

The National Strategy for Mires and Peatlands Review

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National Strategy for Mires and Peatland

A broad-based working group was set for preparation of the strategy in 2009

- Members from ministries, research organisations, environmental and forest administration, NGO's and ENGO's, Regional Council as well as Helsinki University and National Emergency Supply Agency
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the chair of the WG in co-operation with Ministry of the Environment and Ministry of the Employment and the Economy.
- The extended mandate of the WG will end in the end of January 2011.

The aim of the strategy is to define different objectives for the use of mires and peatlands in Finland and find ways to reconcile them for the next decades:

- create a common and up-to-date understanding of the diverse and sustainable use and management of mires and peatlands
- reconcile different needs and objectives set for the use of mires and peatlands.



The Mandate of the Working Group

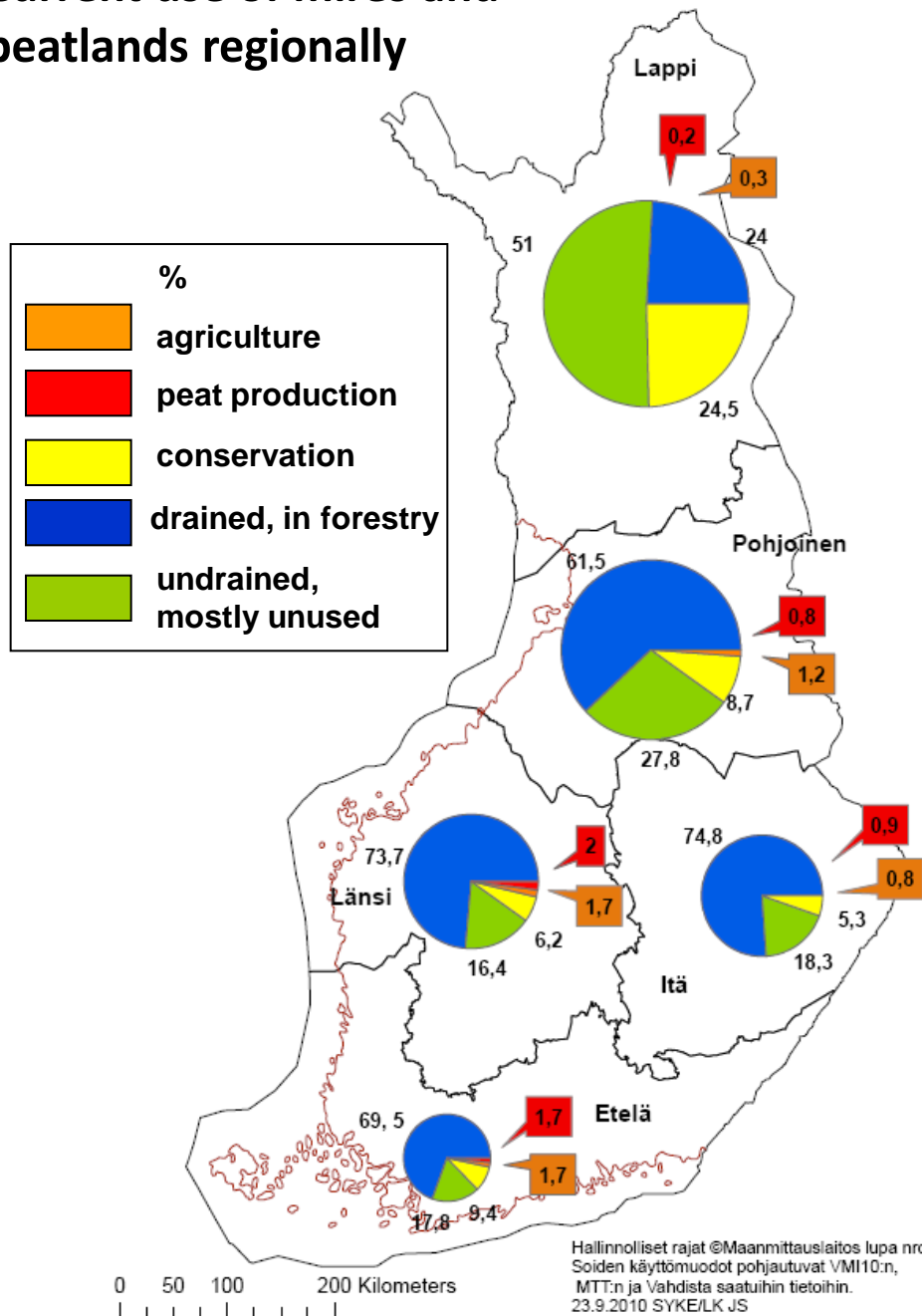
- Prepare a proposal for the national strategy of mires and peatlands reconciling the short and long term needs and objectives, taking existing international, EU-level and national obligations and policies into consideration.
- Draw up a proposal for the implementation of the strategy.
- Evaluate different environmental permit proceedings required in the use of mires and peatlands.
- Make, when needed, other suggestions for the sustainable use and management of mires and peatlands.



