



THE PEATLAND POST



*Two bogs in Bory Tucholskie, Poland. Left - wet and still active, right - completely dried.
August 2025. Photo: Wojciech Mróz*



Peat Pals for LIFE

Dear Reader,

What do European peat bogs look like this summer? Wet, flourishing, and giving shelter to bog animals (mosquitoes too!), and holidaymakers admire them on educational paths? Unfortunately, the picture is not always so rosy. Often, when we reach such remote places, we see a completely different picture (see above) – dried-out tufts of tussock cottongrass, meagre remnants of pale *Sphagnum* moss, and an invasion of common birch and pine trees.

Can we do anything about this? Sometimes it is too late – the marshes have been reclaimed, the water conditions seem to have changed irreversibly, and characteristic species have disappeared.

Should we give up? Does it make sense to combat the effects of peatland drainage exacerbated by climate change and secondary succession? Should we just stand by and watch? Please don't! In many cases, there is still a lot that can be done. Of course, it is not always possible to restore the natural vegetation. Moreover, the changed water conditions make it impossible to restore the entire surface of peat bogs, even after intensive rewetting. But even then, such a partially dried-out peat bog still functions as a much better carbon store and a safer haven for biodiversity.

So what do we need? Sufficient funding, personnel, training, and, above all, the right political decisions. Such as the introduction of the Nature Restoration Regulation. Member States are currently taking up the challenge of developing national restoration plans, and we hope that they will put the protection and restoration of peatlands high on the agenda. We also believe that, in this difficult geopolitical reality, it will still be possible to finance restoration initiatives, such as the MultiPeat project under the LIFE programme proves.

We invite you to read some news from the field, where partners of LIFE Multi Peat are working to protect, restore, and monitor peatlands in Germany, Ireland, Poland, Belgium, and the Netherlands. We also included news from other collaborative projects (Peat Pals for LIFE, LIFE PeatCarbon) and upcoming peatland events.

Your Peatland Post Team

THE PEATLAND POST IS HERE MULTI PEAT-EDITION



Peatland News

Partners of the Life Multi Peat project in advocating the CAP's GAEC 2 standard

In April 2025, the partners of the Life Multi Peat project sent a joint position paper to the European Commission, including Agriculture Commissioner Christophe Hansen, on the importance of and need to maintain the environmental standard of the Common Agricultural Policy regarding the protection of wetlands and peatlands (GAEC 2). The project partners expressed their strong concerns about the further simplification of CAP environmental rules, in particular GAEC 2, and about the current lack of incentives for farmers and landowners to rewet degraded peatlands.



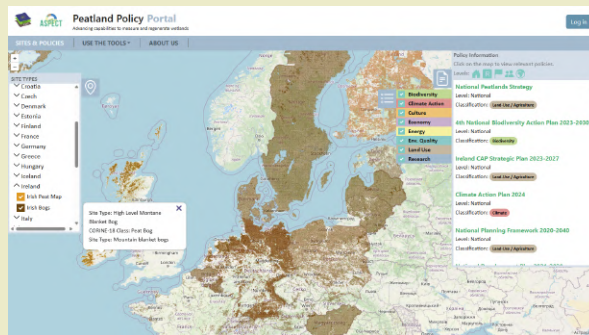
Drained peatlands used for agriculture must be effectively protected from further degradation, and effective mechanisms must be introduced to support their rewetting. This is important both in terms of the need to halt adverse climate change and to ensure the stability of agricultural production and food security.

Read more about it [HERE!](#)

Stakeholder-Informed Development of the Peatland Policy Portal

The Peatland Policy Portal is a public toolkit that showcases and analyses peatlands, restoration projects, and the policies that affect them across all levels of governance. The kinds of tools in the portal range from calculation, to reference, to policy analysis and development, enabling them to aid a diverse collection of users.

In order to ensure that our portal and its tools are as useful and user-friendly as possible, we conducted stakeholder meetings in Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Poland, and the Netherlands in December 2024 and January 2025.



We look forward to sharing our improved portal as we progress through the project, and welcome further feedback in order to continue our user-centered development.

