



Federal Agency for  
Nature Conservation

# European Legal Conference

## Comparative Analysis of Approaches to Peatland Protection: Reimagining Private Property Rights

24.– 26. 06.2026

International Academy for Nature  
Conservation Isle of Vilm

**WORKSHOP**



## Background and objectives

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The conference is dedicated to the private law side of peatland restoration and protection from a comparative civil law and common law perspective: How can private property regimes be reimagined to serve both, public environmental as well as private purposes? How can incentives to peatland investments be improved, alongside of public planning and oversight? While the core of this debate revolves around transferable rights (“credits”, “ecopoints”), public law triggers like off-setting for private law long-term securisation of land obligations will equally be discussed as civil liability. The conference brings together academics, financial market practitioners, experts from from NGOs and public agencies.

The **central research question** of the conference is: In the context of nature restoration, how can private property regimes, be reimagined to serve public environmental, as well as private, purposes?

The **objectives** of the project are to:

- (1) we look into how the functioning of property rights, in particular the rules governing decision-making, publication, transfer and extinction of rights, are defined in voluntary and market-based nature restoration regimes, and how these play out in different jurisdictions. We focus on the UK and Germany, representing both common law and civil law traditions, and on the context of peatlands;
- (2) we want to examine the role of private property regimes in facilitating collaboration between landowners for peatland restoration purposes;
- (3) and will analyse the potential for private property regimes to serve multi-species publics, drawing on emerging theoretical perspectives such as Earth jurisprudence and rights of nature.

Our goal is to foster the exchange of academics and practitioners to better understand compensation schemes, or “offsetting”, for damages to nature n by offering improvements in other locations. This has become an important part of nature restoration policy in many jurisdictions. The German state (“Länder”)-based system of offsetting has been recognised as a source of policy insights for the UK, informing the Environment Act 2021. Two recent developments require inquiry. Tradeable biodiversity units (“credits” or “ecopoints”) and the creation of banks of sites (“Ökokonto”) have become an important element of new green finance markets. In England, a leading role

is played by private initiatives, which engage in market building and (private) norm setting in the creation of voluntary carbon markets (importantly, the UK Woodland and Peatland Codes). There is also a biodiversity credit market created by public regulation that will be used to meet the Global Biodiversity Framework targets.

As an outcome, we would like to see the contributions published in conference proceedings. The format is, at this stage, open.

## Target group

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The conference brings together academics, financial market practitioners, experts from from NGOs and public agencies.

## Organiser

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*Lead* Prof. Dr. Christine Godt (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg), *Co-Lead* Prof. Dr. Bonnie Holligan (University of Sussex)

Dr. Caterina Kähler, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) – Division I3.1 Environmental and Planning Law

Ute Feit, Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) – Division I2.1 International Academy for Nature conservation and Event Management

## Costs

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Accommodation in single room: 70 € ,

Accommodation in double room: 55 € ,

Full board 28 €/day, plus 4 € for coffee/tea/sweets.

Payment by EC card or credit card please. Bank transfer is only possible in exceptional cases.

## Travel information

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**By train** via Stralsund – Bergen auf Rügen – Lauterbach Mole

**By car** via Stralsund or Glewitzer Fähre, Garz, Putbus to Lauterbach

The ferry transfer from Lauterbach to the Isle of Vilm takes 10 minutes. The ferry is run by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

## Contact

International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm  
Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN)

### Content

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### Organizational issues

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## Programme

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### Wednesday, 24.06.2026

Arrival Ferry crossings from port Lauterbach/Mole  
at 04:10, 05:10 and 06:10 (last possibility at 08:10 pm)

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06:00 pm Dinner

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### Introduction to the conference

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07:30 pm **Welcome Note**  
Ute Feit and Dr. Caterina Kähler (BfN)  
(Participants Presentation)

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### Evening Session: Setting the Scene

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08:00 pm **Mobilising Property Rights for Peatland Protection: Peatland Carbon Markets**  
Bonnie Holligan (University of Sussex)

