



Annotated Agenda

European Peatland Strategies

International Workshop

Bonn, Germany, 28 – 29 October 2019

Peatlands play a crucial role in reaching national and international goals regarding carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, flood protection and nutrient retention. Their importance is increasingly acknowledged, yet many peatlands are threatened by drainage and destructive use. Current peatland management practices are often unable to retain their important ecosystem services. Today, a number of European governments and actors have developed or are considering to develop national peatland strategies, as a basis for coherent peatland management.

The workshop aims to bring together respective experts and stakeholders of the public sector and civil society from EU Member States and other European countries, in order to exchange knowledge and experiences on existing and planned national peatland strategies. A focus will be on identifying core elements of a national peatland strategy that fosters best practices of peatland management, considering aspects of conservation, restoration and sustainable use. A further objective is to discuss needs and possibilities of integrating strategic peatland conservation at the European level, including an overview of current practices and existing regulations.

Monday, 28 October 2019

Part 1: Setting the scene (Monday, 11:00-13:00)

The objective of this first part is to introduce all participants to the workshop's topic by providing an overview of the current state of peatlands in Europe, the need for national peatland strategies as well as prerequisites for their development. The participants get to know each other and gain insights into the state of strategy development in the represented countries.

11:00 Welcome

Mechthild Caspers (BMU, Germany)

Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)

Opening of the workshop and introduction to the workshop's objectives and program.

11:20 Impulse talk: Peatlands in Europe

Tobias Salathé (Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention)

This presentation will give the participants an overview and current state of European peatlands and setting the scene for the following sessions.

11:40 Introduction of participants

Facilitated by Sophie Hirschelmann (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)

12:15 Presentation: Current status of peatland strategies in the participants' countries

Sophie Hirschelmann (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)

In this session, a summary of information derived from pre-circulated questionnaires about the current state of the development of national peatland strategies in the participants' countries will be presented.

12:30 Panel discussion: Why do we need national peatland strategies and what are important preconditions?

Erki Nitlaan (Estonian Peatland Society)

Gert Jan van den Born (Environmental Assessment Agency, Netherlands)

Arthur Neher (Wetlands International, Netherlands)

Facilitated by ***Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)***

The need for national peatland strategies is discussed from the perspectives of governmental actors, private actors and NGOs. Potential benefits as well as important requirements for the process of strategy development are identified.

13:00 Lunch

Part 2: Sharing experience (Monday, 14:00-18:30)

In the second part of the workshop, participants exchange knowledge and experiences regarding the development of national peatland strategies. Several national examples are presented and discussed. Several topics are elaborated further in parallel working groups, giving participants the opportunity to gain detailed insights into important elements of strategy development.

14:00 Focussed presentations: Examples of peatland strategies in European countries

Francis Muller (Mire Resource Centre, France)

Emma Goodyer (IUCN, Great Britain)

Kristine Gaga (Latvian Environmental Ministry)

Karin Ullrich (BfN, Germany)

Mika Nieminen (National Resources Institute, Finland)

Facilitated by ***Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)***

Speakers shortly present the national peatland strategy or the state of its development process in France, Great Britain, Latvia, Germany & Finland. Presentations will cover aspects

of: strategy process, main objectives, key steps, lessons learned, main actors / stakeholders involved etc.

Each presentation is followed by a short discussion with all participants.

15:45 Structured discussion on peatland strategies: Experiences with strategic peatland conservation, restoration and wise use

Facilitated by **Jan Peters and Sophie Hirschelmann (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)**

In this session, all participants exchange experiences regarding strategy processes, including among others good and bad examples of strategy development, success factors and challenges, as well as important first steps towards implementation.

16:15 Coffee break

16:30 Parallel Working Groups: Important steps and aspects of peatland strategies

Facilitated by **Sophie Hirschelmann (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)** and working group facilitators

In this session, the participants choose one of the following topics which they wish to discuss in detail in parallel working groups.

- *Political and legal context, relevant sectoral strategies*
- *Economic aspects, sustainable use*
- *Stakeholders, interest groups and their participation*
- *Mechanisms of implementation, funding programmes*
- *Climate relevance of peatlands*

During the group work, key aspects, success factors and guidelines regarding these topics in the context of national peatland strategies are identified and visualized on a poster. The posters are presented to in form of a gallery walk.

18:00 Wrap-up

Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)

18:30 Dinner at Restaurant Kleinpetersberg

Part 3: Towards strong national peatland strategies (Tuesday, 08:45-12:15)

The objective of this part is to identify concrete pathways for improving or strengthening the development and implementation of national peatland strategies. Building on the results of the previous day, participants identify core elements of strategy development and implementation and formulate next steps and recommendations for their own strategic processes.

08:45 Starting the day

Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)

Brief summary of the results of the previous day and overview of the program of the day.

09:00 Presentation: The global perspective of peatlands

Dianna Kopansky (UNEP, Global Peatlands Initiative)

Strategic processes regarding peatland management and conservation are not limited to Europe. In this presentation, participants gain insights into the focus of international frameworks in terms of peatlands, the UNEA Peatland Resolution and its relevance for the development of peatland strategies, as well as the work of the Global Peatlands Initiative.

9:15 Plenary discussion: Core elements of strategy development and implementation

Facilitated by ***Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)***

In this session, key factors regarding the development and implementation of national peatland strategies are identified by all participants. These include:

- *Common challenges in strategy development*
- *Success factors in strategy development*
- *Formal requirements and specific contents of national peatland strategies*
- *Important steps towards implementation*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Parallel working groups: What does it all mean for us? Recommendations and take-home messages

Facilitated by ***Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)***

In this session, participants form thematic or regional working groups to develop specific “action plans” for their countries, identifying important next steps for their individual strategic processes. After the group phase, the results are presented to the plenum.

Part 4: Peatland strategies and European policies (Tuesday, 12:15-15:45)

In the last part of the workshop, the focus is on European policies regarding peatland conservation and management. Participants discuss how national peatland strategies can be linked to European regulatory frameworks and processes.

12:15 **Presentations: Peatlands at a European level context**

In this session, participants gain insights into important European regulations regarding conservation, restoration and wise use of peatlands. The session includes two presentations:

Implications of the LULUCF Regulation (EU) 2018/841 for peatlands in member states

Rene Colditz (European Commission, DG CLIMA)

Peatlands in the EU regulatory framework

Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)

12:45 **Lunch**

13:45 **Parallel working groups: How to integrate peatland conservation in existing European regulations and processes?**

Facilitated by **Jan Peters (Michael Succow Foundation, Germany)** and working group facilitators

In this session, participants form thematic groups and discuss how peatland strategies can be linked to the respective European frameworks, regarding:

- *Agriculture*
- *Climate protection*
- *Nature conservation*
- *Natural resources / energy production*
- *Water quality*

Participants may join up to two different groups (optional rotation after half of the group work phase). In each group, the following questions are elaborated: Which relevant regulations exist at European level? How can peatlands be integrated into these frameworks?

15:00 **Discussion: Overall conclusions and way forward**

Facilitated by Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)

Reflection of workshop outcomes, further co-ordination and next steps.

15:30 **Wrap up**

Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (BfN, Germany)

15:45 **End of the workshop**