



Peatland Futures workshop introduction

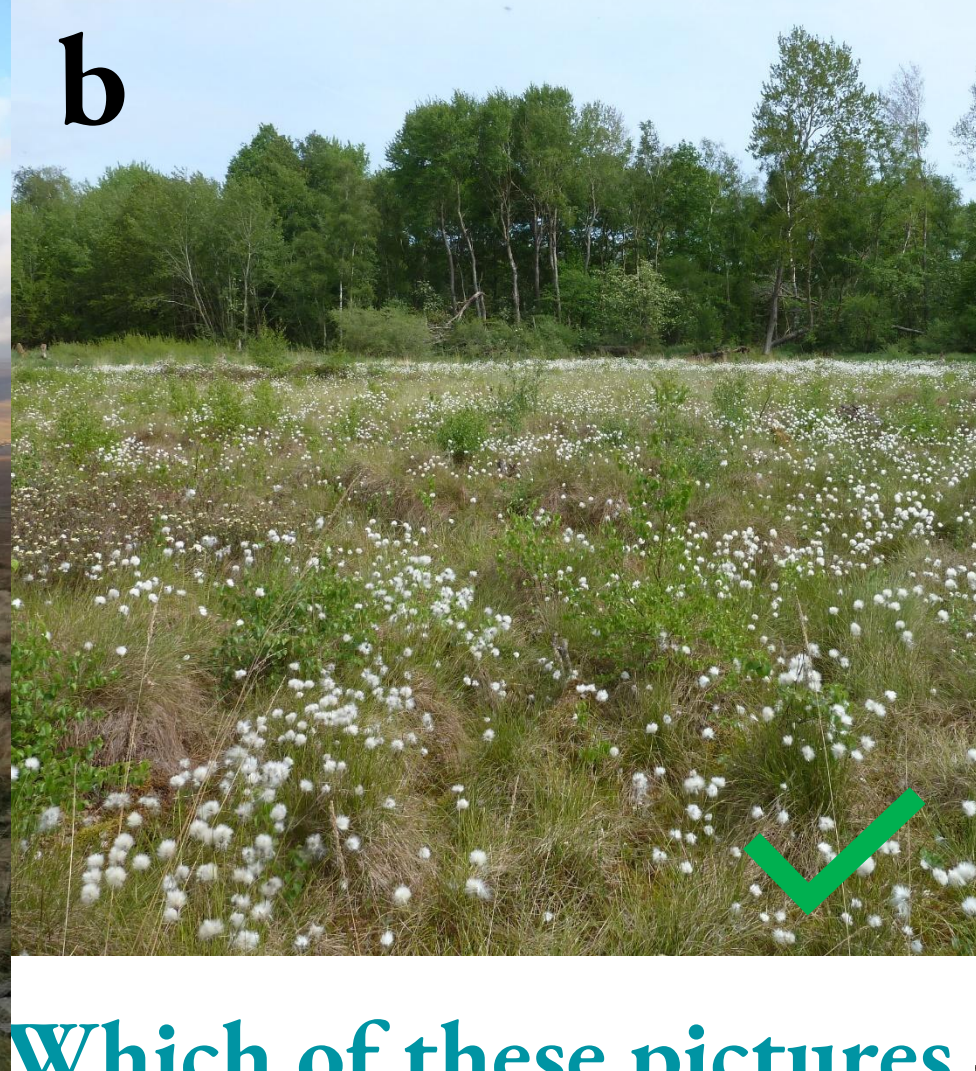
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Partner in the



Which of these pictures show a peatland?



What are peatlands?



- **What is peat?**

When biomass production **exceeds decomposition**, plant material accumulates and forms what we call “peat”. This happens often under **wet conditions**.

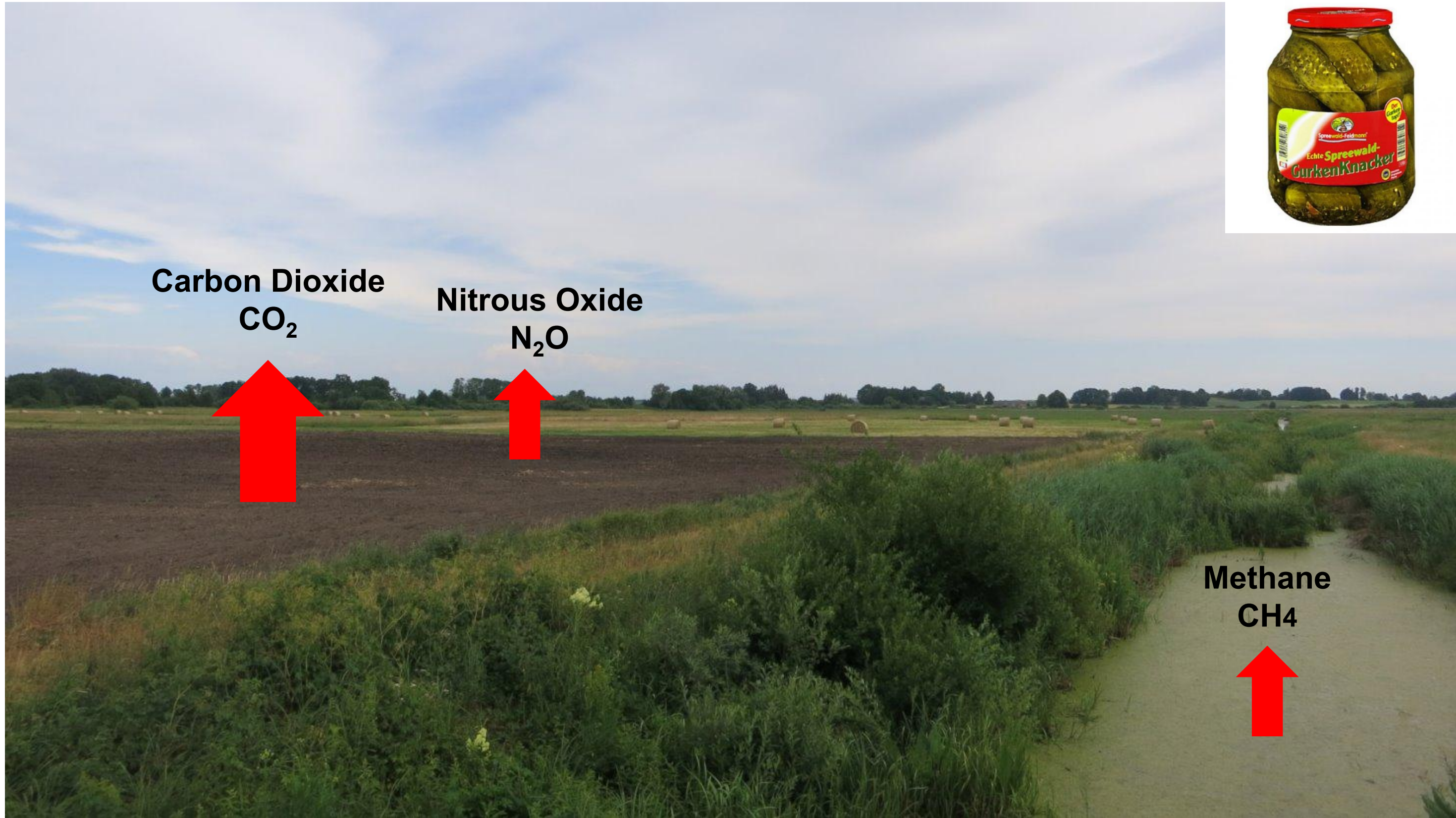
- **What is a peatland?**

A peatland is an area of land with a naturally accumulated **peat layer** on its surface.



