



INTERNATIONAL TALLINN 2020 PEATLAND CONGRESS

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Alexela Concert Hall, Tallinn, Estonia

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF PEATLANDS GLOBALLY IN A REGIONAL CONTEXT

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Peatlands ecosystems, both in natural status and in use, cover around 3 % of the terrestrial area of the globe. It is significantly less than forests, or freshwater ecosystems, but all key Multilateral Environment Agreements recognise the global significance of peatlands, as they store more CO₂ as all forests worldwide.

Land-use planning and implementation, however, does not take place at global level but at the property, village, district in some cases at the subnational (province) or national (country) government level. The arguments for decision making on peatlands use should be clear and fit the socio-economic situation. The concept of ecosystem services helps to provide a balanced approach to peatlands management. The lecture will give several examples of the application of the ecosystem services concept for decision making and outline gaps in knowledge and legal frameworks as barriers for its implementation.