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A REVIEW OF PEATLAND USE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

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While the use of peatlands is regionally important, peatland drainage and land management lead to environmental impacts such as emission of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and changes in water quality. For sound land management policies and decision making, an improved scientific knowledge base of GHG fluxes from different management options as well as transparent and verifiable measuring and accounting methods for emission reductions is needed. The presentation outlines key aspects and results overview of a 3-year international project (PEATWISE- Wise use of drained peatlands in a bio-based economy: development of improved assessment practices and sustainable techniques for mitigation of greenhouse gases.) from work carried out in Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands and New Zealand. Different conditions found in peatland properties, management and socio-economic settings will be presented covering a wide geographical distribution from the high North, north-central Europe to New Zealand. An outline of experiments to manage soils by water table control and soil amendments will be reviewed and discussed. Rewetting options, related challenges and options for paludiculture will be presented. We also present results from stakeholder analysis and a broader analysis as a basis for management, incentives and funding schemes.