



Activity WW012502
(under Grant Document DML/BD-240/01)

**Agreement between DGIS and Wetlands
International relating to Cooperation for the
Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands**

GLOBAL PEATLAND INITIATIVE

December 2002

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Table of Contents of this Report

1	INTRODUCTION	3
2	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN	3
2.1	RECEIPT AND EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS	3
2.1.1	Criteria applied to the selection of activities.....	4
3	EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES	10
3.3	THE GLOBAL PEATLANDS INITIATIVE	10
3.3.1	Development Global Peatland Initiative.....	11
3.3.2	Global Peatland Mapping.....	12
3.3.3	Workshop IPS/IMCG, May 2001.....	13
3.3.4	Ramsar Designation Guidelines.....	14
3.3.5	IMCG European Mires	15
3.3.6	Management of Peatlands in China for Biodiversity and Climate Change	16
3.3.7	Restoration of carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity in abandoned grassland on peatlands in Poland	17
3.3.8	Feasibility study for the introduction of certification of peat products as a way to promote the wise use of peatlands.....	18
3.3.9	Management of the ex peat swamp forest fire areas of Berbak-Sembilang, Sumatra, Indonesia.....	19
3.3.10	Implementation of international conventions for peatlands in Russia.....	20
3.3.11	Towards Wise Use of the peat swamp forest at Phru Khuan Khreng, Phattalung province, Thailand through the participatory development of a Management Plan for implementation by local stakeholders.....	21
3.3.12	Páramos, water towers of peat: The need for a tool for decision makers.....	22
3.3.13	A "GPI Side Event" at the 6 th Conference of the Parties of the CBD.....	23
3.3.14	Carbon emissions from tropical peat deposits.....	24
3.3.15	To support the process of finalisation of the design of a project for support from the Canadian Government (CIDA).....	25
3.3.16	Tropical Peatland Symposium, Jakarta	26
3.3.17	Statement on the Wise Use of Peatlands	27
3.3.18	IMPESA - Identification and Mapping of peatlands in Southern Africa, Part 1: Framework Development, Training and Resource Evaluation	28
3.3.19	Protection of minerotrophic mires of South Western Siberia.....	29
3.3.20	Grazing as a conservation management tool in peatland.....	30
3.3.21	Restoration of hydrological regime and prevention of fires in hydrological Zakaznik "YELNIA", an IBA and potential Ramsar Site	31
4	DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS.....	32

1 Introduction

This is the final Technical Report to DGIS, covering the full period 1 April 2001 to 30 June 2002. Two Interim Reports have previously been provided to DGIS, as follows:

- 1st Interim Report (with attachments) for the period 1 April to 30 September 2001
- 2nd Interim Report (with attachments) for the period 1 October 2001 to 31 March 2002

A separate audited Financial Report is also provided.

The Agreement between DGIS and Wetlands International provides support for activities that are described in the Agreement, and which fall under the focal areas:

- Focal Area A Peatlands (under the Global Peatlands Initiative)
- Focal Area B Wetlands and poverty alleviation
- Focal Area C Inventory and assessment
- Focal Area D River Basin Initiative
- Focal Area E Training and outreach (cross-cutting activities)

This report deals with focal area A, the Global Peatlands Initiative. Selection of activities was performed by a Steering Committee, under an agreement between Wetlands International, Alterra (Wageningen), International Peat Society (IPS), International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG), and IUCN Netherlands Committee.

Administration of the Agreement within Wetlands International, until the end of 2001, was undertaken by the International Coordination Unit (ICU), which as described in the Administrative Organisation and Internal Control (AO IC) description, approved by DGIS, does not itself undertake delivery of activities under this Agreement. In 2002, the ICU was joined by other parts of Wetlands International, however, a project management unit retains independent responsibility for the Agreement.

2 Description of activities undertaken

In this introductory section the overall process of inviting and processing applications for grants is summarised in the following two sections:

- Receipt and evaluation of applications
- Summary listing of activities

2.1 Receipt and evaluation of applications

All grant applications were received by Wetlands International in Wageningen, and administered by an independent unit, consisting of two technical staff and one finance officer, all reporting to the Chief Executive. One technical staff member coordinated the work of the Global Peatlands Initiative Steering Committee. All applications for grants were invited by public announcement on the Wetlands International website and the websites of the international partners.

Overall eligibility of applications was determined by reference to the "Agreement between DGIS and Wetlands International relating to the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands", reference DML/BD-240/01, dated April 19, 2001, and by reference to the published Wetlands International guidance document "Guidance for project development and funding, Global Peatlands Initiative". These documents were used to define the criteria used to process grant applications, and provided pro-formas to assist applicants.

Applications received were conveyed to the respective external steering mechanism to assist transparency in the selection of successful applicants. Applications from Wetlands International offices were also subjected to this external review process.

2.1.1 Criteria applied to the selection of activities

As outlined in the Agreement document provided to DGIS (April 2001, revised from original November 2000 version), eligibility for grant support was not restricted to activities within single countries. Provided that the secretariat of a Convention or International Agreement explicitly called for or endorsed an application for a grant to be used at regional or global level, applications were considered. In general, where an application called for activities to be performed at a country level, highest priority was given to developing countries in the OECD DAC1 List.

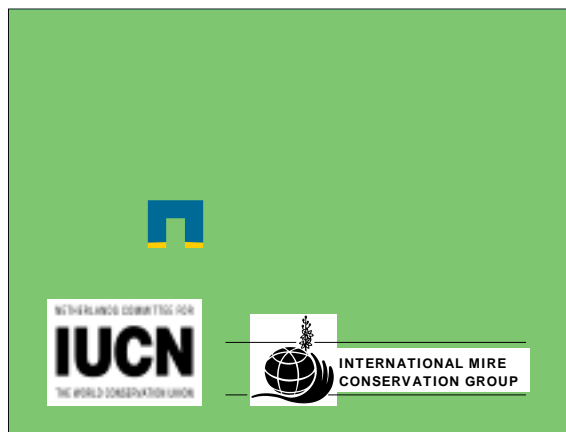
All applications were tested against the following overall criteria, the purpose of which was to increase the probability that the outcomes of the activity would be transferable, be owned or recognised by national and international governance and promote sustainable results:

- At country level, applicants were required to obtain explicit approval of a Ministry, related official agency or national focal points for wetland-related Conventions, Treaties or International Agreements.
- At regional or global level, applicants were required to obtain explicit endorsement of the Secretariat of the body concerned.

The assessment process used a checklist approach to rank applications, prior to final decision. Applicants were encouraged to submit concept proposals first, followed by full applications after approval of concepts.

During the period reported upon, decisions taken by the GPI Steering resulted in a total of 21 agreements. One further agreement, reported in the Second Interim Report for a project on the Belarussian National Peatland Strategy, was not in fact activated.

Focal Area A, Peatlands



The Peatlands programme under the DGIS-WI Agreement was from its inception developed as a partnership programme, which was called the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI). This programme had been proposed to DGIS as a separate programme, but for administrative reasons was then included in the DGIS-WI Agreement.

The GPI started in April 2001 with a total of Euro 707,000 of “seed funding” from DGIS. The DGIS financed part of the GPI is managed by Wetlands International. The programme as a whole is governed by a Steering Committee involving Wetlands International, Alterra, International Peat Society (IPS), International Mires Conservation Group (IMCG) and IUCN-Netherlands Committee. The programme’s aim is to support and enhance the participation of countries in transition

and developing countries in international conservation and wise use of peatlands. The GPI supports and complements the *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)* which have been under development by Ramsar’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The DGIS funding under the Agreement with WI (GPI Phase 1) enabled the partnership to be established, the development of a strategic plan, the issuing of a call for proposals, selection of projects to be funded, implementation of programme development, additional fundraising (via partners), and promotion of wise use of peatlands and the GPI at the CBD CoP in The Hague.

The GPI has a focus on conservation and restoration of peatlands, and integrated development planning of peat-based agriculture, forestry and industry, within an ecosystem-based approach. Within the reporting period, it has been supporting innovative global land-use planning and decision making methods, co-operation between sectors, stakeholder participation, valuation and certification, management auditing systems and the implementation of new approaches to secure wise use of peatlands in relation to their potential for poverty alleviation.

GPI Phase 1 Objectives:

- Support and enhance the participation of developing/transition countries in the global peatland initiative on the future use of *all* peatlands in the world.
- Identify future sectoral needs for peatland, and reconstruction opportunities in developing/ transition countries.
- Contribute to the IMCG/IPS and Ramsar global guidelines and prepare national and sector guidelines for the wise use of peatlands.
- Raise awareness of the functions and benefits of peatlands, and assess the full public and direct values of peatlands.
- Identify, in co-operation with the economic and banking sector, global and national transfer mechanisms to provide peatland owners and other stakeholders with income from public values.
- Assess standards of performance for certification of sustainable peatland management for the various sectors that use peatland.
- Assess standards of performance for certification of sustainable peatland management for the various sectors that use peatland.
- Provide grants to support the management of some of the most threatened peat ecosystems
- Identify key peatland areas and sectoral needs in S. America, Africa and China.

