

# Conservation of peatlands according to the Ramsar Convention

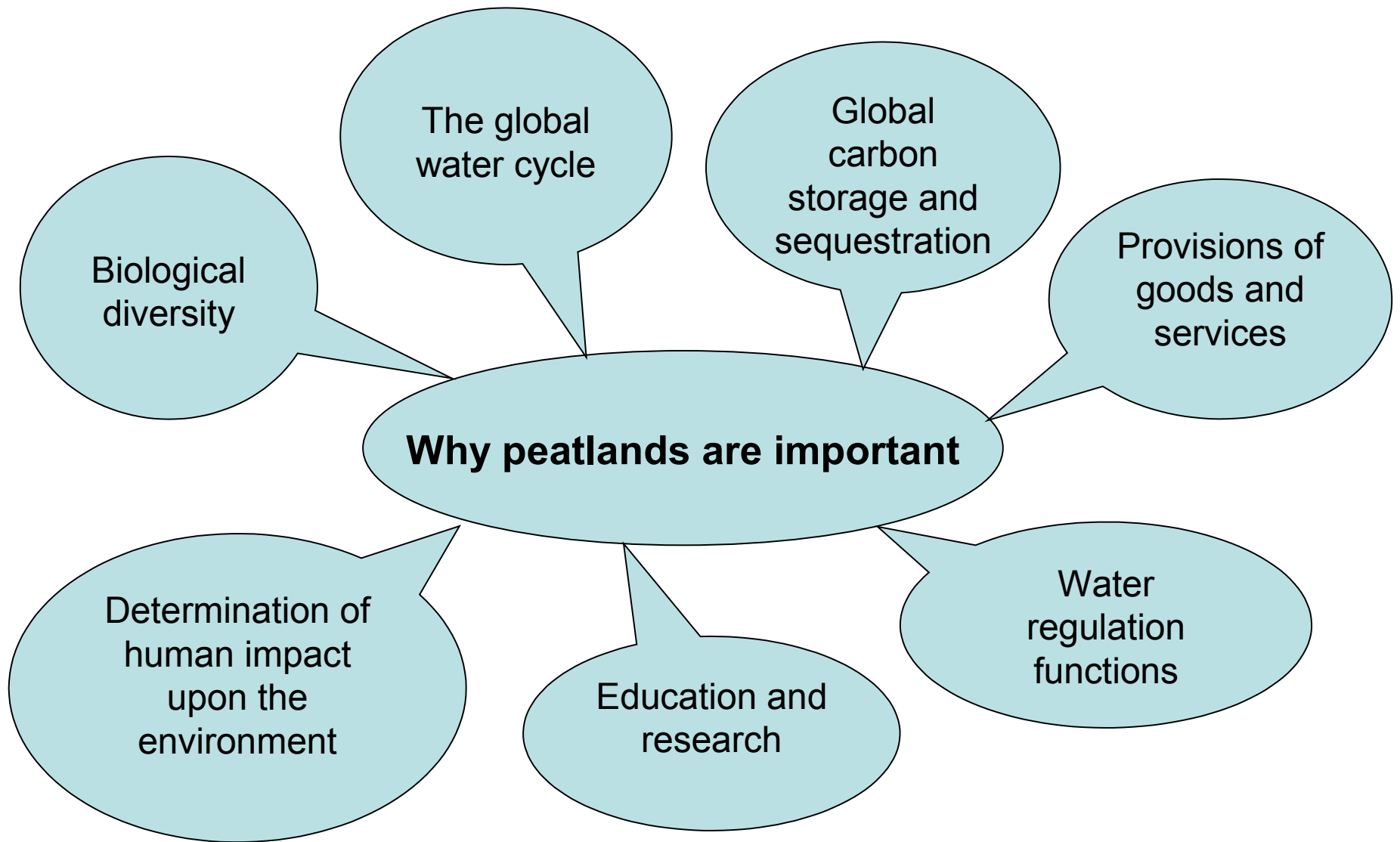


Libuše Vlasáková  
Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Conservation of Wetlands in the Carpathians,  
16 – 19 November, 2009, Tatranska Strba, Slovakia

# Why Ramsar Convention is interested in peatlands?

- Approximately half of the world's wetlands are peatlands
- They are found in all biomes, particularly in boreal, temperate and tropical areas of the planet
- Peatlands belong to the most endangered wetlands
- They have a wide international significance
- Their use is relevant to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and Convention on Climate Change, CBD and other



# Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP), 2002

- Document of the Ramsar Convention that recommends a series of priority approaches and activities for global action on the wise use and management of peatlands under seven themes
- The overall aim of the guidelines and their implementation is to achieve recognition of the importance of peatlands to the maintenance of global biodiversity and the storage of the water and carbon that is vital to the world's climate system, and to promote their wise use, conservation and management for the benefit of people and the environment



# The guidelines provide:

1. A framework for national, regional and international initiatives to promote the development of strategies for peatland wise use, conservation and management
2. Guidance on mechanisms to foster national, regional and international partnerships of government, the private sector, and non-government agencies to fund and implement actions in support of such strategies
3. Approaches to facilitate adoption and support for implementation of global action on peatlands through the Ramsar Convention, the CBD, the UNFCCC and other appropriate national, regional or international instruments

# Seven themes of priority approaches and activities for GGAP

- A. Knowledge of global resources
- B. Education and public awareness on peatlands
- C. Policy and legislative instruments
- D. Wise use of peatlands
- E. Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity
- F. International cooperation
- G. Implementation and support





