

WELCOME

Wetlands *in action*

SESSION 5

From Policy to Practice: Unlocking Wetland Restoration through Markets, Regulation and Communities

April 21st, 2026

10:00-11:30 (CEST)

Online

Speakers:

Mark Reed | Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) - WET HORIZONS

Caspar Verwer | International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Netherlands - REWET

Jan Peters | Michael Succow Foundation - ALFAwetlands

Mar Otero Villanueva | Universidad de Málaga - RESTORE4Cs

Emmi Haltia | Natural Resources Institute Finland - ALFAwetlands



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BASIC WEBINAR RULES



Please note that this session is being recorded and will be accessible via the Sister Projects' communication channels.



Use the **Q&A box** to post your **questions and comments**.



If you have any **technical issues**, please contact the host privately via chat.



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- Hub for wetlands restoration exchange (LinkedIn group)
- 4 Sister Projects admins
- Automatic joining



Wetlands Restoration

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WEBINAR AGENDA

- 10:00–10:05 – Introduction | **Maria Camara**, [REWET](#)
- 10:05–10:20 – Presentation + 5 min Q&A | **Casper Verwer**, [REWET](#)
- 10:20–10:35 – Presentation + 5 min Q&A | **Mark Reed**, [WETHORIZONS](#)
- 10:35–10:50 – Presentation + 5 min Q&A | **Jan Peters & Emmi Haltia**, [ALFAwetlands](#)
- 10:50–11:05 – Presentation + 5 min Q&A | **Mar Otero Villanueva**, [Restore4Cs](#)
- 11:05–11:20 – Wrap-up, next session announcement | **Maria Camara**, [REWET](#)
Final feedback questionnaire | **Iryna Shchoka**, [ALFAwetlands](#)