Current and Future Land Use Needs of Mires and Peatlands in Finland



Current use of mires and peatlands regionally



Land use needs for mires and peatlands in the near future:

Peat production

New area approx. 58 000 ha by the year 2020 and approx. 120 000 ha between 2020-2050 (VTT). Approx. 44 000 ha of old production area will be converted to other land uses by 2020.

Agriculture

A rough estimate of need for future clearing 42 000 ha by 2020

Forestry

Need of supplementary ditching ~1.6 million ha. Approx. 830 000 ha of drained peatland is unproductive for forestry.

Mire conservation

The rough estimate of additional conservation needs: 60 000 - 80 000 ha, the pressure highest in Southern Finland.

Definition of the Sustainable Management of Mires and Peatlands



In the sustainable management of the mires and peatlands the environmental, social and economical objectives are reconciled, using the ecosystem services as the approach, in a way that:

The use, management and conservation of mires and peatlands will generate significant social, economical and ecological benefits in national and regional level,

- the benefits from agriculture and forestry can be ensured,
- the energy supply can be secured,
- the negative impacts of the economical activities on the environment are minimised and
- the favourable status of mires conservation is attained.



The Objectives for the Sustainable Management of the Mires and Peatlands, Using Ecosystem Services as an Approach



1. To secure ***the preserving services***: Attaining the favourable status of mire conservation.
2. To secure the ***provisioning services***: Promote diverse and sustainable use of the products from mires, peatlands and peat.

2.1. Forests in peatlands are managed according to the principles of sustainable forest management, also promoting the use of forest energy to achieve the renewable energy objective.

2.2. The cultivation of the organic fields contribute to ensuring the domestic food production and promoting the use of bioenergy.

2.3. The peat production and the energy use of peat secure the availability of domestic energy and support the national energy supply security. The use of environmental and horticultural peat promotes the well-being of people and husbandry and endorse positive regional economical development.

2.4. The diverse and sustainable use of other products from mires, such as game and berries, and other peat products, such balneological peat, promotes well-being of people and endorse positive economical development regionally.



3. To secure the *regulating and supporting services*: The particulate and nutrient load from the economical activities in the mires and peatland is controlled and minimised. The carbon storages in mires and peatlands are maintained, the carbon sequestration increased and the green house gas emission reduced.

3.1. The particulate and nutrient load to the waterways from economical activities in mires and peatlands are minimised to contribute in achieving good water status by 2015.

3.2. The greenhouse gas emission from the economical activities in mires and peatlands are minimised, the carbon storages maintained and the carbon sinks increased to be able to achieve the low-carbon society.

4. To secure *cultural services*: To promote the cultural and multiple use of mires and peatlands.



Policy Lines and Measures for Strategy and Its Implementation (still in process)



The three components of the Strategy and its implementation

1. Improving the co-ordination of the different land use needs on mires and peatlands

2. Policy lines and measures for different use of mires and peatlands

3. Research needs



1. Improving the co-ordination of the different land use needs of mires and peatlands

Measures (draft):

- ④ Strengthen the role of regional land use planning to improve the co-ordination between the different land use needs of mires and peatlands.
- ④ Implement a natural state classification of mires in the land use planning, in order to allocate the use of mires to drained peatlands and mires with disturbed natural state. The classification is sliding (incl. indicators) and covers mires from natural mires to drained peatlands.
- ④ Develop a tool for a voluntary reallocation of land areas to assist land acquisition from disturbed and degraded mires instead of natural ones.
- ④ Develop an open and extensive land accounting system for mires and peatlands, integrating information and data for instance from peat surveys, National Forest Inventory and regional biodiversity surveys of mires and peatlands



2. Some of the central policy lines for different use of mires and peatlands (1/2)

[Alltogether 25 guiding principles and approx. 60 measures]

@ Mire conservation (drafts):

- Improve the status of the existing mire conservation areas through restoration and improving their hydrology (for instance redefining the borders).
- Prepare a supplementary mire conservation programme to complement the current conservation programmes.
- Increase restoration of mires with high ecological value.

@ Sustainable forest management in peatland (drafts):

- Conduct economically profitable, sustainable forestry in peatlands minimizing the negative effects on nature and environment.
- Further develop the forest legislation to better esteem the values and objectives of the private forest owners and to improve the recognition of the special conditions for forestry in the peatlands.
- Secure the biological diversity of mires and peatlands in forestry through legislation and forest management practices.



2. Some central policy lines for different activities in mires and peatlands (2/2)

Ⓢ The cultivation of the organic fields (drafts)

- Maintain and cultivate the arable peat soils as a part of domestic food and bioenergy supply.
- Minimise the negative environmental impact of the clearing the mires and peatlands for cultivation.

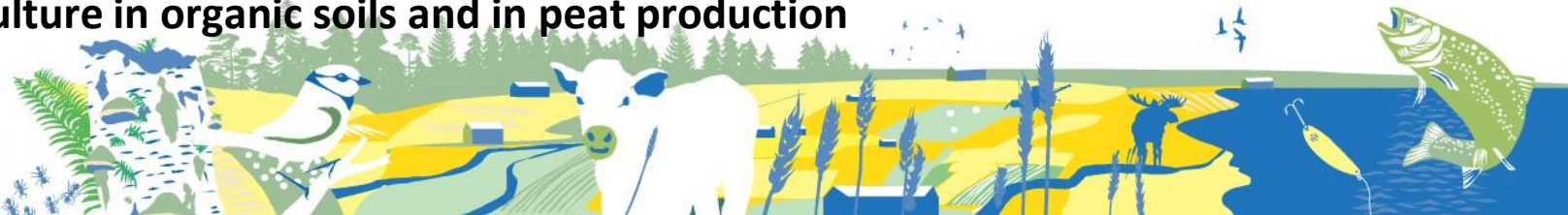
Ⓢ The peat production and the energy and other uses of peat (drafts)

- Ensure the availability of energy, horticultural and environmental peat through adequate land acquisition and clarifying the practices in the environmental permit process required in the peat production.
- Allocate the future land use of peat production to drained peatlands and mires in dirturbed natural state.

Ⓢ The particulate and nurient load to the waterways

- Minimize the negative effects of economical activites on the waterways by implementing regional water management plans.

Ⓢ To develop and implement climate change mitigation activities in forestry and agriculture in organic soils and in peat production



Mires and Peatlands in Finland in 2050 (draft)



The favourable mire conservation status has been attained through supplementary conservation, restoration and developing economical practices in mires and peatlands.

The role of peat in domestic energy supply and in fuel mix is recognised. The power plants using peat as a energy source are implementing CCS-technology.

The organic fields are contributing to domestic food service.

The forestry in peatlands will provide raw-material and bioenergy for bioeconomy.

Unproductive forests in drained peatland are used for biomass and peat production whenever suitable. Most of unproductive, drained forests in peatlands are being restored to a natural like conditions.

As large part of mires and peatlands as possible are remaining as carbon storages. The climate impacts of practices are taken into consideration when deciding on the economical activities in mires and peatlands.

The water protection measures in mires and peatlands are contributing to achievement and maintenance the good water status objective.

The mires in the proximity of the significant tourist attraction sites are attractive and suitable for tourism. Mires and peatlands provide good opportunities for recreation.