Not all peatlands are **WET**lands

Drained peatlands



Carbon Dioxide
 CO_2

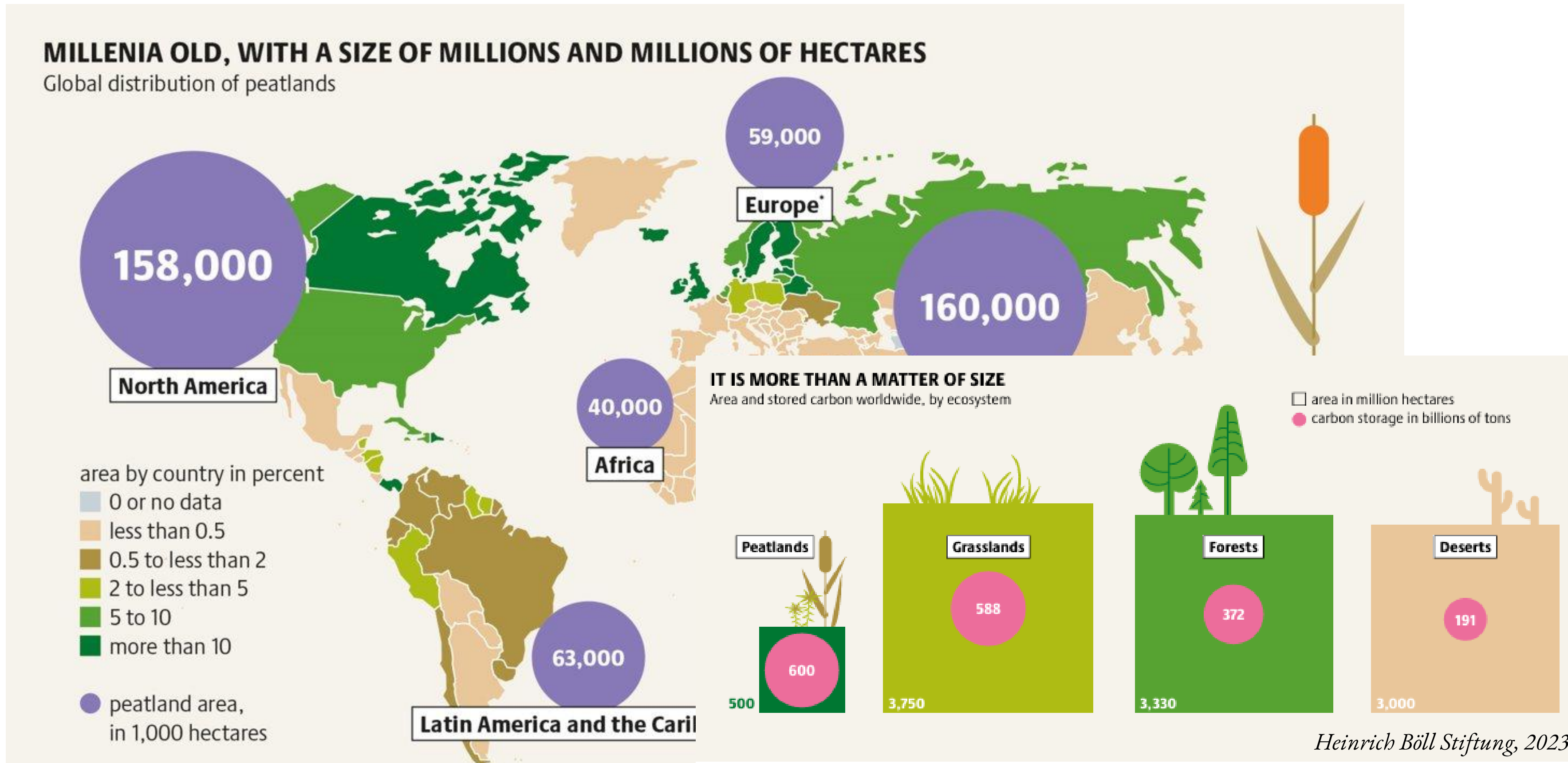
Nitrous Oxide
 N_2O

Methane
 CH_4

"In the EU, **drained peatlands** represent **25%** of agricultural emissions and **7% of total annual greenhouse gases emissions**"

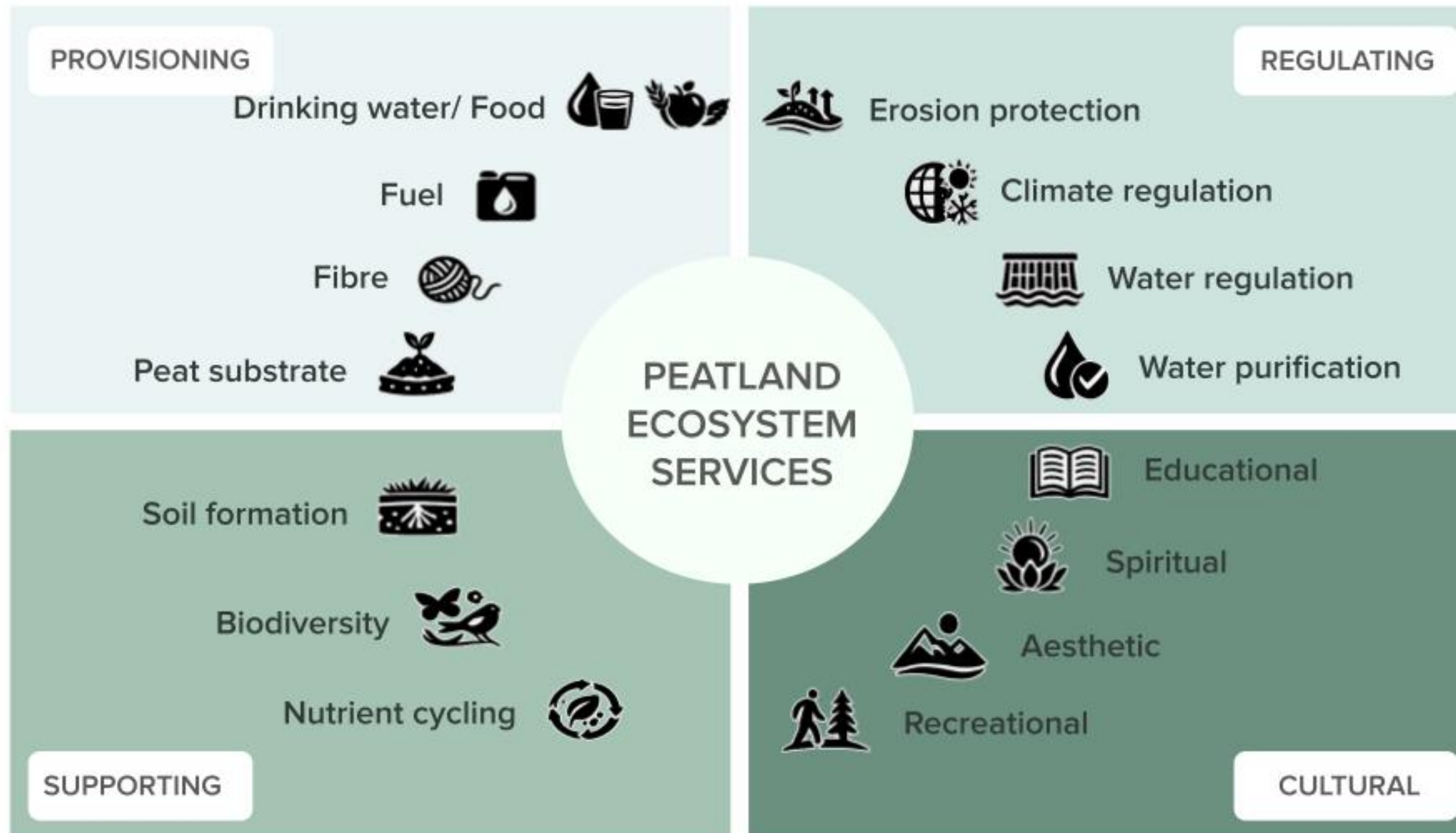
C. Chen, 2023; Q. Giersbergen, 2025

Where can they be found, and why do they matter?



Peatlands are the **largest natural carbon sink** on land

Peatlands' ecosystem services

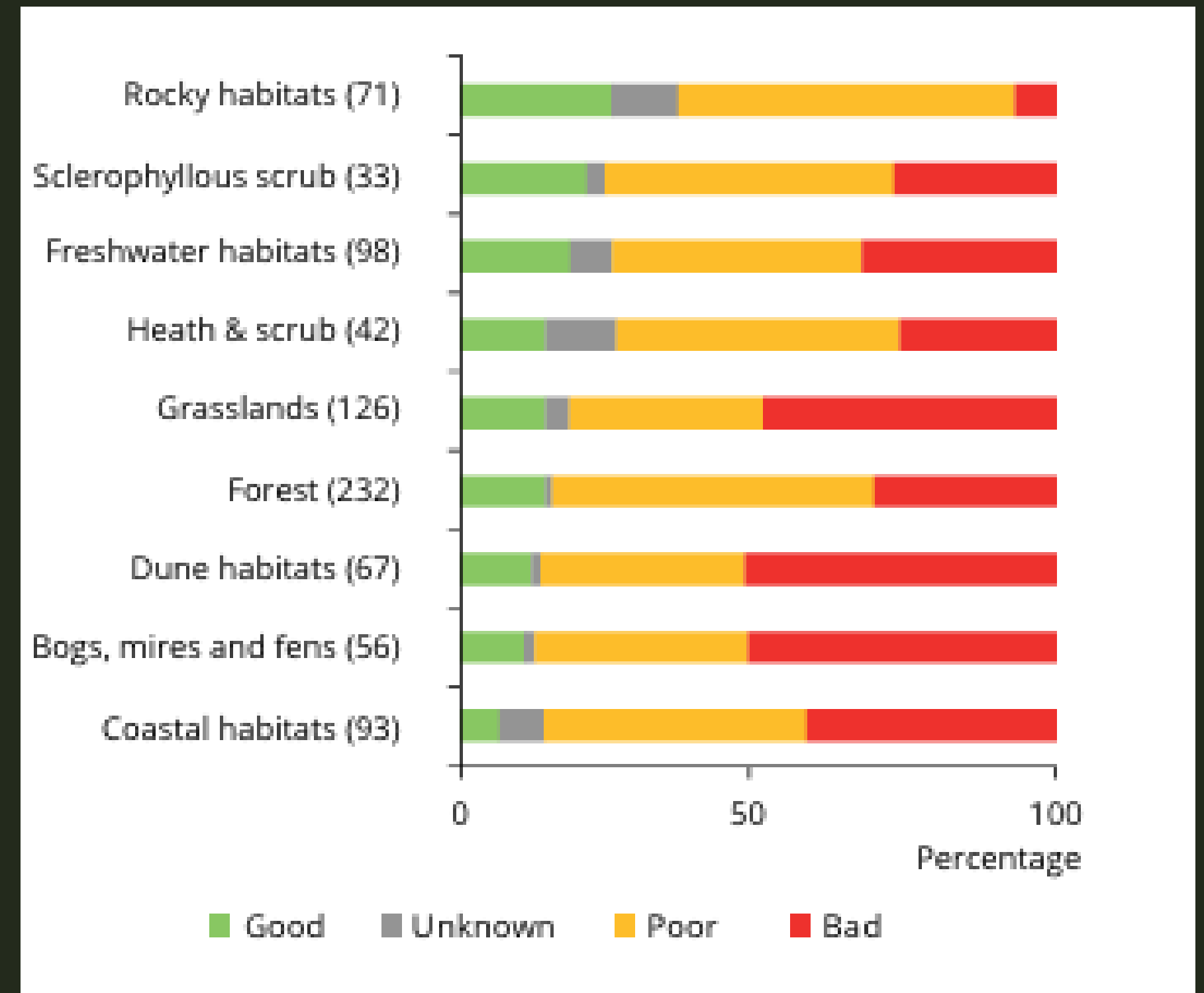


What is the state of peatlands?



There are important EU Directives and Regulations:

- The **Birds and Habitat Directives**, designed to conserve wild birds, habitats, and species across Europe, including peatlands.
- The **Water Framework Directive**, designed to achieve good ecological and chemical status **in all surface water bodies**
- The **Common Agricultural Policy**, designed to incentivize activities on agricultural land, such as **environmentally-friendly** practices on drained peatlands.

