

Building the European Peatlands Initiative

- a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe

CEEweb's role in the project

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Multi-stakeholder workshop: Improving CEE policy responses to protect, restore & sustainably manage peatlands in the fight against climate warming

20th June 2023 | Tata, Hungary

Supported by:



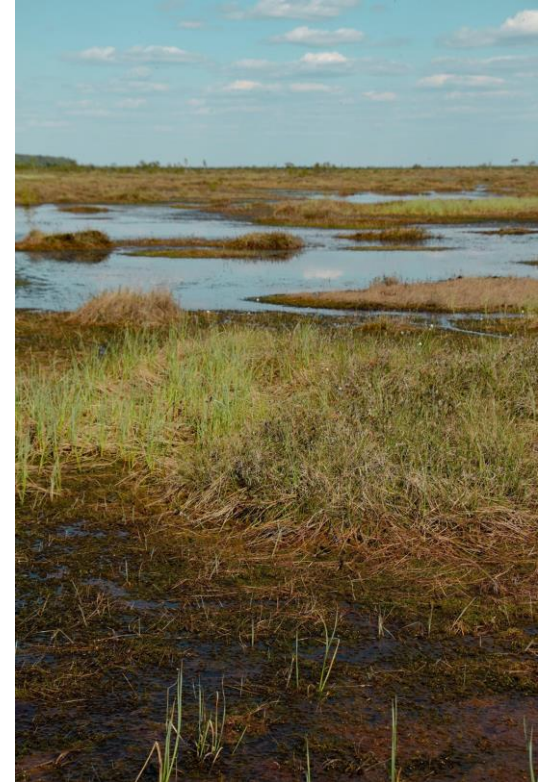
on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



Policy work package

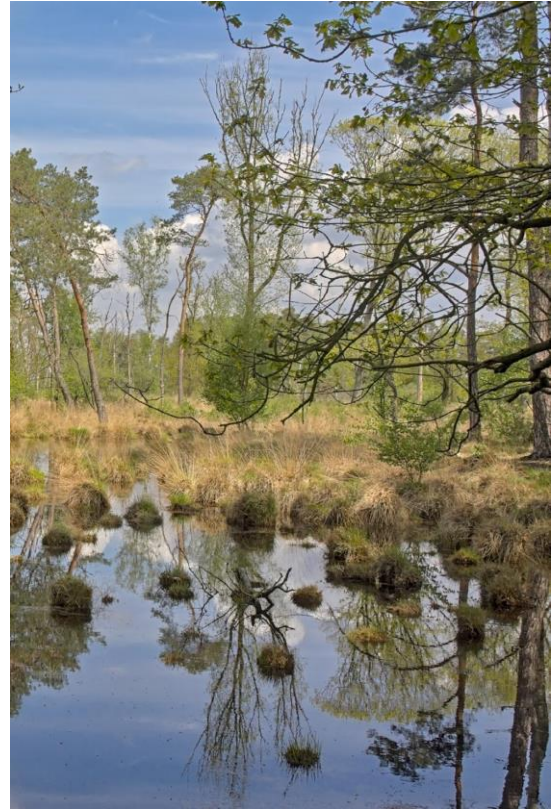
Output III:

Supporting national peatland strategies and other peatland-related policies with information, recommendations, and guidance, so that they become up-to-date and based on the latest findings.



Activities

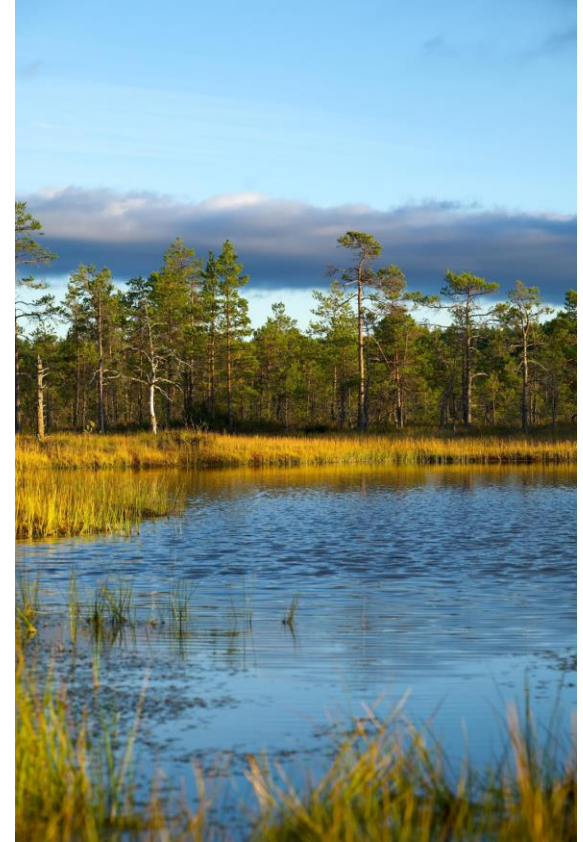
1. Assessing national peatland strategies and identifying best practices → *evaluation report*
2. Multi-stakeholder workshop
3. Guidance on science-based emission reduction pathways for peatlands and soils → *guidance document*
4. Multi-stakeholder workshop
5. Supporting national action plans for peatland management measures and their funding → *country overviews & policy brief*
6. Capacity-building workshop



