



Ministry of Environmental
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Development
Republic of Latvia

Legal framework of subsoil use Peatland management strategy

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Characteristic features

- ✓ Latvia is the only state in the European Union where subsoil and **all** mineral resources and peat belong to the landowner;
- ✓ The landowner may use the subsoil insofar as legal acts do not limit his rights;
- ✓ **33%** of land belong to state (responsible ministries are appointed) or self-governments



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Legal framework of subsoil use Law "On Subterranean Depth"

- ✓ For the use of state/selfgovernment land competition should be organized by responsible body
- ✓ Time period for the use of subterranean depths linked with land lease period:
 - for prospecting or exploration - up to 5 years
 - for extraction - up to 25 years
 - geological exploration with following extraction - up to 30 years

Licencing body: State Environmental Service
Valsts Vides dienests



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Legal framework of subsoil use Regulation of Cabinet of Ministers (main)

- ✓ Procedure for the Issue of Licences for the Use of Subterranean Depths and Authorisations for the Extraction of Widespread Mineral Resources, No. 696, 6 September, 2011
- ✓ Procedures for the Extraction of Mineral Resources, No. 570, 21 August, 2012
 - Includes requirements for recover (rekultivācija)



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Challenges

- ✓ Planning the use of subsoil in scale of whole country
- ✓ Making large scale geological exploration
- ✓ Demand from peat producing industry for clear conditions, available peatlands for extraction



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Policy document Peatland Management Strategy planned content

- ✓ peat deposits inventory:
 - ownership, degree of exploitation,
infrastructure, status regarding nature
protection
- ✓ peatlands use and nature protection
- ✓ peat extraction and GHG
- ✓ recultivation of peatlands
- ✓ use of peat, especially for energy
- ✓ natural resources tax, other economic aspects
- ✓ legislation – proposals for improvement



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Peatland Management Strategy preparation

- ❖ Project «Analysis of quality of peat deposits data, preparation of recommendations for improvements and use for strategic documents» - I stage, just started

Latvijas kūdras atradņu datu kvalitātes analīze, ieteikumu sagatavošana to uzlabošanai un izmantošanai valsts stratēģijas pamatdokumentu sagatavošanā.

- ❖ Funding: Latvian Environmental Protection Fund
- ❖ Executor: NGO «Homo Ecos»
- ❖ Project partners:
 - ☐ Faculty of Geography and Earth sciences, LU
 - ☐ National Peat Society of Latvia
 - ☐ Association of Peat Producers of Latvia



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Peatland Management Strategy preparation – project tasks

- ✓ Gathering of information scattered in different institutions and private archives
- ✓ Analysis of peat deposits data
 - geological information (last survey - 1980, Kūdras fonds) in cooperation with Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre
 - ownership, degree of exploitation, infrastructure
- ✓ GHG emissions
- ✓ Terminology, legislation

NGO «Homo Ecos» plans to perform II stage – analysis of peat use



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Thank you!