# A. Knowledge of global resources

- Target: harmonization of terminologies and classification system in global level and development and application of standardised terminology and classification systems
- Establishing a global database of peatlands
- Detecting changes and trends in the quantity and quality of the peatlands resource



## B. Education and public awareness on peatlands

- The Ramsar CEPA Programme provides a comprehensive framework for the development and enhancement of wetlands education and public awareness through which peatland education and public awareness can be delivered





# C. Policy and legislative instrument

Target: To achieve appropriate legal and institutional framework for effective delivery of commitments under the Ramsar Convention for the wise use of wetlands

Guidelines: Contracting parties should review their present framework of national policies, laws and incentives programmes relevant to peatlands utilising Ramsar *Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of Wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook no.3)



# D. Wise use of peatlands

- The wise use management of peatlands, including restoration and rehabilitation, should be treated as a priority by all Contracting Parties that have peatland resources within their territory





# E. Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity

- To ensure the necessary institutional capacity in place
- Networks for research and programme cooperation should be established, involving research institutes and other peatland scientific organisations so as to share knowledge and information and improve understanding of the biodiversity, ecological character, values, and functions of the world's peatlands



# F. International cooperation



- To develop an international cooperation between contracting parties and multilateral environmental agreements notably CBD, and UNFCCC
- Cooperation should be coordinated in cooperation with peatland stakeholders and other interested parties



# G. Implementation and support

- To establish communication and coordination mechanism in order to assist and coordinate between Ramsar contracting parties for the implementation of the Guidelines





# Central European Peatland Project

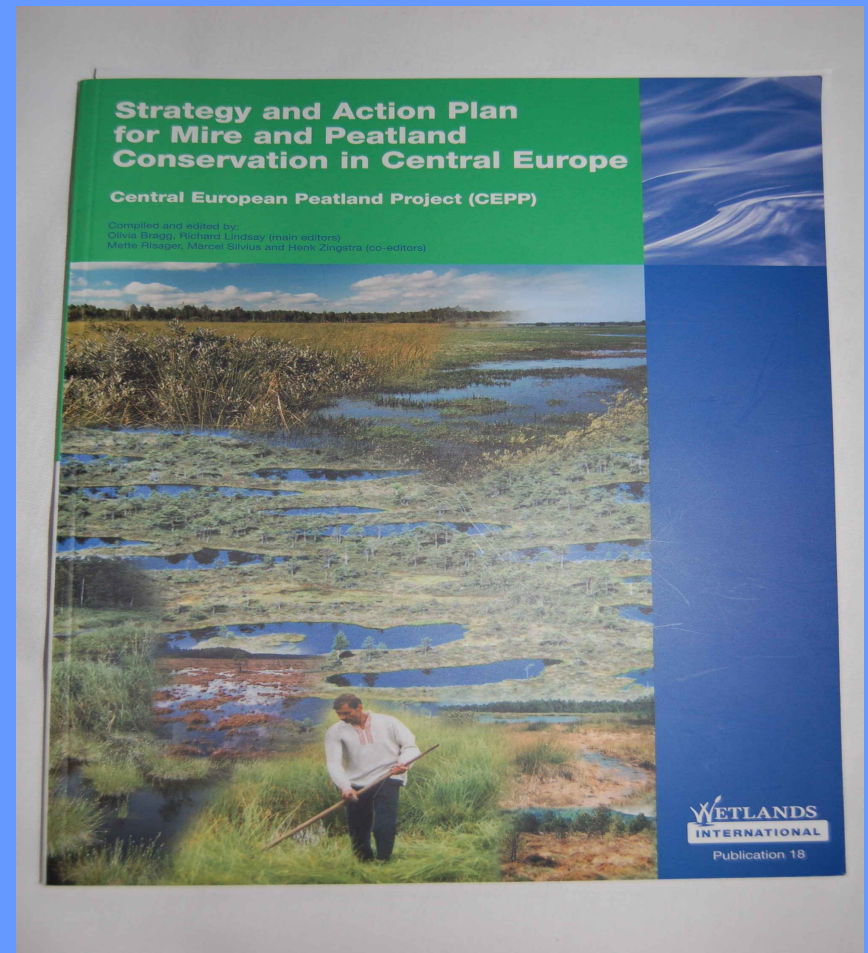
- It was established to ensure that the natural heritage of peatlands would not be lost
- To assist the eight participating countries to implement recommendations of the Ramsar Convention, through the development and distribution of a Strategy and Action Plan for peatland in Central Europe
- Produce an overview of the distribution of peatlands in Central Europe and to identify those peatlands that are of significant value for biodiversity
- Increase awareness about the values and functions of peatlands (not only for the protection of biodiversity, but also for their significance with respect to atmospheric carbon dioxide levels and their role in flood attenuation and water purification)

# Main components of the Central European Peatland Project

- The scale of peatland loss in Europe
- Causes of that loss
- The biodiversity of peatland systems
- The reasons for loss of peatland biodiversity in Europe
- Proposal for a common peatland terminology and classification
- GIS and maps presenting an overview of the distribution and condition of peatland in Central Europe
- Review of international initiatives promoting the conservation of peatlands
- The possible link between peatlands and climate change
- Wise use of peatlands
- Assessment of training needs
- Peatland education programmes

# Strategy and Action Plan for Mire and Peatland Conservation in Central Europe, 2004

- Result of the Central European Peatland Project
- Contribution to the GGAP
- Focusing to peatlands in: Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine







**Thank you for your attention!**

**Sources:**

**[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)**

**[www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)**