

The distribution and state of peatlands globally and in the Central and Eastern European region

Moritz Kaiser

Michael Succow Foundation, Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre

Multi-stakeholder workshop

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Supported by:



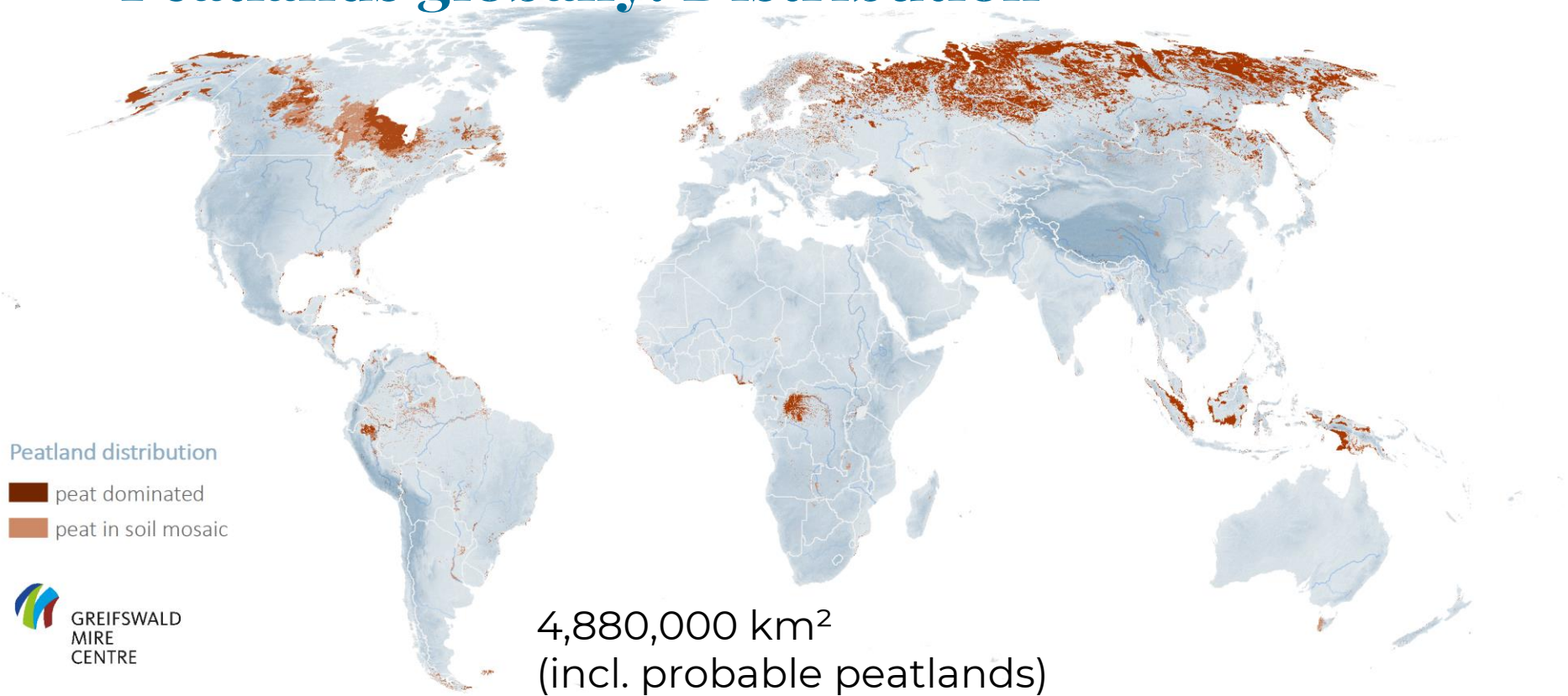
on the basis of a decision
by the German Bundestag



