Economic and legal conditions for reed use in Germany

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VIP Vorpommern Initiative Paludikultur

FONA Forschung für nachhaltige Entwicklungen
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Introduction

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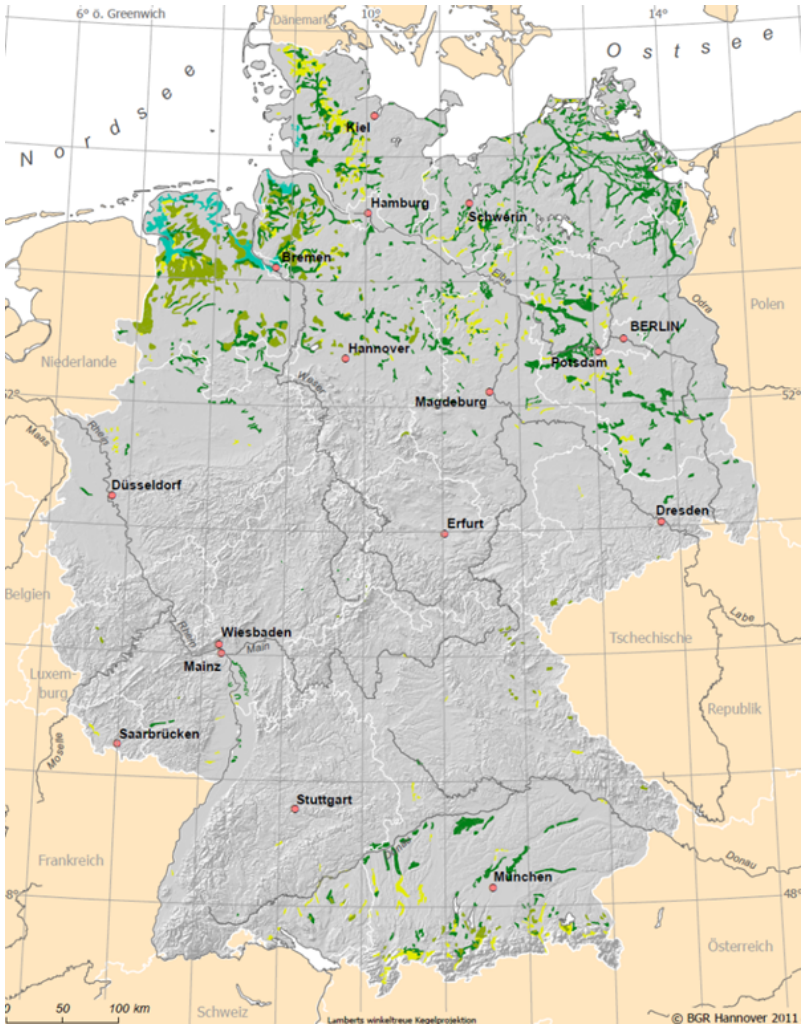

Source: Digitales Archiv FIS Bo BGR: BÜK 1000N, Vers. 2.3 (version 2007)

fen bog

- > 95 % of the peatlands are drained
- mostly used as agricultural area
- GHG-emissions of drained peatlands: 1/3 of the total agricultural emissions
- alternative, climate-friendly landmanagement options have to be promoted

Introduction

- reed on agricultural land
- as a paludiculture
- peatland protection with mere rewetting without alternative use

  => social and economic problems and lack of acceptance among the local population

Traditional reed use

Traditional reed use

Cutting in nature protection areas

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Cultivation of reed

- what is reed used for?
  - fodder (permanent grassland)
  - energetic purposes
  - building and construction material

  } *paludicultures*

- on agricultural land

  => agri-environmental political and legal framework conditions

- **peatland area in Germany:**
  - 1.4 million ha – 1.8 million ha (4 % - 5 % of total area)
  - 1.3 million ha used as agricultural land
  - 8 % of total agricultural area on peatland soils
- **in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania:**
  - peatland soils ~ 300.000 ha (13 % of total area)
  - ~ 167.000 ha used as agricultural area (56 % of total peatland area)

- direct payment of the First Pillar of the CAP on agriculturally used drained peatland soils:

  344 €/ha (2014: <344 €/ha)

- direct payments have to be maintained, i.e. after rewetting

- **direct payments granted for agricultural land, which is used for agricultural purposes**

=> reed?