From Regulation to Recovery

Policy-Guidance for Scaling Wetland Restoration in Europe

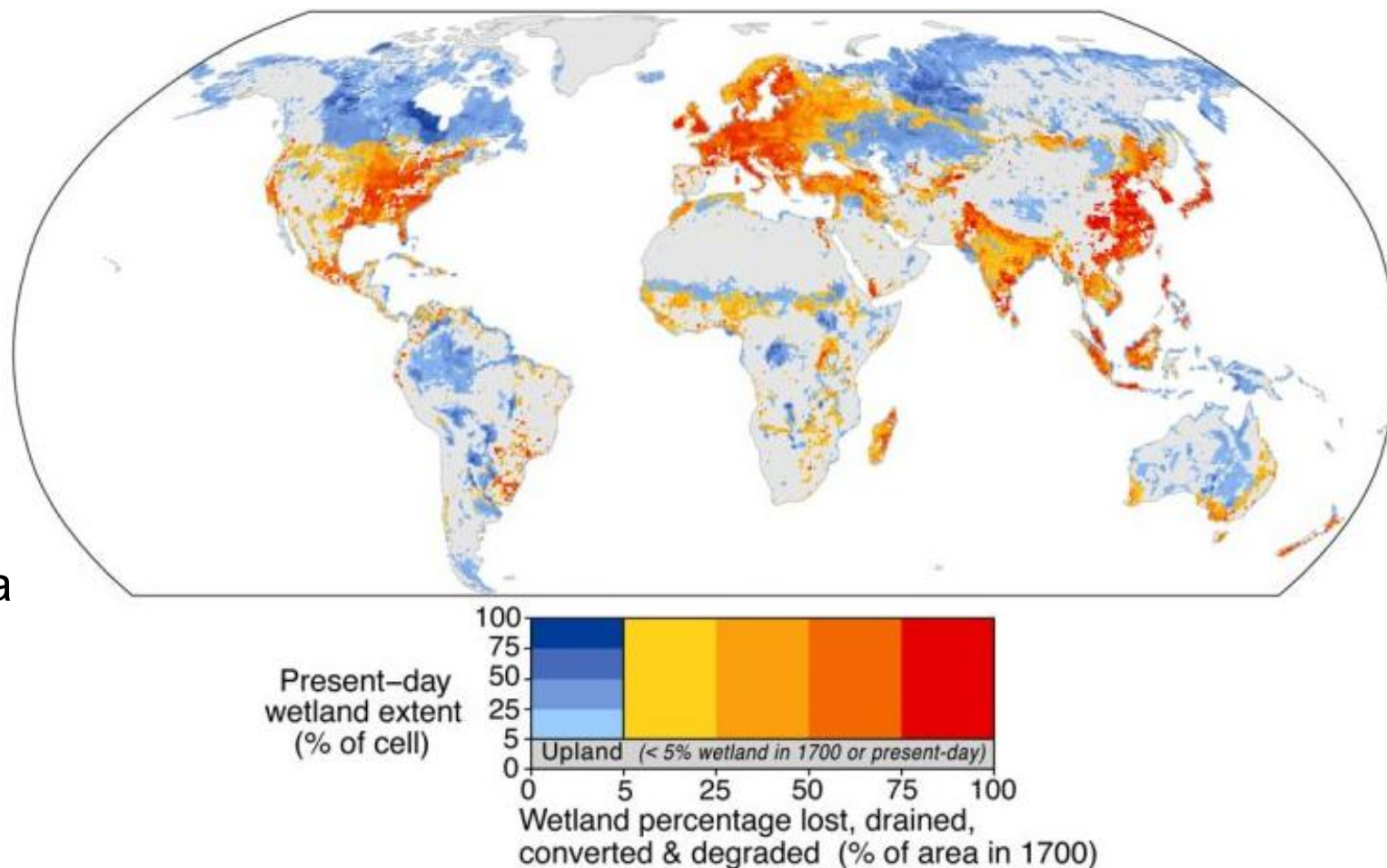
Caspar Verwer
REWET partner IUCN NL



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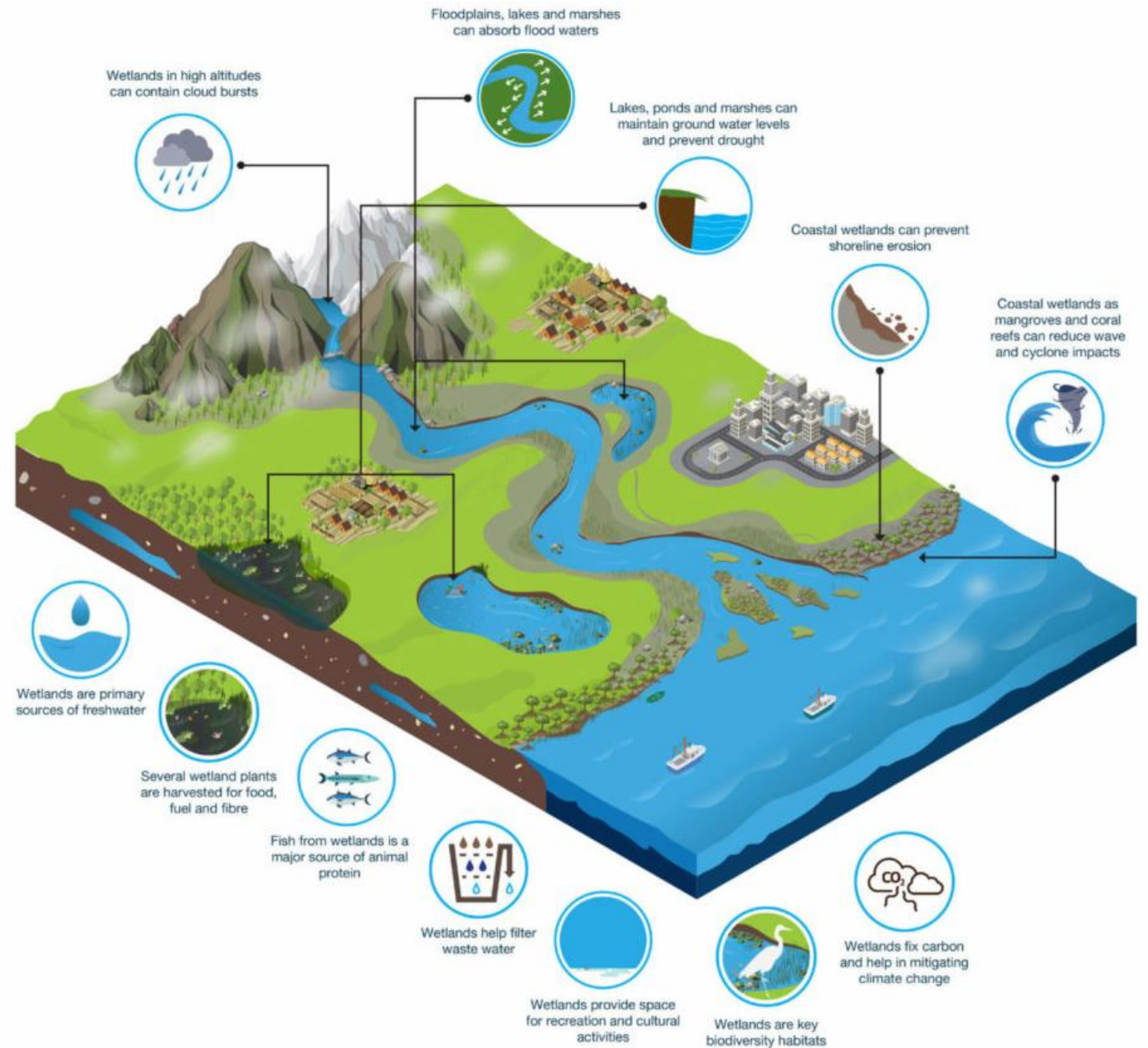
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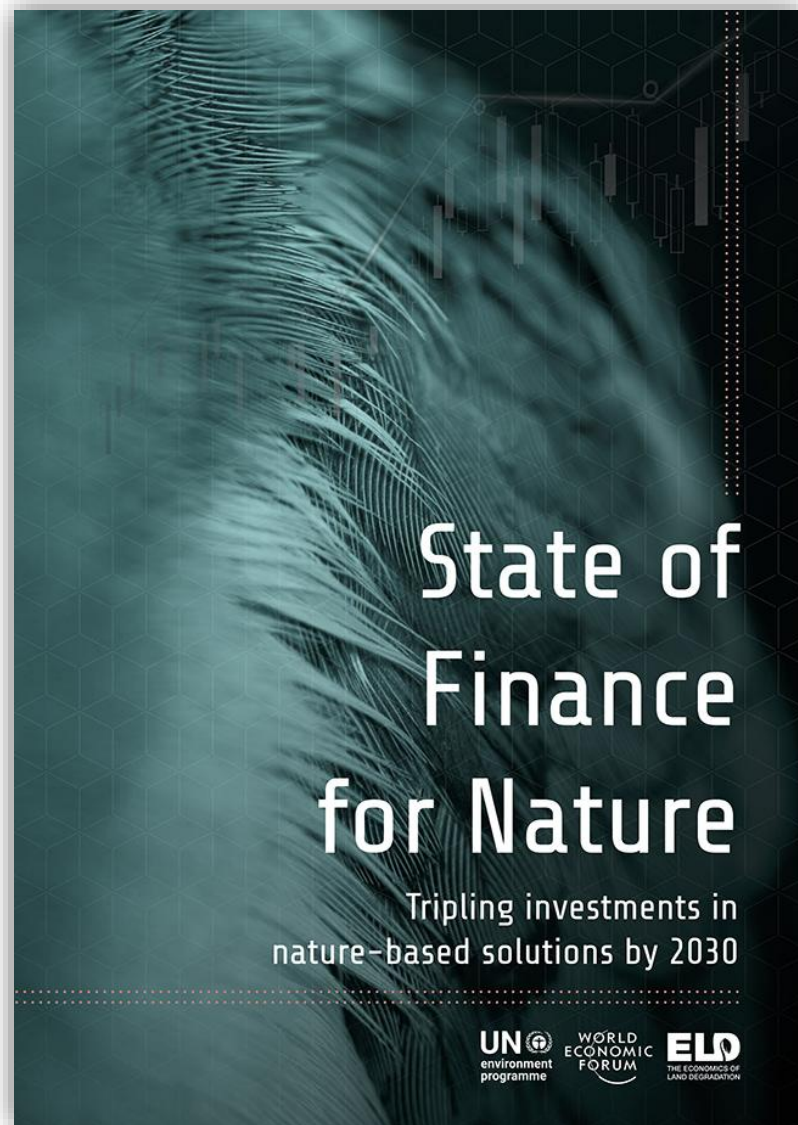
- Over the past 300 years an estimated 20% of global wetlands have been destroyed.
- Europe, was the worst affected area, with Ireland losing more than 90% of its wetlands, Germany, Lithuania and Hungary more than 80% and the UK, the Netherlands and Italy more than 75%.



[Extensive global wetland loss over the past three centuries | Nature](#)

- Loss of invaluable **ecosystem services**
- Leading to increased environmental challenges and **rising societal costs**
- Wetland restoration requires short-term investments but will likely save societal costs in the long-term





Investments in nature-based solutions must at least triple by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 to meet climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation targets”

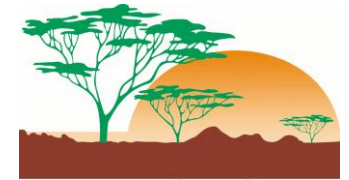
Global Policies



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



unesco
World Heritage Convention



UNCCD



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

Policies relevant to wetlands

Biodiversity strategy
Protect nature & reverse the degradation of ecosystems

Nature Restoration Regulation
Restore 30% of land and sea areas by 2030

Birds and Habitats Directive
Favor conservation status of >100 species and 230 habitat types



Carbon Removal Certification Framework
Scale up carbon removal activities

Regulation on LULUCF
EU-level carbon removal target of 310Mt CO2eq in 2030

Water Framework Directive
Good chemical and ecological status of all water bodies by 2027

Methane strategy
slash CH₄ emissions by 30% by 2030

Climate Law
cut GHG emissions by 55% in 2030

Soil strategy
All EU soils in healthy state by 2050

Common Agricultural Policy

Nitrates Directive
Reduce nitrates pollution from agriculture

Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience
Make sustainable soil management the norm

Farm to fork strategy
Accelerate transition to a sustainable food system

Regulation on Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products

Omnibus deregulation agenda???


REWET

- GHG emissions in freshwater wetlands under restoration
 - How to restore them maximizing climate change mitigation?
- Socio-economic and political context
 - What have been the main barriers and success factors?
 - Can we identify clear pathways to successful scale up of restoration?



Open lab 1:
 Weerribben Wieden National Park


Open lab 2:
 Morava River

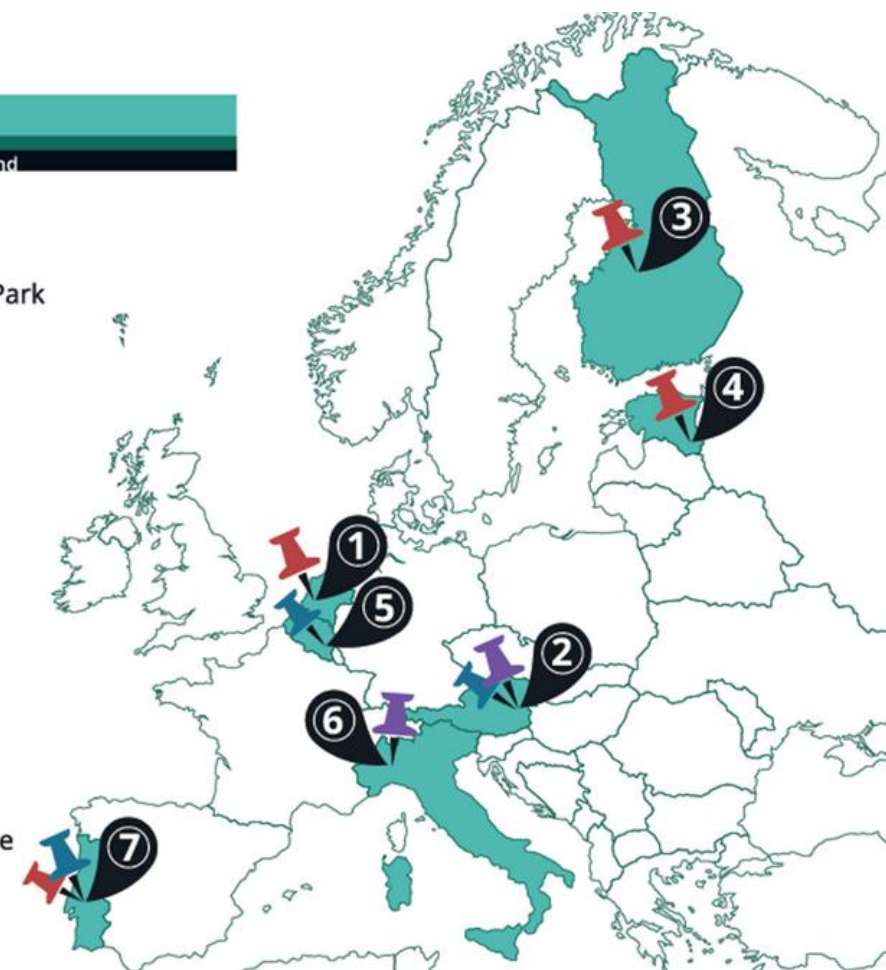
Open lab 3:
 Ylpässuo, Kiuruvesi

Open lab 4:
 Ess-soo

Open lab 5:
 River Bêche

Open lab 6:
 Gussola oxbow lake, Po Grande

Open lab 7:
 Paul da Gouxa



Barriers to scale up wetland restoration



Structural barriers:

- Limited or weak national vision and strategy for wetland restoration
- Lack of legal protection of wetlands
- Dominance of conflicting land uses that require drainage
- Limited awareness of benefits and potential of wetland restoration
- Land ownership situation often hinders landscape scale measures
- Lack of unequivocal messaging about the impact of rewetting

Political barriers:

- No clear quantitative targets for restoration
- Lack of inclusion of wetlands / hydrology in spatial and sectoral policies
- Conflicting & incoherent policies
- Lack of political will and priority
- EU deregulation agenda
- Poor implementation / enforcement of EU Directives

Economic barriers:

- Loss of business models for conventional agriculture and forestry
- Limited financial means for implementing restoration at scale
- Limited markets for sustainable business alternatives > high financial risk
- High costs investment cost of transforming conventional to wet agriculture

Social & cultural barriers:

- Strong historical cultural profiling of wetlands as 'wasteland' in some MS
- Social and cultural value of drainage-based models

REWET Open Lab – Kiersche Wijde West (NL)

Location & context

- ~100 ha, mosaic of fen meadows, marshes, open water & bog woodland.
- Within bufferzone of Weerribben-Wieden NP (10,000 ha N2000 site) - Landscape shaped by peat extraction & reed harvesting
- Former agricultural grassland → high soil nutrients (P) & low groundwater levels





Restoration measures

- Peat pit excavation → restore aquatic habitats
- reduce soil nutrients by mowing + biomass removal
- Water level management (higher summer groundwater)
- Transplantation of fen vegetation

→ **wetland species are returning and overall GHG emissions reduced**



1995



2002



Key obstacles

- Land scarcity
- Political reluctance & weak implementation of WFD
- Hydrological restoration requires large-scale coordination
- Subsidies focus on small plots
- Fragmented land ownership + long timelines for land acquisition
- Voluntary schemes insufficient
- Lack of incentives for nature-friendly farming & paludiculture and new markets



© Thünen-Institut/Bärbel Tiemeyer

Key success factors

- “Wetter is better”: restoring hydrology + reducing nutrients is essential
- Large-scale hydrological restoration & buffer zones proved effective
- Landscape scale cooperation

Lessons

- Stronger national regulation (nutrients, water levels), implementation & enforcement would help a lot
- Smart to align restoration with water safety goals
- Trade-offs remain (e.g. methane emissions vs biodiversity gains)

REWET case study: Ylpässuo (FI)

Location & context

- ~139 ha mosaic landscape with forested islets and open mires (peat depth ~1.7 m, short growing season, long snow cover)
- habitat of endangered plant & animal species, partially protected since 2020 (Helmi Habitats programme)
- Surrounded by drained forestry plots → drying (especially edges), shrub & tree encroachment in peripheral zones.



Restoration measures

- Cessation of drainage activities + passive rewetting through natural hydrological recovery
- Strict protection: no harmful land-use practices allowed

Results

- Core areas seem well conserved. Drainage still affects edges.
- Peatland acts as carbon sink during growing season.
- Biodiversity is recovering and public support grew





Key obstacles

- Conflict with commercial forestry depending on intensive drainage
- Diverse land ownership poses a challenge to scale up rewetting
- Available funding doesn't match the scale of restoration measures needed
- Lack of concrete, area-based biodiversity targets

Key success factors

- Strong emphasis on early, inclusive participation
- Use of passive restoration as cost effective scalable method
- Strong national coordination through Helmi Habitats Programme, using spatial prioritisation
- Helmi Habitats and the LIFE Biodiversity Project provided technical and financial backing, reinforcing trust and practical feasibility
- Growing societal awareness through scientific monitoring and visibility of results
- Multi-actor collaboration across governance levels



REWET Open Lab: Paul da Gouxa (P)



Location & context

- 140 ha recently protected inland peatland
- Priority EU habitat “Bog woodland” (91D0) with willow groves and reed beds
- Strong ecological value (e.g. habitat protection, Sorraia horse population)
- 75% private property (Quinta da Atela), 25% public domain (Câmara Municipal de Alpiarça)
- Public Water Domain



Restoration measures

- Removal of invasive species and site clean-up
- Hydrological and landscape restoration (soil reprofiling, bank reshaping / stabilization using natural materials)
- Tree planting with local species, genetically sourced (575 plants, 12 species adapted to wet/dry zones)



Key obstacles

- Long history of land-use pressures (drainage, sand extraction, pollution, intensive farming, disturbance)
- Invasive species (e.g. *Arundo donax*)
- Conflicting land uses incompatible with conservation objectives
- Limited water basin level governance





