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EUROPE

The Future is Wet: Cultivating Change through Wet Farming and Paludiculture

**Location: Provinciehuis Vlaams-Brabant, Provincieplein 1,
3010 Leuven; Online
14th October 2025, 09.00 – 16.00 CET**





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► Background

Despite covering only 3% of global land surface, peatlands store more carbon, more effectively and for longer periods than any other terrestrial ecosystems. Yet, when drained and degraded, they become a significant source of GHGs. Nearly 50% of Europe's peatlands have been degraded, mainly due to agriculture, forestry, and peat extraction. Drained peatlands alone account for 25% of the EU's agricultural GHG emissions. Currently, the greatest threats to peatlands are drainage and pollution, driven by intensive agriculture, which depletes their carbon stores, causes erosion, and releases nutrients and sediments into nearby water bodies, further harming ecosystems.

Paludiculture represents a promising solution by integrating rewetting with productive land use. This approach allows for the sustainable cultivation of wet and rewetted peatlands while preserving peat soils, minimizing CO₂ emissions, and preventing land subsidence. By combining ecological restoration with economic viability, paludiculture offers a forward-thinking strategy for regenerating degraded peatlands, reducing emissions, and promoting sustainable land management.

► Aim

This workshop aims to raise awareness about paludiculture as a sustainable land-use practice, facilitate knowledge exchange among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, and showcase real-world examples of its implementation. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event will highlight the potential of paludiculture and wet farming on wetlands to restore peatlands, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create viable economic opportunities for sustainable land management. Furthermore, in the afternoon there is a field visit to a paludiculture site in Flanders, which is part of the LIFE Multi Peat project. It is located in the Vallei van de Zwarte Beek in the province of Limburg.

► Keynote speakers



Jutta Paulus

Member of the European Parliament, Group of the Greens



Mike Longden

Peatland Programme Technical Lead, Liverpool John Moores University



Gert-Jan van Duinen

Senior Researcher, Landscape Ecologist



Jan Peters

Managing Director at Michael Succow Foundation



Ernesto Aguirre

Fundación Global Nature

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Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



PaluWise



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► Agenda for the event

Time	Activity
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome with coffee
09.30 – 09.45	Jutta Paulus
09.45 – 10.00	Ernesto Aguirre
10.00 – 10.20	Jan Peters
10.20 – 10.40	Q&A
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 11.20	Gert-Jan van Duinen
11.20 – 11.40	Mike Longden
11.40 – 12.00	Q&A
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch
13.00 – 16.00	Field visit