Announcement/call for proposals:

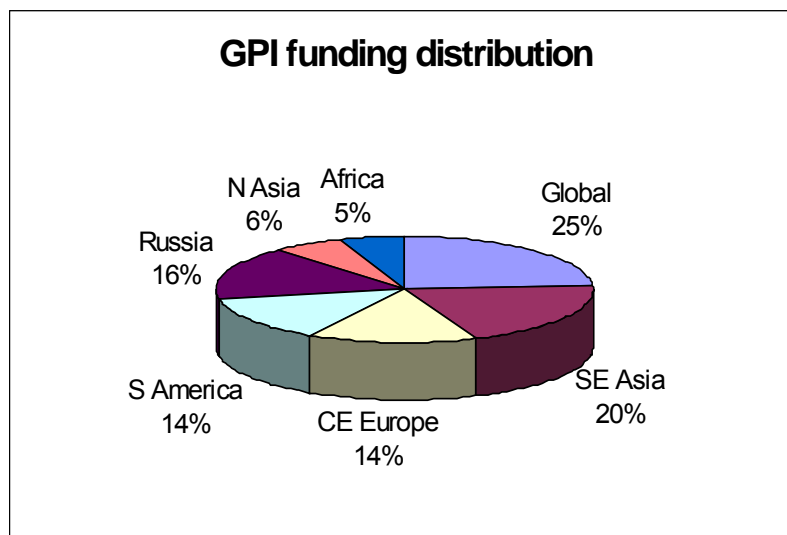
The GPI was announced in April 2002 and a call for proposals was issued via the web-sites and newsletters of the five GPI lead-partners, as well as via the Ramsar Forum, Ramsar web-site and at a large number of international meetings and conferences.

Reactions to announcement:

- The GPI was welcomed by the Ramsar Convention and CBD. It was incorporated by the Ramsar Convention in draft resolution on Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP), prepared for adoption at CoP8 in November 2002, as a major implementing mechanism for the GAP. It was also mentioned in the joint workplan of both conventions.
- Many government agencies, NGOs and scientific institutions welcomed the GPI and have either submitted proposals or endorsed proposals by other parties.
- By 31 March 2002 a total of 45 project ideas (concepts) and proposals had been received, mainly from S.E.Asia and central and eastern Europe, but also from regions where the knowledge base on peatlands is very limited, e.g. China, southern Africa and South America.
- Several western European agencies welcomed the GPI and have provided information about their peat programmes/projects

GPI Steering Committee:

The GPI Steering Committee (GPI SC) was established in April 2001 and communicated frequently by email. Regular physical meetings were held by the GPI-SC members of Alterra, NC-IUCN and WI. A first meeting with all partners was held on 30 November 2001, followed by two more physical meetings in April and June 2002. In between the GPI SC kept closely in touch with progress of the programme via intensive email communication in relation to individual projects, development of the GPI proposal portfolio, GPI promotion events as well as on strategy development for phase 2 of the GPI. With regard to the individual projects much managerial time was required to ensure that all project proposals fulfilled the necessary administrative requirements. In addition, much effort was put in ensuring that all projects were addressing the highest priorities and involving the most appropriate experts as well as all main stakeholders.



The chart on the left provides an overview of the distribution of the DGIS funding under GPI Phase 1. It should be noted that the DGIS funding (Euro 707,000) has successfully leveraged over EUR 3,9 million in co-funding, particularly in SE Asia where several projects have generated commitments from donors, including CIDA (Canada) and GEF. Regional and national projects have invariably had outputs that contribute to the science base and international capacity required to support the necessary innovation of international policy frameworks (e.g. conventions).

The GPI SC also explored possibilities for core-programme funding from other donors. So far this has not resulted in any contracts for programme funding. However, many donors have contributed co-financing to individual GPI projects. The GPI Steering Committee is also actively seeking to expand interest of the private sector to support the GPI with core funding. To this end a presentation has been made at the IPS Annual Assembly, held in Manchester on 26 May 2002.

One of the main ideas behind the GPI is that the projects joint together under the umbrella of the GPI will be able to bear more weight on international policy frameworks and the global agendas of relevant conventions and international organisations, than if the projects were to be implemented separately. The GPI SC therefore, under leadership of IUCN-Netherlands Committee, held a GPI side event in April 2002 at the CBD CoP6 in the

Hague. In addition, it has held a side event at the triennial Board of Members meeting of Wetlands International (Nov 2001), involving a key-note speech by the Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention regarding the key role the GPI can play in implementing the Guidance on Global Action on Peatlands (to be adopted at CoP8 of the Ramsar Convention in Valencia, Nov. 2002). The GPI is now recognised as a major activity under the joint workplan of the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

Approved projects:

From the 45 proposals, a total of 21 projects were finally selected for support. A number of other good project ideas/concepts have been put into the pipeline for possible support from future GPI funding (but these have not yet been fully evaluated). Contract agreements were finalised for all approved projects. The following pie chart provides an overview of GPI funding allocation.

A total of 9 projects were required to submit a mid-term progress report, and all had provided these in time by the end of March. The technical reports were reviewed by H. Diemont (Alterra) and M. Silvius (WI). All projects showed satisfactory progress. Some minor questioning was needed for a few projects. All technical reports were subsequently approved. Financial reports required some more questioning, but answers have been satisfactory and all reports were fully approved and the mid-term financial instalments were subsequently transferred.

The approved projects include several in central and eastern Europe. The DGIS-WI Agreement includes this region as one of the targets for the GPI. In a meeting with DGIS it became apparent that this was not in accordance with DGIS internal regulations, and that the region had been included by mistake. By that time WI had already entered into contractual obligations with sub-contractors in the region, and it was therefore mutually agreed that WI could proceed as agreed under the terms of the Agreement, and that these terms would be amended upon the envisaged extension of the programme. Several of the projects in this region, however, also contribute significantly to policy development at the global level, particularly through enhancement of the science base in relation to the role of peatlands in climate change mitigation. Others are of global significance through demonstrating management for actual restoration and protection of carbon sequestration functions of important peatlands.

Policy development:

Co-operation between sectors and stakeholders using peatlands is a pre-requisite to reconcile perceptions and to achieve "wise use" of their natural resources. The GPI represents both stakeholders and sectors, thus facilitating rapid achievement of tangible results.

Sustainable or "wise" use of peatlands can be achieved through:

- ✓ international agreements
- ✓ national legislation
- ✓ intersectoral cooperation
- ✓ certification
- ✓ awareness
- ✓ management/restoration

Inter-sectoral reconciliation and cooperation:

The GPI supported several policy development oriented workshops. It facilitated in 2001 the discussions between IPS and IMCG on a wise use agreement. The resulting Joint Statement on Wise Use of Peatlands is a benchmark and a baseline for integrated management of the global peatlands. It proves that agreements can be reached between nature conservation organisations such as IMCG and the peat industry represented by IPS. The Statement has been further edited and is available on the websites of IMCG and IPS in English since December 2001. Other language versions will be made available on the web by August 2002, including Spanish, French and Russian, as well as in printed format (English, French and Spanish) for distribution at the Ramsar CoP8.

The Jakarta Symposium on Peatlands for People, Natural Resource Function and Sustainable Management, also resulted in a Statement (see <http://www.imcg.net> - in the IMCG newsletter issue 2001/3).

In terms of national policy, it should be noted that in Russia the GPI is contributing to national legislation responding to the demands of the Ramsar Wetland Convention.

Peat certification:

GPI timely facilitated through its steering committee discussions between importers and exporters on certification of peat substrates for horticulture on a voluntary base. The discussions started in 2001. Funding was also used to assess the possibilities of peat certification in 2002 by experts from conservation and industry. The results of these activities will deliver further guidance to the Ramsar Convention and CBD.

International agreements:

Ramsar: GPI provided funding for global maps on distribution of peatlands and Ramsar peatland sites. The results demonstrate clearly that in many regions peatlands are under-represented in the sites network of the Ramsar Wetland Convention. GPI also funded the development of Guidelines for designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites, which are proposed for adoption at Ramsar CoP8 in November 2002.

CBD: In April 2002, the GPI organised a side-event during the CoP6 of the Convention of Biological Diversity in the Hague. This side-event attract interest of other donors to (co-)fund GPI projects and raised awareness about the importance of peatlands for biodiversity conservation and for people (especially the poor).

Climate Change: With respect to the Kyoto agreement on climate change, projects have been funded in China and Kalimantan, Indonesia. One of the outcomes of the research in Indonesia is that tropical peatlands in Kalimantan have a very low methane emission (as compared to temperate bogs).

The Jakarta symposium contributed to the identification of possibilities to rehabilitate tropical peatlands including the one million hectares of degraded peatland of former mega-rice project in Kalimantan, which will significantly reduce carbon emission and fire risk.

Research initiated in Poland by the Agricultural University in Poznan has shown that abandonment of agricultural areas in peatlands will both increase carbon emission and decrease biodiversity. These results are relevant for agricultural policy in Europe, and to the proposed Ramsar (CoP8) resolution on Wetlands and Agriculture.

In Russia, a project is being implemented with the aim of establishing a Ramsar site in Russia's most extensive peatland in the Tomsk region (over 1 million ha), which by its size will contribute significantly to carbon storage.

The GPI has also provided seed funding for the design of a project on Climate Change, Forests, and Peatlands in one of Indonesia's Ramsar sites, the Berbak National park, which has resulted in substantial funding by CIDA of this project. A proposal has been received from UNEP-GEF for co-financing a global project on peatlands and climate change. The GPI Steering Committee has provided many comments to this proposal, to enhance its potential contribution to practical peatland conservation and restoration. The proposal will be considered for co-financing under GPI phase 2.

Peat management and restoration:

Peatland conservation implementation and restoration projects and activities have been implemented with GPI funding in Belarus, China, Indonesia, Russia (Siberia), South America (focused on paramos -high altitude peatlands - of Ecuador, Columbia, Venezuela, Peru, Costa Rica, Bolivia and Argentina), Southern Africa (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe) and Thailand. These projects involve all major stakeholder groups, and most include a strong poverty alleviation focus.

Awareness and GPI promotion:

The GPI and its objectives has been promoted through the web-sites of the partners and the Ramsar Convention. Several posters have been produced providing general information on the importance of peatlands for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, water resources management and poverty alleviation, as well as general information on the GPI, information on the extent of peatlands per country, and peatland distribution all over the world. Several leaflets have been produced with funding support of the GPI, including a general information leaflet, a leaflet on the high altitude peatlands of the Andes, and a leaflet on the Identification and Mapping of Peatlands in Southern Africa (IMPESA).

A GPI Side event has been requested by Wetlands International for the Ramsar CoP8, and was approved by the Ramsar Bureau. The Ramsar CoP8 will take place in November in Valencia, Spain.