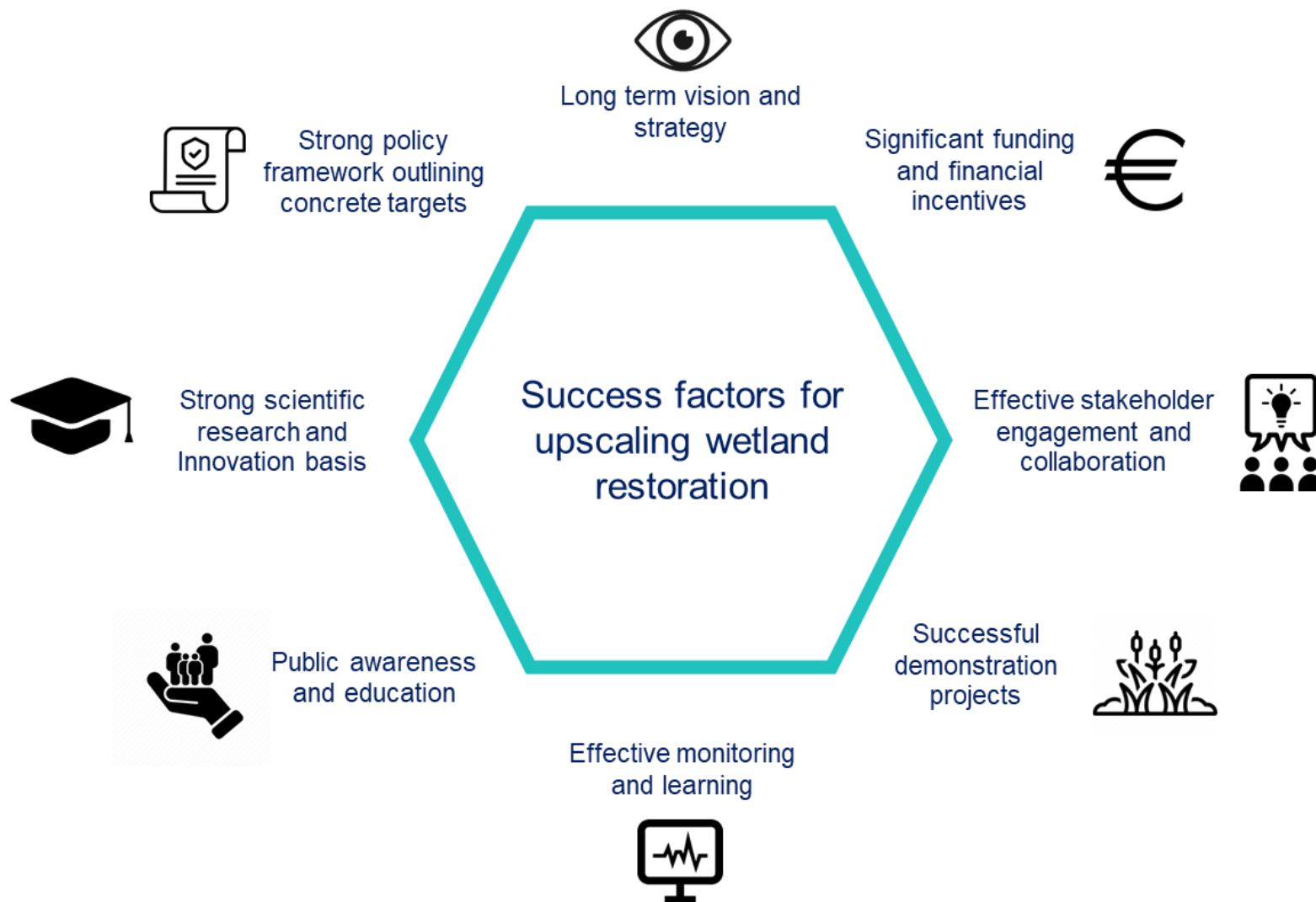
Results so far

- Re-establishment of wetland vegetation and improved habitat structure
- Stabilised banks and enhanced hydrological functioning
- Creation of a multi-functional landscape (restoration + sustainable use)
- However, site still appears to be net GHG source.