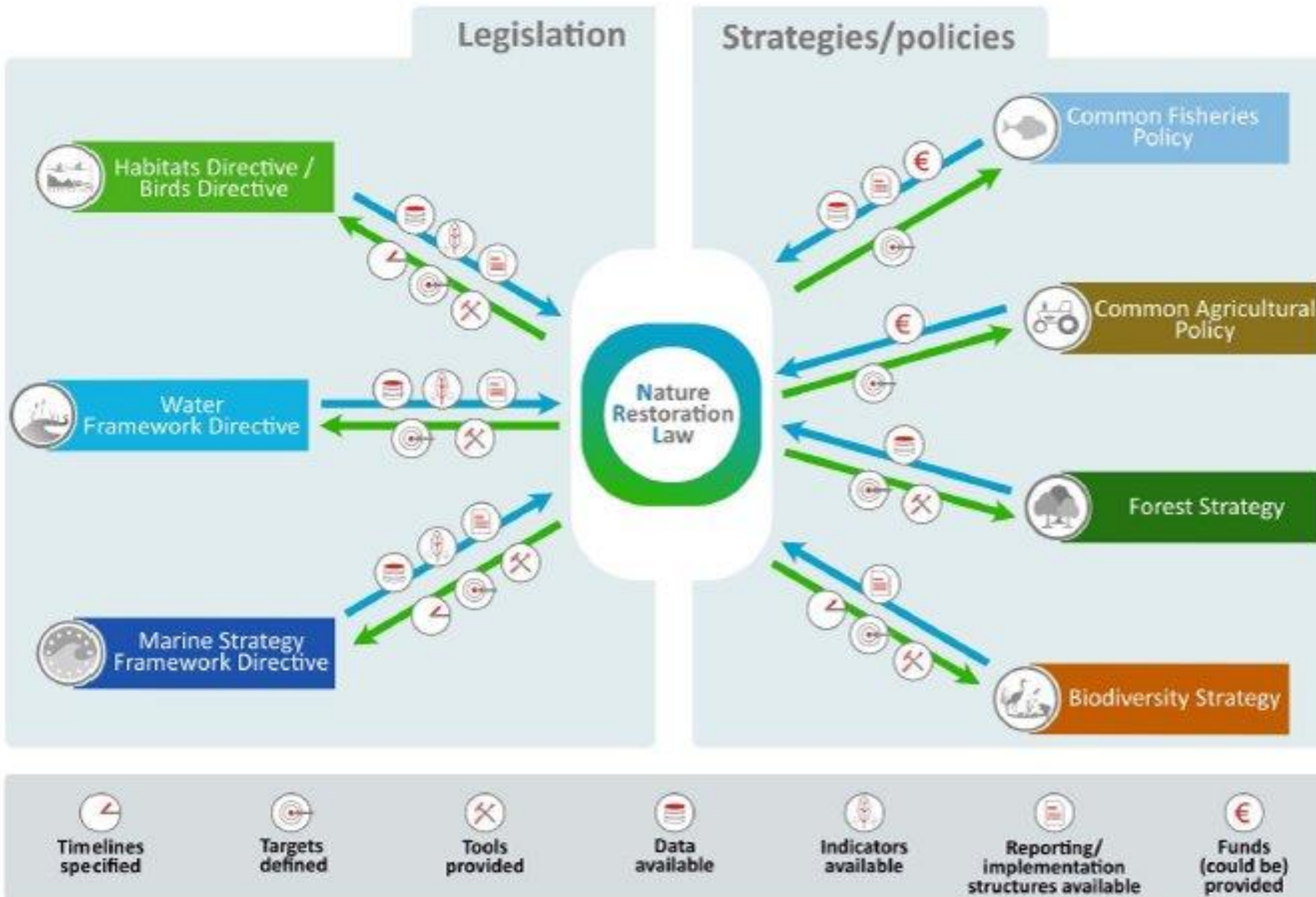


But...did they work in practice ?

“Peatlands, alongside dunes, are the most degraded habitats in the EU”

EEA, 2020

The Nature Restoration Regulation



The first EU regulation with **binding restoration targets**

Key goals:

- Restore **20% of land & sea** by 2030
- Restore **all degraded ecosystems** by 2050
- Prioritize ecosystems with high climate and biodiversity value, including **peatlands**
- **50%** of drained peatlands under agricultural use **must be restored** by 2050 and **1/3 rewetted**
- **Paludiculture** is recognized as a restoration measure

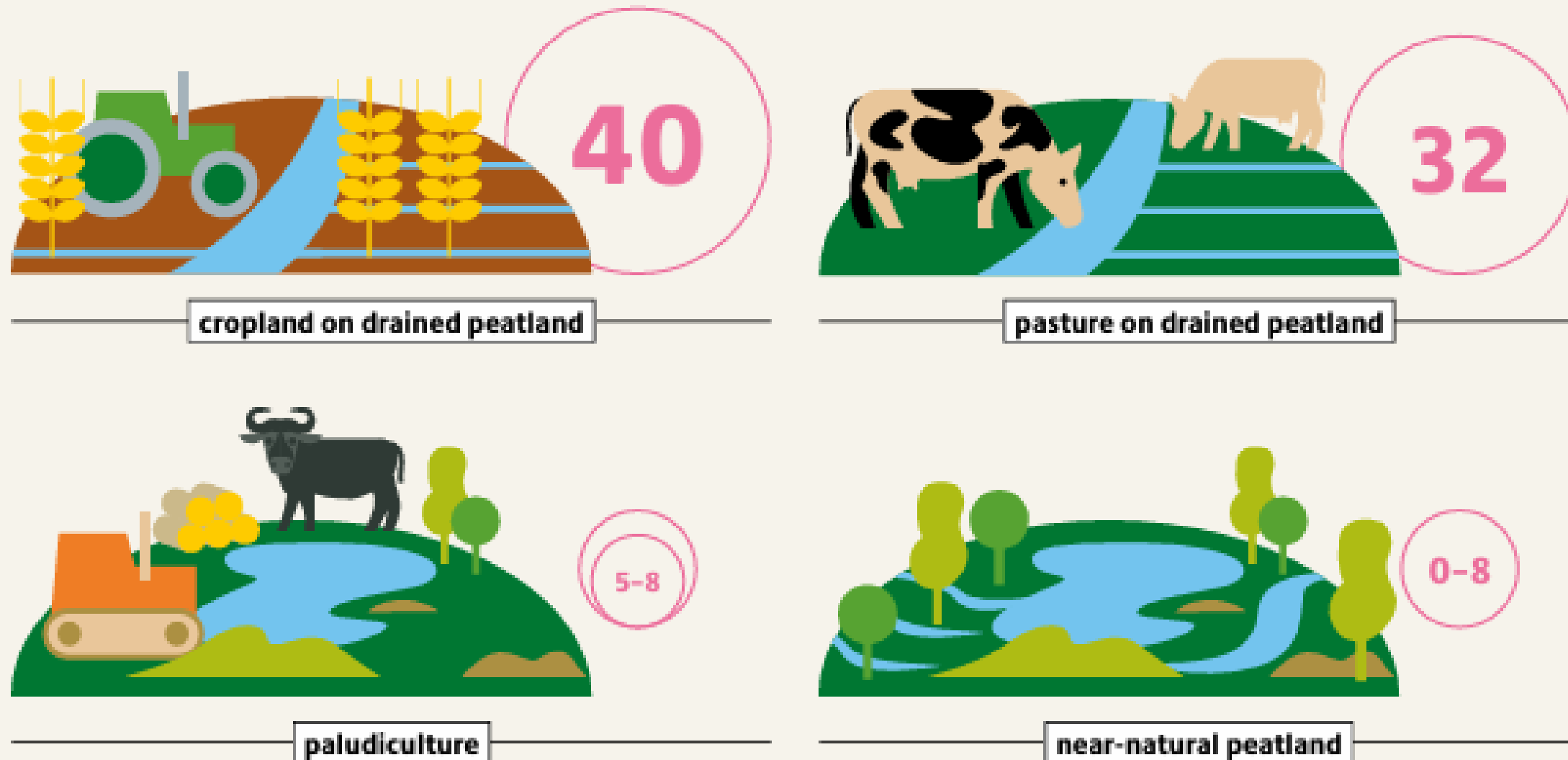
Paludiculture: peatlands as productive landscapes



Paludiculture is the **productive use** of wet or rewetted peatlands through the cultivation of **water-tolerant crops**, maintaining peatlands' essential ecosystem services.

