

# WETSCAPES

## From understanding to sustainable use of peatlands

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### Background

Peatlands and coastal wetlands are characteristic elements of the landscape and, thus, of land use in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. Depending on water and land management, their possible contribution to climate and water protection is much higher than that of other ecosystems. Rewetting with continued agricultural use (paludiculture) leads to the development of new, little understood, ecosystems.



### Aims

- Improve the understanding of agriculturally used, but rewetted, peatlands as "new ecosystems" to derive strategies for sustainable use
- Develop scientific principles for sustainable cultivation of rewetted peatlands
- Qualification of young scientists
- Create the basis for the development of an internationally influential research and development structure "Peatland and Coasts"

### Central research questions

- Productivity: How does the water level influence the production of (herbaceous and tree) biomass and peat?
- Water pollution: How are nutrients and water transported through the peat body?
- Greenhouse gas emissions: Which (microbial) processes lead to production and uptake of greenhouse gases?
- Upscaling: Can we develop indicators for ecosystem services of rewetted, agriculturally used peatlands?



### People

WETSCAPES is a joint project of the Universities of Rostock and Greifswald. For the first time, it combines this breadth of expertise and methodological competence of researchers working on the topic of "peatlands and coastal ecosystems" in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, developing excellence in peatland and coastal research.

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More information: [www.wetscapes.de](http://www.wetscapes.de)

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