



Restoring Peatlands in Russia | Russia

Wetlands International (<https://www.wetlands.org/>) with its partners, the Institute of Forest Science of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Michael Succow Foundation, implemented a major peatland restoration project in Russia in response to the extensive peat fires in the summer of 2010 in the Moscow region. The project was initiated within the framework of co-operation between the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany to spearhead the ecological rewetting of peatlands, and represents one of the largest peatland ecosystem restoration projects in the world. Dry peatland areas are prone to fires and the inhalation of the resulting smoke and smog particles can lead to lung irritation, causing respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Effective re-wetting of the peatland ecosystems is a key greenhouse gas mitigation measure, by reducing emissions from peatland oxidation and fires. Ecologically restored peatland areas have significantly enhanced resilience against droughts, thereby lowering the risk of fires. By reducing smog occurrences, restored peatlands can reduce health and economic impacts.

Key facts

- The project represents one of the largest on-the-ground peatland restoration project in the world;
- To date, over 35,000 hectares of drained peatlands have been restored using ecological methods with another 10,000 hectares currently underway;
- The total amount of emission reductions achieved is currently estimated at 175,000 to 220,000 t CO₂ eq. per annum;
- According to an expert assessment, another total of 42,000 hectares have been optimally restored in relation to peat fire prevention in the Moscow region by using complex hydro-technical facilities;
- Paludiculture (wet agriculture on restored peatlands) and sustainable management practices have been initiated at several sites.

Contact:

Digital assets are available for download at:

<http://unfccc.thirdlight.com/a.tlx?l=9ffm9Iji>

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