A concept proposal was submitted by Wetlands International to DGIS for Phase 2 of the Global Wetlands Programme, including GPI has a component. This also received approved.

A written confirmation has been received from Wildlife Habitat Canada of co-funding for GPI 23 of C\$3,9 million (about 2.8 million Euro).

A GPI Web page has been developed (<http://www.wetlands.org/projects/GPI>) providing the full list of projects in 4 continents.

Grant Agreement				Grant recipient	Full title of project	Country or Region
WGP1	02	Gpi	20	NC IUCN	Paramos, water towers of peat: The need for a tool for decision makers	Ecuador/South America
WGP1	03	Gpi	10	Wetlands International - Indonesian Programme	Management of ex peat swamp forest fire areas of Berak-Sembilang	Indonesia
WGP1	04	Gpi	23	Global Environment Centre	Support for finalisation of design of project on Sustainable Management of Peat Swamp Forests Indonesia	Indonesia
WGP1	05	Gpi	2b	Alterra	IPS/IMCG Workshop	Global
WGP1	06	Gpi	14	Wetlands International - Thailand programme	Towards wise use of peat swamp forest at Phru Khuan Khreng, through the participatory development of a Management Plan for implementation by local stakeholders	Thailand
WGP1	07	Gpi	33	Tomsk University	Protection of minerotrophic mires of South Western Siberia	Russia
WGP1	08	Gpi	11	WI Russia	Implementation of international conventions for peatlands in Russia	Russia
WGP1	14	Gpi	26	Alterra	International Symposium and Workshops on Tropical Peatlands	Asia
WGP1	18	Gpi	32	University of Pretoria	Identification and mapping of peatlands in southern Africa Part 1: Framework development, Training and resource Evaluation	Southern Africa
WGP1	19	Gpi	9a	Agricultural University of Poznan	Restoration of carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity in abandoned grassland on peatland in Poland	Poland
WGP1	20	Gpi	22	University of Helsinki	Carbon emissions from tropical peat deposits	Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia
WGP1	21	Gpi	8	Wetlands International - China Programme	Management of Peatlands in China for Biodiversity and Climate Change	China
WGP1	23	Gpi	34	Wageningen University and Research	Grazing as a conservation management tool in peatland	Poland
WGP1	25	Gpi	35	APB/UNDP Belarus	Restoration of hydrological regime and prevention of fires in hydrological Zakaznik "Yelnia", an IBA and potential Ramsar Site	Belarus
WGP1	28	Gpi	0b	WI/Alterra/IPS-IMCG	GPI Steering Committee	Global
WGP1	29	Gpi	1	IMCG/ISRIC/WDC	Global peatland mapping and terminology	Global
WGP1	30	Gpi	2c	Wetlands International	Proposal for Ramsar Designation Guidelines	Global
WGP1	32	Gpi	4	IMCG	IMCG European Mires	Europe
WGP1	34	Gpi	9d	RHP	Baltics Peatland Project: sustainable resource use planning	Baltics
WGP1	35	Gpi	21	IUCN-NC/WI/Alterra	CBD side event on GPI	Global
WGP1	36	Gpi	29	IMCG/IPS	IPS/IMCG Statement on Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands	Global

3 Evaluation of activities

The Agreement has resulted in 37 projects, all of which have been completed, without significant deviation or failure, across five Focal Areas. Wetlands International considers this to be a major success, especially when it is considered how short the time that was available to make sound Agreements with many prospective grant holders, and achieve outputs that are in many cases of lasting significance. The targeting of activities by Wetlands International, resulted in a good spread of projects, all of which were believed to satisfy the criteria set by the Minister for Development Cooperation.

In addition, the decisions taken by Wetlands International, through strong partnership working within Steering mechanisms, led to the large majority of projects being carried out by non-Wetlands International staff or Offices. Of the total 37 projects, only 11 were led by Wetlands International, none of which were solely developed or run by WI. Clearly, the preparatory guidance documentation, developed by WI and partners before inception is a strong and practical feature of the Agreement, which assisted Wetlands International to reduce the risks of project selection.

In this chapter, following a brief explanation of the guidance provided to Grant Agreement holders, the individual Grant Agreements are reviewed to enable a specific evaluation of projects in each Focal Area.

3.1 Guidance to Grant Agreement holders

Grant Agreement holders were asked to ensure that as part of their reporting back to Wetlands International, they included responses to the following in their reports:

" Objectives and Results: In summary, state whether the activities have or have not achieved the results identified.

Activities and outputs: against each identified activity, show what was planned and what has been achieved, particularly concentrating on measurable results and products that have been developed. Include specific reference to:

- needs that have been fulfilled
- capacity that has been enhanced
- other measurable results
- sustainability of achievements

Successes and failures: It is just as important when reporting on successes, to state whether there were failures and what has been learnt from the problems encountered, and to suggest how such problems could be overcome in future."

The majority of Agreement holders conformed satisfactorily to this guidance, however, in a significant percentage of Final Reports, self-evaluation was poorly dealt with, and this left Wetlands International with considerable follow-up work to persuade Agreement holders to improve their reporting.

3.2 Evaluation by Wetlands International

In this section of the Final Report each of the projects funded is presented in a tabular format with an individual evaluation reflecting the above reporting guidance. In presenting the evaluations, the key products and results from the projects are highlighted and in many cases, illustrated.

3.3 Focal Area A, Peatlands

www.wetlands.org/projects/GPI/default.htm

3.3.1 Development Global Peatland Initiative

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 Alterra GPI 0b2

Agreement holder: Alterra
Country/region: Global
Amount granted: Euro 84,338
Total project value: Euro 84,338
Activity period: 01/04/2001 - 30/06/2002



Documentation and products available:

- Final report with Finance Report
- Technical output: GPI leaflet, GPI poster, GPI web-site, promotion articles in newsletters of GPI partners, improved project proposals from applicants, established GPI network.

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of the Global Peat Initiative 2. Project development and assistance to applicants 3. GPI Funding activities <p>The project will serve the peat community, through information exchange, peer review of project proposals, networking and facilitation between the peat industry (IPS) , NGO`s and funding agencies, lobbying donor agencies and private sector for support and co-funding.</p> <p>Direct actions are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Brokerage between IPS and IMCG in order to foster mutual understanding 2) Interesting the peat industry in certification schemes for peat use and linking GPI activities to other peat and peatland oriented projects with the goal to get major peat projects in the world operating under the GPI umbrella. 3) Project ideas and project formulation 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The GPI was successfully established, involving 5 principal partners from different sectors (private sector -IPS, science - Alterra, nature conservation –IMCG and wise use IUCN-NC & WI). In late 2002, the International Commission on Drainage and Irrigation (ICID) also officially joined the GPI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The GPI was welcomed by the Ramsar Convention and CBD. It was incorporated by the Ramsar Convention in draft resolution on Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP), adopted at CoP8 in November 2002, as a major implementing mechanism for the GAP. It is also mentioned in the joint workplan of both conventions. ✓ Many government agencies, NGOs and scientific institutions welcomed the GPI and have either submitted proposals or endorsed proposals by other parties. ✓ By 31 March 2002 a total of 45 project ideas (concepts) and proposals had been received, mainly from S.E.Asia and central and eastern Europe, but also from regions where the knowledge base on peatlands is very limited, e.g. China, southern Africa and South America. ✓ Several western European agencies welcomed the GPI and have provided information about their peat programmes/projects ✓ The project ensured the development of innovative peat projects, including action by industry on development of voluntary certification schemes. ✓ The project enabled experts to assist local project proponents to improve the strategies and action plans embedded in their project proposals, thus ensuring an increased feasibility and relevance of the proposed actions, as well as an enhanced sustainability of project outcomes.
Evaluation	
<p>The project was highly successful in achieving its aims. The GPI has now been officially recognised at the highest international policy levels. It has developed a large network across the globe between many sectoral experts who are dealing with peatlands, as managers and in terms of exploitation. The outcomes of GPI projects thus provide direct contributions to international demonstration of values of peatlands, and the potential for their wise use and sustainable management. The project has brought people together from different (often seen as opponent) interest groups, and has facilitated dialogue resulting in concrete proposals for constructive cooperation. This project has been the glue between the other individual projects, and has ensured that their value is augmented by transferring the lessons learned and the policy decision taken to the global policy level.</p>	

3.3.2 Global Peatland Mapping

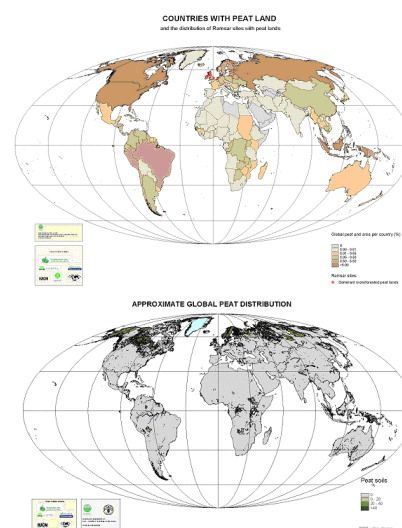
Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 29 GPI 1

Agreement holders: Duene, c.o. Greifswald University (Lead applicant) and the International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC)

Country/region: Global
Amount granted: Euro 15,000
Total project value: Euro 35,000
Activity period: 01/12/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output:
 - Two maps (as illustrated), depicting:
 1. Countries with peatlands, and the distribution of Ramsar sites with peatlands
 2. Approximate global peatland distribution

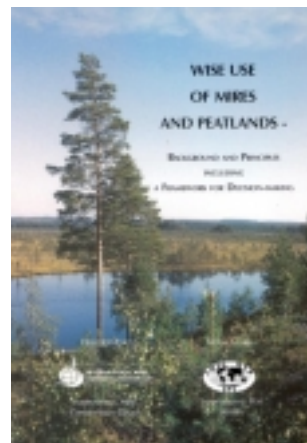


Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results</u></p> <p>ISRIC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Produce a 1:10 000 000 equal area global peat map within an overall “wetland framework” based on the FAO soil map 2) Indicate where Ramsar sites with peat can be found. 3) Calculate on a country base area of peatlands <p>Greifswald</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provide a list of countries where peat is most probably present. 2) Provide areal data (km²) on the current presence of peatlands for all countries of the world on the basis of all available peat literature. <p>ISRIC/Greifswald</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree on a best professional global peat map for the present aim of awareness. 2. Compare the peat surfaces calculated from the FAO map and the world wide data base provided by Greifswald. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes. This resulted in a significantly improved overview, which was used as the basis for the development of the two maps.</p>
Evaluation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The main success is that for the first time there is an overview, both in table format as well as in maps, of the distribution of peatlands in the world, both in terms of their global distribution, but also in terms of occurrence as a habitat in each country of the world. This is a significant achievement, and very important as a tool to identify needs for Ramsar site designation. Many countries are not even aware that they have substantial areas of peatlands, and this information will help them to recognise that they too have a role to play in fulfilling some of the resolutions of the Ramsar Convention regarding the wise use of peatlands, and designation of more Ramsar sites of this under-represented wetland type. ➤ The maps and data have been distributed at the CBD CoP6, and will be further distributed at the Ramsar CoP8 and via the web. 	

