



## Restoring Peatlands for Climate

Panel discussion and photo exhibition

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 | 5.00 PM

Photo: © Raimo Pajula

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*In cooperation with the Embassies of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, NABU and LIFE Peat Restore would like to invite you to the photo exhibition 'Restoring Peatlands for Climate', accompanied by a panel discussion with international experts.*

*In aims of achieving a comprehensive outlook on the future of peatland policy in northern Europe, we have invited renowned experts to discuss national climate policies, including strategies for peatland restoration and phase-out of peat extraction.*

Peatlands are unique wetland ecosystems that play an important role in nature and our lives. They regulate cycling of water and nutrients, provide irreplaceable habitats for many species, accumulate huge amounts of carbon and regulate the climate. Most peatlands in Europe have experienced human-caused modifications, and many are lost forever.

Drainage and peat extraction have devastated large areas of pristine ecosystems, turning natural carbon sinks into persistent sources of carbon emission. Damaged peatlands release carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide, so called greenhouse gases. In fact, although degraded peatlands cover only 0,3% of terrestrial land, they are responsible for at least 5% of global emissions. Due to the relevant climate functions peatlands perform, their restoration and protection is strategic to achieve the Paris Agreement goals, especially for peatland rich countries.

We hope you join us in this timely discussion.

Thomas Tennhardt  
Director International, NABU

### **NABU – FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE**

Founded in 1899, NABU (Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union), is one of the oldest and largest environment associations in Germany.

NABU's main objectives are the preservation of habitats and biodiversity, the promotion of sustainability in agriculture, forest management and water supply and distribution, as well as to enhance the significance of nature conservation in our society.

The LIFE Peat Restore project is restoring peatlands in five countries – Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany – to mitigate the drainage effects and reduce release of greenhouse gases. The exhibition will introduce you to our restoration sites, peatland ecosystem functions, biodiversity, beauty, research, management and other aspects. The exhibition was prepared within the project "Reduction of CO2 emissions by restoring degraded peatlands in Northern European Lowland" (LIFE15 CCM/DE/000138, LIFE Peat Restore) financed by EU LIFE programme.

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5.00 PM **Doors open, Register at entrance**

5.30 PM **Welcoming words**  
Alar Streimann, *Ambassador of Estonia*

5.35 PM **Greetings**  
Jörg-Andreas Krüger, *President of NABU*

5.45 PM **Greetings**  
Dr. Frank Woesthoff, *Head of Corporate Communications, Volkswagen Financial Services AG*

5.50 PM **Restoring peatlands for climate**  
Dr. Hans Joosten, *General Secretary of International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)*

6.00 PM **Why EU climate goals should be extended – Latvian approach**  
Alda Ozola, *Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Latvia*

6.10 PM **Panel discussion 1**  
Christian Holzleitner, *DG Clima, Head of Unit C.3 Land Use and Finance for Innovation, EU Commission*  
Dr. Hans Joosten, *General Secretary of International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)*  
Jörg-Andreas Krüger, *President of NABU, Germany*  
Alda Ozola, *Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Latvia*

**Panel discussion 2**  
Dr. Hans Joosten, *General Secretary of International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)*  
Maria Karus, *Environmental Technology Department Advisor, Ministry of Environment of Estonia*  
Dr. Thomas Schmidt, *Head of Unit Horticulture and Landscaping, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)*

**Moderator:** Sebastian Scholz, *Head of Climate Department, NABU*

7.30 PM **Photo exhibition with drinks and delicacies from the Baltic countries**

9.00 PM **End**

The event is free of charge.

Please note that security rules require those attending to bring a photo ID to permit entry to the Embassy of Estonia.

Please register by January 8, 2020 by email at

[Janine.Jachtner@NABU.de](mailto:Janine.Jachtner@NABU.de)



In cooperation with:



BOTSCHAFT VON ESTLAND  
BERLIN



BOTSCHAFT DER REPUBLIK  
LITAUEN IN  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK  
DEUTSCHLAND



Botschaft der Republik Lettland  
in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland



### Venue

Embassy of Estonia  
Hildebrandstraße 5  
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