INTENSIVE USE HARMS THE CLIMATE MORE

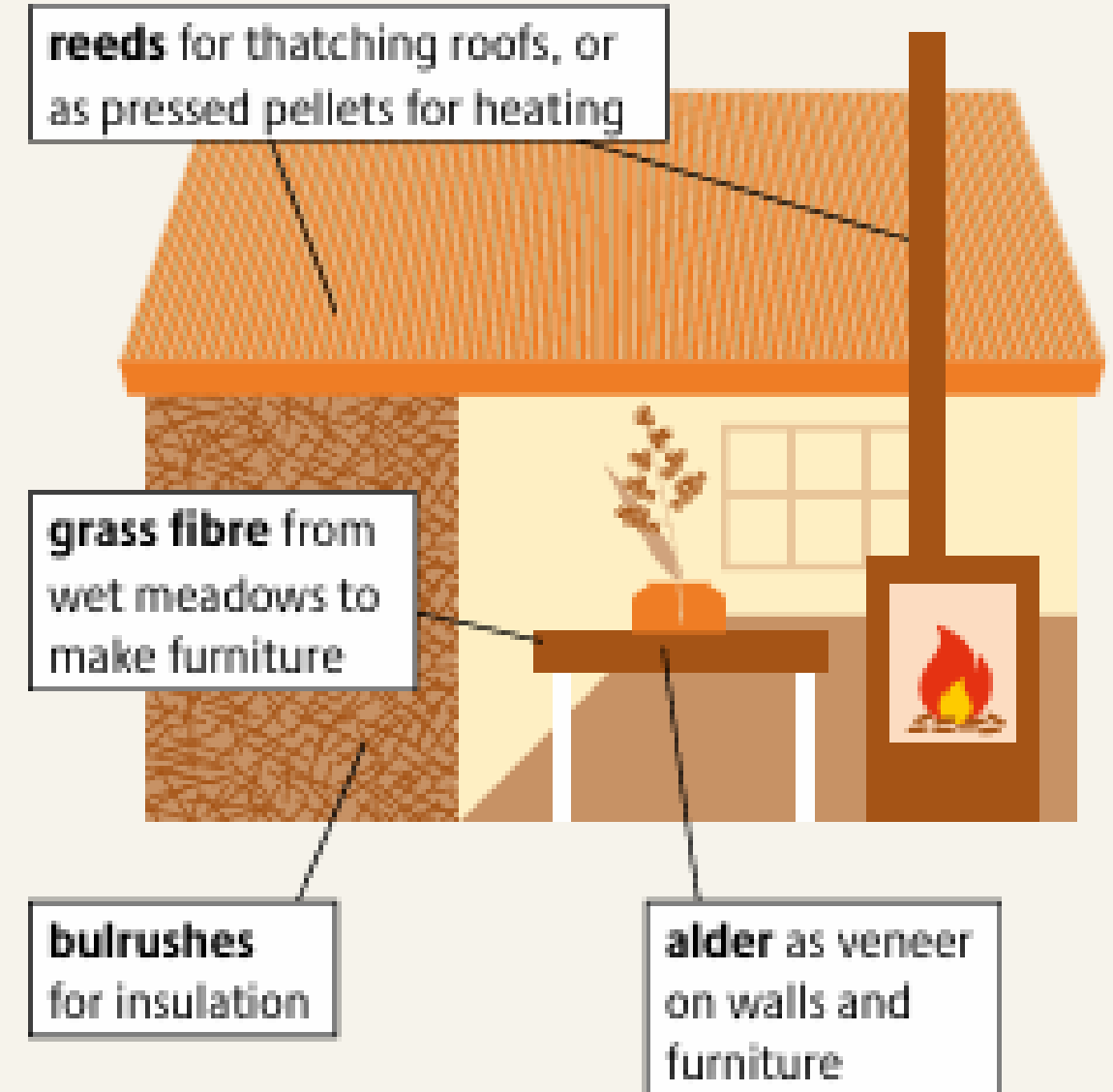
Annual emissions of greenhouse gases, in tonnes of CO₂ equivalents per hectare



Heinrich Böll Stiftung, 2023

HOME REMEDIES

Use of paludiculture products in house construction

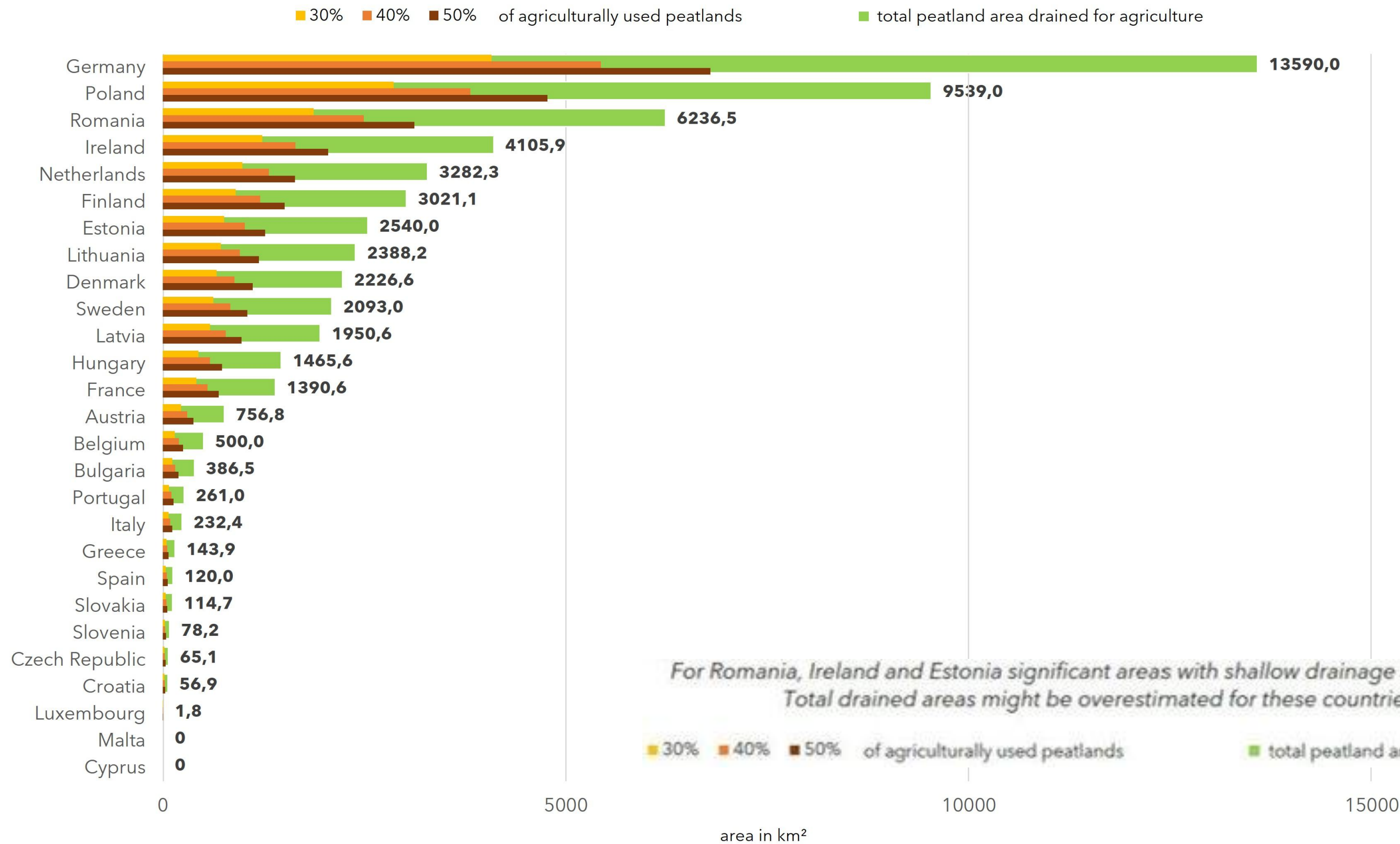


Heinrich Böll Stiftung, 2023

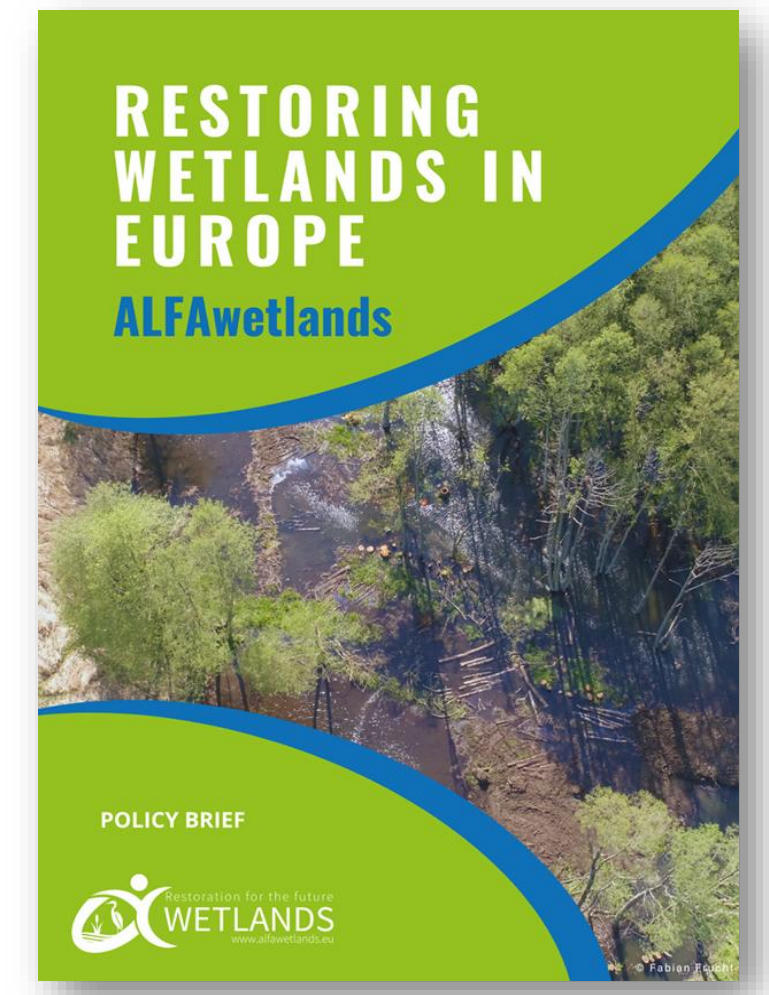
Paludiculture products can contribute to the transition towards a **sustainable** and **low-carbon building sector**

Restoration goals for agriculturally used peatlands in the Nature Restoration Law, Article 11.4

For Romania, Ireland and Estonia significant areas with shallow drainage are included.
Total drained areas might be overestimated for these countries.



