Preliminary Workhop Timetable

Day 1 - Tuesday - 23rd September 2025

Time	Title	Workshop leaders	Abstract Description
8:30/9:00 - 10:30	**Exploring future visions of peatlands applying the Three Horizons Approach**	Herzog, Laura Koch, Larissa Müller, Pia Hasenbach, Fiona Heindorf, Claudia	In this workshop, we aim to collaboratively explore various future scenarios for peatlands and identify the transformation knowledge necessary to achieve them. To facilitate this, we will employ the Three Horizons Approach. This method makes implicit knowledge and assumptions about the future explicit, examines emerging changes, and ultimately develops actions that bridge the gap from today to tomorrow. We invite participants to envision the futures of peatlands they wish to see thrive—this is referred to as Horizon 3. Additionally, we encourage participants to reflect on the current business-as-usual practices in peatland management and the potential scenarios that may arise from this—termed Horizon 1. The workshop's goal is to identify the space between these two horizons, namely, the transformation from the status quo to a desired positive future state for peatlands. Consequently, we aim to outline the transformation pathway, which we call Horizon 2. The guiding questions for our workshop are: a) What visions of peatlands and what underlying assumptions exist among the participants? b) What is the current status quo of peatlands and their agricultural use? c) How can these visions inform transformation pathways? Through this exercise, we will refine our understanding of target knowledge—knowing where we want to go—and reflect on how we can facilitate meaningful transformation.
	Mycelial bioconversion potential of paludicultural feedstocks (Typha sp. and Salix sp.)	Petros, Peter	Paludicultural biomass production offers significant annual yields and regenerative growth without the need for soil turnover or re-planting. However, paludiculture as an economic land-management practice remains highly under-adopted compared to conventional agriculture and forestry, particularly in Nordic peat-dominated regions, due largely to a lack of industrial applications and market awareness. Mycelial bioconversion is a growing bio-based industrial process for transforming a wide array of bio residues and feedstocks into new value chains. Little research has been conducted on mycelial bioconversion efficacy of paludicultural feedstocks. Our study investigated the bioconversion ability of wood-decay basidiomycete species (G. lucidum, F. fomentarius, P. floridanus, T. hirsuta, T. versicolor) on pre-extracted biomass (PEB) and unextracted biomass. Pre-extraction types were pressurised hot water extraction (PHWE) and hydrodynamic cavitation extraction (HCE), with PHWE utilised on short-rotation coppice (SRC) willow (Salix schwerinii x Salix viminalis.) and HCE on perennial cattail grass (Typha latifolia) and SRC willow, both of which are major cold and water-tolerant paludicultural crops. Mycelial bioconversion was primarily assessed with hyphal extension and ergosterol content, with each basidiomycete species exhibiting different growth traits on PEB and unextracted biomasses. Mycelial bioconversion with Fomes fomentarius yielded statistically significant ergosterol content in both willow and cattail PEB and unextracted biomasses compared to other fungal species. Extraction type had a significant impact on mycelial bioconversion efficacy, with hydrodynamic cavitation pre-extracted willow and cattail biomasses performing comparably to unextracted biomasses across all species. The project aims to explore paludiculture as a valuable land management practice towards fungal applications. Incentivising paludiculture via applied fungi! These results highlight the potential of hydrocavitation-extraction as a value-added process prior to mycelial bioconversion of paludicultural willow and cattail biomasses, shedding light on the added valorisation potential of mycelial bioconversion for cascaded, extracted bioresidues. In the workshop there will be a presentation and participants will also get a chance to see and handle fungal cultures utilised, intermediate and final form mycelium materials and learn more about the entire process chain.