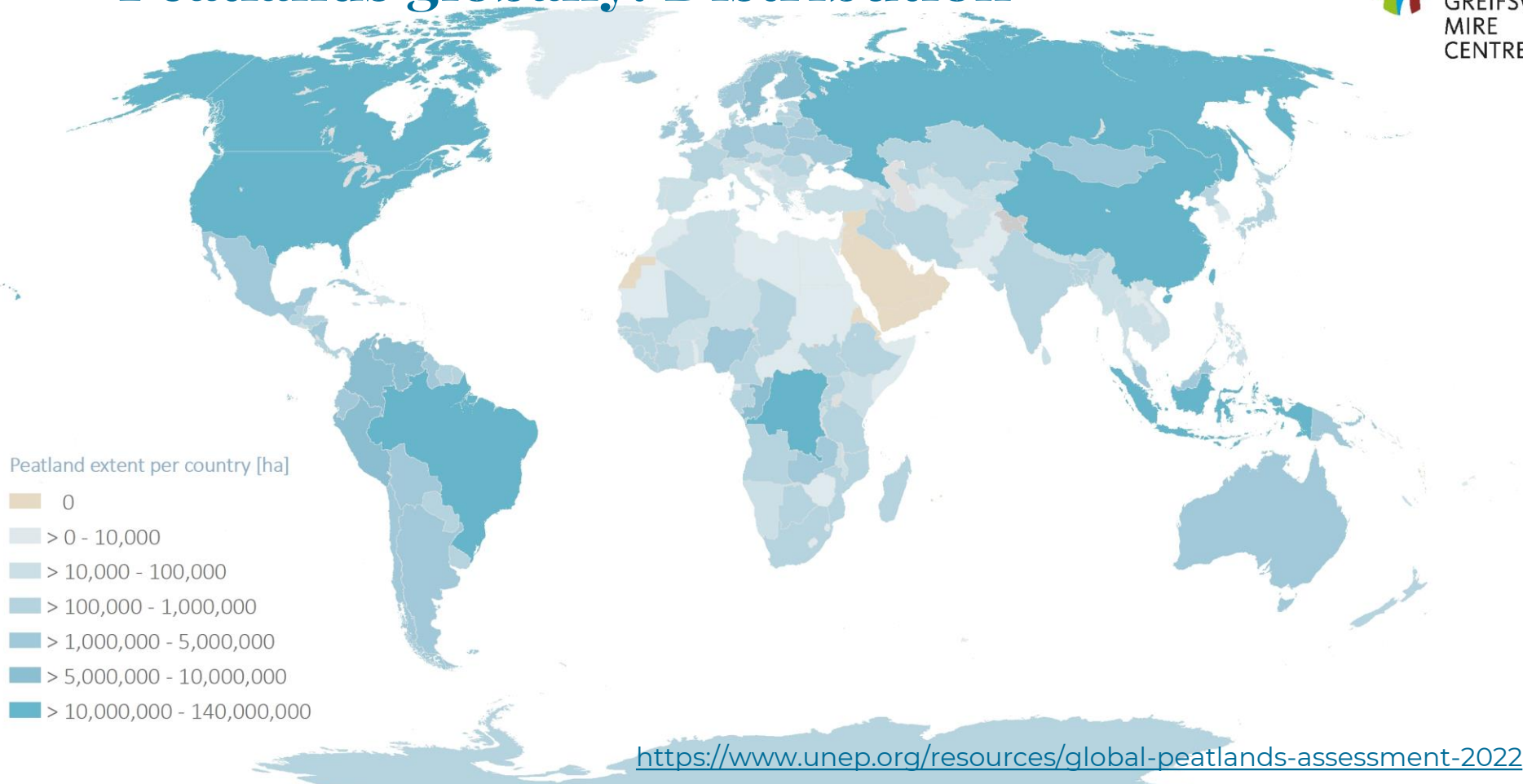
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Peatlands globally: Distribution



