



# Responsible Peat

Sustainable growing media



September 2011 - RHP - Hein Boon

# Foundation RHP



## Growing media and soil applications

- Research and development (knowledge)
- Consultancy
- Quality mark



# ‘Responsible Peat’



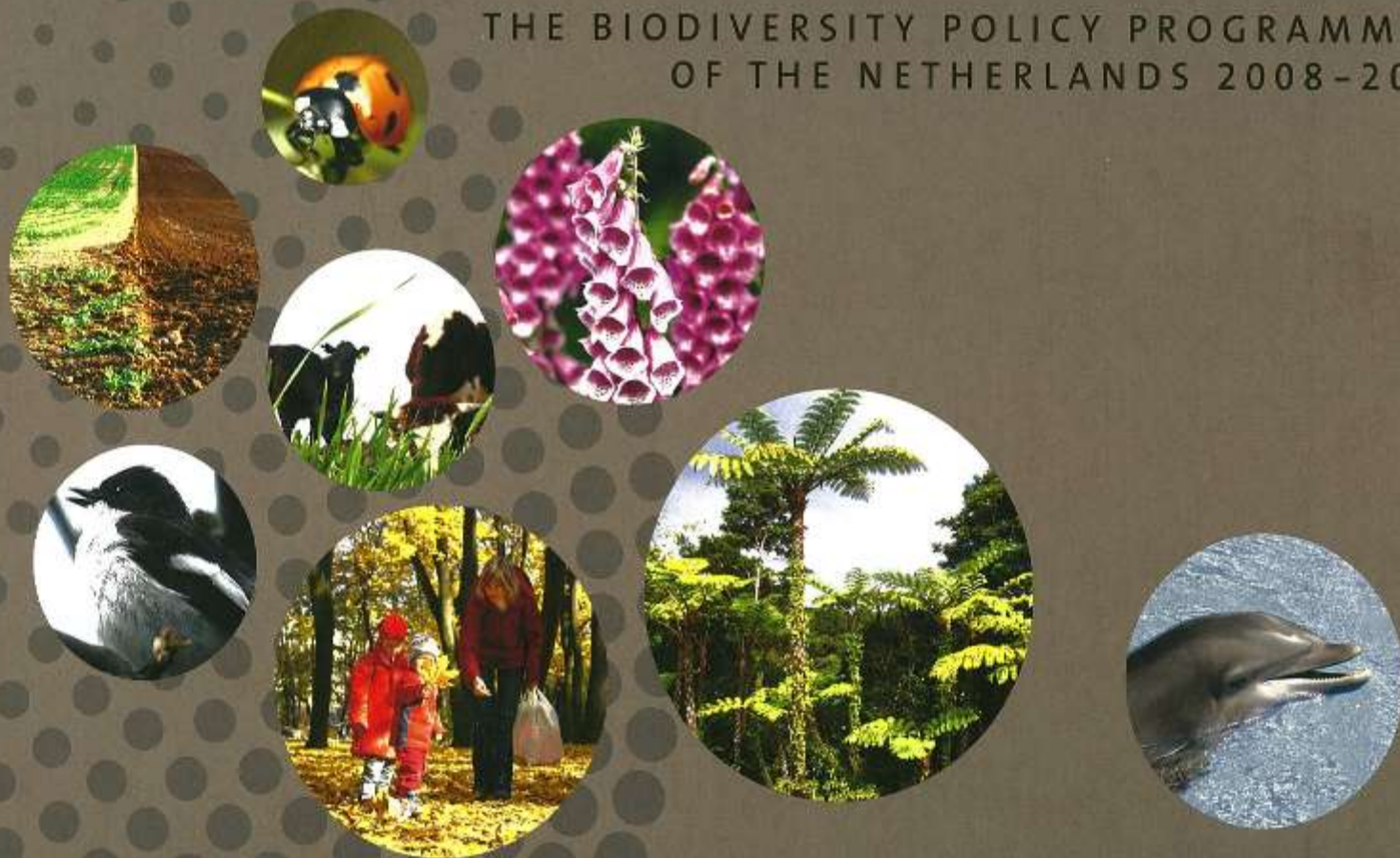
(responsibly produced peat)

- Awareness of developments
- Industry initiative
- Project and objectives
- Outlook

Film

# *biodiversity* **works** for **nature** for **people** for **ever**

THE BIODIVERSITY POLICY PROGRAMME  
OF THE NETHERLANDS 2008-2011



*We leave a large 'ecological footprint' in other countries. Mining, energy production, tourism, the financial sector, wood, agricultural raw materials (soya, palm oil, fish meal and biomass) and peat production are particularly important in this respect.*



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Raw materials

Soya

Palm oil

Fish (meal)

Biomass


Peat (production)

# Dutch government

## 3 key questions

- Insight in peat-production and what are the issues?
- What can be improved and are solutions available
- Agreements (industry initiatives)





Stakeholder-meeting  
(science, NGO's, peat-industry, growing  
media producers, growers, retail)

... discussions on ...