	Digitalized peatland vegetation mapping to derive greenhouse gas emissions - the GEST-APP	Bergheim, Milan Pönisch, Daniel Lars Husting, Timothy James Rossa, Henriette Heutling, Linda Schrott, Nadia	Peatlands represent vital ecosystems that play a significant role in carbon storage and biodiversity. Vegetation and paludiculture mapping is an essential component of monitoring peatlands and verifying credits based on ecosystem services such as carbon credits. The commodification of peatland ecosystem services has the potential to support the financing of rewetting and renaturation measures. The VALPEATS Group has developed an application for the purpose of facilitating standardized and digital peatland vegetation mapping. It enables users to pre-analyze peatland sites using satellite images, define regions of interest, and subsequently gather peatland-specific plant species in the field. The identification of plants is based on a comprehensive botanical inventory that supports various spellings and the use of auto-fill to ensure a rapid, seamless, and efficient workflow. Participants will engage in hands-on activities using the GEST-App to record plant data in a simulated peatland environment. The workshop will cover the app's functionalities, including RTK GNSSS integration, data input, visualization, and export. Attendees will learn how to interpret the results at different rewetting scenarios. By the end of the workshop, participants will be introduced to the use of the GEST-App, and the interpretation of collected data in the context of the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions. The workshop will also feature a discussion part to explore potential future developments of the GEST-App. We cordially invite you to participate in this interactive workshop and discover how digitalization can support peatland studies.
	Wetland transitions: Opportunities and trade-offs for paludiculture in reaching nature restoration targets	Quadra, Gabrielle Rabelo Fritz, Christian Van Giersbergen, Quint Heuts, Tom Klimkowska, Agata	With growing attention on nature restoration laws and the need for sustainable land use alternatives, paludiculture offers a promising solution. But where can paludiculture be most effectively implemented? In this interactive co-creation workshop, we aim to optimise paludiculture implementation in Europe, by bringing together researchers, policymakers, land managers, and industry stakeholders. Using wetland and greenhouse gas hotspot maps, we will explore where nature restoration goals align with paludiculture opportunities, considering soil conditions, hydrology, and socio-economic feasibility, and where trade-offs may occur. Our main goal is the co-creation of a roadmap for paludiculture implementation by identifying key hotspots in Europe, evaluating trade-offs, and aligning opportunities with nature restoration goals. This session fosters collaboration and knowledge exchange, bringing together participants to explore challenges, identify synergies, and develop practical pathways for scaling up paludiculture while balancing ecological, economic, and social factors. Join us in shaping the future of sustainable wetland use and integrating paludiculture into nature restoration!
11:00-12:30	**Unlocking the Potential of Alternative Fibre Sources: Challenges, Solutions, and the Path Forward**	Quadra, Gabrielle Lång, Kristiina Alonso Adame, Alba Varão, Pedro	Adopting alternative fibrous feedstocks in industrial production presents numerous opportunities but significant bottlenecks. This roundtable discussion will bring together industry representatives, primary producers, and policymakers to exchange insights on overcoming key challenges and identifying viable solutions. Key discussion topics are: (1) addressing the biggest obstacles in integrating fibrous feedstocks and exploring practical innovations; (2) defining critical quality parameters and identifying gaps in certification, including the potential for CE certification; (3) examining the role of carbon credits, sustainability requirements, and market dynamics in decision-making; and (4) discussing legal uncertainties and policy gaps that impact the scalability of alternative fibre sources. The FIBSUN and PALUWISE projects are among the organisers. They support the development of resilient and competitive production systems while enhancing the provision of ecosystem services from degraded soils. This discussion will contribute to the ongoing dialogue on sustainable industrial transitions. While the session is closed to ensure focused exchange, we may publish a public summary or paper with the consent of participants to share key insights with the broader conference community.