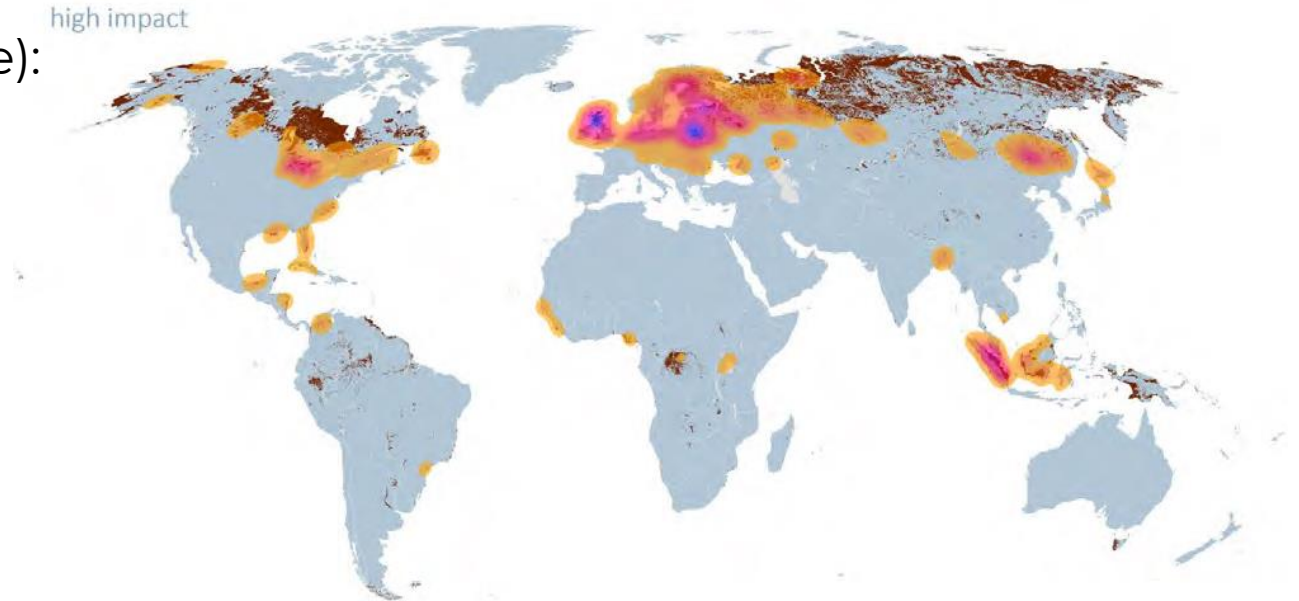
Peatlands globally: Distribution



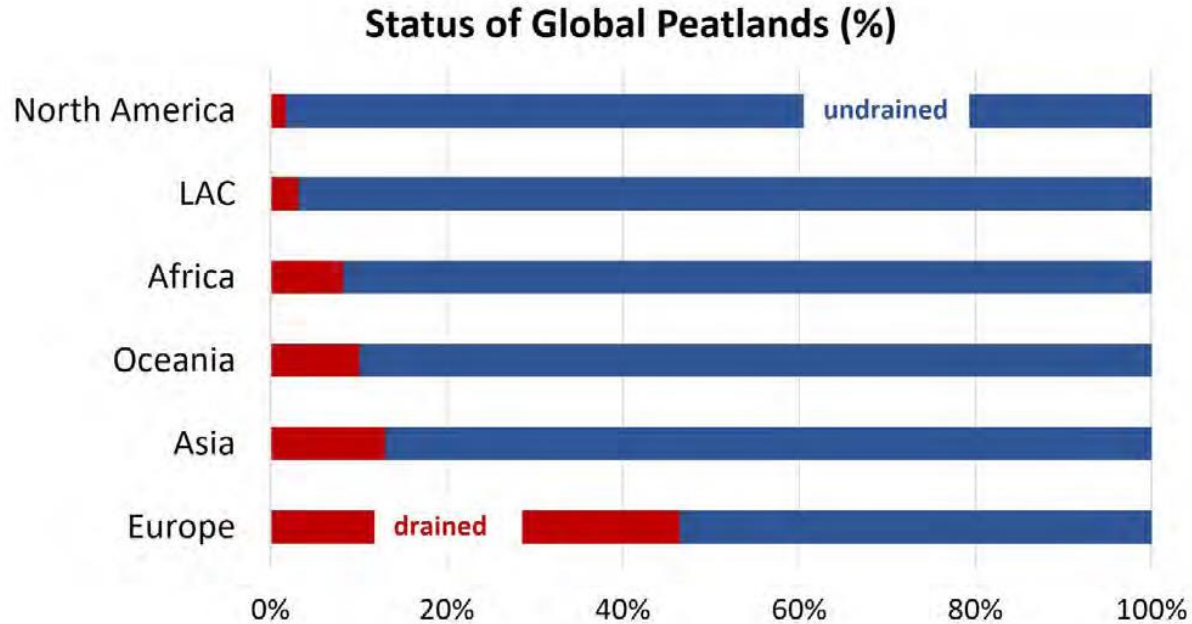
Peatlands globally: Degradation

Highest human impact (→drainage):

- Europe
- SE Asia

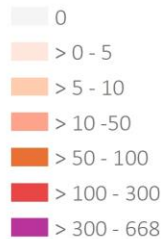


Peatlands globally: Degradation



Peatlands globally: Degradation

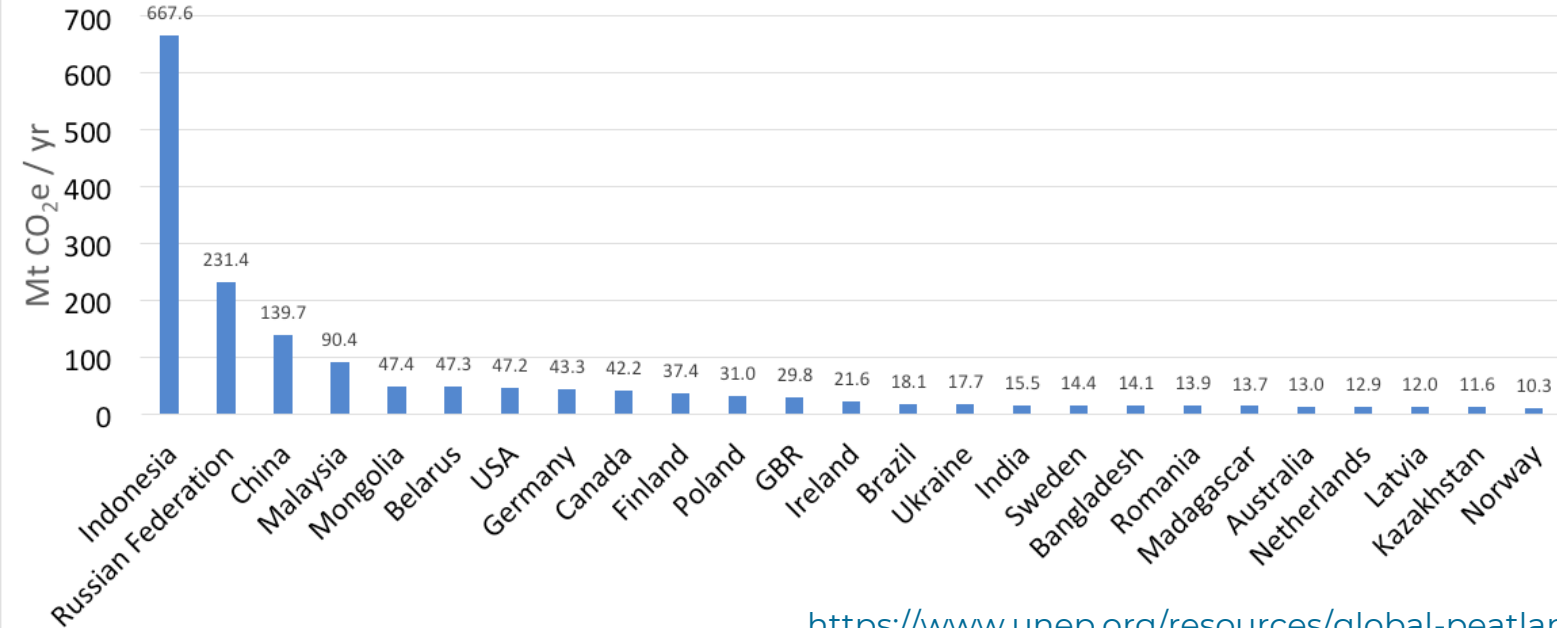
GHG emissions from peatlands*
per country [Mt CO₂ e / yr]