3.3.3 Workshop IPS/IMCG, May 2001

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 05 GPI 2b

Agreement holder: Alterra
Country/region: Global
Amount granted: Euro 23,282
Total project value: Euro 23,282
Activity period: 01/04/2002 – 31-12-2002

**Documentation and products Available:**

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output:
 1. A book (draft for final editing) on Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands: Background and Principles including a Framework for Decision-making.
 2. A joint statement of private sector (represented by the IPS) and conservation sector (represented by IMCG) on the Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results</u></p> <p>Various sectors are involved in peatlands including forestry , agriculture , conservation bodies, the energy sector and the use of peat as a horticultural substrate. The main objective of the meeting following the Heathrow meeting is to achieve an agreed document on wise use.</p>	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>Yes. The IPS-IMCG meeting, with facilitation of Alterra and WI, enabled a final agreement on the Wise Use of Peatlands between these two major stakeholders, thus setting the basis for Ramsar's Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (in November 2002 this was adopted at CoP8). The book was also summarised in a Wise Use Statement, which has been widely distributed, a.o. at CoP6 of the CBD.</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The project was a major success in achieving what seemed to be impossible for many years. The workshop was facilitated by the WI-DGIS financing at a crucial "make or break" stage of discussions on Wise Use of Peatlands. It followed on from many years of discussions between the IPS and IMCG, and the project helped to conclude these discussions in a very constructive way, thus setting the basis for major policy development (e.g. development of the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands) at the global level. This also constituted a major part of the groundwork for establishing the successful and innovative partnership, the GPI, involving representatives of both private sector, conservation and science sectors.</p>	

3.3.4 Ramsar Designation Guidelines

Grant Agreement nr. : WGP1 30 GPI 2c Allocated by internal Terms of Reference

Agreement holder: Wetlands International

Country/region: Global (for Ramsar Convention)

Amount granted: Euro 11,350

Total project value: Euro 11,350

Activity period: 01/04/2001 – 30/06/2001

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: COP8-DR11 (rev1) approved

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results</u></p> <p>The Ramsar Convention, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) called for a Peatland Working Group following COP7 decisions, to promote designation of wetlands under-represented in the Ramsar List.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wetlands International, a member of the STRP, was asked to co-lead the Group, and to draft the Designation Guidelines for Peatlands, for adoption at COP8. ➤ This work was commissioned under a Terms of Reference within Wetlands International, as a contribution to the STRP 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During 2001, and through the "Peatlands/Mires Task Force Working Group", draft "Guidelines for the identification of peatlands/mires as wetlands of international importance and their designation as Ramsar Sites", were prepared for the STRP. STRP adopted the second draft at the 27-29 June 2001 meeting. ➤ Ramsar Standing Committee in December 2001, adopted the draft Resolution COP8 DR11 on Designation of under-represented wetland types (see http://www.ramsar.org/cop8_dr_11_e.htm) ➤ The Conference of the Parties adopted DR11 (rev1) at COP8, Valencia.
Evaluation	
<p>Wetlands International, as the nominated focal point for the Peatland Working Group, had led the early development of the Guidelines, as confirmed at STRP9 (June/July 2000). In 2001, considerable extra work was called for to elaborate the guidance and to research the application of the Ramsar Criteria for Site Designation. Wetlands International led a series of contact group meetings and discussions, culminating in the approval at Standing Committee of a much elaborated version of the Guidelines, complete with appended peatland/mire glossary. The completion of the Guidelines was a major success in uniting the opinions of the International Peat Society, and the International Mire Conservation Group, concerning selection and designation of peatlands/mire for protection as Ramsar Sites.</p>	

3.3.5 IMCG European Mires

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 32 GPI 4

Agreement holder: IMCG
Country/region: Europe
Amount granted: Euro 20,000
Total project value: Euro 54,000
Activity period: 01/09/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: A very comprehensive manuscript, ready for final editing and layout for publishing, including information on the distribution and status of mires and peatlands in 43 European countries.



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To develop informational background for GAP implementation in Europe ✓ Forming and strengthening of a Europe-wide network of peatland conservation specialists as a basis for the effective implementation of conservation, restoration, and monitoring projects and programmes. ✓ Preparation of an internationally integrated compilation of data with respect to peatland distribution, status, and policies with active participation of groups from all countries of Europe 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yes. The technical output is formidable, and provides all countries in Europe a baseline for policy development and action planning ✓ The project has significantly contributed to expansion as well as consolidation of the IMCG network in Europe. The development of the book includes contributions of 80 European peatland experts ✓ Very comprehensively achieved
Evaluation	
<p>The project has delivered a huge amount of work, resulting in the most comprehensive and qualitatively excellent overview of the situation of peatlands in Europe. This work, once published, will be of tremendous use in supporting countries to fulfil their obligations under the Ramsar Convention (particularly the GAP) and CBD.</p>	

3.3.6 Management of Peatlands in China for Biodiversity and Climate Change

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 21 GPI 8**Agreement holder:** Wetlands International – Asia, China Programme**Country/region:** China, North Asia**Amount granted:** Euro 39,500**Total project value:** Euro 39,500**Activity period:** 01/10/2001 – 30/06/2002**Documentation and products available:**

- Project Midterm Report including financial report
- Report on meetings with local stakeholders
- Final Report, Finance Report
- Technical output:
 - Preliminary Report (in Chinese) on assessment of peatland management in Ruoergai
 - Articles on the project and related topics included in Chinese language “Newsletter for Wetlands”
 - Powerpoint presentations on peatland management in the Ruoergai plateau
 - Technical report based on results of the field survey and discussions with local stakeholders
 - CD-ROM incorporating presentation materials and 150 photographs of Ruoergai Plateau
 - Proposal for future management activities at the site
 - Project materials, documents and photographs on web sites

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The project aimed to provide recommendations on how Ruoergai peat could be managed in the future to maintain the role of peatlands as carbon stores or sinks, while at the same time conserving the biodiversity. ✓ Enhance information exchange and networking related to peatlands, biodiversity and climate change; ✓ Undertake an initial assessment of the impact to management on peat/climate /biodiversity at Ruoergai Marshes. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This was achieved through stakeholder meetings, reports and the development of a proposal involving the stakeholders. Some recommendations took immediate effect, through decisions by local government not to allow further mining or draining of peatlands in Hongyuan and Ruoergai Counties. ✓ The information flow provided by the project, contributed significantly to a better understanding by local officials in the Ruoergai Plateau of the importance of peatlands for biodiversity, water management, climate change and local economy. This is a.o. illustrated by the interest by local governments to participate in future project activities related to the restoration and management of peatlands ✓ The technical reports were used for promotion of peat management issues to the local and national government, as well as other donors, resulting in a higher level of inclusion of peatland management issues in the UNDP-GEF project on Wetland Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in China. It increased the interest among the international peatlands community in contributing to the solution of peatland management problems in Ruoergai as evidenced by the number of contributions from different countries received following an e-group request. In November 2002, UNEP-GEF approved a global project on Peatlands and Climate Change, including a case study on the Ruoergai marshes.
Evaluation	
<p>The project was very successful, considering the size of the area and the difficult socio-economic setting. It has, just within one year, accomplished to put this peat area of international importance on the map, and has developed a sound basis, both in terms of science base as well as in terms of stakeholder involvement, for identification and development of solutions. As such it has also been successful in leveraging international co-financing from the GEF (via UNEP), by having a Ruoergai case study incorporated in a global project on peatlands and climate change.</p>	

3.3.7 Restoration of carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity in abandoned grassland on peatlands in Poland

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 19 GPI 9a

Agreement holder: IPS member, Agricultural University Poznań, Poland, Dep. of Environmental Protection and Management

Country/region: Poland/Central Europe

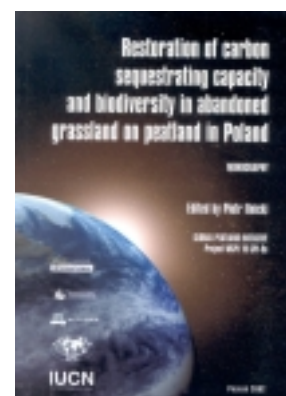
Amount granted: Euro 35,000

Total project value: Euro 45,000

Activity period: 01/09/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: A high-quality publication with contributions of 11 authors: Ilnicki, P. (ed.) 2002. *Restoration of carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity in abandoned grassland on peatlands in Poland*. Dept. of Env. Prot. And Management, August Cieszkowski Agr. Univ. of Poznan, Poland.