	Exploring Stakeholder Perspectives and Incentive Mechanisms in Peatland Rewetting: an Experimental Game on Decision-Making and Cooperation	Hemminger, Karoline Kleineberg, Tim Tacke, Bettina	Peatland rewetting is a key strategy for climate change mitigation, water balance restoration, and long-term agricultural sustainability. However, land users often perceive insurmountable barriers due to economic, legal, and political uncertainties. In this workshop we will conduct an experimental game to explore stakeholder perspectives and the role of financial incentives in the process of rewetting. We used results from two studies conducted in Brandenburg to formulate typologies of stakeholders in the process of rewetting: (1) a qualitative analysis based on 30 guided interviews with land users, regional stakeholders, and experts, applying a grounded theory approach, and (2) a stakeholder network analysis. Based on these typologies, the participants will take on the roles of landowners, farmers, and other stakeholders in an experimental game. The game includes multiple scenarios, such as market-driven mechanisms, local actor interventions, and environmental constraints. By discussing opportunities and obstacles to rewetting under different economic and governance conditions, the game will simulate decision-making under diverse financial incentives and cooperation dynamics. The game concludes with a reflection session involving the participants, allowing for a deeper evaluation of strategies and experiences. The outcomes will be assessed based on rewetting success, economic viability, and socio-economic behavior. This workshop aims to foster a deeper understanding of incentive-based decision-making in peatland rewetting, examining sociobehavioral aspects that influence these processes and providing valuable insights for policy design and stakeholder engagement strategies. The workshop is organized in cooperation with the two Brandenburg peatland pilot and demonstration projects WetNetBB and BLuMo.
	Country specific definitions of organic soils	Heller, Sebastian Frank, Stefan Tiemeyer, Bärbel Kuwert, Malina	Soils that are predominantly formed of peat and other organic substrates can be described through a diverse range of international and national classification systems. The objective of this workshop is to compile various definitions of organic soils, considering their genesis, as well as their physical and chemical properties. Participants are encouraged to contribute additional definitions pertaining to peatlands. A focal point of the workshop is the presentation of the revised German Soil Survey Guidelines (KA6). This field-tested manual enables precise characterisation of strongly degraded organic soils as well as new peat formation after rewetting. The ultimate object is to create an overview of simplified concepts to detailed classification systems for organic soils and to foster a discussion on the most suitable ones to improve scientific publications and everyday communication on peatlands.
	Smart Paludiculture Workshop	Alsamhi, Saeed Hamood O'Brolchain, Niall Waskow, Al Margaret	The feasibility of peatland rewetting projects depends on economic and governance structures that allow and fund the work to be done, while the management of successful rewetting projects depends on appropriate monitoring, data quality, and decision-making. This workshop explores how smart humans, both technically adept and non-technically adept, can work with smart technology-enhanced policy analysis and computational tools including Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support sustainable paludiculture, either by aiding the creation of frameworks and infrastructure that enable paludiculture project success, or by analyzing the data of precision agriculture tools in paludiculture project management. The focus of the workshop will be on the intersections between evidence-based policies and financial frameworks, crop-monitoring data analytics, and AI predictions of emissions, peatland health, and nutrient concentration under different scenarios. With AI-driven models additionally capable of evaluating biodiversity, identifying patterns in species distribution, predicting the ecological impacts of rewetting efforts, or even providing in-depth analyses of large policy collections, this workshop aims to bridge the gap between AI, agricultural data collection, and policy frameworks to support peatland paludiculture management to be more efficient, ecologically conscious, and economically viable. We invite academics, policymakers, and business leaders to work together and explore the potential of AI-powered smart paludiculture.

Day 2 - Wednesday- 24th September 2025

Time	Title	Workshop leaders	Abstract Description
11:30 - 13:00	**Paludiculture in the CAP: current experiences and recommendations for post 2027**	Wichmann, Sabine	With the current EU funding period (from 2023), the European Commission has paved the way for reducing the discrimination of paludiculture compared to drainage-based peatland use, providing incentives for raising water levels and introducing a new minimum standard for peatland protection. However, implementation at national level varies widely between EU Member States. In this workshop, we want to exchange the current experiences from different countries on the following questions: (1) How can paludiculture be eligible for direct payments (CAP, 1st pillar: wet grassland, agricultural product, new derogation rule)? (2) Which payment schemes are introduced for voluntary measures (CAP, 2nd pillar: eco-schemes, agri-environment-climate measures) and investment measures? Can incentives be combined (e.g. public and private instruments)? (3) How is the minimum standard for the protection of peatlands and wetlands (GAEC 2) defined? At the beginning, 2-3 short impulse presentations will introduce the pros and cons of CAP implementation in selected countries such as Germany, the Netherlands and Finland. This introduction will open the floor for lessons learnt from other peatland rich Member States. Ideally, the contributions will also go beyond the texts of the national CAP strategic plans by addressing experiences with specific paludiculture sites and farmer acceptance. Finally, the joint discussion will be used to develop policy recommendations for the next EU funding period post 2027. The results will be taken up by the EU Horizon project Paludi4All (Socio-economic and climate and environmental aspects of paludiculture) for policy advice at EU level.

	WETBEINGS: transdisciplinary and mutuality based approaches to peatland living	Husse, Suza Haberl, Andreas Sendžikaitė, Jūratė	The workshop creates a space for joined thinking about livable futures widening paludiculture and wet peatland horizons. It is based on the transdisciplinary project WETBEINGS developed in and with the Aukštumala peatland in spring and summer 2025 with the aim to gather diverse approaches to living in and with peatlands based on mutuality and sustainable survival for the whole of the ecosystems, including humans. WETBEING brings together artists, researchers, peatland custodians and conservationists, peatland people living, working and making culture in peatlands. During the workshop we will share findings from engaging with Aukštumala as a living peatland archive and biodiverse organism, with a focus on dialogues between local peatland people, cultures and economies and trans-local, scientific, artistic, eco-political and agro-economic expertise from different fields of peatland conservation and rewetting. Participants will learn about and experiment with artistic, transdisciplinary and community-based practices and catalyst formats designed to raise awareness on peatland ecosystem services, to retrain our senses to be attuned to our ecological interdependencies and WETBEING, to foster acceptance for needed transformations towards wet peatlands and to overcoming colonial narratives of drained=progress. WETBEINGS is a project of the arts and research platform Sensing Peat at the Michael Succow Foundation with the Foundation for Peatland Conservation and Restoration, Lithuania, WETBEINGS is organised with The Venice Agreement for Peatlands and RePeat.
14:00 - 15:30	**Paludiculture under National Restoration Plans and Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification Regulation: Country experiences and opportunities**	Lorenz, Marie Rams, Elisabet Hirschelmann, Sophie Peters, Jan	The EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) mandates Member States to assess and put restoration measures on degraded peatland habitats, and drained peatlands in agricultural use, as part of their National Restoration Plans (NRPs). Perceived by many as a potential 'game changer', particularly for peatlands in agricultural use, the NRR could be a tool to trigger large-scale transformation (and restoration) and to help slow and halt the catastrophic decline of biodiversity, while stimulating sustainable and resilient economies. That potential, however, depends entirely on effective implementation and sufficient funding. At the same time, the EU Carbon Removal Carbon Farming (CRCF) Regulation presents an opportunity to finance restoration efforts by certifying emission reductions of peatland rewetting. This workshop will explore how NRPs can integrate paludiculture as part of the restoration measures and how CRCF can help bridge economic viability gaps. While paludiculture value chains and markets are still in development, the voluntary carbon market under CRCF could provide critical financial incentives to scale up sustainable wet peatland use. Through a combination of 1-2 technical inputs and a world café discussion, participants will exchange experiences on integrating paludiculture into NRPs, financing mechanisms for NRP, and governance challenges, fostering peer learning and cross-country collaboration. Guiding questions: (1) How can paludiculture be effectively integrated into National Restoration Plans to meet both ecological and economic objectives? (2) What role can the CRCF play to meet the peatland targets under NRPs? (3) What challenges and opportunities have emerged during the first year of developing NRPs in relation to peatland restoration and paludiculture?
