

Franziska Tanneberger & Wendelin Wichtmann (eds.)

Carbon credits from peatland rewetting

Climate – biodiversity – land use

Science, policy, implementation and recommendations of a pilot project in Belarus

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Carbon credits from peatland rewetting – The idea is good, but how to put it into practice?

Drained peatlands account for only 0.3% of the global land area. At the same time, they are the source of a disproportional 6% of total anthropogenic CO₂ emissions; a problem that needs to be addressed. The 'hotspots' are well known: Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, parts of the United States and Northeast China. The solution is obvious: Restore high water levels in peatlands. But many questions remain.

How does rewetting affect greenhouse gas fluxes? What about methane? Are the emissions measurable, reportable and verifiable? Are emission reductions from peatland rewetting creditable towards Kyoto Protocol commitments? Can they be sold on the voluntary carbon market? How does rewetting influence biodiversity? And, may rewetted peatlands still be used productively?

Belarus ranks 8th among the world's countries in terms of peatland CO₂ emissions and occupies 3rd place in emissions per unit land area. In recent years, tens of thousands of hectares of drained peatlands in Belarus have been rewetted.

This volume provides a synthesis of the challenges encountered and solutions adopted in a pilot project conducted in Belarus between 2008 and 2011. It presents data and conclusions

from the project and relates basic principles to advanced applications, integrating science and politics, ecology and economy. The experiences and recommendations set forth in this volume will inspire practitioners, scientists and politicians alike.

3 Peatlands and climate

3.5 Prediction of vegetation development with and without rewetting

6 Land use options for rewetted peatlands

6.5 Benefits from land use on rewetted peatlands

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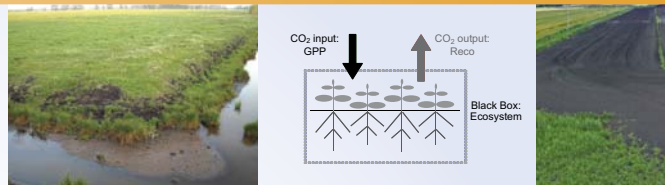


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