Target groups

- National governments
- Government agencies
- EU Commission Directorates

- Research institutes
- Conservationists
- Civil society organisations/NGOs



Building on synergies

Existing networks

CEEweb's own network
European Habitats Forum
Thematic working groups
EU expert groups

Other projects

CEEweb's LIFE NGO Operating Grant-supported work programme
Activities on national CAP SPs and NECPs in the CEE region



The European Commission's [proposal for a Regulation on Nature Restoration](#) presents a huge opportunity to address the biodiversity and climate crises in a synergistic manner. Restoring ecosystems to bring back nature is crucial for human health and wellbeing, food security and increases our resilience against floods, droughts and other extreme weather events. In addition, restoring ecosystems such as peatlands, seagrass meadows, semi-natural grasslands and forests can help to sequester millions of tons of carbon each year.

The members of the [European Habitats Forum](#) call upon the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to adopt the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) in a timely manner, to strengthen key aspects of the proposal to meet the urgency of the twin climate and biodiversity crises, and to ensure implementable and enforceable targets.

Building upon the expertise of the EHF members and complementing the papers of other coalitions (see e.g. [this overarching NGO analysis](#)), we highlight below the improvement needs for key aspects of the NRL proposal in a specific fact sheet.



Peatland restoration

1 The need for restoration

Peatlands occur in [almost all EU Member States](#), with a concentration in North-western, Nordic and Eastern European countries, covering an area of approximately 350,000 km², of which [more than 50% are degraded by drainage](#) and used for agriculture, forestry and peat extraction.

The EU is the second largest global emitter of greenhouse gases (GHG) from drained peatlands (230 Mt CO₂e/year = 15% of total global peatland emissions), which equates to approximately [7% of EU-27 total GHG emissions](#) (3,601 Mt CO₂e/year in 2019). To reduce these emissions significantly and protect the remaining peat carbon stocks, restoring drained peatlands must entail rewetting (raising water levels to near the surface, e.g. by drain blocking or stopping pumping in polders).

Besides reducing GHG emissions, [rewetting peatlands](#) will prevent soil subsidence, eventual flooding, and saltwater intrusion in coastal areas. It will [lower the risk of peat fires, soil erosion, and desertification](#). Peatlands further have a high proportion of specialised plant, amphibian and bird species that are rare and threatened on the European or even global level. As a result of habitat isolation and heterogeneity, peatlands play a special role in maintaining biodiversity at the genetic level.

Next steps

Closely monitored EU & national processes:

Nature Restoration Law

Soil Health Law

NECP revision etc.

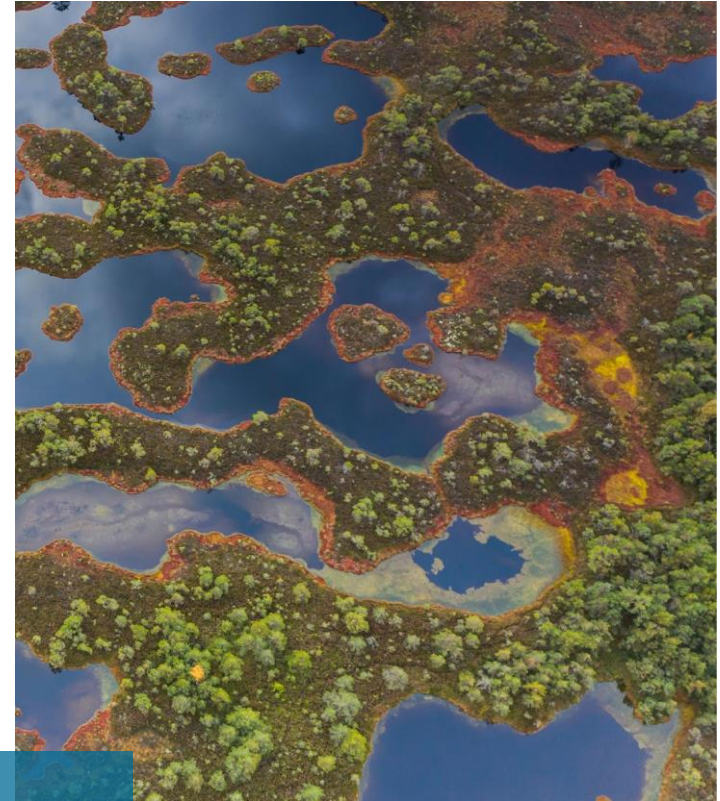
Project deliverables:

Evaluation report – Q4 of 2023

2nd Multi-stakeholder workshop – 2024

Guidance document – Q4 of 2024

Country overviews & Policy brief – Q1 of 2025



Thank you for your attention!

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