<https://www.unep.org/resources/global-peatlands-assessment-2022>

Peatlands globally: Degradation

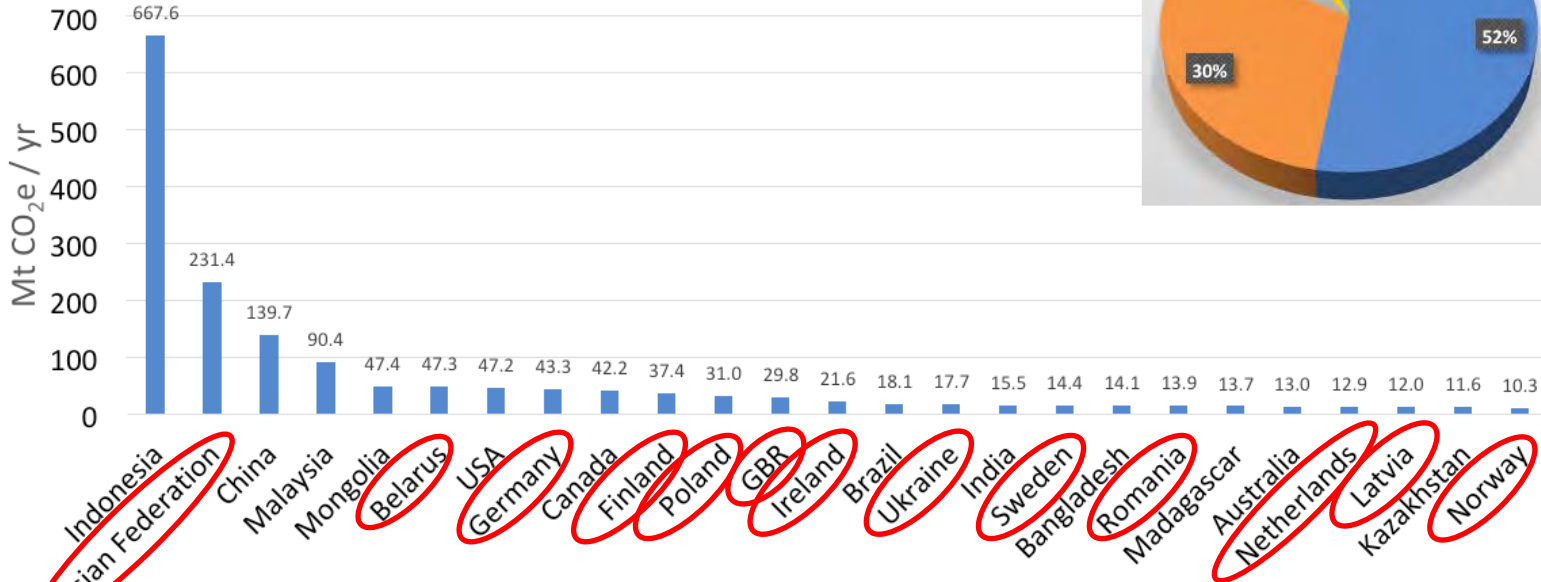
Global GHG Emissions from Peatlands [Mt CO₂e / yr]



<https://www.unep.org/resources/global-peatlands-assessment-2022>

Peatlands globally: Degradation

Global GHG Emissions from Peatlands [Mt CO₂e / yr]

