

Table of Content

Foreword by the United Nations Environment Programme	V
Foreword by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus	VII
Foreword by the Michael Otto Foundation	IX
1 Introduction	1
2 Peatlands in Belarus	3
2.1 Extent and types of mires and peatlands in Belarus	3
2.2 Investigation and drainage of peatlands	5
2.3 Use of peatlands and peat	7
2.4 Rewetting of peatland	9
3 Peatlands and climate	13
3.1 Peatlands and greenhouse gases	13
3.2 The global peatland CO ₂ picture	20
3.3 Measuring GHG emissions from peatlands	30
3.4 Vegetation as a proxy for greenhouse gas fluxes – the GEST approach	37
3.5 Prediction of vegetation development with and without rewetting	42
4 Peatlands and biodiversity	61
4.1 Biodiversity values of Belarusian peatlands	61
4.2 Relationship between peatland condition and biodiversity values	68
4.3 Target and indicator species	77
4.4 Peatland rewetting and biodiversity management	81
5 Driving forces and funding options	89
5.1 Legal obligations for the restoration of degraded peatlands in Belarus	89
5.2 Sensitising global conventions for climate change mitigation by peatlands	90
5.3 Selling peatland rewetting on the voluntary carbon market	94
5.4 Selling peatland rewetting on the compliance carbon market	99
5.5 Voluntary emission reduction projects – how to start in Belarus	105
6 Land use options for rewetted peatlands	107
6.1 Overview on land use options after rewetting	107
6.2 Biomass use for food and fodder	110
6.3 Biomass use for raw material	113
6.4 Biomass use for energy	115
6.5 Benefits from land use on rewetted peatlands	128
7 The BMU-ICI project	133
7.1 Summary of the project	133
7.2 Site selection and rewetting actions	137
7.3 Climate actions	141
7.4 Biodiversity actions	145
7.5 Policy actions	147
7.6 Communication and awareness raising	149
7.7 Capacity building	152

7.8	Lessons learnt.....	154
7.9	The BMU-ICI twin project in Ukraine	165
8	Practical rewetting examples	169
8.1	Introduction.....	169
8.2	Dalbeniski.....	170
8.3	Zada	172
8.4	Hrycyna-Starobinskaje	174
8.5	Scarbinski Moch	177
8.6	Dakudauskaje.....	181
8.7	Jelnia.....	184
9	Recommended research and monitoring activities in rewetted peatlands	189
9.1	Recommended research activities	189
9.2	Recommended monitoring activities	193
10	Acknowledgements.....	197
	References	199
	List of contributors	217
	Index	219