Priority actions and requirements for responsible management

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Priority actions and requirements

- Recognize the problem
- Raise awareness of problems
- Stop perverse incentives
- Adapt outdated legislation and regulations
- Remove unfair competition
- Raise awareness of alternatives
- Invest in rewetted land use
- Support research and development
- Use peatlands as synergy hotspots
Recognize the problem

Drained peatland use leads to

• Severe greenhouse gas emissions
• Subsidence and land loss
• Soil degradation and land loss
• Severe erosion
• Water pollution

• Short-time gain but long-term loss
Raise awareness of problems

Peatland problems are caused by land use, mainly by:

- Agriculture on drained peatland
- Overgrazing of drained peatland
- Forestry on drained peatland

Problems continue with abandonment!
Stop perverse incentives

Peatland problems are boosted by

• Agricultural subsidies, e.g. EU direct payments/CC
• Demand for biofuel, e.g. palm oil, maize, sugar cane
• Subsidies on land ‘improvement’ / consolidation
• Subsidies on pumping costs and dike maintenance

• (NL: wind energy stimulates GHG emissions...)
Adapt outdated legislation/regulations

Change to wet (rewetted) peatland use is frustrated by

- Failing recognition of wet crops as agricultural crops, e.g. reed → loss of subsidies
- Obstruction of wise land use change, e.g. ban on converting grassland → compensation requirements
- Nature conservation legislation, designating wet land automatically to protected habitats → obstructs land use change
Remove unfair competition

• Stop perverse incentives
• Impose taxes on drained peatland use (polluter pays)
• Change counterproductive legislation
Raise awareness of alternatives

• Wet is good
• Wet is possible
• Wet is necessary
Invest in rewetted land use

Make investment grants available for

• Land reallocation and hydrological restructuring
• Development/acquisition of adapted machinery
• Development of production lines and product placement
• Agricultural consultation on wet peatland use
• Research
Support research and development

Support research and development of

- Adapted machinery
- Adapted logistics
- Alternative wet crops
- Alternative products
Use peatlands as synergy hotspots

Develop synergetic HOTSPOT strategies for peatland rewetting and paludicultures for

• Climate change mitigation by reducing GHG emissions
• Climate change adaptation by stopping subsidence, reducing peak flow, improving water availability, reinstating evapotranspiration cooling
• Improving food, fodder, fiber and fuel security by reducing land loss and restoring degraded land
• Biodiversity conservation by restoring wetlands
• Pollution control by reducing emissions of nitrates/DOC
Peatlands must be wet!