

The RPP¹ Peatland² HCV decision tree was made to help companies to find out, whether there are mires with High Conservation Values (HCVs) in undeveloped peat fields adjacent to existing peat extraction areas. In case the decision tree does not provide answer to this question, please, seek expert opinion. In countries where there has been a national habitat inventory carried out followed by stakeholder consultations, and the list of sites eligible for peat extraction was produced, there is no need to use this HCV decision tree.

Three types of situations may arise:

- A. The adjacent mire is Natura 2000 site
- B. The adjacent mire area is non-Natura 2000 site and it is planned for peat extraction
- C. The adjacent mire area is non-Natura 2000 site and it is not planned for peat extraction due to natural conditions or other reasons

There can be B and C situations in one site proposed for certification or even all three (A, B and C) situations are in place.

1. Is it a mire?³
 - a. Yes: go to 2
 - b. No: go to 9
2. Is it a proposal for a new peat extraction licence with permission granted after cut-off date?
 - a. Yes: go to 3
 - b. No: go to 12
3. Is all or part of the proposed extraction area a Natura2000 site?
 - a. Yes: go to 4
 - b. No: go to 5
4. Is all the proposed area a Natura2000 site?
 - a. Yes: HCV: CERTIFICATION REFUSED
 - b. No: go to 5
5. Is the non-designated area important for long-term maintenance of a rare or endangered habitat nationally (country) or regionally (EU)?
 - a. Yes: HCV: CERTIFICATION REFUSED
 - b. No: go to 6
6. Is the non-Natura2000 area habitat for any animal or plant species listed under Habitats Directive Annex II⁴?
 - a. Yes: HCV: CERTIFICATION REFUSED
 - b. No: go to 7
7. Does the non-Natura2000 area have recognised special archaeological, cultural, or historical importance?
 - a. Yes: request evidence and seek expert opinion
 - b. No: go to 8

¹ Applies to European Union countries only

² Peatland: an area with a naturally in situ accumulated peat layer at the surface, with or without vegetation

³ Mire: a peatland where peat is currently accumulating

⁴ Permanent residents, breeding and migratory species

8. Does the non-Natura2000 area play an important biodiversity, ecological or hydrological role within the wider landscape?
 - a. Yes: request evidence and seek expert opinion
 - b. No: go to 9
9. Does the area contain peat-forming plants, especially *Sphagnum* spp.?
 - a. Yes: go to 10
 - b. No: NOT HCV
10. Is all or part of the area Habitat Directive Annex I Type 7120⁵ or 7110*⁶?
 - a. Yes: go to 11
 - b. No: NOT HCV
11. Is all or part of the area a SAC or SPA?
 - a. Yes: POTENTIAL HCV: CERTIFICATION REFUSED
 - b. No: NOT HCV
12. Is the proposal for an extension to an operational peat extraction site, where licence was issued before cut-off date?
 - a. Yes: go to 13
 - b. No: go to 14
13. Is the proposed extension more than 5 ha in one locality and adjacent to mire?
 - a. Yes: Go to 3
 - b. No: CERTIFICATION IS ELIGIBLE SUBJECT TO RPP CONDITIONS AND PRINCIPLES
14. The proposal is to maintain this area at present condition or improve site conditions
 - a. Yes: CERTIFICATION IS ELIGIBLE SUBJECT TO RPP CONDITIONS AND PRINCIPLES
 - b.-

⁵ Habitats Directive Type 7120: Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

⁶ Habitats Directive Type 7110*: Active raised bogs