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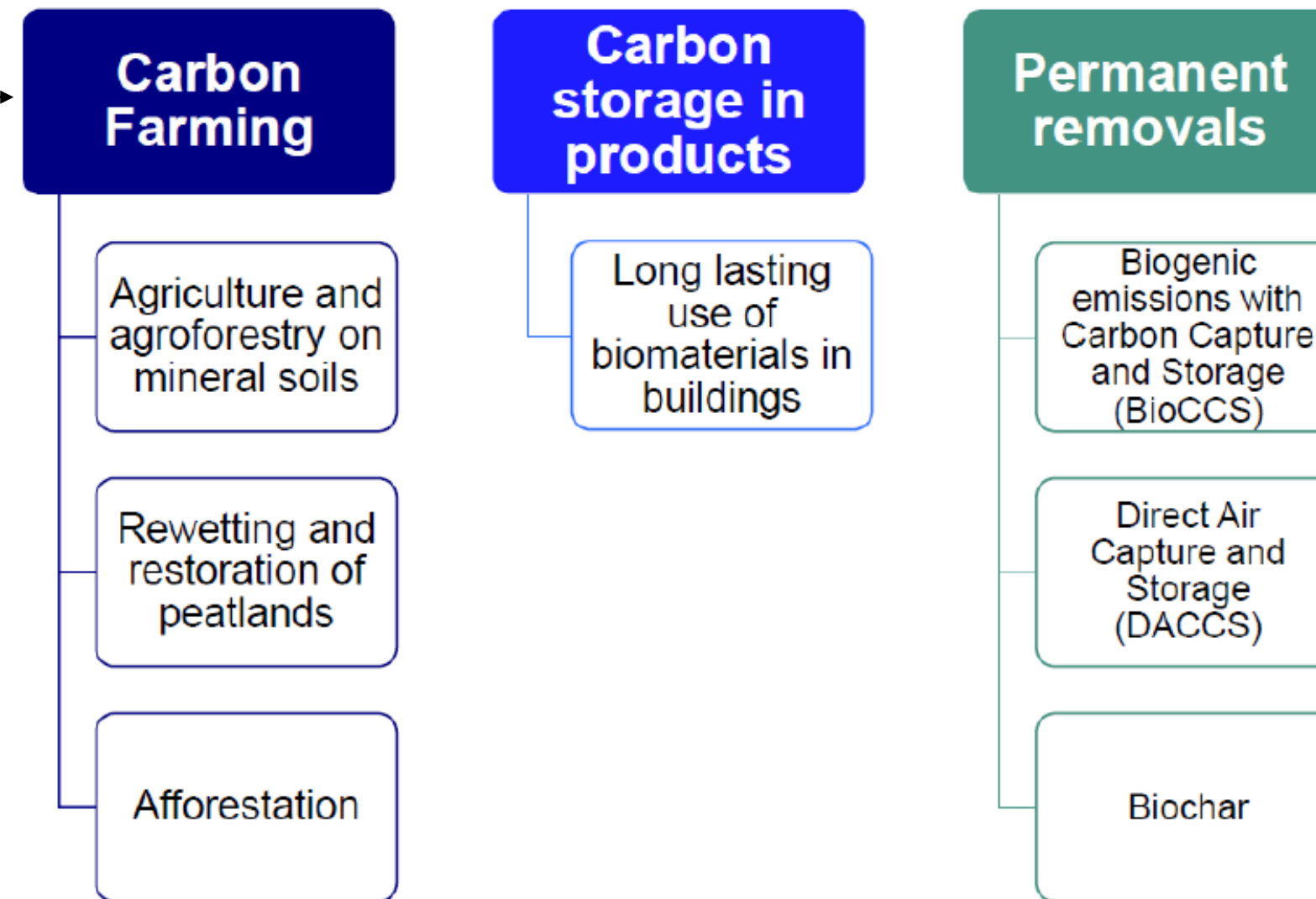
https://greifswaldmoor.de/files/dokument/Infopapiere_Briefings/AlfaWetlands_PolicyBriefing/Policy%20Brief_english.pdf

The Carbon Removal Carbon Farming Regulation



State of play

Carbon farming refers to **land management practices** that increase carbon sequestration or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with the aim of generating **carbon credits**.



(Expected) adoption of Delegated Regulations by Commission

- 3 February 2026 – Permanent removals
- Q2 2026 – Carbon Farming
- Q3 2026 – Carbon Storage in Buildings

Certification process and registry

- Implementing Regulation on verification adopted
- Recognition of certification schemes as from 2026
- EU registry by 2028



European Commission, 2026

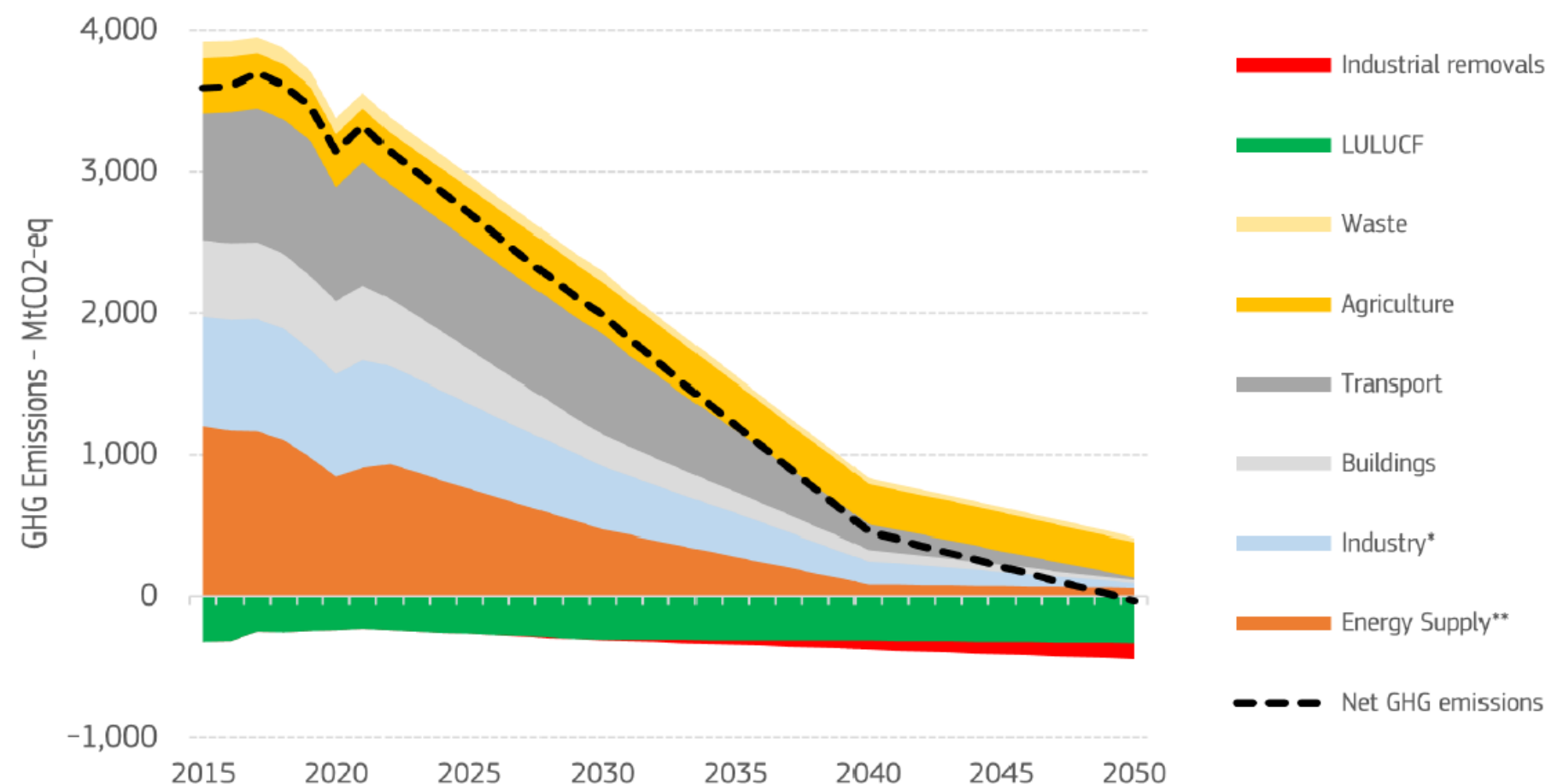
The CRCF Regulation aims to create a **common, trustworthy system** for certifying carbon removal and carbon farming projects across the European Union.



Peatland restoration: a step to climate neutrality

Pathway to climate neutrality

Historical and projected sectoral greenhouse gas emissions in the period 2015-2050



*Excluding non-BECCS industrial removals

**Including bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)

European Commission, 2026

Scaling-up peatland restoration will be essential to fulfill the mitigation targets of the LULUCF sector and achieve **climate neutrality**.

Moreover:

- Peatlands' ecosystem services can provide **solutions to challenges** in other transitioning sectors.
- This highlights the need for **cross-sectoral initiatives** connecting peatlands with broader transition strategies

European Peatlands Initiative

- Lessons learnt -



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Climate Action,
Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety



on the basis of a decision
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A quick reminder

- **Project name:** Building the European Peatlands Initiative
- a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe
- **Funding programme:** The European Climate Initiative (EUKI)
- **Implementation period:** 1 November 2022 - 31 October 2025
- **Lead:** Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network [NL]
- **Partners:**
 - Michael Succow Foundation, Partner in Greifswald Mire Centre [DE]
 - European Landowners' Organization - ELO [BE]
 - CEEweb for Biodiversity [HU]

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 the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN).

Why EPI?

Peatlands must be wet!

Swantje Furtak, biochemistry student

"Why peatlands are crucial to fight the climate emergency"

#PeatlandsMatter #ClimateAction #ForNature #GenerationRestoration

#PeatlandsMatter

Anke Tiefmann, Wasserschutz- und Bodenverband Obere Peene: "Trockene Moore werden zu teuer"

Fleming Vogt, Moorbauer: "Uns Landwirte nicht händen lassen."

Dieter Helmke, Moorbauer: "Trockenes Moor emittiert CO2 - was tun?"

Dr. Nina Seifert, Succow-Stiftung: "Trockene Moore emittieren Klimagas."

Sebastian Landwirt: "Gesunde Moore helfen gegen Hochwasser."

Hans Lütjen-Wellner, Moorbauer: "Moor muss nass!"