You can access the portal [HERE!](#)

Read more about it [HERE!](#)

The importance of stakeholder engagement in Germany

In late 2024, the LIFE Multi Peat project team organised a one-day workshop in an old granary in the village of Häsen. Having become something of a local institution, the Multi Peat events now spark ever-growing interest from local stakeholders. Representatives from water and nature conservation authorities, regional governments as well as local landowners and users joined the Multi Peat team to hear about and discuss the progress of the restoration project.

The presented results of an experimental ditch blocking effort, started in June 2023. To gain the support and commitment of local farmers, three main drainage ditches in Häsen were closed for test purposes. While we found that two adjustable ditch blocks were quite successful in retaining water in the peatland, the third failed almost entirely to do so, for yet unknown reasons. The planning of additional restoration measures will now constitute the next step towards reaching a full rewetting of the site.



The second part of the workshop centred around the question of alternative land use options.. The concept of “paludiculture”, the agricultural use of wet peatlands, has gained much attention in Central Europe over the past years. To identify the most promising agricultural uses, as well as processing and retailing opportunities on our site in Häsen, a feasibility study was conducted during 2024, with results presented at the workshop.

You can read more [HERE!](#) and the full report can be accessed below.

[Feasibility study on paludiculture \(in German\)](#)

Peat Pals Partners in Flanders: An Introduction to Peatland Restoration in the Valley of the Dommel

Last February, the Peat Pals for LIFE partners visited the valley of the Dommel in Flanders for an in-person implementation meeting. During this meeting, we looked back at the project so far, what lies ahead for 2025, the results of the Theory of Change and its implications for monitoring. To conclude the day, the partners were guided by the Natuurpunt's local volunteers and project coordinator to one of the Flemish pilot sites, the Dommelvalley, while discussing the planned peatland restoration measures for the area. Read more about it [HERE!](#)



Peatlands, Climate and People - a Conversation for a Greener Future held in Germany

On May 22, 2025, the Latvian Embassy in Berlin opened its doors to a unique gathering – a cross-sectoral evening dedicated to one of Europe's most overlooked climate heroes: peatlands. The event, organised by NABU within the framework of the LIFE PeatCarbon project, brought together scientists, policymakers, civil society, and private sector representatives from across Europe to explore one central theme: how restoring peatlands can drive a greener, climate-resilient, and financially viable future.

The evening began with opening remarks by Alda Vanaga, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Germany and Ingo Ammermann (CEO, NABU), featured keynote speeches and panel discussions with Dr. Hans Joosten (Greifswald Mire Centre), Inese Kausa (European Commission), Jānis Ģērmanis (Riga Forest Agency), Frankie Turk (Re-Peat), Ari Pekka Auvinen (Finnish Natural Heritage Foundation) and Anna Uebachs (AECO).



Latvian Ambassador Alda Vanaga emphasized: “Latvia is a green country – we are rich in forests, rivers, and peatlands. We take pride in being one of the European countries with the highest proportion of peatland ecosystems. This is both a privilege and a responsibility. We know that healthy peatlands store carbon, filter water, and support biodiversity. But when they are degraded, they significantly contribute to climate change. We have gathered here today because the climate crisis demands concrete and collective action – and peatland restoration is one of the most effective ways to respond.”

Read more on LIFE PeatCarbon website [HERE!](#)

Peatland Publications



Paludiculture in Europe: Development & Implementation

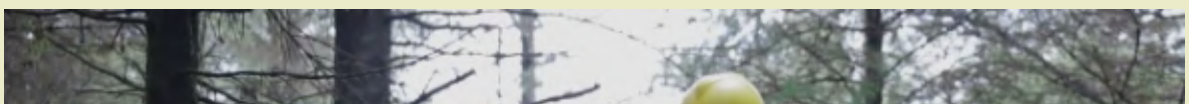
With growing urgency to address greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity loss, and furtherland degradation caused by drained peatlands, paludiculture is gaining attention across Europe as a land use option for agriculturally used, degraded peat soils. However, fragmented political frameworks, the lack of incentives, technical barriers, and the absence of established value chains continue to hinder its large-scale implementation.

This study presents an overview of 47 EU-(co)-funded and other significant projects in European countries with substantial peatland areas. It serves both as a practical reference and a policy-focused analysis, offering insights into enabling conditions and persistent obstacles and implementation challenges across national contexts. Aimed at policymakers, project developers, researchers, and advocacy groups, the report supports ongoing efforts to advance paludiculture by identifying key developments, policy gaps, and lessons learned. It also seeks to inform upcoming strategic processes, especially the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform in 2027.