16:15 - 17:30	**Promoting Grassroots Uptake of Paludiculture for Food, Resource and Environmental Security**	McMillan, Doug Ferraz, Filipa Molleman, Bastiaan	500,000 hectares of drained peatland in Europe require restoration annually between now and 2050, without sacrificing food security and a supply of sustainable raw materials. This can only be achieved with the large-scale uptake of diverse paludiculture crops requiring widespread cooperation from farmers and landowners. Green Restoration Ireland (GRI) implemented the Farm Carbon EIP which focused on finding solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from peat grasslands. It took a whole-farm approach providing different 'entry points' for various farm actions and established Ireland's first on-farm paludiculture trials to provide answers to farmer concerns around rewetting and loss of productive land. Cultural alignment with a 'farmer perspective' was sought through trials of appropriate paludiculture crops (grasslands) and for higher income streams using drained marginal lands. This approach registered a 70% success rate for farmers adopting some level of grassland rewetting - a higher success rate would have been achieved with greater project longevity.

Day 4 - Friday - 26th September 2025

Time	Title	Workshop leaders	Abstract Description
9:00 - 11:00	**Co-creation processes - a way to successful peatland restoration und paludiculture implementation**	Lorenz, Marie Hirschelmann, Sophie Lutosch, Inga	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands is an urgent necessity. However, rewetting peatlands is progressing too slowly in terms of achieving climate targets. Still, processes to achieve peatland restoration are complex, take time and pose many challenges, especially for farmers from a business and agronomic perspective. Various questions arise in this context, such as: How can farmers overcome economic challenges associated with the conversion to wet peatland use? How to design successful customized solutions enabling value creation in wet peatlands on a long-term basis? Finding answers to these questions requires the cooperation of many different actors and joint solution development. If the implementation of peatland protection isn't to be designed from above, it requires equal participation, collaborative approaches and, in the best case, ownership of the entire process by all involved. We think that co-creation, which can be understood as processes bringing together diverse groups that iteratively create new knowledge and practices (Wyborn et al., 2019), can be a promising approach here. In this workshop, we want to address the challenge that lies between the time pressure on the one hand and the need for successful participation to find well-accepted solutions that work for many on the other. After briefly introducing the main criteria and instruments of co-creation, we will invite participants to 'take positions' based on opposing hypotheses and to formulate and discuss their own priorities in implementing participatory approaches for peatland restoration. We will look at different project phases in which participation or co-creation can take place, at different target groups and at societal effects. Building on this, we will invite participants to share experiences on approaches and instruments contributing to achieve peatland restoration and paludiculture. After the workshop, the participants should have gained a clearer attitude towards designing co-creation processes and learnt about possible tools to apply.
	Workshop on Peatland-PV: Integrating Diverse Perspectives for Holistic Research	Kiene, Carola Pump, Carl Hohlbein, Monika Krüger, Andrea Kreyling, Jürgen Wilke, Agnes Katharina Tanneberger, Franziska	In the projects Moor-PV and MoorPower, we are analysing the effects of combining rewetting with the construction of photovoltaics on peatlands that were previously used for agriculture. We are investigating technical, environmental, ecological, socio-economic and legal aspects over the next three years. While these pioneering projects take a multi-perspective approach, some viewpoints remain under-represented in existing research. We invite conference participants from all disciplines and nations to join us in a workshop, to identify knowledge gaps, integrate diverse viewpoints and develop a more comprehensive understanding of peatland-PV. During this workshop, we will use the world café method, a structured discussion format that encourages dynamic knowledge exchange. Participants will be divided into small groups, with each group tackling key questions on Peatland-PV that have been pre-defined by our research team. The groups will then rotate to ensure that all participants engage with all topics, while designated observers document insights for a concluding synthesis. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to not only present research findings but also actively generate new qualitative data on social, economic and environmental perceptions of Peatland-PV. By engaging participants in direct dialogue, we aim to collectively shape future research directions on Peatland-PV.