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identification of the influence of abandoned grassland on fens on greenhouse gas emission and carbon storage. ✓ Identification of location of abandoned grassland on peatland in Poland, changes in water regime and biodiversity in climatic conditions of Central and Eastern Europe. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The full results are published in the publication, which provides detailed information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of knowledge. • United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) • Detailed information about the Climatic Convention, Kyoto Protocol, IPCC, Marrakesh COP and Polish organizations was presented. • Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) from peatland • On the basis of 74 papers from more than 15 countries the measurement methods and amount of greenhouse gas emission from peatland. • Biodiversity in abandoned grassland on peatland • On the basis of 65 papers, description of the impact of the abandonment of grasslands on peatlands • Physical properties of peat soils in abandoned grassland • The influence of meadow abandonment on physical properties and water conditions of peat soils (on the basis of 22 papers). • Land use on peatlands in Poland • In 4 tables and two figures presentation of the distribution, type, area and use of Polish peatlands. • Land use on selected peatlands in Poland in 2001 • Actual land use of selected Polish fens, presented on basis of field studies and with the use of aerial photographs and satellite images
Evaluation	
<p>The project targeted a problem that is widespread throughout central and eastern Europe. It successfully compiled knowledge on innovative solutions to address the problem. This information can be used to raise awareness throughout the region on the issues as well as the solutions. The solutions are not found only in conservation, but may actually require the development of certain forms of agriculture. It underlines the positive role which agriculture can have towards biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Although the project focused on Polish peatlands, the results are of significant value for global discussions on the importance of sustainable peatland management in relation to climate change. The project has contributed significantly to the science base in this field, and will as such be of much use in the GPI's agenda of influencing the Climate Change Convention/Kyoto Protocol in recognising the value of sound peatland management for climate change mitigation.</p> <p>The project was extremely productive within one year, and there will be much value in follow-up work as proposed by the project implementers in their final report.</p>	

3.3.8 Feasibility study for the introduction of certification of peat products as a way to promote the wise use of peatlands

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 34 GPI 9d

Agreement holder: Stichting RHP
Country/region: Baltics/Europe
Amount granted: Euro 15,000
Total project value: Euro 20,000
Activity period: 01/01/2002 – 30-06-2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output:
 - An overview of the economic importance of the Dutch peat trade and their links with the Baltics.
 - Proposals on peat certification to the Dutch Peat trade.
 - Invitations by the Dutch peat traders to Baltic peat producers, and vice versa, for regional discussions on the subject.
 - A baseline paper on the issue of certification of peat products

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results:</u></p> <p>Main objective: To assess the potential of certification of peat products as a tool in achieving wise use of peatlands as defined by IPS and IMCG and to develop certification standards of peat products used as a substrate in gardening and in horticulture .</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The aim of the project is to promote wise use of peatlands through establishing criteria, indicators and standard of performance acceptable for consumers of peat products which can become a market tool for the peat industry using peat as a substrate for horticulture and gardening. 2. To elaborate a multistakeholder scientific paper on certification of peat products 3. To assess the willingness of peat certification with the peat industry 4. Establish contacts between exporters in the Baltics and the Dutch importing peat industry as an example. 5. To assess the possibility to bring together the main stakeholders from the Netherlands and the Baltic states to discuss pro's and con's of certification in achieving the wise use of peatlands. These stakeholders include representatives from the peat mining industry, trade organisations, government and non government organisations in the field of nature protection, policy making and trade. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a result of the project's activities, the peat industry (producers of peat substrates for horticulture in The Netherlands and their counterparts in the Baltics) have expressed their willingness to consider voluntary certification as a marketing option for the sector. 2. The Dutch trade has invited the Baltic producers for discussions on voluntary peat certification 3. As a result of invitation of the Dutch trade, the Baltic producers responded with an invitation to the Dutch trade to discuss voluntary certification of peat products. To this end a paper was prepared for the meeting of the Forum of Peat Producers of the Baltic States. 4. A baseline paper on the issue of certification of peat products was prepared . This paper reflects the expertise of experts of the peat industry , peat conservation experts and experts in the field of certification The draft paper will be published by the IPS Symposium on Peat in Horticulture (Pärnu, Estonia, 3-6 September 2002).
Evaluation	
<p>The project has made significant progress in promoting voluntary (!) certification of peat products by both the producers as well as the traders. The project achieved this through effective brokerage and facilitation, as well as through the development of technical (discussion) papers. The project clearly requires follow-up, but the process for developing certification has started, which is a significant achievement for a project of 6 months. Certification of peat products in Europe can have an important demonstration function for other parts of the world (e.g. South America and Asia, where peat production is sharply increasing).</p> <p>Discussions have started on a follow-up project. Both the trade and the GPI steering committee are in the process of identifying sources of funding to continue the facilitation process.</p>	

3.3.9 Management of the ex peatswamp forest fire areas of Berbak-Sembilang, Sumatra, Indonesia

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 03 GPI 10

Agreement holder: Wetlands International – Indonesia Programme

Country/region: Indonesia, South-east Asia

Amount granted: Euro 45,000

Total project value: Euro 67,326

Activity period: 01/08/2001 – 30/06/2002



Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report (as illustrated)
- Technical output:
 - Detailed maps
 - Survey reports
 - Draft management plan, including sections on peat fire prevention and peatswamp forest restoration.

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and Results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To develop strategies and a management plan for the fire damaged peat swamp forest area of the Berbak-Sembilang in order to reduce ecological impact and future fire risk and to restore its ecological function and conserve biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Identify site-specific impact of forest fire on the wetlands and peatswamp forests of the Berbak-Sembilang Ecosystem</i> • <i>Initiate coordination among stakeholders involved in the management of the damaged peatswamp forest in the Berbak Sembilang area</i> • <i>Develop a management plan for the fire-damaged peatswamp forest area of Berbak-Sembilang in order to restore its ecological function and conserve biodiversity.</i> 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The objective was largely achieved. Follow-up is secured through (co-)funding by CIDA, GEF and a proposal has been submitted for further funding from GPI (phase 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed maps have been completed, based on existing maps, satellite interpretation and ground-truthing field surveys, identifying impact and extent of the damage caused by forest fires, as well as an assessment of potential fire risks peat areas. • Village-level and provincial meetings/workshops were held, enabling involvement of all stakeholders in the development of the draft management plan. • Only a draft management plan was produced, still requiring further review by the key stakeholders. As a consequence the management plan has not yet been submitted for official endorsement of the local authorities.
Evaluation	
<p>The project achieved a great deal and partly more than it set out to do. In addition to enhancing the knowledge base and local capacity for peatswamp forest management, restoration and fire prevention, the project has succeeded in interesting other donors to step in. GPI funding was instrumental for obtaining substantial (co-) funding by the Canadian International Development Agency (3,5 million Ca \$) and GEF (US\$ 100,705; pilot area of the Peat and Climate Change project, approved by GEF Secretariat in November 2002). The project also contributed to the development of a Water for Ecosystems project proposal (Euro 671,000), focused on the Air Hitam laut river basin in the Berbak area. Stakeholder coordination facilitated also joint fire fighting by local communities, government agencies and private sector in 2002. The survey and remote sensing results, the draft management plan and the enhanced awareness of stakeholders has laid a sound foundation for this and other follow-up work.</p>	

3.3.10 Implementation of international conventions for peatlands in Russia

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 08 GPI 11

Agreement holder: Wetlands International - Russia
Programme

Country/region: Russia/Europe & Asia

Amount granted: Euro 60,000

Total project value: Euro 60,000

Activity period: 01/09/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Five project proposals (in English) for demonstration of peatlands management
- Various products available on the web
www.peatlands.ru (see report below)



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u> Main Project Objective: Conservation and wise use of peatlands in the Russian Federation as a part for the maintenance of the world's peatlands biodiversity, their global values and regulation functions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the achievement of national obligations in regard of the Ramsar convention and provide support to a wide range of Russian society, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Expert assistance to the Russian Government to review official Ramsar documents regarding peatlands; b) Development of a public awareness campaign on peatlands conservation and wise use. • Development and implementation of a National Policy concerning Peatlands, including a National Action Plan for Peatlands Conservation and Wise Use, and harmonisation of relevant legislation. • Development and implementation of regional policies concerning peatlands through the development of a portfolio of complementary project proposals for implementing ecological friendly ecosystem management and land use planning at the regional and local levels. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An official review of COP 8 resolutions on peatlands, including the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP), was submitted to the Ramsar Standing Committee by the Russian Government. These COP8 documents have also been translated to Russian and submitted for legalisation. (available on www.peatlands.ru.) • A public awareness plan for peatlands was developed for implementation under the RU-WI cooperative programme. • Production of a draft report on perceptions regarding peatlands in Russia. A methodology on sociological studies in peatlands was developed. • A leaflet was produced on Peatlands in Russia (English). • A Web-page "www.peatlands.ru" has been developed • A National Action Plan on Wise use of Peatlands (incl. project portfolio) was produced (English/Russian) and has been officially endorsed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. (Russian version on www.peatlands.ru). • A new Federal Law "On Wetlands Conservation and Use" was developed within the official framework of a Parliament activity. It has been submitted to the Duma. (Available on www.peatlands.ru). • A Meta-database was developed on Russian peatlands, and provided to the Ministry of Nature Resources (www.peatlands.ru.) • Project proposals were developed (in English) for model management projects in 5 internationally important peatland sites. A project portfolio has been established, with 68 project ideas and 22 concepts from all over Russia (focused on the priorities of National Action Plan for Peatlands).
<p>Evaluation</p> <p>This very ambitious project achieved most of its objectives, while working under very difficult circumstances (e.g. great shifts in policies, reshuffling of Ministries in Russia, etc). Some of the results obtained even exceed those planned. The development of the National Action Plan on Peatlands and endorsement of it by the Ministry of Natural Resources is a major achievement. Some final results are pending decisions made by the Russian authorities on some of the submitted legislative and policy products. The additional project portfolio was developed as a tool for prioritisation and for fundraising for implementation of the adopted National Action Plan on Peatlands.</p>	

3.3.11 Towards Wise Use of the peat swamp forest at Phru Khuan Khreng, Phattalung province, Thailand through the participatory development of a Management Plan for implementation by local stakeholders.