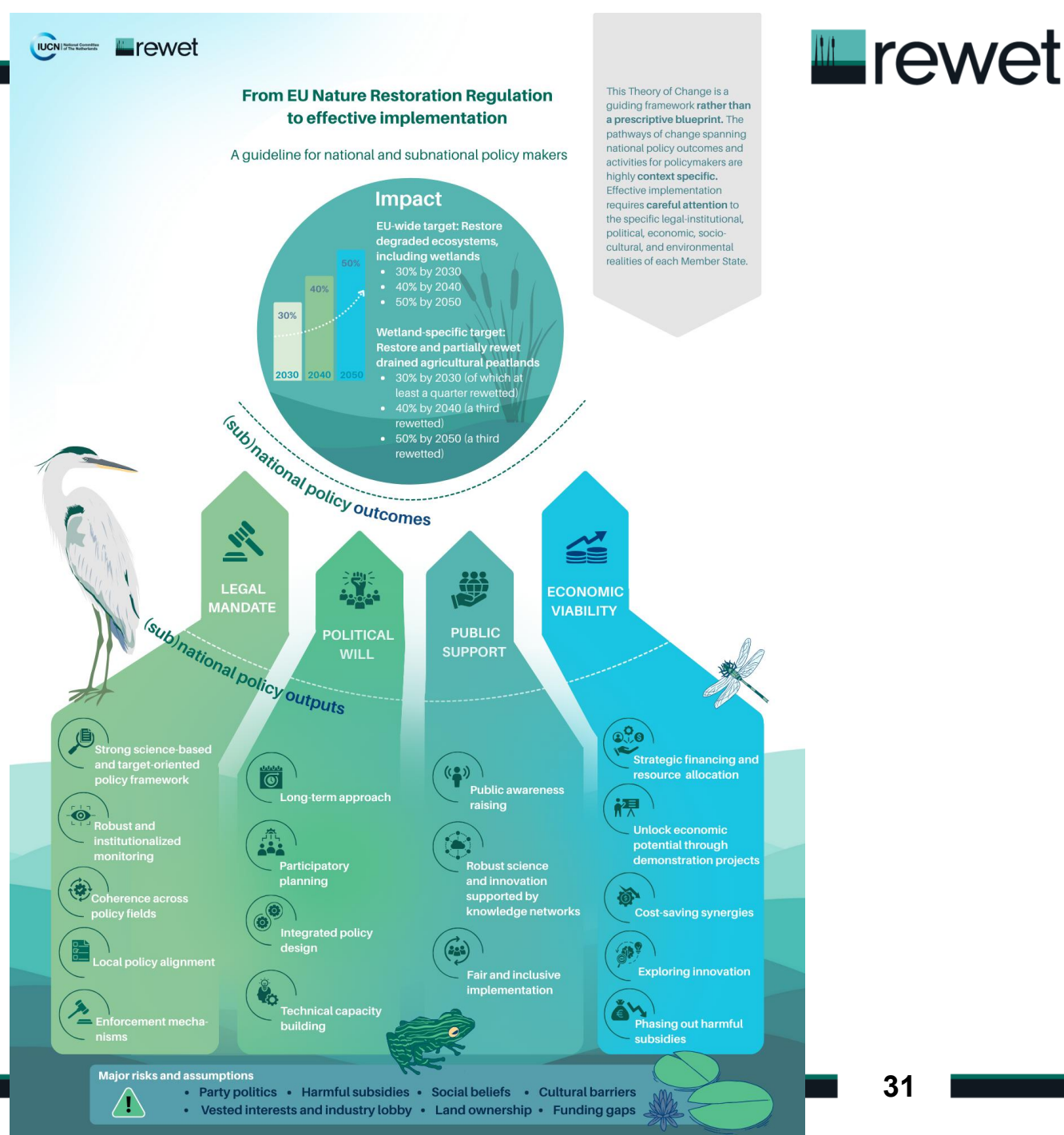
Key success factors

- EU funds enabled restoration and stakeholder engagement
- Combination of conservation with sustainable economic uses (e.g. reed production, grazing, tourism development) > diverse income streams
- Formal government support for creation of a protected area
- Long-term restoration perspective (20+ years)
- Integrated restoration approach (ecology + engineering + land use)
- Use of locally adapted species and nature-based techniques

- Restoration is nonlinear, adaptive, and context specific.
- Restoring wetlands will require **strong international and national incentives** that enable to break with business as usual.
- Wetland degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss must be seen as **an integral part of other policies** like trade, finance, energy, water, agriculture, infrastructure and spatial planning.