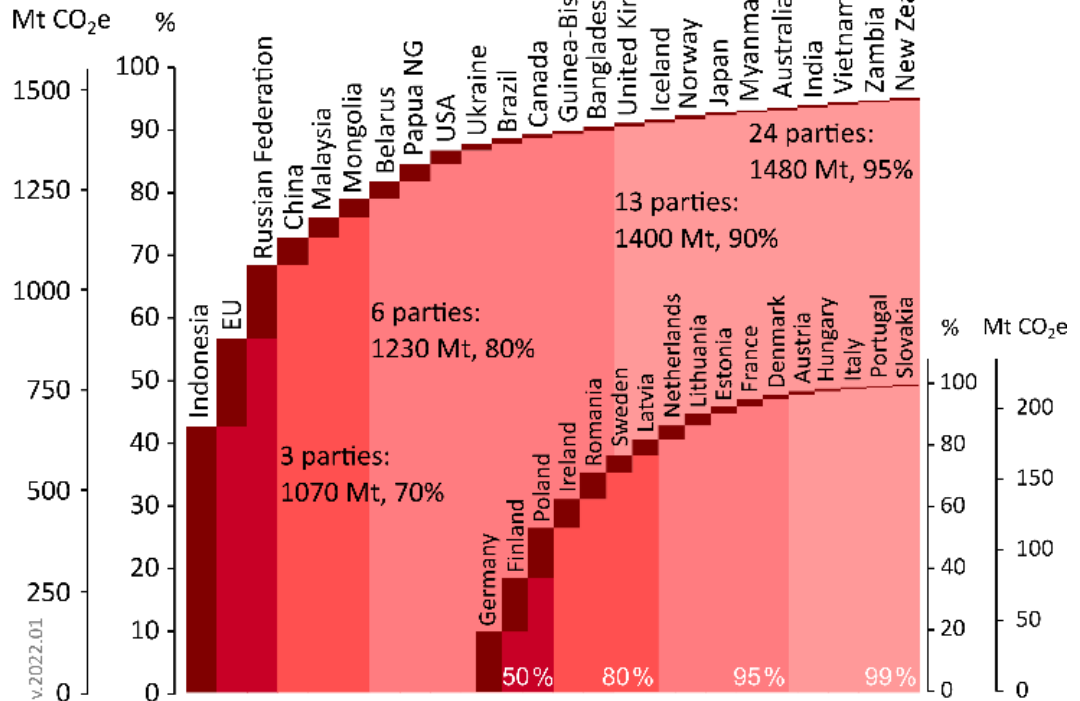


Global GHG Emissions

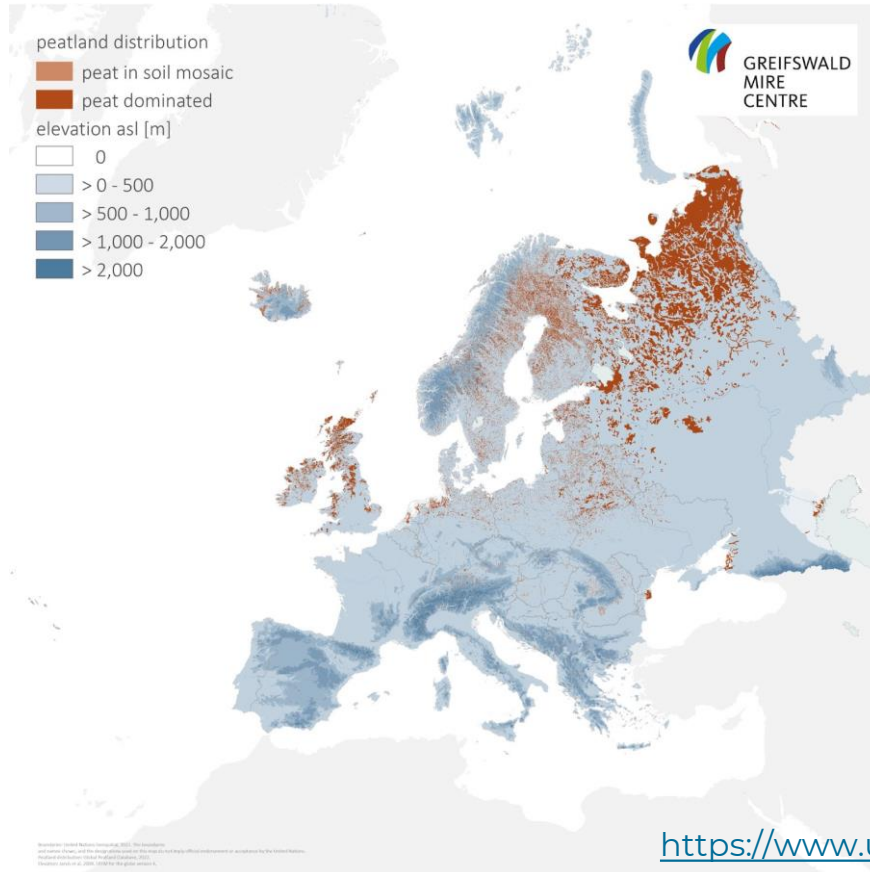


Peatlands globally: Degradation

Peatland drainage:
EU 2nd largest emitter



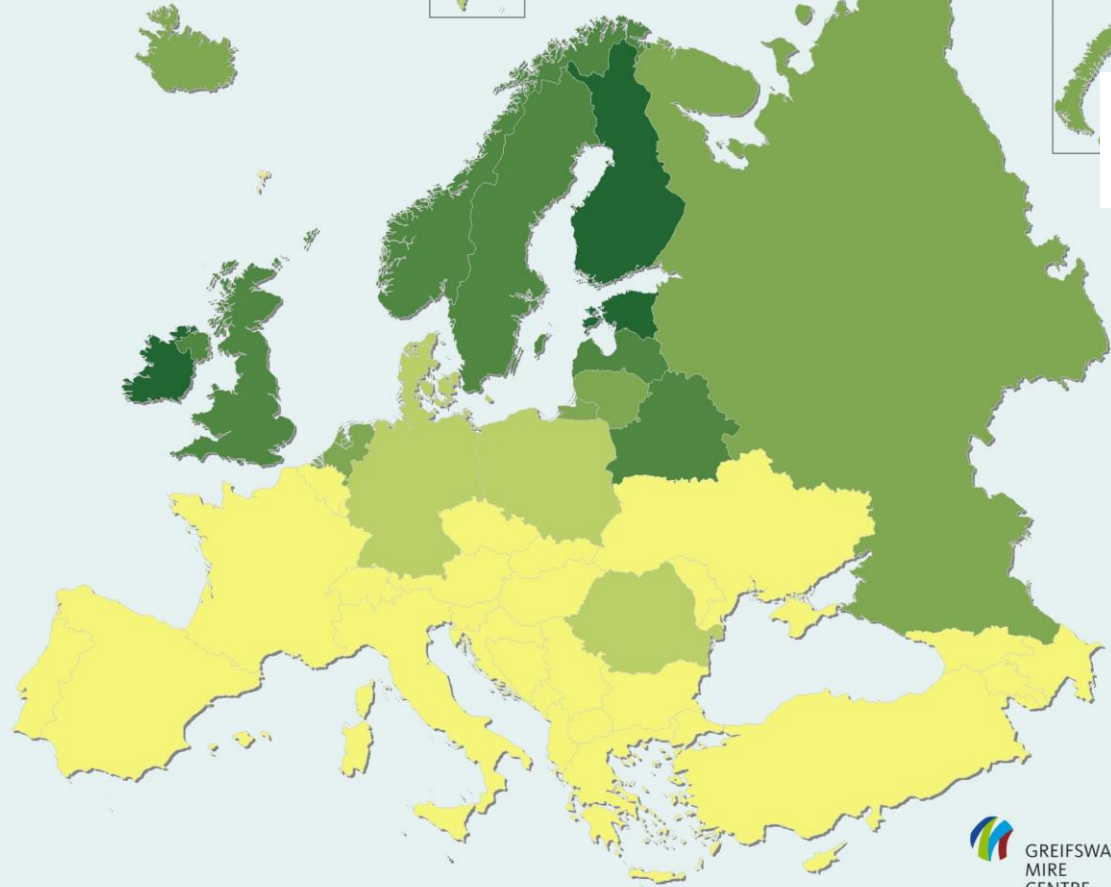
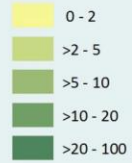
Peatlands in Europe: Distribution



Peatland area: ~59,000,000 ha

Peatlands in Europe: Distribution

Peatland area
(% total country area)

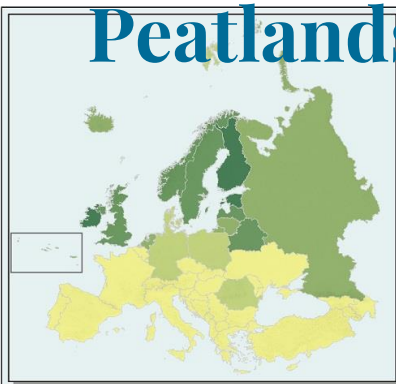


Peatland area:
~59,000,000 ha

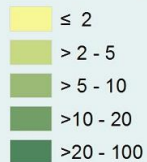
source: Joosten et al. (2017) and Global Peatland Database, 2017



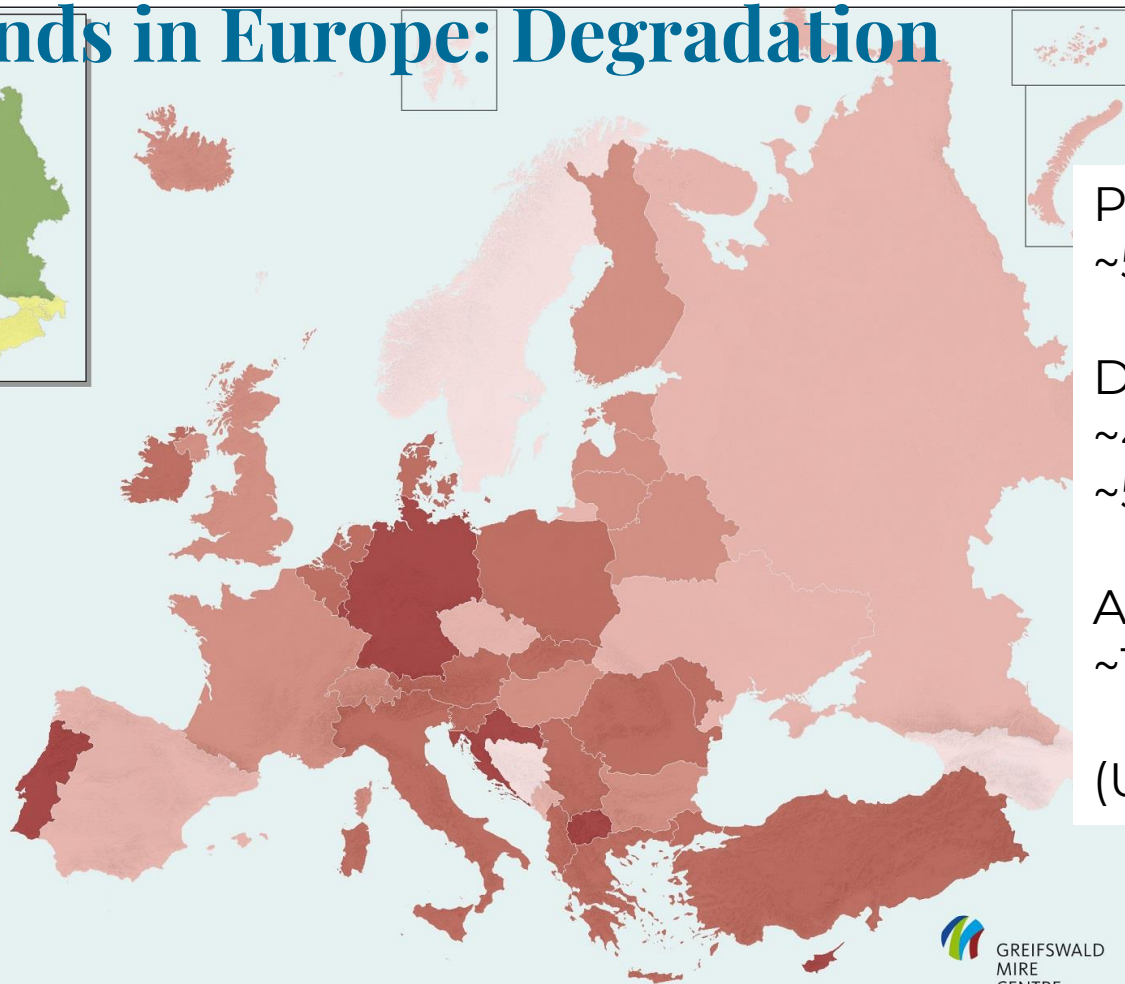
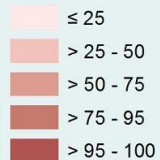
Peatlands in Europe: Degradation



Peatland area
(% total country area)



Degraded peatland area
(% total peatland area)