First Pillar of the CAP

- according to a first evaluation of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection: no direct payments for reed
  - but direct payments are possible
  - no need to change current laws
- rewetted areas might lose status as "agricultural land"

- biotope protection prevents harvesting of reed
  - grown reed: protected biotope
- reed bed harvesting is limited according to regulations for species conservation

=> landowners and farmers avoid reed cultivation and paludicultures

Conclusion

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- political awareness has to be risen
- subsidies for other energy plants like miscanthus, willows, and poplars as short rotation coppice possible
- without subsidies and direct payment schemes an introduction of paludicultures on large scales might be impossible


Thank you very much
for your attention!
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Peatland protection in Germany

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- federal system in Germany => no national peatland protection policy
- federal states have their own protection policies adopted to their specific regional situation
- no general agreement on peatland protection and reduction of GHG-emissions caused by drained peatlands

- **2007: National Strategy on Biological Diversity**

  following aims should have been reached until 2010:

  – maintainance and restoration of bogs
  – peatlands as CO_2 and nutrient sink
  – economic incentives to promote extensivation of fens
  – peatland development concepts in all federal states

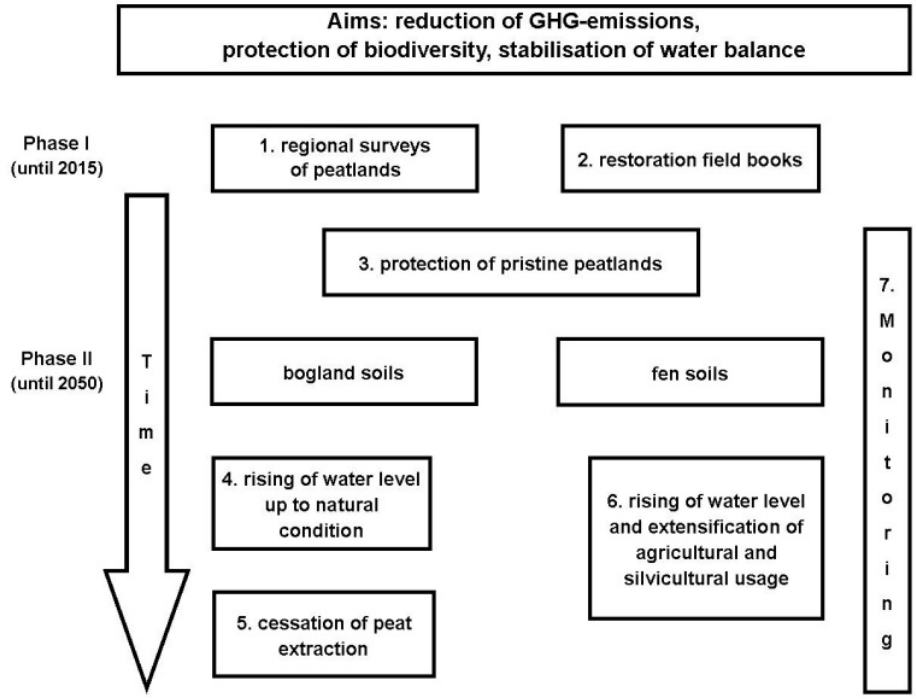
- **2011: Position Paper by special administrative agencies**

  general objectives:

  – protection of all seminatural peatlands
  – rewetting of drained peatlands
  – peat-conserving and sustainable usage (*paludicultures*)
  – reduction of GHG-emissions

- **2012: suggestion by the German Advisory Council on the Environment:**

Federal Initiative on Peatland Protection



source: German Advisory Council on the Environment, p. 421