‘Enhancing sustainability of the peat  
supply chain for Dutch Horticulture’

1a: Implementing Sustainability  
criteria in the supply chain

- Peat & Growing Media
  - Peat is essential for Growth
  - if peat is applied, it should (chapter 5)
  - Criteria are not yet clearly
- Opportunity for industry to take initiative:
  - A. creating full transparency
  - B. reducing stake and a

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The report exists of contemplative information about peat, provided by the project members and stakeholders

As a result of this project an action plan was described for transparency in the peat-chain and establishing criteria for 'responsible peat'.







# Approach

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A Dutch industry\* initiative with an European perspective

TRANSPARENCY and ACCEPTABLE CRITERIA

as basis for RESPONSIBLE PEAT

\* VPN and RHP

# Why industry initiative?

- following the governmental policy programme and stay in control of

European market for Growing Media is  
around 30 million m<sup>3</sup> yearly

.... with ~ 25 million m<sup>3</sup> of peat



# Why industry initiative?

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- following the governmental policy programme and stay in control of developments
- future availability of peat products
- demonstrable social responsibility
- ‘Responsible Peat’, means in communication in access to markets





# Transparency and criteria

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The organisations VPN and RHP take initiative, in having the action plan being carried out by an Executive Committee





# Executive Committee

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Growers / LTO Groeiservice

Retail / Tuinbranche NL

Peat producers / PG Peat

Growing media producers / VPN

NGO Wetlands International

NGO IUCN

International Peat Society

IPS expert

EPAGMA

BTH / IVG

Dutch ministry of Agriculture

Certification and quality / RHP

Coordination

Arthur van den Berg

Rard Metz

Leo Schipper

Ben van der Geest

Marcel Silvius

Henk Simons

Guus van Berckel

Jack Rieley

Gerald Schmilewski

Bernd Hofer

Gerbrand Haverkamp

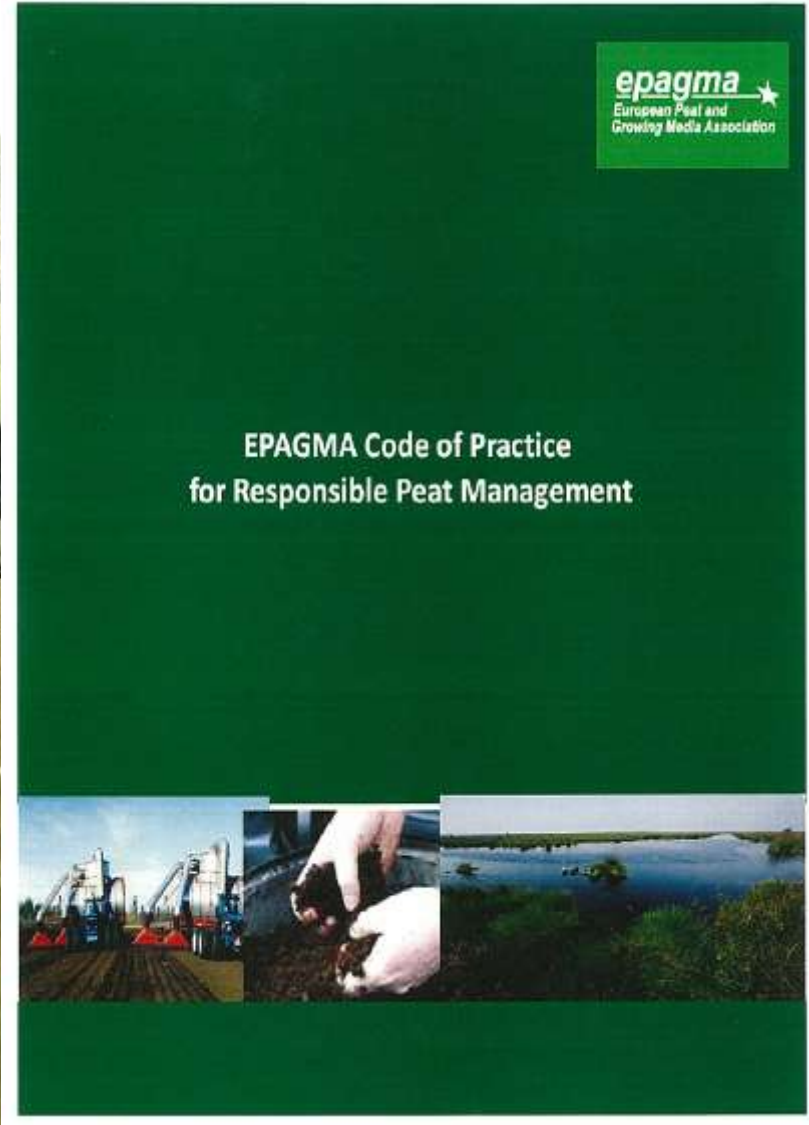
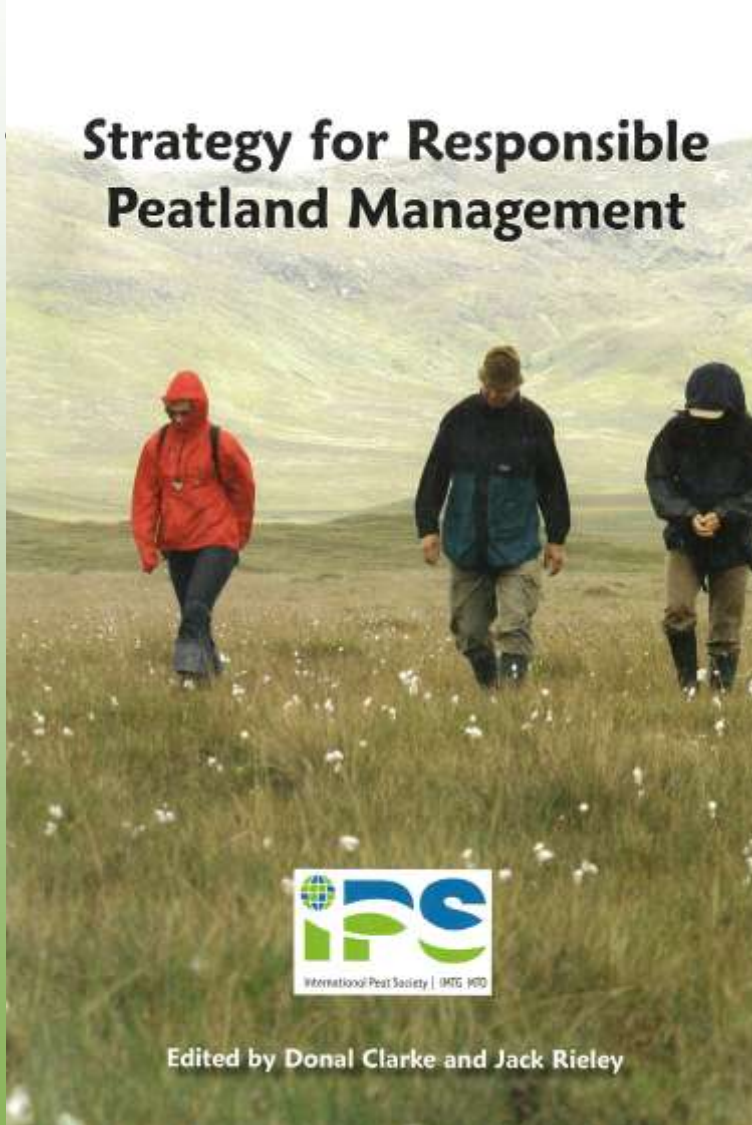
Hein Boon

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# Project Structure



# Objectives



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- Define operational principles and criteria  
for responsible peat, starting from the earlier work by the International Peat Society (IPS) and EPAGMA.
- Define a certification scheme  
based on these criteria (including concrete plans for field testing) which will be relevant not only in the Netherlands but also in a wider European context.







# Outlook 'Responsible Peat'

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- December 2011 principles and criteria
- Early 2012 certification scheme
- Trial-period
- Late 2012 introduction of certification and communication





Thank you for being interested