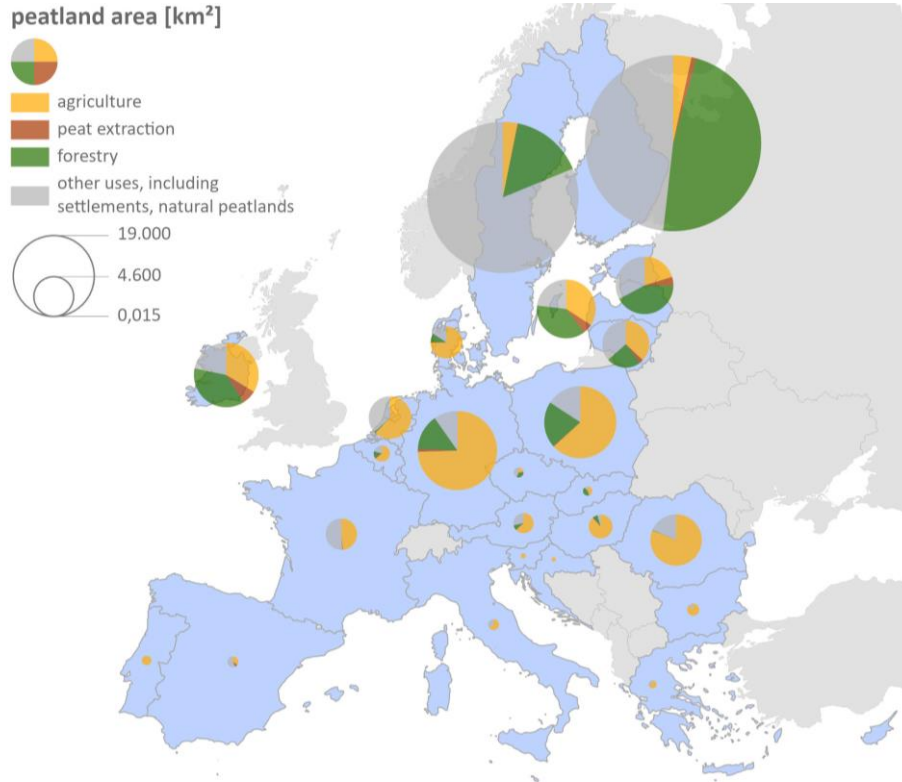
Peatland area:
~59,000,000 ha

Degraded:
~46% Europe
~50% EU

Already lost:
~10%

(UNEP 2022)

Peatland use in EU



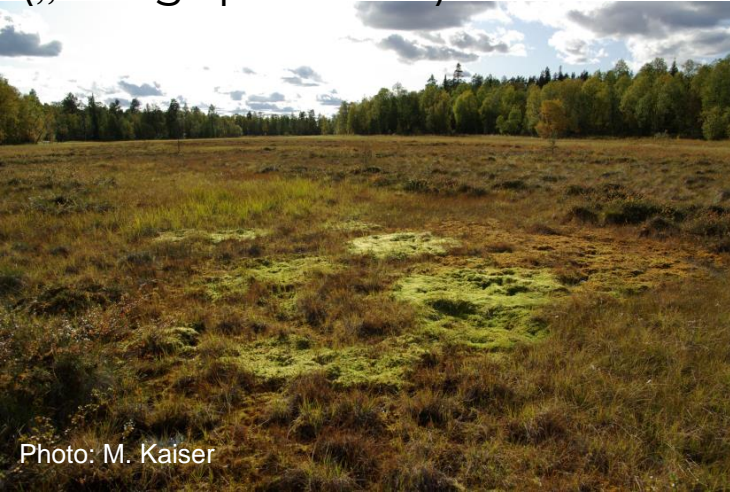
Data: Global Peatland Database 2022
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- Mainly used (→ drained) for agriculture & forestry
- Emissions underreported (Martin & Couwenberg 2021)

Peatland use

Common misunderstanding:
Mire / Peatland

Mire: Peat accumulating
(„living“ peatland)



