordic Baltic NGOs in Peatland Conservation

African peatlands

Collin Oloya, Wetlands Uganda

UNEP's peatland strategy

Maria Morgado, UNEP Brussels

– Discussion –

Sub-session 3.2: Private sector involvement

Responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat

Gerald Schmilewski, Klasmann-Deilmann Produktionsgesellschaft Nord mbH & Co. KG and incoming President of IPS

– Discussion –

Sub-session 3.3: Research and innovation gaps

Short statements (max. 5 minutes) highlighting major gaps

Anastasia Markina, Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences

Dominik Zak, Leibniz Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries

Randy Gordon Milton, Peatland Ecology Research Group

– Discussion –

17:30

Related interactive session

In a world café format further issues and next steps regarding the three topics of the sub-sessions will be identified and connected to the Ramsar resolution.

- 18:30** **Dinner**
- 19:30** **Related interactive session continued**

Tuesday, 13 September 2016

- As of 07:30** **Breakfast**
- 09:00** **Finalisation of interactive session and presentation of results**
- 10:15** **Session 4: Getting the Necessary Human and Financial Resources**
- In this session, we will explore the human, material and financial resources required for a successful implementation of the steps identified in sessions II and III.
- Facilitator:** *Marcel Silvius, Wetlands International*
- The International Climate Initiative**
- Jasmin Hundorf, Programmbüro Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative (tbc)*
- 11:00** **Related interactive session**
- We will discuss opportunities and action required for generating the necessary human and financial resources.
- 12:30** **Lunch**
- 13:30** **Session 5: Carrying the Message further: “Campaigning Strategies” for communication, education and public awareness**
- This session aims at tailoring a campaigning strategy for peatlands, which shall advance implementation of Ramsar resolution XII.11 and other initiatives. A focus lies on identifying key stakeholders that can serve as multipliers on communication, education and public awareness for peatland conservation, wise use and restoration.
- Facilitator:** *Lars Dinesen, Danish Nature Agency*
- Strategies for education and public awareness on peatlands wise use, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina**
- Adriana Urciuolo, University of Tierra del Fuego*
- 14:00** **Related interactive session**
- A strategy for implementing different aspects of communication, education and public awareness is developed, which identifies topics that require

special attention and includes a guideline on how to integrate different sectors and actors.

16:00 **Session 6: Paving the Future Path: Workshop Summary, Identification of Next Steps, Workshop Documentation**

Facilitator: *Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst, BfN*

17:30 **Session 7: Introduction to the Excursion**

Facilitator: *Franziska Tanneberger, GMC*

18:30 **Dinner**

19:30 **Visit to the Vilm Photo Gallery and informal get-together**

Wednesday, 14 September 2016

As of 07:30 **Breakfast**

08:25 **Ferry to Lauterbach/Mole**

09:00 **Excursion**
Excursion to the “Karrenderfer Wiesen” (peatland on mainland);
Boat trip on the river Peene;
Visit of the first German peat and biomass power and heat supply station in Malchin.

16:00 **End of the workshop in Altentreptow (situated between Rügen and Berlin) at the Railway Station**
The bus returns to Rügen, hence departure from Stralsund Railway Station (located opposite of Rügen on the mainland) is also possible.