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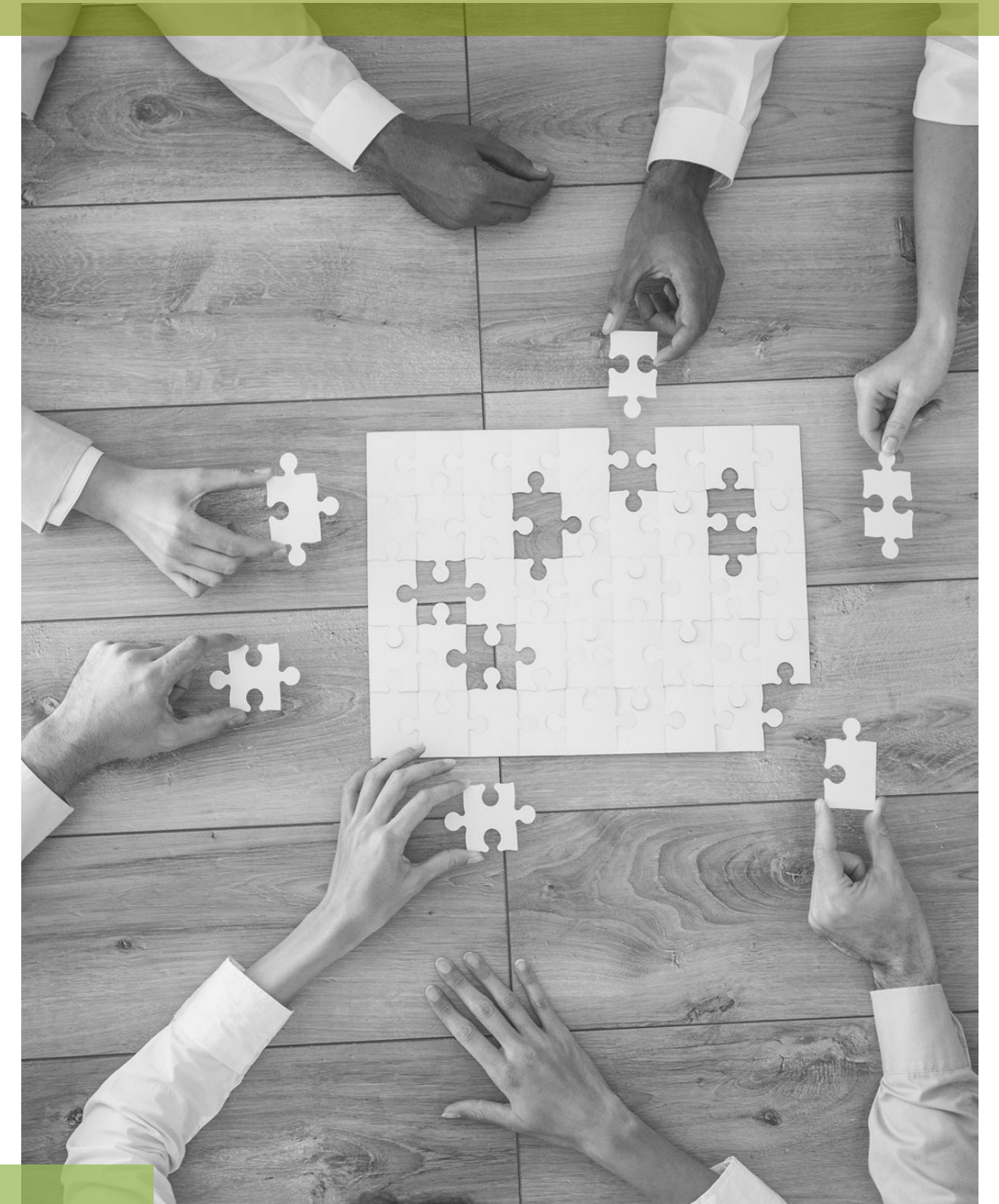
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Logos: GREIFSWALD MOOR CENTRUM, Global Peatlands Initiative, Eurosite

Why EPI?

- willingness and a certain sense of urgency among **European governments to collaborate on peatlands**
 - aligning agricultural, environmental and climate policies at EU and national levels → EU and national peatland strategies
- lack of **funding** for peatland restoration = a key barrier
 - private funding = an essential addition to public funding
 - short-term CAP payments → discouraged farmers & landowners
 - PES, carbon/nature/blue credits require wider policy integration
- limited knowledge and understanding of **paludiculture**
 - lack of EU-wide standards for sustainable peatland crops
 - lack of clear standards & certification for material made from fibres
- ...



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“We build an effective European network of national governments and other stakeholders to enable restoration (and conservation) of all peatlands in Europe to provide rich biodiversity, clean water, sustainable livelihoods, net zero CO₂ and climate change adaptation.”

— EPI vision

EPI will...

- Improve the pan-European cooperation between projects, countries and sectors on the peatland-related issues.
- Help national governments and EC to base strategies and policies on up-to-date peatlands data and management best-practices.
- Connect governments and other stakeholders to raise awareness on the essential role of peatlands to achieve global and pan-European climate and sustainability objectives.
- Foster innovation and support the transition towards sustainable land use practices.



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

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Main challenges...

- the latest European (and global) geopolitical situation
- systemic differences and the polarisation between different stakeholders (sectors)
- building trust, finding common goals and a common language between different stakeholders takes time
- finding the right governance structure
- finding the funding source(s)



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→ **EPI Preparatory Group**

[October 2025 – ongoing]



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EPI Community platform

- the main purpose of the Platform:
 - To create a **pan-European peatland community** among governments, private land users, farmers, NGOs and interested public
- 8 public channels
 - **General**
 - **Introductions**
 - **Peatland Events**
 - Peatland Policy
 - Peatland Finance
 - Peatland Innovation
 - Peatland Restoration & Management
 - Peatland Research & Monitoring

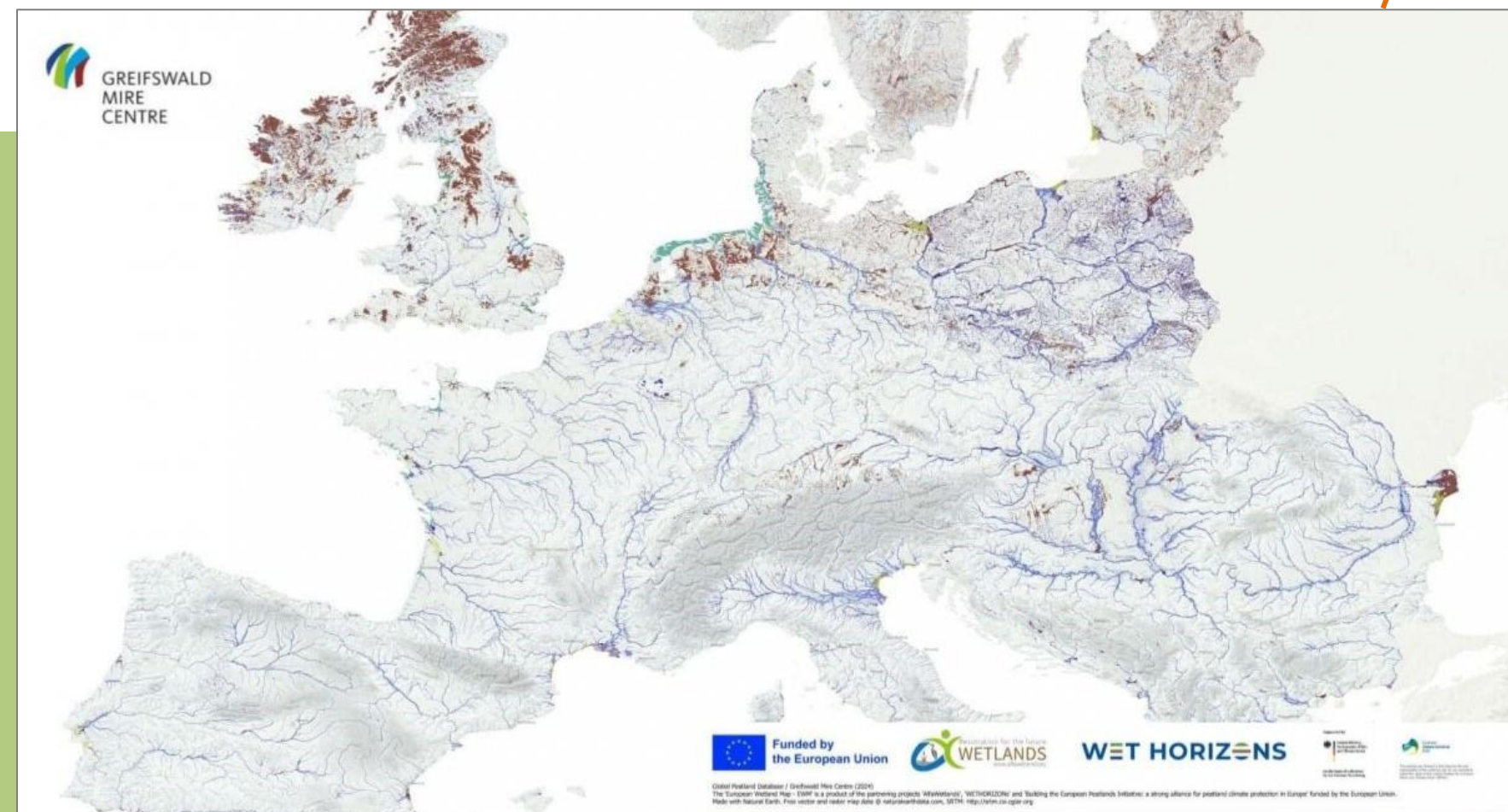
a Community (Slack) Platform
– Application Form



