GERMANY
COUNTRY FACT SHEETS
PEATLAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, TRENDS and POLICIES

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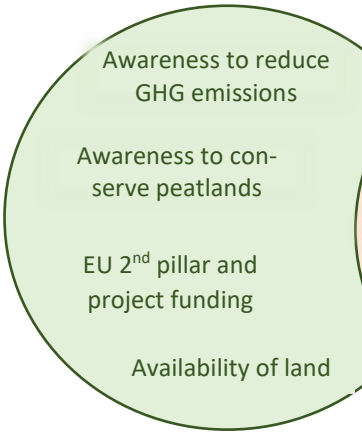
PEATLAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (PMP) with mitigation potential

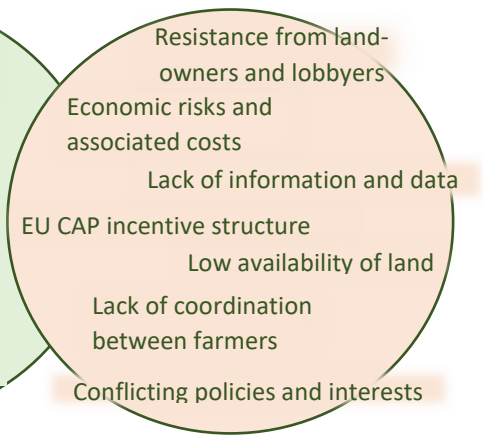
Water level	LAND USE and mitigation measure	Implementation status
Rewetting	*GRASSLAND*	
	Paludiculture (biomass production)	established and (further) developed
	Paludiculture (grazing with sheep, cows, water buffaloes)	(further) developed
	FORESTRY	established
	WETLAND	established
Water table elevation	*GRASSLAND*	
	Biomass production	established and (further) developed
	Grazing	(further) developed
Drainage based land use	*GRASSLAND*	
	Biomass production	established
	Grazing	established

In Germany, **PMP** are differentiated broadly. Agricultural production can be achieved on rewetted peat soils and peatlands with elevated water levels. Under rewetted conditions, grassland use for biomass production is a currently applied mitigation measure, but is also further developed. Low intensity grazing, e.g. with sheep, cows or water buffaloes is a mitigation measure still under development. Further, forestry is a currently applied land use option with mitigation potential on rewetted peatlands. Besides production options, a range of restoration and biodiversity measures, e.g. for touristic use are applied to rewetted peatlands. On peatlands with elevated water levels, grasslands are prevailing, either for biomass production (already applied today but further developed) or for grazing (under development). Water level elevation in Germany is achieved by controlled drainage, e.g. ditch blocking. Subsurface irrigation is still in testing phases or under development. As PMP with mitigation potential, German respondents mentioned permanent grassland use, as a drainage based management practice without elevated water levels.

PROMORTING FACTORS



HINDERING FACTORS

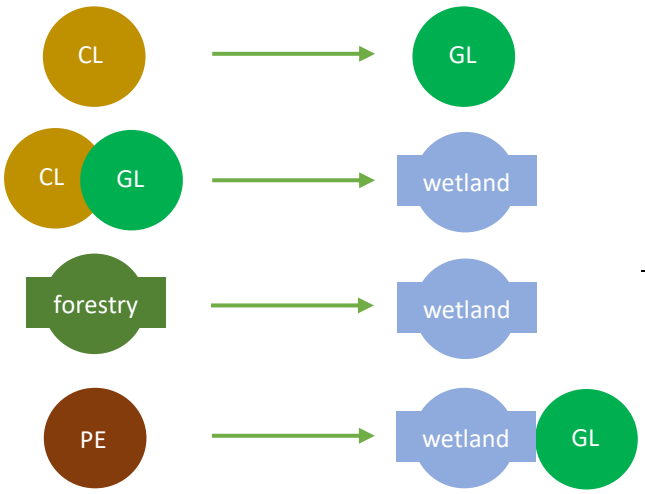


As **promoting factors** for their application, respondents mentioned the existing public awareness to reduce GHG emissions and to conserve peatlands. Further, EU 2nd pillar funding and project funding actively contributed to the realization of PMP. The availability of land is further promoting the application of PMP, however, this factor varies strongly between regions.