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**Conservation Easements on the Continent: backbone for market schemes?** Christine Godt (University of Oldenburg)

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**Challenges of Peatland Protection in Europe**  
Jan Peters (Succow Stiftung )

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### Thursday, 25.06.2026

From 07:30 Breakfast

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### Morning Session: Experiences in (Peatland) Restoration

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09:00 am **Learning from Scottish Peatland Restoration Policy**  
Heather Perman (Scottish Government)

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**Experiences from the Netherlands**  
Martijn van Gils (University of Utrecht)

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10:00 am Coffee Break

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10:30 am **Experiences with the IUCN-UK Peatland Code in Practice in England**  
Paul Leadbitter (Programme Manager – Peatlands and Green Finance)

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**Art. 11 sec. 4 EU Nature Restoration Reg. 2024/1991.....**  
Carola Glinski (University of Oldenburg)

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**Linking Carbon and Biodiversity Markets for Peatland Restoration: The EU CRCF-Reg. 2024/3012 (and what needs to be done)**

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Hans Joosten (em. University of Greifswald; Member of EU Carbon Farming Expert Group)

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12:30 pm Lunch

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02:00 pm **Island tour**  
Meeting point: Conference Center  
(Svenja Krispien, INA)

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3:30 pm Coffee Break

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**Afternoon Session: Financing Re-Wetting**

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04:00 pm **Experiences with the German Scheme of Biodiversity Credits**  
Trutz von der Trenck (greenaccount, Bielefeld)

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**Peatland Carbon Markets and Community Decision Making in Scotland**  
Cornelia Helmcke (University of St Andrews)

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05:00 pm **Linkages between Public and Private Law Instruments in Peatland Protection**  
Colin Reid (University of Dundee)

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**Forecasting Policies: Lessons from Forest Ecosystem Service Payments in Germany**  
Detlef Sprinz (Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research & University of Potsdam)

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06:00 pm Dinner

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**Evening Session: Linkages of the Public and Private Law Regimes**

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07:30 pm **Balancing the various public objectives in Peatland Protection**  
Victoria Jenkins (University of Swansea)

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**Impediments of Public Law Peatland Protection - and lacunae to be filled by Private Law**  
Thilo Tesing (University of Bonn)

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**Friday, 26.06.2026**

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07:30 am Breakfast

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**Morning Session: Focus on Private Law Safeguards**

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09:00 am **Liability towards neighbours after rewetting**  
Peter Rott (University of Oldenburg)

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**“Grunddienstbarkeiten” in German Conservation Law**

Johanna Schmidt-Räntsch (Humboldt University Berlin; former German BGH-judge)

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10:00 am Coffee Break

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11:00 am **Collaborative Governance**

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**Collaborative Governance in Wetland Restoration: German/European experiences**

Rasmus Klöpffer (OSTSEESTIFTUNG - Naturschutzstiftung Deutsche Ostsee)

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11:30 am **Collaboration for peatland restoration in England**

Chloe Anthony (University of Sussex)

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12:15 am **Summary; Lessons Learned; Looking ahead; To-do list**

Christine Godt, Bonnie Holligan

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**End of Meeting**

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12:30 pm Lunch

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**Departure**

11:00 am/12:05 am/01:00 pm/02:05 pm/03:35 pm

**Departure boats (from Vilm)**

Departure of train from Lauterbach Mole to Bergen. From there various connections to Hamburg and Berlin

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**International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm:  
A platform for dialogue**

The INA is a centre for capacity building and dialogue on issues with relevance to nature conservation on national and international level. The unique natural setting of the academy and the transdisciplinary, international orientation of various workshops have attracted around 50,000 people from 150 countries to Vilm since the establishment of the INA in 1990.

In cooperation with other organisations, the INA provides about 60 workshops, retreats, conferences and training events each year on national and international nature conservation topics.

More information:  
[www.bfn.de/en/ina](http://www.bfn.de/en/ina)