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

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Other deliverables

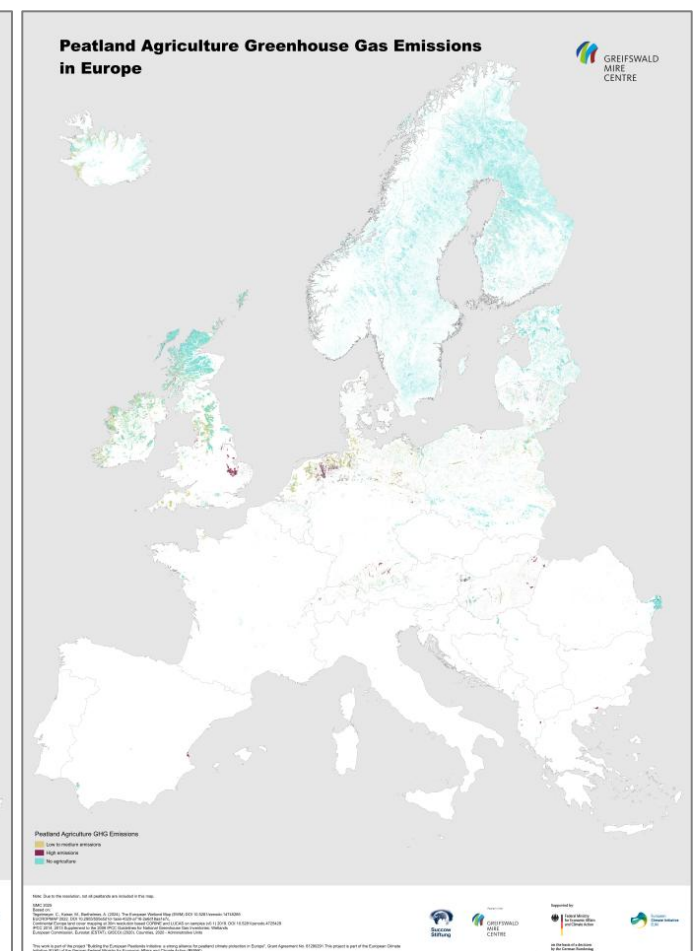
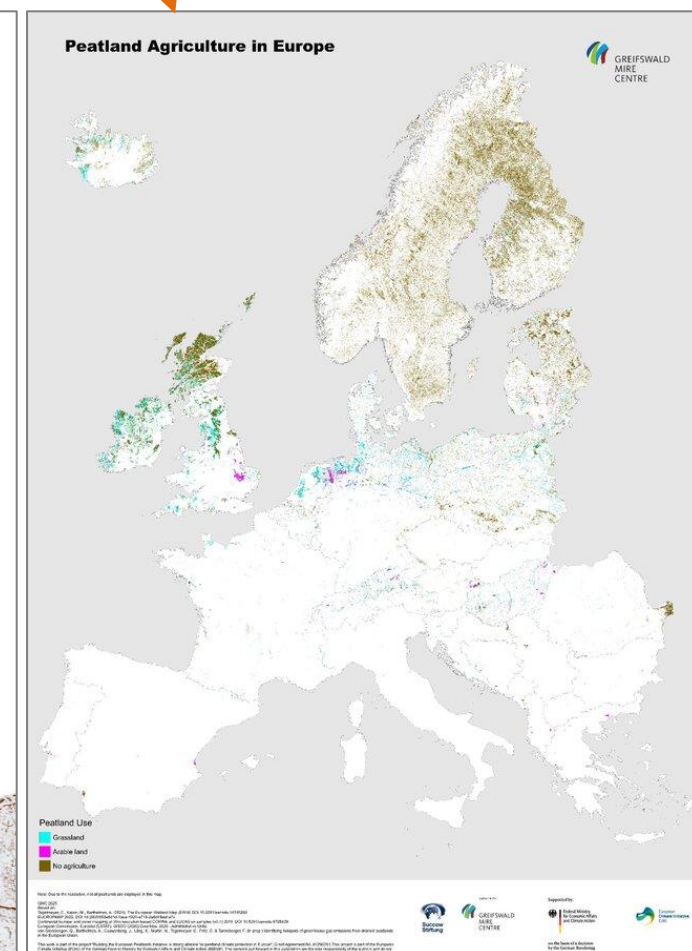


GREIFSWALD MIRE CENTRE

THE EUROPEAN PEATLAND MAP
- Technical description and data sources

Tegetmeyer, C., Kaiser, M., Chobanova, M.,
Tanneberger, F. & Barthelmes, A.

Proceedings of the Greifswald Mire Centre
03/ 2025

A small version of the peatland distribution map of Europe is located at the bottom of this panel.

Other deliverables



Policy brief:

“New Developments in European Peatland Strategies”

Main messages

1. Peatlands are rising on the global political agenda due to their recognised importance for climate, biodiversity, water, and people. National peatland strategies serve as a basis to coordinate peatland restoration and now have been published in Austria, England, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Northern Ireland, The Netherlands, Scotland and Wales, while in other countries they are under preparation.
2. The lack of funds for peatland restoration is a key barrier to implementation. Private funding is widely seen as an indispensable addition to public funds. At the same time, the short-term cycles of CAP payments do not allow for long-term planning; it is crucial for the participation of farmers and landowners to offer them long-term perspectives. The planned EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming Certification is intended to be an important step towards reliable blended finance and accelerating investment in peatland rewetting.
3. A more regular dialogue and exchange of best practices across Europe would be highly beneficial for national governments. Countries currently engaged in peatland strategy development have expressed strong interest in sharing insights with other European countries, building on their collective experiences. A common European Strategy for peatlands interlinking different policy fields and a European Peatlands Initiative, advised by the Global Peatlands Initiative led by the United Nations Environment Programme, presents an opportunity to form a dedicated platform for this exchange, accelerating progress and fostering collaboration across borders.



Other deliverables



Peatland Forestry

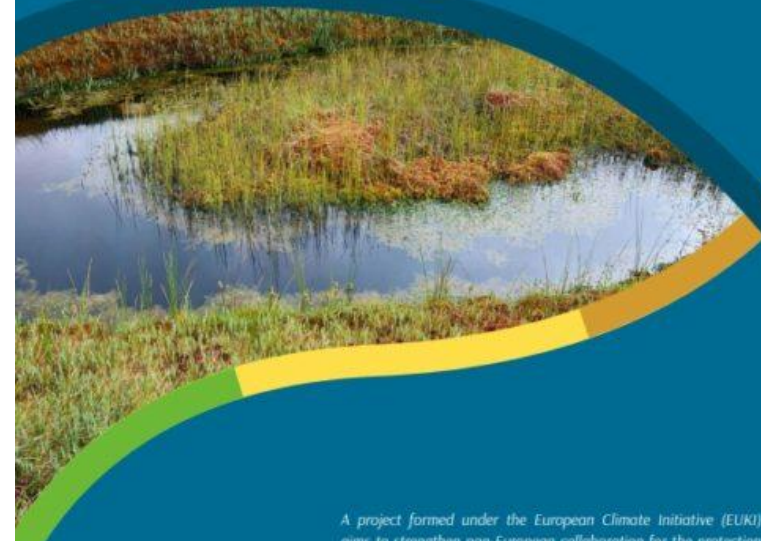
"Building the European Peatlands Initiative: A Strong Alliance for Peatland Climate Protection in Europe"



A project formed under the European Climate Initiative (ECI) aims to strengthen pan-European collaboration for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of peatlands. The project supports adopting peatland strategies and policies based on up-to-date data and enhances multi-stakeholder collaboration on peatlands. Moreover, it aims to share peatland restoration practices and foster multi-national cooperation between countries to mitigate climate change successfully on a European level.

Farming (in) peatlands

"Building the European Peatlands Initiative: A Strong Alliance for Peatland Climate Protection in Europe"



A project formed under the European Climate Initiative (ECI) aims to strengthen pan-European collaboration for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of peatlands. The project helps to support the adoption of peatland strategies and policies based on up-to-date data and enhances multi-stakeholder collaboration on the topic of peatlands. Moreover, it aims to share peatland restoration practices and foster multi-national collaboration between countries to successfully mitigate climate change on a European level.

Peatland restoration (on private land)

"Building the European Peatlands Initiative: A Strong Alliance for Peatland Climate Protection in Europe"




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Other deliverables





A YouTube playlist thumbnail for "#peatlandsmatters" by the European Landowners' Organization - ELO. The thumbnail shows a grid of 12 video thumbnails. Below the grid, the text reads "#peatlandsmatters by European Landowners' Organization - ELO Playlist • 12 videos • 429 views". At the bottom, there are icons for "Play all", a bookmark, a share icon, and a menu icon.


- 

#1 – #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
243 views • 7 months ago
- 

#2 – Degradation #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
55 views • 7 months ago
- 

#3 – Emissions #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
45 views • 7 months ago
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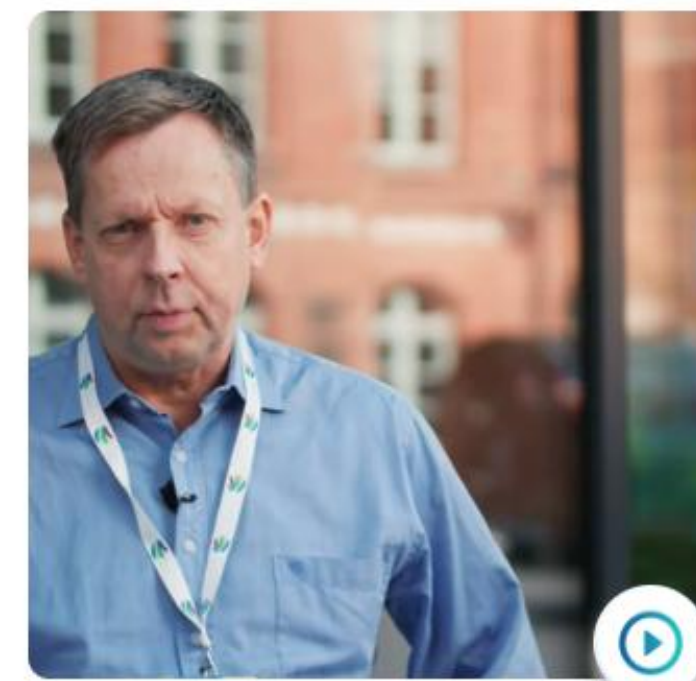
#4 – Climate Change #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
47 views • 7 months ago
- 

#5 – Wildlife & Biodiversity #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
51 views • 7 months ago
- 

#6 – Water #PeatlandsMatter
European Landowners' Organization - ELO
63 views • 7 months ago



Videos



06 January 2026

Paludiculture: A Practical Guide for Landowners



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by the German Bundestag

THANK YOU!