German respondents identified a range of factors that are **hindering** for the application of PMP. Most frequently mentioned was the EU CAP incentive structure, related to the inadequacy of subsidies and with that, missing incentives and value chains for goods produced under wet(ter) conditions such as paludiculture. Conflicting policies that hinder the application of PMP, and economic risks and associated costs of PMP application, as well as the related low availability of land, were mentioned as further hindering factors. In addition, respondents mentioned factors such as the resistance from land owners and lobbyers concerning changes in land use management, the lack of coordination between farmers, and in general a lack of information and data with regard to PMP, as further hindering.

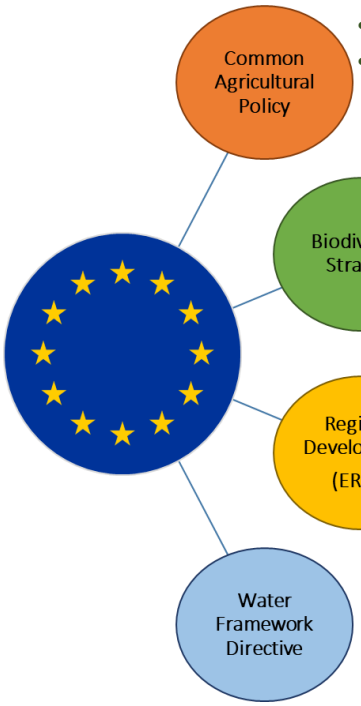
Area of drained peatland in 2050	
…for agriculture **cropland** (CL)/**grassland** (GL)	**DECREASE** (due to restoration)
…for **forestry**	**DECREASE** (due to restoration)
…for **peat extraction** (PE)	**DECREASE** due to restoration

Changes in land use

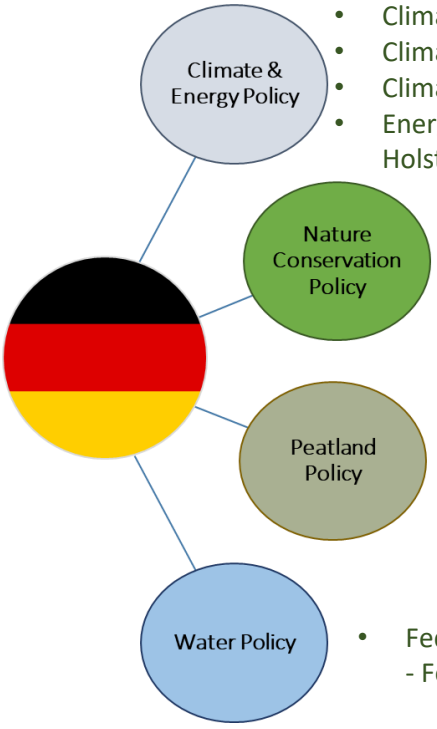


Stakeholders expect the area of drained peatland in Germany to stay stable or even increase if no incentives for a change in PMP are given. Peat extraction is relevant only in Lower-Saxony, in the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein it has been stopped already. However, in any case, a decrease of the area for peat extraction is expected. The after use shift towards grassland use or wetland is determined by older (grassland use) and newer (wetland) permits.

POLICIES AND POLICY INSTRUMENTS RELEVANT FOR GHG MITIGATION



- Income support
- Ploughing ban on grassland
- Several Second Pillar instruments of the Federal States
  - Agri-environment-climate measures (AECM) aiming at extensification, water retention on peatlands - Federal States
  - Rural Development Programs (RDPs)
- LIFE projects
- Conservation laws
- Climate protection with peat restoration (Klimo)- Federal State of Lower Saxony
- Project support
- Subsidies
- Water Framework Directive



- Climate Action Programme 2020
- Climate Action Plan 2050
- Climate Protection Program 2050 (KliP) - Federal State of Bavaria
- Energy transition and climate protection law - Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein
- Preservation of habitats according to §30 federal Act for the Protection of Nature
- Mire preservation and restoration via nature conservation authorities
- Peatland protection - Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein
- Lower Saxonian Moorlands (formerly Peatland Protection Program) - Federal State of Lower Saxony
- National/regional funding schemes for peatland re-wetting
- Federal aid scheme to improve the regional water balance - Federal State of Brandenburg

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Taken into consideration: Wichmann, S. (2018): Economic incentives for climate smart agriculture on peatlands in the EU. Ernst Moritz Arndt University Greifswald; Greifswald Mire Centre.

This project is funded in the frame of the ERA-NET FACCE ERA-GAS. FACCE ERA-GAS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 696356.