Read more [HERE!](#)

[Download the report](#)

Peatland Movies





EU LIFE Multi Peat: Galway Wind Park's Atlantic Bog Restoration

While unhealthy peatlands emit more greenhouse gases (GHG) than they absorb, healthy peatlands can sequester carbon from the atmosphere and aid in the fight against climate change. This video details the science behind measuring GHG emissions from peatlands at Galway Wind Park, the Irish site of the EU LIFE Multi Peat project. Professor Terry Morley and ecologist Piaras Ó'Giobúin explain their processes for evaluating the impact of peatland ecotopes, water level, light, soil moisture, and temperature on the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) across three peat-soil site types. Ultimately, this work hopes to demonstrate the potential of carbon reduction by restoring degraded bogs and to inform future peat-soil habitat management plans with its findings.

Peatland Events

EUROPE

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The Future is Wet: Cultivating Change through Wet Farming and Paludiculture

SAVE THE DATE

Provinciehuis Vlaams-Brabant, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven

October 14th, 2025

09.00 - 16.00 CET

Keynote speakers:

Jutta Paulus

Member of the European Parliament, The Greens

Mike Longden

Peatland Programme Technical Lead, Liverpool John Moores University

Gert-Jan Van Duinen

Senior Researcher, Landscape Ecologist

Jan Peters

Managing Director at Michael Succow Foundation

The Future is Wet: Cultivating Change through Wet Farming and Paludiculture

Location: Provinciehuis Vlaams-Brabant, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven; Online

Date: 14th October 2025, 09.00 – 16.00 CET

The event is a collaboration between LIFE Multi Peat and PaluWise projects.

The workshop aims to raise awareness about paludiculture as a sustainable land-use practice, facilitate knowledge exchange among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners, and showcase real-world examples of its implementation. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, the event will highlight the potential of paludiculture to restore peatlands, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create viable economic opportunities for sustainable land management.

In the afternoon there is a field visit to a paludiculture site in Flanders, which is part of the LIFE Multi Peat project. It is located in the Valleï van de Zwarte Beek in the province of Limburg.

Download the flyer with the event details [HERE!](#)



Peatland Perspectives - restoring for tomorrow

international Symposium: Peatland Perspectives - restoring for tomorrow

Location: Provincial Government Building, Luttenbergstraat 2 in Zwolle

Date: 8-10 October 2025, 09.00 – 17.00 CET

Healthy peatlands are crucial to counteract the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. However, they are under great pressure all over the world. Their numbers and condition are declining sharply. The international symposium Peatland Perspectives - restoring for tomorrow will address the greatest challenges and opportunities for European peatland conservation and restoration for public bodies, policymakers, specialists and managers

Read more about the symposium [HERE!](#)



Eurosita Annual Meeting 2025

Nature supports all life on earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet – and people. We are halfway through the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Time flies! Where do we stand in terms of nature restoration, climate resilience, and people's health? Join Eurosita in exploring this question at its annual conference, this year in Lithuania, under the slogan 'Restoring Nature, Reviving Communities: A United Vision for European Biodiversity'.

Read more about the Eurosita Annual Meeting [HERE!](#)

As part of the Eurosita Annual Meeting, we also organise the workshop „**Peatlands as natural carbon sinks. Practical implementation and requirements for CAP measures**”. It will focus on how to scale-up rewetting of peatlands in agricultural landscapes. Best practice examples focusing on wet agriculture and paludiculture, from different European countries, will be shown. How can the Common Agricultural Policy support farming on high water peatlands, and how can pan-European cooperation trigger large-scale change in Europe, reinforcing the vital role of peatlands? This workshop is organised together with Landcare Europe and Eurosita's partners in the EUKI project "Building the European Peatlands Initiative". The projects "Building the European Peatlands Initiative: a strong alliance for peatland climate protection in Europe" and "Landcare Europe Captures Carbon - Supporting Natural Climate Protection in Agricultural Landscapes" are part of the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN).

Read more about the workshop on the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) website [HERE!](#)

REGISTER: EUROSITA ANNUAL MEETING 2025



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Eurosite - the European Land Conservation Network, Hart van Brabantlaan 12-14, 5038 JL, Tilburg, Netherlands

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Wysłano dzięki:

