

Guidance for managing Peatlands & Mires in Natura 2000 sites.

Peatlands and Mires

Peatlands and mires are at the EU scale **rare and mostly deteriorated or at least heavily endangered habitat types**. Therefore, many countries have implemented a lot of active conservation measures. Because of their specific structure and ecological conditions varying from country to country, there is a strong need to share valuable information about restoration approaches among the Protected Areas managers.



Peatlands - Photo by Caroline LeRoy

Below, we offer selected information sources that would be of the interest for Protected Areas and Natura 2000 managers. The following guidance and case studies have been collected and elaborated with the support of the **ERUOPARC Natura 2000 Commission** – year 2019.

Resources by Institution

Mire Conservation Group

In general, **International Mire Conservation Group** with its publications provides useful and comprehensive information at <http://www.imcg.net/pages/publications/papers.php>

EUROPARC Federation

The EUROPARC Federation organized as a part of its Annual Conference 2018 **Workshop on peatlands restoration in the Natura 2000 sites**. Two case studies are available at <https://www.euoparc.org/europarc-conference/previous-conferences/europarc-conference-2018/workshop-presentations-2018/>

European Commission

Actions on restoring mires and co-financed by the **EU LIFE programme** are collected and well described at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/info/pubs/docs/life/conserving_mires.pdf

Resources by Country

Finland

A Finnish EU-LIFE project - **Boreal Peatland LIFE Project, Restoring boreal peatlands in Natura 2000 areas in Finland** - produced a very good handbook in English "Ecological restoration in drained peatlands - best practices from Finland: <https://julkaisut.metsa.fi/julkaisut/show/1733>.

Latvia

Here are recently developed **Guidelines in Mire and Spring management in Latvia** https://www.daba.gov.lv/upload/File/Publikacijas_b_vadlinijas/Hab_Manage_Guidelines_2017_4_Mires_Springs.pdf, and other Latvian publications are available at <http://www.mitraji.lv/publications/?lang=en> as well as <http://www.purvi.lv/en/publications/>.

United Kingdom

United Kingdom hosts a vast variety of mires. Therefore, we provide more detailed information about resources available there:

Peatland ACTION is the project helping to restore damaged peatlands in Scotland. Peatland Action offers funding for suitable restoration projects in a range of peatland habitats. We have developed a suite of videos to help demonstrate best practice in key restoration techniques and published guidance notes on restoration. There are restoration project officers all across Scotland providing support and advice. Peatland ACTION website: [Peatland ACTION](#). Peatland ACTION videos: [Peatland Action YouTube Channel](#)

The Flow Country Peatlands Partnership is an ambitious project which is restoring areas of internationally important blanket bog in the heart of the Flow Country, in Scotland, that have been damaged by forestry planting. It promotes knowledge about the role of peat and carbon storage, and involves people everywhere with this precious habitat, delivering real economic benefits for one of the least densely populated areas in Scotland. <http://www.theflowcountry.org.uk/>

Moors for the Future Partnership undertakes peatland restoration work on a wide range of moorland sites across the Peak District National Park and South Pennines in England. It celebrated 15 years of work this year. It focuses on repairing the damage caused by years of industrial pollution and moorland fires. It is strongly supported by the private water industry to improve drinking water. The partnership has substantial community engagement and research programmes. Their website contains a great deal of information on restoration, videos, and guidance: <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/>

Yorkshire Peat Partnership is restoring peatlands in the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks. It has been running since 2009. Its goal is to restore and conserve upland peat resources in order to ensure the long-term future of these unique and valuable habitats. Its website has some good guidance documents on peatland restoration: <https://www.yppartnership.org.uk/resources>.

The North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership's **Our Peatland Programme**, aims to conserve and enhance the internationally important peatland resource within the North Pennines, in England. It has some information on restoration: <http://www.northpennines.org.uk/our-work/peatland-programme/>

The **Exmoor Mires Partnership** is a project restoring peatlands in the Exmoor National Park in England. There is some information on restoration techniques at: <http://www.upstreamthinking.org/index.cfm?articleid=12414>.

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme was set up in 2009 to promote peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice. Its website (<http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/>) has information on best practice, restoration case studies, developing a voluntary Peatland Code to market peatlands to the business sector and numerous other

studies. There are a series of peatland briefing papers covering peatland ecology at <http://www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/resources/iucn-briefing-notes-peatlands>.

There is a substantial handbook - **Conserving Bogs, the Management Handbook** - detailing all aspects of peatland ecology and restoration available free to download at https://issuu.com/peat123/docs/conserving_bogs.