



International Conventions Agencies, Agreements and Programmes



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**How their policies influence peat
industry and peatland management**



PEATLAND MANAGEMENT AND PEAT EXTRACTION ARE AFFECTED BY INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS



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IPS CONVENTIONS REPORT



International Peat Society | IMTG MTO



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, AGENCIES, AGREEMENTS AND PROGRAMMES

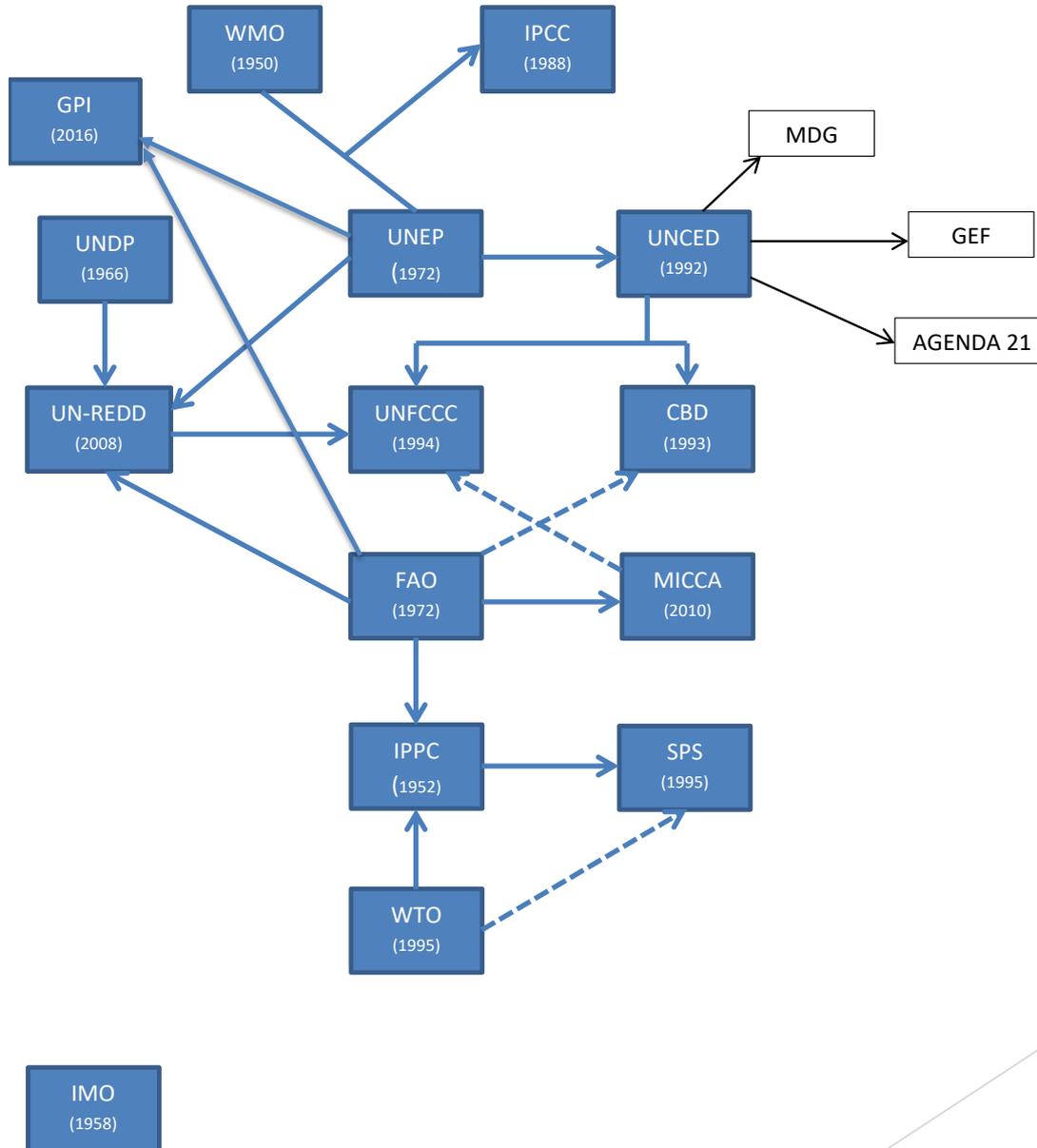
Implications for peat and peatland management

PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTIONS REPORT

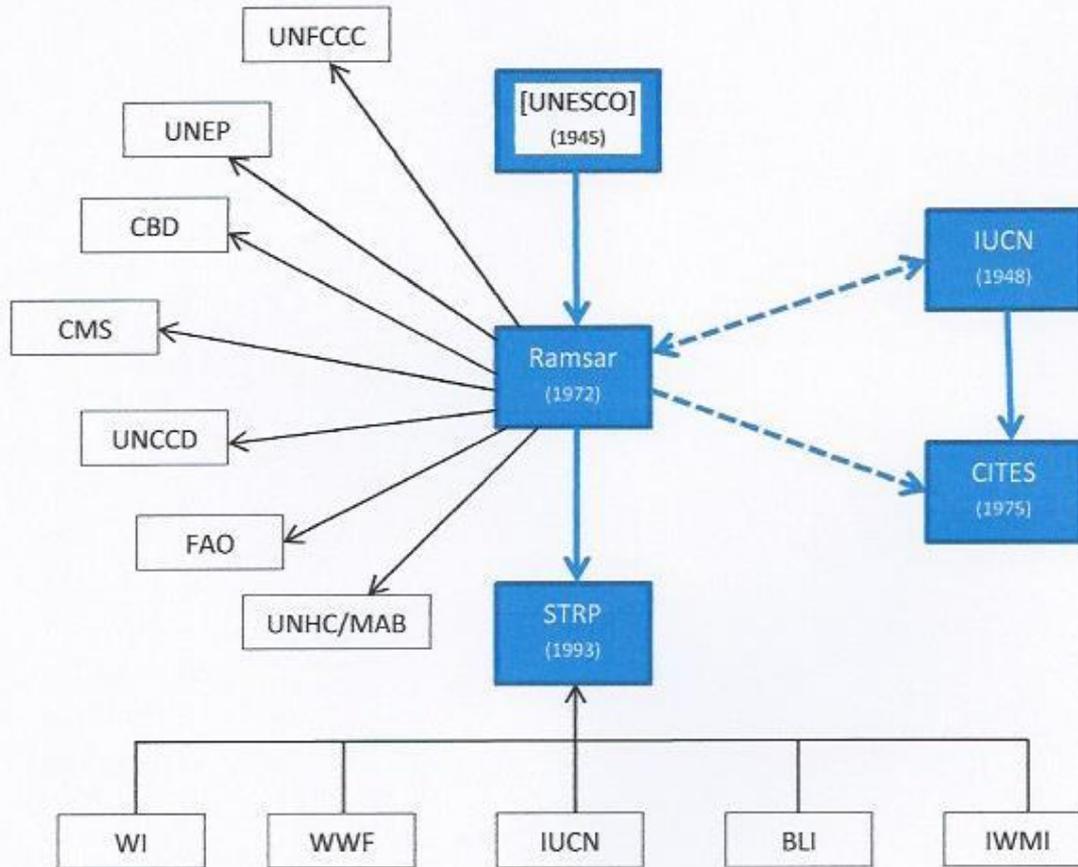
To:

- ▶ Identify international conventions, agencies, agreements and programmes that have implications for peatland management and uses of peat;
- ▶ Understand the reasons behind their formation and mode of operation;
- ▶ Assess the ways in which these organisations influence peatland management and uses of peat;
- ▶ Determine which are the most influential in this respect; and
- ▶ Decide which of them the IPS should monitor or become involved with.

RELATIONS BETWEEN UN BODIES WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR PEATLANDS AND PEAT



RELATIONS BETWEEN UN BODIES, NON-UN BODIES AND IENGOs



Acronyms of Conventions and Sub-bodies

- ▶ **CBD** - Convention on Biological Diversity
- ▶ **CCAFS** - Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Program
- ▶ **CDM** - Clean Development Mechanism (Kyoto Protocol)
- ▶ **CGIAR** - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
- ▶ **CIFOR** - Centre for International Forestry Research
- ▶ **CITES** - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- ▶ **CMS** - Conservation of Migratory Species
- ▶ **COP** - Conference of the Parties (CBD)
- ▶ **FAO** - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- ▶ **GEF** - Global Environment Facility
- ▶ **GGAP** - Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Ramsar)
- ▶ **GPI** - Global Peatlands Initiative
- ▶ **IMO** - International Maritime Organization
- ▶ **IPBES** - Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- ▶ **IPCC** - International Panel on Climate change
- ▶ **IPPC** - International Plant Protection Convention
- ▶ **IPS** - International Peatland Society
- ▶ **ISPMs** - International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
- ▶ **IUCN** - International Union for Conservation of Nature
- ▶ **MICCA** - Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture
- ▶ **MEA** - Multilateral Environmental Agreements
- ▶ **NAMA** - Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (MICCA Programme)
- ▶ **NBSAPs** - National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (CBD)
- ▶ **SBI** - Subsidiary Body for Implementation (UNFCC)
- ▶ **SBSTA** - Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (UNFCC)
- ▶ **SBSTTA** - Subsidiary body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (CBD)
- ▶ **SRPM** - Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (IPS)
- ▶ **SPS: WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
- ▶ **STRP** - Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention
- ▶ **TFB** - Task Force Bureau (IPCC)
- ▶ **TFI** - Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (IPCC)
- ▶ **TSUs** - Technical Support Units (IPCC)
- ▶ **UN** - United Nations
- ▶ **UN-FCCC** - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- ▶ **UN-REDD** - United Nations collaborative initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- ▶ **UNCED** - UN Conference on Environment and Development (1992, Rio de Janeiro)
- ▶ **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
- ▶ **UNEP** - United Nations Environment Programme
- ▶ **WMO** - World Meteorological Organization
- ▶ **WTO** - World Trade Organisation
- ▶ **WWT** - Wildlife and Wetland Trust

PHASES IN ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

- ▶ 1945-1975: UNESCO, IUCN, FAO, IPPC, UNDP, UNEP, WMO, Ramsar, CITES
- ▶ 1988-1995: IPCC, WTO, SPS, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCED
- ▶ 2008-present: UN-REDD, REDD+, MICCA

ADDITIONAL/NEW: GPI; GLF; SDG; MDG; IPBES.

RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS



- ▶ Formed in 1971 this intergovernmental treaty provides the framework for national action and international co-operation on wise use of wetlands, including peatlands.
- ▶ Ramsar is not part of the UN system of conventions but works closely with it. (170 Parties)
- ▶ Currently (September 2018) there are 2323 sites on the Ramsar List, covering 225,418,823 hectares.
- ▶ It is the most important convention for peatlands and peat.
- ▶ The IPS has had international organisation observer status on the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel since 1999.
- ▶ Ramsar is now focusing on wetlands and climate change issues and provides advice to other international bodies.

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)



Convention on
Biological Diversity

- ▶ Founded in 1992 CBD covers the conservation and use of global biodiversity
- ▶ CBD requires countries to develop and implement strategies for sustainable use of biodiversity and provides a forum for dialogue.
- ▶ Objectives:
 - ▶ Conservation of biological diversity
 - ▶ Sustainable use of biodiversity components
 - ▶ Sharing of the benefits of utilisation of genetic resources
- ▶ Affects the management of peatlands and use of peat through international and national agreements for the conservation of key ecosystems. (Biodiversity Action Plans)

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)



- ▶ Founded in 1992 UNFCCC aims to stabilise GHG concentrations in the atmosphere to counteract climate change.
- ▶ UNFCCC provides a framework for negotiating international 'protocols' that may set binding limits.
- ▶ The **Kyoto Protocol** was established in 1997 to set targets for limiting or reducing GHG emissions.
- ▶ The **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** allows a country with an emissions-reduction or limitation commitment under the KP to initiate an emissions-reduction project in a developing country.
- ▶ The UNFCCC has important implications for peat industry because emissions associated with peat extraction, processing and use have to be accounted for in national GHG inventories.
- ▶ Rewetting of peatlands can be used to mitigate climate change and their emissions included in GHG accounting.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)



- ▶ Founded in 1972 FAO is a specialised agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger
- ▶ FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy.
- ▶ FAO is a source of knowledge and information and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernise and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices.
- ▶ In 2010 FAO launched the MICCA Programme with the aim to **make agriculture on peatland more climate-smart**, improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in developing countries and enable them to contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change.
- ▶ **Together with UNEP, FAO launched the Global Peatlands Initiative in 2016. IPS is a partner of GPI.**

INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)



- ▶ Founded in 1952, IPPC is an international multilateral treaty relating to plant health.
- ▶ The IPPC provides a framework and forum for international co-operation, harmonisation and technical exchange.
- ▶ IPPC aims to prevent and control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products including weeds.
- ▶ IPPC also covers anything that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests, for example, soil (peat).
- ▶ This convention has been used to try to prevent the import of peat together with the SPS.

WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION (WTO): AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (SPS)

- ▶ The SPS agreement, signed in 1995, encourages governments to establish measures relating to food safety as well as animal and plant health with respect to imported pests and diseases.
- ▶ SPS measures have to be consistent with international standards, guidelines and recommendations.
- ▶ The WTO itself does not develop standards that are set by three organisations including the IPPC.
- ▶ SPS measures could be used to prevent the transport of peat if it is contended there is a high potential that soil is a vector for harmful pests.

NETWORKING BETWEEN UN AND NON-UN BODIES

- ▶ CBD, UNFCCC, FAO, UNEP and other international bodies (e.g. Ramsar, IUCN) interact and work together on a range of issues, for example, biodiversity and climate change (MEA).
- ▶ CBD, UNFCCC and FAO regard Ramsar as the primary source of expert information on the role of wetlands, including peatlands, in climate change.
- ▶ IUCN is the acknowledged authority on nature conservation and endangered species.
- ▶ Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)

ACTIVITIES OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL NGOs

- ▶ IENGOs play an important role in the policy making and implementation of decisions taken by many international bodies. They act as lobbyists and policy advisors.
- ▶ The most prominent are Wetlands International (WI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Birdlife International (BLI) but they now being advised by Greifswald Mire Centre.
- ▶ Others are involved through membership of IUCN or as observer organisations on convention subsidiary advisory bodies.
- ▶ Some sponsor and attend 'side events' at conferences of key conventions in order to lobby on specific issues of importance to their objectives.
- ▶ IENGOs are very efficient and effective in networking and many of the same individuals attend advisory meetings and side events of different COPs.

CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ Conservation and management of peatlands, peat use and the commercial supply chain are influenced by the policies and decisions of international conventions, agencies, agreements and programmes and the activities of international environmental NGOs.
- ▶ Stakeholders involved in responsible management of peatlands and peat, and their commercial use, should be acquainted with these international bodies and the implications of their actions.
- ▶ Whilst peat industry organisations such as GME, EPE and CSPMA can lobby their own governments they cannot influence directly or participate in the work of these international bodies. The same applies to individual companies or groups of companies.

ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEATLAND SOCIETY

► The IPS participates:

- ❖ In Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel as an Invited International Observer (IO) and in COP Side Events
- ❖ In CBD as an Observer and in Side Events
- ❖ In UNFCCC as an Observer and in Side Events
- ❖ In FAO discussing actions and policies for peatland drained for agriculture, forestry and peat extraction
- ❖ In GPI as a founding partner and member of its Steering Committee; attending General Assemblies of GPI Partners
- ❖ In the Tropical Peatland Round Table as principal sponsor and convenor
- ❖ In IPCC through the activities of scientific members of the IPS
- ❖ And more... **ALL OF THIS COSTS TIME AND MONEY**

ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEATLAND SOCIETY

- ▶ **IPS provides:**
 - ▶ Updates on activities of the major international bodies in the Conventions Report and highlights changes that have implications for peatland management and peat use;
 - ▶ A calendar of important upcoming events and meetings of key international bodies including CBD, UNFCCC, IPCC, Ramsar, IUCN, GPI and FAO/MICCA;
 - ▶ A detailed scientific assessment of the impact of peat industry activities on climate change processes.
 - ▶ Reports on meetings it attends of the major organisations with interests on peatland and peat

WHAT IS IPS DOING IN CONVENTIONS?

▶ RAMSAR

- ❖ STRP since 1999
- ❖ COP
- ❖ Main objectives and policy formulation
 - Conservation (Ramsar Sites of International Importance)
 - Wise use of all peatlands
 - Peatlands and climate change
 - GHG emissions mitigation
 - Peatland Restoration
 - GHG emissions reduction on degraded peatland

WHAT IS IPS DOING IN CONVENTIONS?

- ▶ **CONVENTION ON BIODIVERSITY (CBD)**
 - ❖ **OBSERVER STATUS**
 - ❖ **MONITORING PEATLAND IMPLICATIONS**
 - ❖ **SIDE EVENTS**
 - **Biodiversity conservation**
 - **Biodiversity enhancement**
 - **Monitoring biodiversity statements**
 - **Policy discussions, e.g. No Net Loss (of biodiversity)**

WHAT IS IPS DOING IN CONVENTIONS?

- ▶ UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)
- ▶ INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)
 - ❖ OBSERVER STATUS
 - ❖ MONITORING PEATLAND AND PEAT IMPLICATIONS
 - ❖ SIDE EVENTS
 - Checking peatland and peat GHG emissions factors
 - Monitoring climate change policies
 - Monitoring climate change statements

Thank you for your attention!



International Peatland Society

KEEP SUPPORTING THE IPS
YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS