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 6 GPI 14

Agreement holder: Wetlands International - Asia Pacific

Country/region: Thailand, South-east Asia

Amount granted: Euro 42,500

Total project value: Euro 109,060

Activity period: 01/10/2001 – 30/06/2002



Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report (as illustrated)
- A technical report entitled "*Toward Wise use of the Peatlands at Phru Kuan Kreng, southern Thailand: Issues of Resource Use and Preliminary Analysis of Training Needs*" (as illustrated).

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>Contribute to the development of a comprehensive management plan for integrating development and conservation, and to remove the threats which cause the reduction of biodiversity in the Phru Khuan Khreng peat swamp forest system.</p> <p>Objective 1: Enhanced capacity of local govt. agencies to better undertake habitat conservation.</p> <p>Objective 2: Enhanced knowledge and capacity of local inhabitants and non-government stakeholders in community based resource management.</p> <p>Objective 3: Identified options for the expansion of the existing Ramsar site at Khuan Ki Sean to include the entire Thale Noi Non Hunting Area.</p>	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>See evaluation</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The project implemented a participatory project design process with relevant government agencies and local communities around Phru Khuan Khreng. This resulted in identification of key environmental and socio-economic concerns and led to the development of agreed strategies and co-management activities to tackle these concerns. The process enhanced participation by building the capacity of relevant government agencies to identify and respond to the needs of the local community, and by developing effective planning skills among the local village management institutions. The resulting well-documented report identifies the issues, provides ideas for alternative income generating activities, and presents detailed information on the back ground and past of the Phru Khuan Khreng area, the economics and livelihood of local people, problems concerning resource management and their causes. It identifies in a systematic way possible solutions, and describes the institutional setting, capacity enhancement needs (on basis of a comprehensive training needs analysis), and identifies possibilities for further Ramsar site designation/expansion. As such, the project has been very successful, in enabling the stakeholders to identify the basis for sustainable development and conservation.</p> <p>The project has further facilitated financing by NC-IUCN of a follow-up project which commenced around the time of the finalisation of the GPI phase1 project. This project will result in a final stakeholder endorsed management plan for the area.</p>	

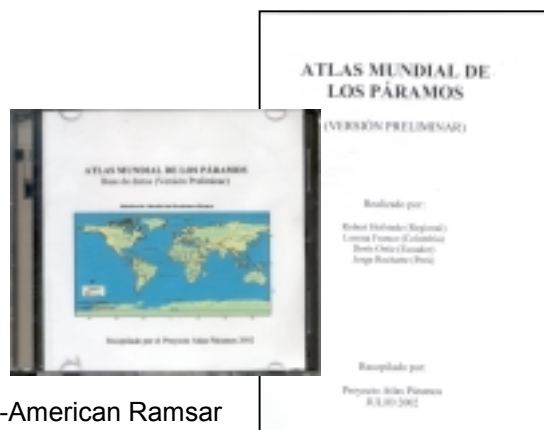
3.3.12 Páramos, water towers of peat: The need for a tool for decision makers

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 02 GPI 20

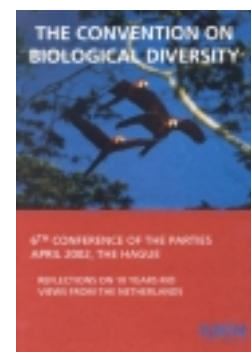
Agreement holder: IUCN-Netherlands Committee
Country/region: Andes, South America
Amount granted: Euro 89,470
Total project value: Euro 89,470 + in-kind contributions by local and international project partners
Activity period: 01/07/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report (as illustrated)
- Technical output: Comprehensive inventory and database on páramos.
- Resolution on high-Andean wetlands, accepted by the Pan-American Ramsar meeting in Guayaquil, (July 2002) – and recently (Nov 2002) by CoP8 of the Ramsar Convention.



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>Inventory of Páramos, to provide local, national and international decision-makers with state-of-the-art information on the importance, diversity and conservation of humid tropical high mountain grasslands or <i>páramos</i> (Spanish for wastelands) focussed on the Latin American context. to produce current state-of-the-art information that will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • services to the GPI from NC-IUCN and partners; • maps of all tropical high mountain grasslands of the world, but focussed on the páramos of Latin America; • suggestions for the status of páramos in relation to international conventions (such as Ramsar, CBD and Kyoto); • comprehensive data on their biological and cultural diversity and their importance on local, regional and continental scales, and • a description of the threats affecting them, their conservation status and the development and conservation options. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>A comprehensive inventory has been produced, which has become an international database which can be internationally accessed by decisionmakers, organisations and interested individuals/civil society. The establishment of the Grupo Páramos, facilitated by the GPI project, ensures the continuity of work concerning páramos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IUCN-NC has made significant contributions to the development and running of the GPI. • Maps have been included in the inventory report • Resolution on high-Andean wetlands, drafted and adopted regionally and by the Ramsar CoP8 • Comprehensive information provided in the inventory/data base • Comprehensive data and preliminary analysis provided in the inventory report
Evaluation	
<p>In this project, particular attention was given to the páramo as a landscape of peatlands, with a special biodiversity and a high value as regulator of water systems. In practice, the project was presented as "the páramo atlas". The project was excellently received in the relevant countries of Latin America, and contributed to the establishment of the International Páramo Group (<i>Grupo Páramo</i>). It was the key towards integrating and exchanging information on Andean peatlands, with as goal to establish a plan of international action. The project was a major success, and contributed significantly to enhanced awareness of the importance of páramos for the local communities in the Andean mountain range, as well as to some of the mega cities in the region (as water providers). It has helped to identify priorities for follow-up, that have a strong backing by local stakeholders, including government. It resulted in the adoption regionally of a resolution on high-Andean wetlands, which has subsequently been adopted by the recent Ramsar CoP8.</p>	

3.3.13 A "GPI Side Event" at the 6th Conference of the Parties of the CBD**Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 35 GPI 21****Agreement holder:** IUCN-Netherlands Committee**Country/region:** Global**Amount granted:** Euro 15,000**Total project value:** Euro 15,000**Activity period:** 01/02/2002 – 30/06/2002**Documentation and products available:**

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output:

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p><i>General Objective:</i> Promoting the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI) as a clearinghouse for conservation and wise use of peatlands worldwide to involve donors and interested people (GOs and NGOs) of the CoP.</p> <p><i>Specific goal:</i> The event should be used to lobby for other donors as GPI being a unique business-civil society network for conservation and wise use of global peatlands which delivers all kind of ecological services. In order to get support for the GPI objectives, and attract possible donors for the GPI second phase.</p>	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The GPI side event was held with good speakers from the Ramsar bureau, IMCG, IPS, Wetlands International, Grupo Paramo and NC-IUCN. A GPI leaflet and flyers of IMPESA (GPI project in southern Africa) were produced and distributed at the COP (as well as later on at other events). The GPI was provided special attention in the booklet "The Convention on Biological Diversity 2002".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GPI was presented as a coherent new initiative to a varied international forum (including donors) • The side event and promotion brought more understanding for the GPI objectives • The public attending the side event became more aware of the GPI objectives and projects • Indirect also NGOs working in peat issues where promoted • The partners in the GPI and steering committee benefited • The event was beneficial for the relationship between Ramsar and peatlands • The side event was an ideal place to lobby for a 2nd GPI phase • The experiences of the GPI side event was an excellent preparation for the GPI side event at CoP8 of the Ramsar Convention in Valencia (November 2002)
Evaluation	
<p>Although the side event was well organised and achieved all its objectives to some degree, it was disappointing that it drew only few participants (about 60 people), due to many other side events happening concurrently at the CoP6. Still, it provided valuable lessons, and resulted in some very useful contacts, including with donors interested in supporting or co-financing specific GPI projects. It also contributed to enhanced coherence amongst the GPI partners in terms of expectations of the GPI and promotion needs. It strengthened confidence in the initiative amongst the private sector. The project used only about two-thirds of the amount granted. The remainder was reimbursed to WI.</p>	

3.3.14 Carbon emissions from tropical peat deposits

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 20 GPI 22

Agreement holder: Department of Forest Ecology, Univ.of Helsinki
Country/region: Indonesia, South-east Asia.

Also high global relevance (Kyoto protocol)

Amount granted: Euro 20,000

Total project value: Euro 310,000

Activity period: 01/08/2001 – 31/12/2001



Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: Peer reviewed article: CO₂ and CH₄ fluxes in pristine peat swamp forest and peatland converted to agriculture in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>The primary aim of the project was to fill gaps in the available information and produce a detailed database of tropical peat swamp forest natural peat ecology and carbon emissions based on detailed studies made in one representative PSF water catchment area at the upper Sebangau-river at Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Measuring of greenhouse gas (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O) emissions ✓ To obtain detailed gas emission data from tropical peatlands to determine impacts on these emissions on sector development 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>Data concerning methane and carbon dioxide emissions from tropical peat swamp forests in pristine and degraded conditions has been published in a peer reviewed article (International Peat Journal, published by the International Peat Society) in September 2002. The manuscript in electronic form was submitted to the GPI in June 2002.</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The implementation of this proposal utilised the existing strengths of partners in the EU and DCs that have been developed under activities implemented under the INCO-DC project "Natural resource functions, biodiversity and sustainable management of tropical peatland" (EUTROP, Contract No. ERBIC-18CT-98-0260).</p> <p>The GPI funding enabled an international team of experts to compile additional field data, required for the publication of a peer-reviewed article on carbon storage and emissions from tropical peatlands, thus providing key scientific data for discussions under the Kyoto protocol as well as in the Ramsar convention and CBD regarding the importance of peatlands for carbon storage and sequestration. The project also contributed to the development of a joint database on tropical peatland research, a most valuable tool for other planned research and sustainable development projects on tropical peat. This database is kept in the Universities of Helsinki in Finland, and in Nottingham, UK, where it may be freely consulted by other researchers working in this field.</p> <p>The GPI funding also contributed to raising of additional funding for tropical peatland research, including the development of a new EU project STRAPEAT (Strategies for implementing sustainable management of peatlands in Borneo). In addition, the output of the project contributed to the development of a proposal for a "Pilot Survey for a Finland-Indonesia development and co-operation project" financed by Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is aimed to be a 3-5 year lasting project for tropical peatland ecosystem research, sustainable management of peatland and restoration of degraded lands in Borneo. The proposal is still being evaluated by the Finnish Ministry and might start in 2003.</p> <p>The limited funding by the GPI thus successfully contributed to the advancement of crucial knowledge for current discussions in several key conventions, and enabled the development of two large projects financed independently by major donors.</p>	

