Building a bridge between industry and nature conservation

Good Reasons for RPP Certification
Five years RPP 🎉

- What was the reason to start RPP?
- What has RPP achieved so far?
- What is the planning for the future?
Five years RPP

**Mission**

- Develop + administrate certification scheme for responsible and transparent production of peat
- Ensure responsible peat production is recognizable for the market and society
Five years RPP

**Vision**

- Broad support in Europe and mainstream application.
- Mainstream application will result in responsible managing of peatlands to reach a healthy balance between conservation and utilization of peatlands.
Reasons to develop RPP

Dutch Government:
Environmental impact
Peat production??

Project incl. WUR:
How can this be improved??

Initiative Industry :
Further develop Principles and Criteria

1. Peat is an important raw material for growing media

2. Peat can be produced responsibly

3. Time to look into alternatives
What has RPP achieved so far?

2012
• Principles and Criteria by Temporary Technical Committee
• Invited stakeholders to give their input

2013
• August: Foundation established
• September: Board installed, P&C 1.0 accepted for testing
What has RPP achieved so far?

2014-2015
• Testing of certification scheme
• First applications for certification

2016 -2017
• First RPP certifications! 🌱
• Further development P&C

1. Legality
2. Governance
3. Site selection
4. (Prepare) production
5. After use
6. Chain of Custody

No Natural peatlands with HCVs
Preference restoration
RPP today

2018

• 41 certified locations (12,000 ha)

• RPP certification scheme version 2.0 + implementation Chain of Custody

• First companies to use RPP label

• Cooperation LIFE Peat Restore and NABU (next presentation)
What is the future planning?

Key aspect of RPP is to become mainstream

➢ in order to have impact and,

➢ to achieve acceptance of the standard and recognition

Now
41 locations
10%

Required
150-200 locations
30%
(>50% of volume peat for GM)
What is the future planning?

• In practice, certification appears to be more complex than thought initially, this may create reluctance.
  
  ➢ Analyse how to reduce obstacles to take the step to certification + take action (RPP+GME)
  
  ➢ VPN in the Netherlands has set a target to 50% of RPP-certified peat in 2020
  
  ➢ Meetings/workshops with Peat Producers (Associations) and GM companies
What is the future planning?

• Other general activities to achieve goals
  ➢ Develop additional positive relationships with NGOs [Peat Dialogue].
  ➢ Develop strategy to market RPP-peat in growing media products.
Good reasons for RPP certification

Industry

• RPP is a tool for communication especially when RPP becomes the recognizable standard throughout Europe
• License to produce (acceptance society)
• Reputation building
• Sustainable company policy

Don’t underestimate the impact Public opinion that influences the political arena
Good reasons for RPP certification

NGOs

• RPP scheme supports existing regulations (e.g. Natura 2000 regulations)

• Insight in level of responsibility taken by companies (on European level)

• Continuous dialogue stakeholders = input possible (adjustments scheme when necessary)

• New experiences will lead to insights and improved results in restoration methods/rewetting
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By Multi-stakeholder involvement
Thank you
For your interest!

www.responsiblyproducedpeat.org