Peatland:
Land with
peat

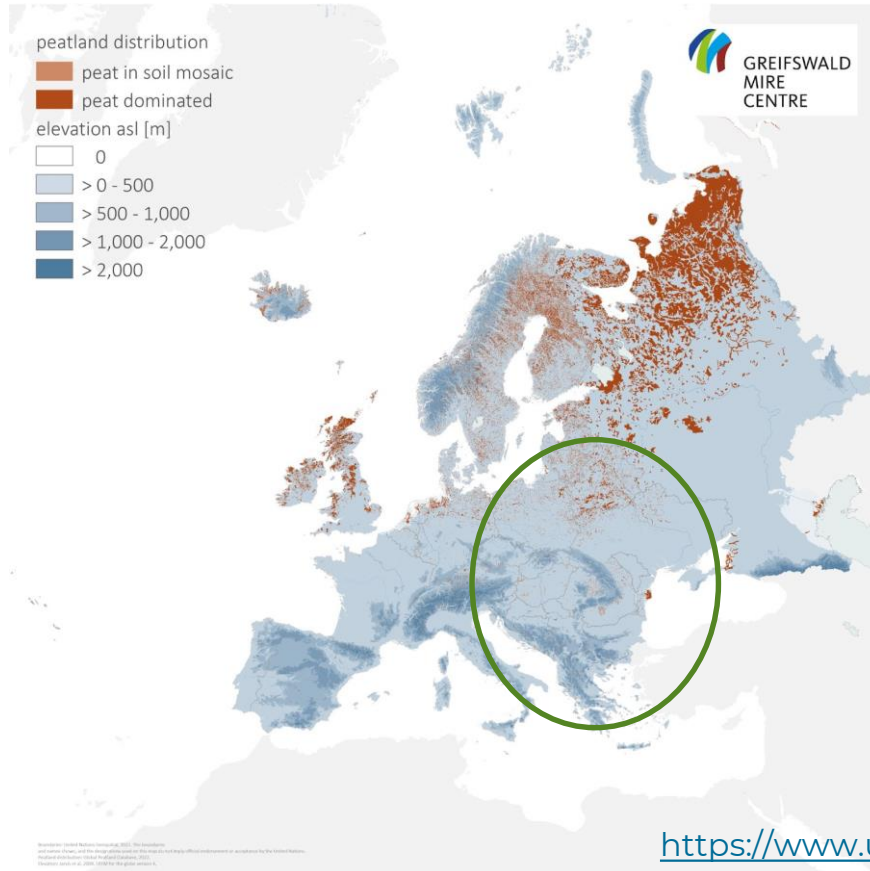


Photo: M. Kaiser



Photo: M. Kaiser

Peatlands in CEE

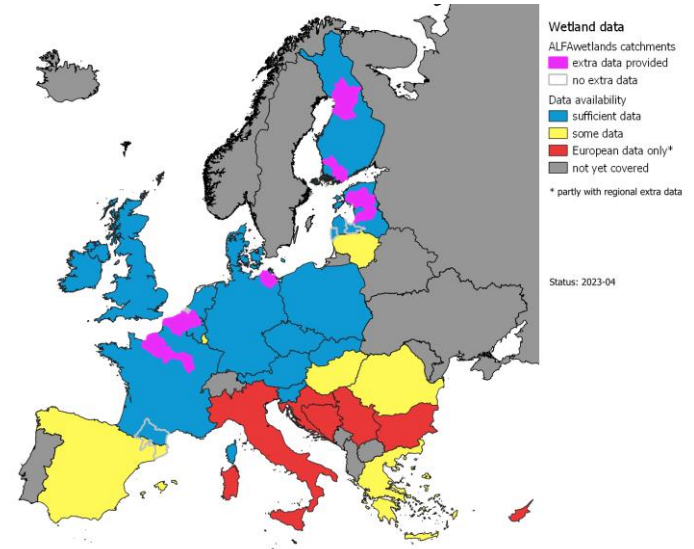


Peatlands in CEE

Country	country area (km ²)	peatland area		mire area	
		estimate (km ²)	% of country area	estimate (km ²)	% of peatland area
Albania	28,748	44	0.15	3.5	7.95
Belarus	207,600	25,605	12.33	8,630	33.70
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51,209	180	0.35	162.5	90.00
Bulgaria	110,900	208	0.19	54	25.96
Croatia	56,594	33.1	0.06	0.3	0.76
Czech Republic	78,866	285.4	0.36	150	52.56
Greece	131,957	103	0.08	45	13.70
Hungary	93,026	300	0.32	75	25.00
North Macedonia	25,713	281	1.09	13	4.63
Moldova	33,846	10	< 0.1	1	10.00
Montenegro	13,812	75	0.54	50	66.67
Poland	311,888	14,950	4.79	2,390	15.99
Romania	238,391	7,690	3.23	1,427.7	18.57
Serbia	88,361	100	0.11	12.5	12.50
Slovakia	49,036	60	0.12	30.6	11.77
Slovenia	20,273	83.9	0.41	4.3	5.07
Ukraine	603,500	10,000	1.66	6,395	63.95
Germany	357,137	12,800	3.58	250	1.95

Outlook: Peatland mapping in Europe

- Update of the peatland map of Europe
- EUKI European Peatlands Initiative, WetHorizons & ALFAwetlands
- Data for Central and South-East Europe?



More information

UNEP (2022) Global Peatland Assessment

<https://www.unep.org/resources/global-peatlands-assessment-2022>

Tanneberger et al. (2017) The peatland map of Europe

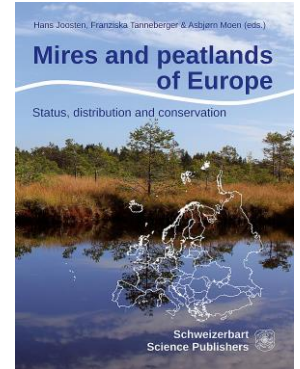
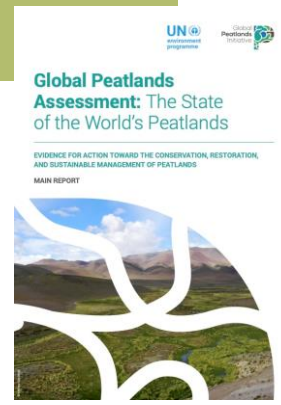
http://mires-and-peat.net/media/map19/map_19_22.pdf

Joosten et al. (2017) Mires and Peatlands of Europe

https://www.schweizerbart.de/publications/detail/isbn/9783510653836/Joosten_Tanneberger_Moen_Mires_and_peat?l=EN

Martin & Couwenberg (2021) Organic soils in national inventory submissions of EU countries

https://greifswaldmoor.de/files/dokumente/GMC%20Schriften/2021_Martin&Couwenberg.pdf



Thank you!

MORITZ.KAISER@SUCCOW-STIFTUNG.DE

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Building the European Peatlands Initiative: a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe

This project is part of the [European Climate Initiative \(EUKI\)](#) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).