

Introduction

For RPP, the year 2021 was mainly dominated by the expansion of the inspection capacity. The time in which it was not possible to travel due to the COVID-19 measures was put to good use, and at the end of the year a team of 4 inspectors and 1 lead inspector was ready for carrying out the inspections at a faster pace. With the knowledge that in addition to normal applications, the first re-inspections would also take place in 2022, this expansion was inevitable. Of course also the launch of version 3.0 of the certification scheme has been a highlight that took the necessary involvement of the Committee of Experts, the inspection team, the Board and stakeholders.

About RPP

Mission

To develop and administrate a certification scheme for the responsible and transparent production of peat resources.

To stimulate and facilitate the certification of companies based on a certification scheme. RPP certification ensures that responsible peat production is recognizable for the market and the society.

Vision

Responsibly Produced Peat aims for broad support in Europe and mainstream application. The Principles and Criteria of Responsibly Produced Peat are both practical and credible, and the certification system is established in consultation with various stakeholders and organizations. Mainstream application will result in responsible managing of peatlands to reach a healthy balance between conservation and utilization of peatlands.

Board

Mr. Ben van der Geest - VPN - representing growing media

Mr Arne Hückstädt_IVG - representing growing media (Board member until September)

Mr. Bert von Seggern - GME (Growing Media Europe) - representing peat/growing media production and sustainability (chosen in December, start in January 2022)

Ms. Ilze Ozola - Latvia Peat Association – representing peat production

Mr. Tomi Koivula - GME (Growing Media Europe) - representing peat production/growing media

Mr. Jüri-Ott Salm - ELF (Estonian Fund for Nature) – representing environmental NGO

Mr. Hans Schutten - Wetlands International- representing environmental NGO

Committee of Experts (CoE)

Ms. Silke Kumar - peat production

Ms. Sabine Jordan - peatland science

Mr. Bernd Hofer - legislation - technical aspects

Mr. Ron Bleijswijk - certification

Mr. Nerijus Zableckis- environmental aspects- after-use (member of the CoE since June 2021)

Secretariat

Mrs Maureen Kuenen – Executive Officer

Mr Hein Boon - Director RHP

Certification scheme

The certification scheme can objectively and independently assess if a peat extraction company meets the criteria for responsible production of peat for horticulture. After initial certification, a periodical inspection is performed every five years and reaffirms compliance with the criteria.

The certification scheme is a living document and new experiences may lead to adjustments. For the new version of the scheme, stakeholder consultation was performed in September 2021, by sending a draft version 3.0 to all stakeholders in our contacts, by newsletter and by announcement on the website. The website showed a [clear overview of the adjustments](#) made in the scheme.

Comments were processed after which the final version 3.0 was launched on 10/1/2021 and came into effect on 11/1/2021.

Certification peat harvesting sites

The certifications are based on the fact that the company meets the requirements of RPP certification scheme for these location in concern.

The year 2021 started with 35 locations in process of RPP-certification. Due to the COVID-19 measurements, traveling for on-site inspections was very limited. By the end of the year, RPP-certificates had been issued to 13 locations in Estonia based on RPP-scheme version 2.0:

<u>Certification #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Company</u>
21/056	Sausti , license No. HARM-062 (L.MK.HA-35919)	AS Jiffy Products, Estonia
21/057	Pööravere turbatootmisala license No. KL-507760	AS Tootsi Turvas, Estonia
21/058	Ohtu , license No. HARM-054 (L.MK.HA-28399)	AS Jiffy Products Estonia, Estonia
21/059	Vääna , license No. HRAM-32	AS Jiffy Products Estonia, Estonia
21/060	Aasu , License No. HARM-43	AS Jiffy Products Estonia
21/061	Sooniste II , License No. HARM-041	Kekkilä-BVB Eesti OÜ, Estonia
21/062	Elbu , license No. KMIN-028	AS Jiffy Products Estonia, Estonia
21/063	Kavasoo , license No. L.MK/323467	AS Jiffy Products Estonia, Estonia
21/064	Möksi , License No. L.MK.PM-13259	AS Jiffy Products Estonia
21/065	Rääma , License No. L.MK.PM-13268	AS Jiffy Products Estonia
21/066	Pohara turbatootmisala I , KMIN-130	AS Jiffy Products Estonia
21/067	Lavassaare ja Elbu , license No. KMIN-070	AS Tootsi Turvas, Estonia
21/068	Sooniste I , License No. HARM-070	Kekkilä-BVB Eesti OÜ, Estonia

Inspection peat harvesting sites

Inspections are carried out by independent inspectors by means of a desk assessment and on-site inspection checking compliance to the Principles and criteria of the RPP certification scheme. Depending on the results of the inspections, the inspector gives a recommendation for certification.

As decided by the Board in November 2020, RPP spent the year searching for, and training of inspector candidates to increase the capacity for inspections and overcome the difficulties with traveling. Four candidates, all peatland experts with good field experience, were trained to perform audits according to the RPP-certification scheme (deskassessments and on-site

inspections). In 2021, all inspections were performed by Dr. Johannes Langemeyer as lead-inspector while the candidates participated for their training.

Chain of Custody

The Chain of Custody is based on mass balance to make trade of peat feasible. Peat is often shipped in bulk, comes from different sources and is blended for quality purposes. At participating companies, the volumes of RPP-peat sold and the volumes of RPP-peat produced or sourced are checked administratively. [Full explanation of the Chain of Custody](#) can be found on the RPP-website (2nd block).

Companies that want to trade RPP-certified peat or use it for the production of growing media, can participate in the RPP Chain of Custody choosing option 1 or 2. Participating companies agree to a yearly inspection of data and figures to check the volumes of incoming and outgoing RPP certified peat. Companies participating in the RPP Chain of Custody in 2021 are listed in the figure below:

<u>Company</u>		<u>Option</u>	<u>Info activity</u>
Mokura	RPP-17-0106	1	Producer
Griendtsveen	RPP-16-0100	1	Producer
LENSLI	RPP-16-0103	2	Producer and user
Bolpeat	RPP-18-0115	1	Trade
Kraver AS	RPP-17-0114	1	Producer
Agaris	RPP-17-0107	2	Producer and user
Stender(Euflor)	RPP-17-0113	1	Producer and user
Compo	RPP-18-0117	2	Producer and user
Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH Geeste	RPP-18-0119	1	Producer and user
Kudras Energija	RPP-17-0108	1	Producer
Nord Agri	RPP-20-0120	1	Trade
Hortimed	RPP-20-0121	1	Trade
Kekkilä BVB	RPP-20-0122	1	Producer and user
G&C materials	RPP-21-0127	1	Trade
Kalloveen	RPP-20-0123	1	Trade
Biolande	RPP-21-0125	1	User

Inspection Chain of Custody

Inspections for the Chain of Custody in 2021 were all performed by the RPP-secretariat and online due to the COVID-19 measurements. Since the volumes of produced RPP-certified peat still significantly exceeded the volumes of used or traded RPP-certified peat (about 30% of total) there was no reason to further adjust the inspection procedure for 2022.

Outreach RPP

RPP has been present at the following events to give presentations:

- **Webinar HortiAdvice DK**
The future for peat and alternatives in Greenhouse Horticulture
- **Webinar AIPH UK**
Peat use and sustainable growing media
- **Grow21:**
A two-day virtual event that brings together industry leaders, policy makers and green industry representatives to discuss and develop the horticulture and growing industry.
- **IPC Tallin:**
International Peatland Congress 2021 both science and industry expertise, organised by the International Peatland Society (IPS)
- **IHC _2021** (International Horticultural Congress): Organized by the International Society for Horticultural Science. RPP was invited to give a presentation on location in Gent (Belgium)
- **COP 26 Glasgow:** The International Peatland Society participated (IPS) invited RPP to participate in the programme they had at the Peatland Pavilion of the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI).

Financial results

Gains and Losses - Foundation RPP	Profit/Loss 2021	Profit/Loss 2020
<u>Income</u>		
Contribution supporters + CoC	16.150	14.129
Yearly fee locations	63.900	58.500
Inspections	30.570	7.400
Other	253	11.033
Total:	110.873	91.062
<u>Expenses</u>		
Declaration RHP for H. Boon		
Salary costs RPP	49.176	39.918
Other staff costs	3.035	3.204
<u>Committees; Board and CoE</u>	20.390	17.223
Inspections and certification (new)	19.920	1.529
Reassessment inspections after 5 years training inspectors	11.810	
<u>Other costs</u>		
travel, admin, communication etc	3.850	3.671
Admin services performed by RHP	pm	pm
Total:	108.181	65.545
Result	2.692	25.517