

## **Peat extraction in Massif Central and the destiny of mires after exploitation.**

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A first assessment of the industrial exploitation of Massif Central mires, carried out in 1996 and updated in 2006 within the context of the technical seminar of mires in Massif Central, showed that the number of exploited peatlands has decreased during the last decade.

Among the five regions making up the Massif Central, only two (Auvergne and Midi-Pyrénées) are still affected by peat exploitation.

Comparing the exploitation authorizations ordered by the prefect, we could emphasize their evolution, especially about the rehabilitation during or after the exploitation.

However, the content is still heterogeneous, regarding the concerned areas, annual production and many others exploitation parameters.

Rehabilitation works have been carried out on 3 mires, and one project is under way. The aim of these operations is to recreate a peat accumulation dynamic. Some of these works also include an educational and tourist objective.

**Keywords:** peat extraction, exploitation authorization order of the prefect, restoration, valorization.

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