Marina Škunca
Head of Nature Conservation
Eurosité – the European Land Conservation Network
mस्कunca@eurosité.org



STATE OF PLAY in CEE

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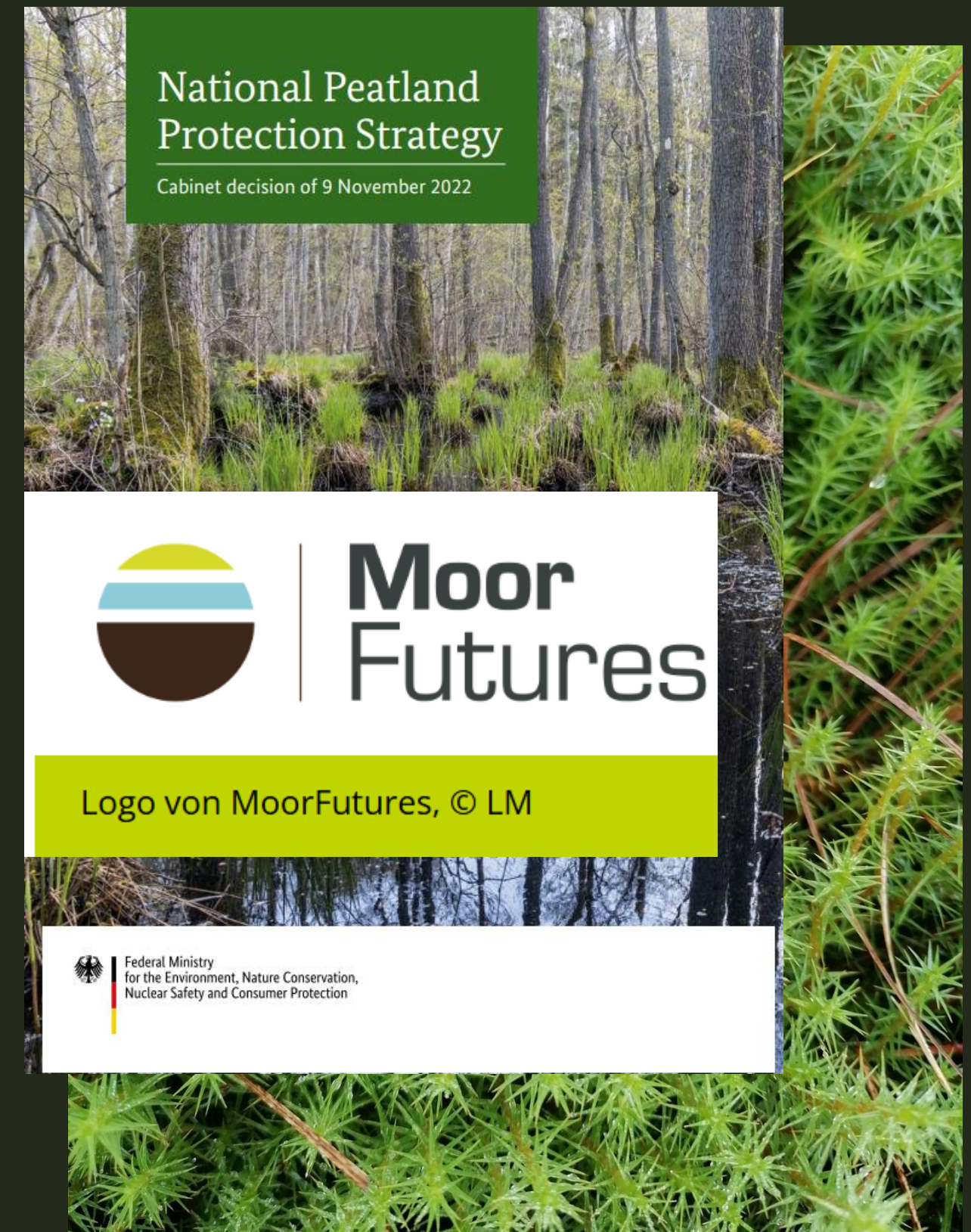


Partner in the

Flagship examples - Policy responses from CEE



- A **peatland inventory** enables **rapid rewetting & restoration** (**Estonia**)
- A **peatland Action Plan** enables **allocation of annual budget** (e.g. monitoring, restoration, awareness, research) (**Estonia**)
- **Peatland Protection Strategy** enables **longterm objectives to reduce peat soil emissions and sets out management** (**Germany**)
- **Paludiculture incentives** on formerly drained peatlands enables **preservation of the peat soil, minimising CO₂ emissions and subsidence**
- **Private sector investments in rewetting peatlands** (**Lithuania**)
- **Protection by law** – all mires „**ex lege**” protected (**Hungary**)
- **Including peatlands in broader policies** (climate law/strategies, national biodiversity strategies, wetland strategies)



Pressure points - Policy responses from CEE

- **Peat extraction** still ongoing (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania: largest peat exporters to European countries)
- **Drainage based agriculture and forestry** are still ongoing (Lithuania, Poland)
- Drained peatlands are still **top emitters of greenhouse gases** (Germany, Finland, Poland – top 3 emitters in the EU)
- **Peatlands** as nature based solutions (carbon storage benefits) **not as acknowledged** as forests
- **Private sector investments** are still lacking



Recommendations for action - Policy responses from CEE



GERMANY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- 1 Drained peatlands need to be rewetted and restored
- 2 Define sites in the National Restoration Plans for the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation
- 3 Identify solutions for implementing the EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Certification Regulation (CRCF) with regard to peatlands
- 4 Continue to scale up activities for paludiculture
- 5 Support farmers with paludiculture implementation
- 6 Support the implementation of the National Peatland Protection Strategy (2022) and advise other countries on developing their own strategies
- 7 Phase out peat extraction and use substitutes (such as cultivated peat moss)
- 8 Raise awareness: protecting peatlands is in public interest
- 9 Push forward towards peatland restoration and implement its strategic and legal objectives
- 10 Above all, it is crucial that all peatlands remain wet

HUNGARY

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- 1 Peatlands need to be acknowledged strategically for their role in storing carbon
- 2 Drained peatlands need to be rewetted and restored
- 3 Define sites in the National Restoration Plans for the implementation of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation
- 4 Create national databases of peatlands and monitor them
- 5 Conduct assessments and prepare for the introduction of paludiculture on drained peatlands where restoration is not feasible
- 6 Start consultations on a national peatland strategy
- 7 Phase out peat extraction and use substitutes (such as cultivated peat moss)
- 8 Raise awareness: protecting peatlands is in public interest
- 9 Identify solutions for implementing the EU Carbon Removal and Carbon Farming Certification Regulation (CRCF) with regard to peatlands
- 10 Above all, it is crucial that all peatlands remain wet



Peatland factsheets
Estonia, Germany, Hungary,
Lithuania, and Poland





Peatland Futures: Collaborative Strategies for Carbon Farming and Ecosystem Conservation in CEE

Carbon Removals and Sinks

IMPLEMENTING COUNTRIES

Targeting CEE countries → Bulgaria, Slovakia & Slovenia.

Partners: CEEweb (HU), MSF/GMC (DE) & Eurosite (NL).

MAIN GOAL

Support CEE countries to unlock climate and biodiversity potential of their peatlands.

How?

Collaboration, innovation, and economic incentives from sustainable land use.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ❖ policy dialogues → National Peatland Strategies proposals
- ❖ maps & peatland data
- ❖ CRCF peatland manual + NRR
- ❖ case studies: (1) carbon removal, (2) carbon farming, & (3) carbon storage

EXPERTISE AND INTERESTS

- ❖ nature conservation;
- ❖ networking for nature;
- ❖ peatland policy, management, research and restoration;
- ❖ climate change mitigation and adaptation

CONTACT DETAILS

Contact: Eliza Óhegyi

E-Mail: eohegyi@ceeweb.org

Website: ceeweb.org

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram:
CEEweb for Biodiversity





- We prepared a **peatland strategy** template (Bulgaria, Slovakia, Slovenia).
Currently, there are no dedicated **national peatland strategies** in those countries.
- We established a **working group** platform with **CEE** focus
- Preparation of multi-stakeholder workshops
- We are following up and give recommendations to ongoing national and EU level policy processes - such as the **new Climate Law** in Hungary, **EU CRCF** and **EU NRR**

Az éghajlatpolitika stratégiai dokumentumai

7.5 (1) Az állami éghajlatpolitika aktuális céljait és intézkedéseit az éghajlatpolitika alábbi stratégiai dokumentumai jelölik ki:

- a) Nemzeti Energia és Klímaterv,
- b) hosszú távú stratégia,
- c) **Reziliens** Alkalmazkodási Stratégia,
- d) települési éghajlatvédelmi stratégiák.

(2) Az éghajlatpolitikai stratégiai dokumentumokat – a települési éghajlatvédelmi stratégiák kivételével – a Kormány javaslatára az Országgyűlés határozatban fogadja el. A települési éghajlatvédelmi stratégiákat a helyi önkormányzat rendeletben fogadja el.

6

Linda Magyar
A vizes élőhelyek, különösen a tőzeges ökoszisztémák kiemelt szerepet töltenek be a természetes szénmegkötésben, a vízmegtartásban, a klímadaptációban és a biodiverzitás megőrzésében. A javaslat célja a funkciók stratégiai szintű megjelenítése a törvényben, összhangban az európai uniós klíma- és természethelyreállítási célkitűzésekkel.- CEEweb
2026. május 12., 10:22

@mention or reply

(3) A Kormány szükség szerint külön stratégiai dokumentumot fogad el a vizes élőhelyek és tőzeges ökoszisztémák megőrzése és helyreállítása érdekében.



Peatland field trip in Hungary
[Link to short impression video](#)



THANK YOU!

Hugo Henaff | Michael Succow Foundation, partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre hugo.henaff@succow-stiftung.de

Marina Skunca | Eurosite – the European Land Conservation Network mskunca@eurosite.org

Eliza Ohegyi | CEEweb for Biodiversity eohegyi@ceeweb.org

