



Reducing nutrient loads of Baltic Sea tributaries through restoration, creation and management of wetlands

24 - 25 March 2011 in Greifswald, Germany
Greifswald University

In the context of river basin management for Baltic Sea tributaries, wetlands can play an important role in reducing diffuse nutrient inputs from agriculture. This is reflected in many water and marine protection policies, from the Water Framework Directive to – most recently – the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. The conference addresses the question how wetland management can become operational for achieving the “clear water” objective of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, particularly in Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries.

The conference will present and discuss different strategies for nutrient retention in wetlands: Restoration and rewetting of disturbed wetlands along with adapted agricultural use of wetlands (examples from Germany and Poland) as well as the targeted implementation of newly created wetlands in agricultural landscapes (experiences from Sweden). The afternoon will provide an opportunity to discuss case studies and international experiences. The excursion on March 25 will present restoration projects in the Peene and Trebel river valleys.

We hope to bring forward a fruitful discussion among stakeholders from environmental NGOs, competent authorities from both water management and agriculture, land users, research institutions and other interested parties that will help to make better use of wetlands for reducing nutrient loads of Baltic rivers.

The conference program and practical information are available on www.wrll-info.de. The conference fee of 25 € includes conference catering and hostel accomodation for one night in Greifswald. The conference is organized by GRÜNE LIGA in cooperation with Coalition Clean Baltic, Polish Ecological Club (Gliwice chapter) and Ernst Moritz Arndt Universität Greifswald. In case you have questions, don't hesitate to email us at wasser@grueneliga.de.

Registration:

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Conference Day on Thursday, 24 March 2011
Excursion on Friday, 25 March 2011

The conference addresses the need to make wetland management operational for water and marine protection in the Baltic Sea region, particularly in Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries. Diffuse pollution from agricultural lands is the main cause for eutrophication of the Baltic Sea. The restoration and creation of wetlands along with their management through adapted land use is a promising, yet only seldom realised strategy for reducing diffuse pollution from agriculture. Enhancing nutrient retention in wetlands combines objectives of marine and inland water protection with aspects of nature conservation as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation. Day one of the conference focuses on the presentation, critical evaluation and discussion of examples and success stories from wetland management in the Baltic Sea region. The excursion on day two will present restoration projects in the Trebel and Peene river valleys.

Programme:

- 09:30 **Registration**
10:00 **Opening**

Baltic Sea Eutrophication, International and European Regulations and the Role of Wetlands

- 10:10 **Reducing eutrophication in the Baltic Sea – achievements and challenges ahead**
Wera Leujak, Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Dessau
10:30 **Nutrient load of tributaries and Baltic Sea eutrophication**
Toni Schröder, Leibniz-Institute for Baltic Sea Research, Warnemünde
11:00 **Coffee Break**
11:30 **Is wetland rehabilitation a cost-effective strategy for reduction of nutrients to the sea?**
Michael Trepel, Schleswig-Holstein State Agency for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Areas, Kiel
12:00 **Evaluation of the effectiveness of artificial wetlands in southern Sweden**
John Strand, Rural Economy and Agricultural Society of Halland, Sweden
12:30 **Lunch Break**

Wetland Restoration in the Baltic Sea Area: Discussion of Case Studies

- 13:30 **Polish wetlands for water quality – advantages and limitations**
Leslaw Wolejko, West Pomeranian University of Technology, Szczecin
13:50 **The dynamics of phosphorus and carbon in degraded rewetted peatlands of the River Peene valley – governing factors and management options**
Jörg Gelbrecht and Dominik Zak, Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin
14:20 **Experiences with wetland restoration in Poland**
Patryk Chapinski, Klub Przyrodnikow, Swiebodzin
14:50 **Wetland restoration in Lithuania**
Zenonas Gulbinas, Nature Heritage Fund, Vilnius
15:00 **Coffee Break**

The Balkan Experience and Economic Implications of the Marine Strategy

- 15:30 **Wetlands and biodiversity**
Peter Lengyel, UNESCO Pro Natura, Bucharest, Romania
16:00 **Management of Wetlands in Mugla City, Turkey**
Murat Barlas and Nedim Özdemir, Mugla University
16:30 **Economic aspects of the European Marine Strategy Directive – implications for the Baltic Sea**
Stefan Görlitz, Intersus – Sustainability Services, Berlin (*to be confirmed*)