

# PaluDivers

“Scientific support for the implementation of minimum standards for the promotion of biodiversity in paludicultures”

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## Background

The drainage-based agricultural use of peat soils leads to a loss of the ecological functional capacity of peatlands associated with high amounts of GHG emissions. The only option for sustainable land use on these soils is the establishment of wet forms of use: Paludicultures. They can also act as substitute habitats for peatland-typical biodiversity if used in an adapted manner. For this minimum standards of nature conservation have to be formulated. The aim is to achieve synergies between climate protection and biodiversity conservation through wet use, while at the same time enabling value creation in rural areas.

## Project Aim

The PaluDivers Project aims to further develop minimum nature conservation standards for the farming of wet organic soils while (largely) preserving the peat body (paludiculture). A monitoring programme is being developed for the accompanying evaluation to enable adaptive management. New paludiculture pilot projects are advised and supported in the implementation of biodiversity-oriented management and monitoring activities.

## Project Procedure

PHASE 1

### Database

Creation of a database for paludiculture projects in Germany and Europe and additional data from those projects by surveys and interviews with practitioners.

Database parameters are for example:

- Location and size
- Stakeholders
- Land-use
- Water levels
- Annual yields
- Occurance of mire specific species
- Application of biodiversity-enhancing management measures



### Impact assessment

Analysis of impacts of the different paludiculture practices on species and habitat suitability based on:

- Review of old and new literature and internet information
- Interviews of practitioners.

### Biodiversity monitoring concept

Development of a monitoring concept with effective indicators for mire typical biodiversity (species, functional groups, habitat quality) as a basis for adaptive management - affordable and without expert knowledge.



### Workshop with biodiversity experts

Discussion with experts on the impact of wet land use on the different levels of biodiversity and ways to promote them.



PHASE 2

### Consulting of pilot projects: Biodiversity

Installation of paludiculture with inclusion of nature conservation standards and accompaniment by monitoring for adaptive management.

### Consulting of pilot projects: Economy

Estimation and discussion of additional expenses for biodiversity-enhancing measures and consideration of economic viability of those measures.

### Workshops pilot projects

Knowledge transfer of findings on the impact of paludiculture on biodiversity and its regulation at regional workshops with land users and other stakeholders.



## Contacts and Funding

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