



## Peatlands in global conventions: status and prospects

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Peatlands conservation and wise use as a condition for sustainable development is an agreed option within organisations dealing with peat and peatlands, such as IPS and IMCG. The most effective way to promote those principles is integration into state policy, including legislation development. The real mechanism for doing so is through the decisions of contracting parties of Global Conventions. Such decisions form preconditions for the improvement of national policies. IPS and IMCG since 1996 demonstrate strong co-operation to promote peatlands wise use and conservation within Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biodiversity and UNFCCC both via contracting parties and partner organisations to Conventions.

The most significant achievements on that way are 1) adoption of Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP) by Ramsar Convention (resolution VIII.17) and the ensuing development of the Co-ordination Committee For Global Action on Peatland for monitoring of GAPP implementation; 2) launching by Ramsar conventions of two books: *Guidelines for Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands* as a manual for decision makers, and *Peatlands Do You Care* as an education and public awareness instrument; 3) adoption by CBD of the resolution mentioning peatlands as valuable ecosystems CBD 7/15 and technical paper ‘Global Assessment on Peatlands Biodiversity and Climate Change’ presented to CBD parties in 2007; 4) input into the IPCC process including Position paper of IPS/IMCG ‘The role of peatlands in man-induced climate change’ and positioning of peatlands in Chapter ‘Wetlands’ of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use.

More problems connected to peatlands expect to be raised within global co-operation on environment and hence considered by countries on national level: the role of peatlands for water management; items of land degradation caused by improper peatlands management; adaptation aspect of climate change problems; peatlands and livelihoods including poverty reduction aspects – all those items are on the initial stage of consideration and need input from the specialists and politicians to be forwarded for consideration by the global environment conventions.