3.3.15 To support the process of finalisation of the design of a project for support from the Canadian Government (CIDA)

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 04 GPI 23

Agreement holder: Global Environment Centre

Country/region: Indonesia, South-east Asia

Amount granted: Euro 15,000

Total project value (at start of project): Euro 41,200

Additional co-funding leveraged: Euro 201,850

Follow-up funding leveraged: Euro \$2.46 million

Activity period: 08/08/2001 – 31/12/2001

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- CIDA approval of a tropical peat swamp forest conservation project, with a total value of Euro \$2.46 million
- Detailed project outputs:
 - Information papers on project
 - Reports on meetings with stakeholders and stakeholder workshops
 - Agreement on relative role of the different partner organisations
 - Contribution Agreement signed with CIDA to fund the project (December 2001)
 - Draft Project implementation plan for submission to CIDA (February 2002)

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To support the process of finalisation of the design of a 2.5 year project for support from the Canadian Government (CIDA), with a total value of Euro \$2.46 million ✓ Support costs for Inception/design mission in Indonesia and associated workshops/consultations. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>A letter was received from 11 June 2001, confirming that Wildlife Habitat Canada (WHC) had been selected to begin discussions with CIDA on the development of the Climate Change, Forests and Peatlands Project. On 28 March 2002 a letter was received from WHC that the GPI funding of Euro 15,000 provided to GEC, had provided important support for consultations with project partners, government agencies and a stakeholder workshop in August 2001. This resulted in approval of a large peatland conservation project by the Canadian government, with a budget of Euro \$2.46 million.</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The project was extremely successful: by stepping in at the right time, and with relatively little funding the GPI was able to leverage considerable funding for tropical peatland conservation in Indonesia. The Canadian project manager mentions: "The rapid approval of funds from GPI at a critical time in the development of the project, when Canadian funds were not yet available, was of significant value in enabling the preparation process to proceed and generating stakeholder support".</p> <p>The resulting project, (financed by the Canadian Climate Change Development Fund) is expected to deliver a key input to discussion under the Climate Change Convention. It will also support a National component on awareness, capacity building and policy development in relation to sustainable management of peatland and climate change, and support the implementation of two community-based demonstration projects in Sumatra and Central Kalimantan.</p>	

3.3.16 Tropical Peatland Symposium, Jakarta

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 14 GPI 26

Agreement holder: Alterra
Country/region: South-east Asia
Amount granted: Euro 10,000
Total project value: Euro 38,000
Activity period: 17/08/2001 – 31/09/2001

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report
- Technical output: Symposium Proceedings

www.peatsociety.fi/publica/Jakartacont.htm

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<u>Objectives and results:</u> 1. Contribute to the organisation of an International Symposium and Workshops on Tropical Peatlands – Peatlands for People: Natural Resource Functions and Sustainable Management. 2. Organisation of a Symposium statement, as a policy document for the Ramsar Convention, CBD and Kyoto Protocol, including observations on the role of tropical peatlands in climate change processes, and peatland conservation.	<u>Achieved:</u> ✓ The workshop was held at the Sari Pan Pacific Hotel, Jakarta, 22-24/08/2001. ✓ Proceedings were published in 2001, including the declaration. ✓ The declaration was widely distributed via the networks of the IPS and IMCG as well as via the web.
Evaluation	
The project successfully achieved what it set out to do, and the GPI funding was particularly instrumental in getting the policy statement drafted and disseminated. Proceedings were produced and disseminated already in 2001. The Symposium statement was widely disseminated and used by IPS and IMCG for their contributions towards the Science and Technical review Panel of the Ramsar Convention.	

3.3.17 Statement on the Wise Use of Peatlands

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 36 GPI 29

Agreement holder: International Peat Society
Country/region: Global
Amount granted: Euro 6,000
Total project value: Euro 6,000
Activity period: 01/04/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report (as illustrated)
- Technical output: Full colour leaflet with Statement on Wise Use of Peatlands



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>Design, publication and dissemination of the joint IPS/IMCG “Statement on the Wise Use of Peatlands”</p> <p>Inform policy makers and decision takers worldwide and other stakeholders of the importance of peatlands and to promote the concept of their ‘wise use’.</p>	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>This objective was fully achieved. Dissemination was, in addition to the publication of the English language leaflet, also carried out via the websites of the GPI partners.</p> <p>The Wise Use of Peatlands statement has been widely distributed amongst decision makers (CBD CoP6, Ramsar CoP8, private sector agencies, NGOs), and has been used for formulating parts of the Ramsar resolution on the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands.</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The project was successful in producing and widely disseminating a concise statement on ‘wise use of peatlands’ based on the thrust of the much larger ‘Wise Use Guidelines’ being prepared jointly by IPS and IMCG. This document highlights the nature and importance of peatlands and identifies problems resulting from their use and relating these to the need for mechanisms that can balance the conflicting demands on the global peatland heritage to ensure its continued wise use to meet the needs of humankind. It has made the information accessible to all English speaking target groups. GPI received also a proposal for development of the same leaflet in Spanish, French and Russian, which will be taken into consideration in GPI phase 2.</p>	

3.3.18 IMPESA - Identification and Mapping of peatlands in Southern Africa, Part 1: Framework Development, Training and Resource Evaluation

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 18 GPI 32

Agreement holder: African Vegetation and Plant Diversity Centre, Dept. of Botany,
University of Pretoria.

Country/region: South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,
Botswana, Namibia,
Lesotho, Swaziland / Southern Africa.

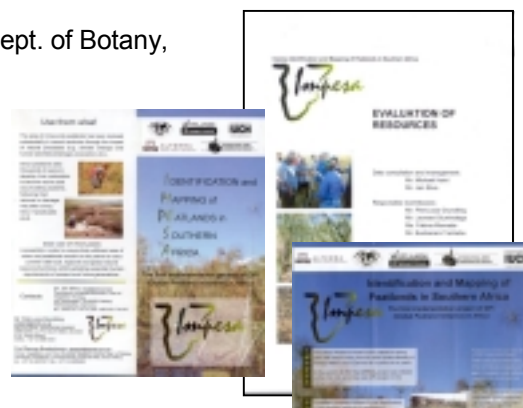
Amount granted: Euro 35,900

Total project value: Euro 47,915

Activity period: 01/10/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Interim report
- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: A major peatland inventory/database
An international network of peatland scientists and conservationists in southern Africa has been established (Southern African Peatland Group).



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>The IMPESA project focused on identification and wise use of peatlands in the developing countries of southern Africa:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Contributing to the global peatland inventory, by identifying key peatland areas (e.g. peatlands of international importance) in southern Africa b) Developing and promoting of a network of local, national and international initiatives (held by governmental representatives, environmental NGOs, science and peat-using industry) for peatland conservation and peatland wise use in southern Africa <p><u>Immediate objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development of the Southern African Peatland Group (SAfPG) • disseminating documents "Wise Use of Peatlands" • over-viewing the current status quo of the peatland inventory within SAfPG • developing peatland inventory assessment sheet and peatland inventory database • training of the SAfPG on peatland inventory and evaluation issues • encouraging of the state sector (governments) in the conservation and wise use of peatlands • financial support raising by international and local donors • production of a summarizing report 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A comprehensive IMPESA Peatland Inventory database has been established, and populated with many data from 7 countries, including many data from "grey" information sources. Also produced as hard-copy report and on CD. ✓ A Southern African Peatland Group (SAfPG) has been established, comprising of an active network of scientists, representatives of government agencies and NGOs. ✓ Yes (see above) ✓ An IMPESA leaflet was produced and distributed to key people/organisations in 20 African countries, and at international conferences of conservationists and industry ✓ Comprehensive overview produced ✓ Done with participation of all members of the SAfPG ✓ A training workshop was implemented in March 2002. ✓ Officials of relevant government departments were informed through meetings and a study tours. Several joint the SAfPG. ✓ Several government agencies of South Africa, and also NGOs provided in-kind contributions and some have expressed interest in co-financing implementation of wise use principles on rural land-use practices in peatlands in Phase 2. ✓ Provided.
Evaluation	
<p>The project has been very successful in achieving all its 1st phase objectives to a high degree, and has produced and widely disseminated high quality information. It has established the basis for a comprehensive programme for inventory and monitoring of peatlands in southern Africa and for promoting wise use of peatland resources.</p>	

3.3.19 Protection of minerotrophic mires of South Western Siberia

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 07 GPI 33**Agreement holder:** Institute for Biology and Biophysics, Tomsk State University**Country/region:** Russia, Asia**Amount granted:** Euro 25,000**Total project value:** Euro 45,000**Activity period:** 01/10/2001 – 30/06/2002**Documentation and products available:**

- Final Report, with Finance Report.

Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u> Conservation of representative parts of West Siberian minerotrophic peatlands which are among the most threatened and fragile mire types in the world:</p> <p>a) Identification and designation of at least two new protected areas (zakazniki) on the Great Vasyugan Mire and in the river Ob floodplains with future perspectives as Ramsar and World Heritage sites.</p> <p>b) Coordinate and foster local, regional and international partnerships of governmental and non-governmental organisations and agencies to implement such project.</p> <p><u>Immediate objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a set of official documentation for nomination of the part of the Great Vasyugan Mire (1 mln ha) and the Ob' floodplain (50,000 ha) as protected areas (April 2002), • Arrange for the nomination certificate for Protected Areas of regional and federal level under Russian legislation (June 2002), • raise awareness and develop agreements with all relevant stakeholders on the sustainable land use, monitoring and protection status maintenance (April 2002). 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The two areas have been defined (boundary delineation), and local consensus was build. Official designation is not yet accomplished due to administrative delays. ✓ For the Vasyugan area, a working group was established (reps. of 14 Gos, NGOs, Community groups, and private sector) by Governor declaration. A similar group was formed for the Ob floodplains. Internationally, Global Forest watch, IMCG, Univ. of Utrecht, and WI were involved. ✓ Official documentation was prepared for the Greater Vasyugan Mire system – 773001 ha zakaznik, and 498406 ha bufferzone. An agreement has been completed for the zakaznik proposal in Novosibirsk Oblast. Final agreement by the Tomsk Oblast was postponed until 1 October 2002. The agreements include many decisions regarding management of resources by many resource user groups, including hunters and foresters. ✓ For the Ob area, no final delineation was accomplished yet, due to changes in local and federal administration. Draft agreements have been prepared. ✓ Awareness on the international importance of the areas was significantly raised. Processes for Ramsar site designation have started.
Evaluation	
<p>This very ambitious project has not yet achieved its final goals. It has, however, been very successful in many ways, and steps are planned and being taken to also reach the ultimate goal of full establishment of these protected areas. Main achievements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reaching agreements on the need of establishment and sustainable management of a new major inter-regional protected area on the Vasyugan Mire and establishment of a half a million ha bufferzone, involving a large number of government agencies, including hard core economists and industry-oriented policy and decision makers, as well as NGOs, private sector agencies (incl. oil & gas, forestry, agriculture) and international scientists, is a tremendous achievement, confirming the serious intention of the government and guaranteeing the successful completion of the project. 2. Greatly enhanced awareness and consensus at all levels, both among GO decision makers, private sector, as well as the general public. In the Bakchar region, local people were worried about losing their resource use rights, and through information campaigns via local media these worries have dissipated. 3. So far 12 official documents have been produced by the project. The work is continuing, also without GPI support, and many more documents products are needed and planned, including scientific publications based on all the background materials collected for the designation of protected areas. 	

3.3.20 Grazing as a conservation management tool in peatland

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 23 GPI 34

Agreement holder: Nature Conservation and Plant Ecology Group,
Dept. of Environmental Sciences, WUR.

Country/region: Central/Eastern Europe & North Asia

Amount granted: Euro 10,000

Total project value: Euro 29,447

Activity period: 01/12/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report, with Finance Report
- Technical output: Workshop report (as illustrated)



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>Identification of the suitability and feasibility of natural and semi-natural grazing by livestock and wild herbivores as tool for the conservation of open peatland and its biodiversity.</p> <p>To address the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alternative long-term management strategies for peatland in nature conservation areas (reserves, national parks, traditional agricultural areas); 2. Required additional scientific research to provide understanding and expertise for strategic management decisions; 3. Recommendations for management and research; 4. Agreements and commitments for future management-research cooperation and exchange. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The results of the workshop have been compiled in a report entitled: <i>Grazing as a conservation management tool in peatland</i>. Report of a Workshop held 22-26 April 2002 in Goniadz (PL), edited and compiled by J. Bokdam, A. van Braeckel, C. Werpachowski & M. Znaniecka.</p> <p>The workshop dealt with these questions in a systematic way, starting with problem identification (abandonment, succession and biodiversity loss), discussing suitability (depends on intensity and timing), feasibility (requires trade-offs between ecological and socio-economic benefits), Management and local co-operation (recognise that National Parks are not islands, but require local community participation), Research and international co-operation (different research subjects were identified, and the workshop succeeded in facilitating many useful international contacts).</p>
Evaluation	
<p>The Project was very successful, not just in terms of its targeted work, but also in its spin-offs. Parts of the workshop discussions and interviews with discussion leaders were broadcast by one regional and two national Polish TV-channels and by radio Bialystok. The workshop report was distributed among 100 key agencies and individuals, to be used as a basis for launching actions for grazing management and grazing research. The subject was also discussed at the Ramsar CoP8 in November 2002, (incl. Global Biodiversity Forum).</p>	

3.3.21 Restoration of hydrological regime and prevention of fires in hydrological Zakaznik "YELNIA", an IBA and potential Ramsar Site

Grant Agreement nr. WGP1 25 GPI 35

Agreement holder: APB, The National Union "BirdLife Belarus"

Country/region: Belarus, Eastern Europe

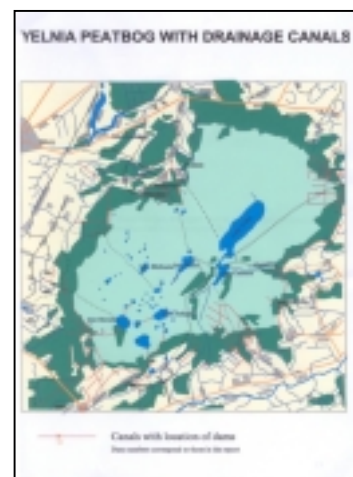
Amount granted: Euro 22,500

Total project value: Euro 33,500

Activity period: 01/12/2001 – 30/06/2002

Documentation and products available:

- Final Report (map from report illustrated), with Finance Report



Expected	Outputs and Results achieved
<p><u>Objectives and results:</u></p> <p>The overall goal of the project is the improvement of the ecological situation in Zakaznik "Yelnia" through restoration of its natural hydrological regime and prevention of fires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prevent excessive outflow of groundwater from the mire via canals through construction of special dams. 	<p><u>Achieved:</u></p> <p>The project managed to close (as planned) 17 drainage channels with dams, thereby contributing to an increase in groundwater level. Unlike previous years, with annual destructive fires sweeping across the area, not a single fire was registered in Yelnia in 2001 and 2002.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Complete restoration will take time, but with the hydrological situation restored, it is expected that flora and fauna diversity on the burned areas will recover in the foreseeable time.
<p>Evaluation</p> <p>The Yelnia area is one of the largest bog mires (19,984 ha) in Belarus and Central Europe. In 1961 a hydrological zakaznik (reserve) of national importance was established in this area (total area of 23,200 ha). The mire is an internationally Important Bird Area (IBA, Criterion A4) and a potential Ramsar site. The area was under severe threat from drainage and ensuing fires, and the project successfully countered this problem.</p> <p>The restoration activities undertaken by the project, have been implemented in accordance with a very detailed plan, and have been very effective. Independent review by experts of RSPB (N. Schaffer) reported it as a very successful and important demonstration project.</p> <p>The project has been well-documented. Financial administration and management was carried out by UNDP. Ownership of dams have been transferred by the Belarussian Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection to Disna Forestry, which will perform monitoring and maintenance works on the constructions. The Ministry has also passed a decision to ban migratory waterfowl hunting in the zakaznik during spring and autumn.</p>	

4 Discussion and conclusions

In making programmatic finance available to Wetlands International, DGIS placed considerable trust in the ability of the organisation to manage the proposed work effectively. Wetlands International believes that this trust has been respected and feels that it has demonstrated leadership and accountability in delivering the work reported in this Final Report, which covers the reporting period from inception on 1st April 2001 to completion of granted activities by 30 June 2002. All work undertaken was assessed and contracted through agreed mechanisms and reporting on individual activities was mostly achieved to a high standard by the grant recipients. A small minority of grant recipients, however, did not provide timely financial reporting, which has been reported in the accompanying final Financial Report.

As the individual evaluations reported in the previous chapter emphasise, there has been a consistently high quality and well targeted set of results achieved over the period reported on. In the Interim Reports previously submitted to DGIS, the principal concern was that the period of funding was very limited. With funds being released in mid-June 2001, there was effectively no more than one year for activities to run, even though the grant period ran from 1 April 2001. The self-imposed requirement to use a Steering Committee and a formal application process run by the programme administrative unit within Wetlands International, inevitably used up time at the inception of the funding period. This resulted in a less strategic use of funds than could have been the case under a longer term financing framework, which we feel would generally be more conducive to achieving long term-sustainable results. Nevertheless, many of the projects that were granted funds have produced high quality outputs and sustainable results. Others have laid substantive foundations for future sustainable development and conservation.

The original Agreement document (Wetlands International proposal to DGIS, April 2001) envisaged a country level stakeholder strategy guiding the targeting of funds. The short time available generally precluded the development of new strategies and plans within the project funding period. Therefore, pre-existing country strategies were used, or International Agreement, Treaty or Convention workplans were used to set priorities. The steering and targeting mechanism itself worked quite well, but there were difficulties in obtaining sufficient time from members of Steering bodies, to speed up assessment of applications and to act as a more strategic clearing house mechanism.

Did the programme make a difference? We believe it did, and considering the time limitations substantially so. Many of the activities have substantially contributed to implementation of the joint workplan of the Ramsar Convention and the CBD. The GPI has also supported several projects that have made important contributions in relation to climate change mitigation and water resources management. The programme as a whole has enhanced the science basis for wise use of peatlands, and several useful demonstration projects have been supported in a number of DAC 1 countries in Asia and Africa. The programme has supported the establishment of new networks, involving different stakeholder groups. The Grupo Páramo and the GPI itself are good examples. It also encouraged other donors to invest in wise use of peatlands. It leveraged almost twice as much funding from other sources during the implementation period, and we expect more to be raised by the various project implementers on basis of their project results.

We have been very pleased with the interactions with DGIS on various implementation aspects during the course of the programme, which were most conducive, creative and supportive, and we would like to express our thanks for the excellent cooperation.