Pathways for translating the NRR into effective wetland restoration: A Theory of Change



COORDINATOR



PARTICIPANTS

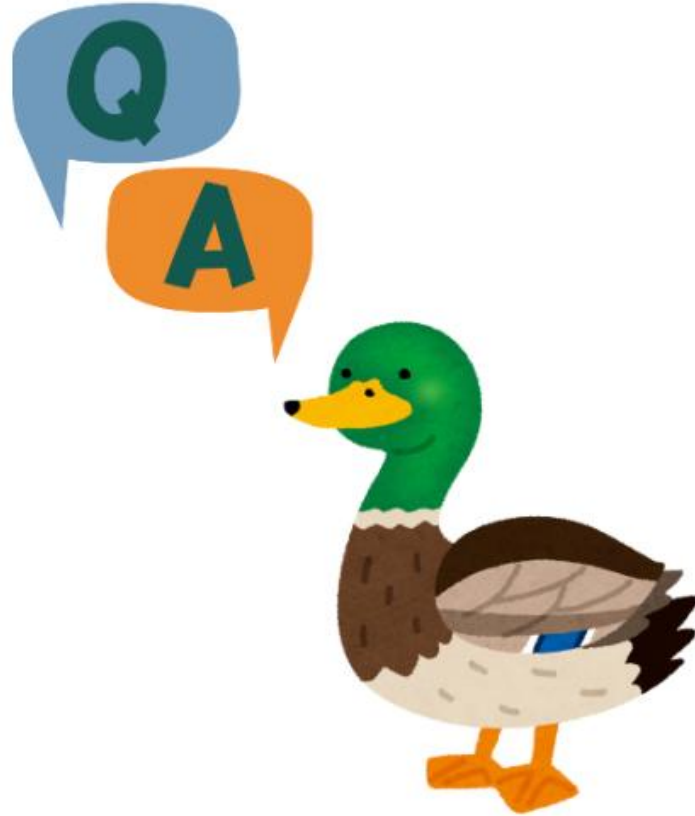


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Q & A - 5 MINUTES



Financing peatland restoration through high-integrity nature markets in Europe

Mark Reed | Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Pilar Perez | Wetlands International



Why peatland finance is now a policy problem

- Peatlands are central to climate and restoration goals, but public budgets are not enough.
- Supply chains linked to drained peatlands face high Scope 3 emissions and few credible reduction routes.
- Nature markets remain contested because integrity and greenwashing risks remain unresolved.
- Financial, practical and cultural barriers still limit uptake.
- Weak engagement and local benefit can undermine social licence.

Implication

Scaling restoration now requires a broader toolkit that combines regulation, public funding, private finance and local legitimacy.

The policy window in Europe is opening



The opportunity is real, but private finance will not substitute for public funding or regulation. Policy design now needs to shape where markets add value, where claims are allowed and how restoration benefits nearby communities.

What the research shows

- High-integrity carbon, biodiversity and water markets can scale restoration without major extra cost to taxpayers.
 - Blended finance can derisk projects and attract private capital.
 - Land-emissions pricing and similar signals could shift behaviour towards restoration.
- Market, subsidy and claims design strongly affect adoption.
 - Peatland restoration can support supply-chain decarbonisation, not only offsetting.
 - Engagement and community benefit materially affect legitimacy.

What high-integrity peatland finance requires

Environmental integrity

Robust baselines, additionality, permanence, leakage control and strong MRV.

Honest claims

Clear separation of removals, avoided emissions and wider restoration outcomes.

Blended finance

Grants, private capital and risk-sharing instruments used for different functions.

Adoption pathways

Policy design and communication should reflect how land managers actually decide.

Community benefit

Early participation, local priorities and fair benefit-sharing arrangements.

Integrity is not only ecological. It is also social, financial and communicative.

Priorities for EU institutions

- Create a clear CRCF route for peatland rewetting and soil emission reductions.
- Link public funding, private finance and certified outcomes to national restoration plans.
- Tighten rules on environmental claims so market demand does not outpace integrity.
- Recognise peatland restoration as a credible in-value-chain decarbonisation route.
- Create EU-level blended finance tools and shared MRV infrastructure.
- Examine stronger price signals for drained peatland emissions.

EU added value

Reduce market fragmentation

Shape credible claims and reporting

Lower transaction costs across Member States

Priorities for national policy makers

- Build national peatland finance strategies that combine grants, markets and regulation.
- Reform land-use incentives so support no longer rewards drainage.
- Use pilot projects and blended finance to test revenue stacking where accounting is robust.
- Support supply-chain partnerships in sectors exposed to peat-related Scope 3 emissions.
- Invest in advice, transition support and demonstration.
- Require meaningful community engagement and local benefit.



A just transition depends on visible local benefit as well as carbon outcomes.

Scale

Use markets to complement, not replace, public funding.

Integrity

Align standards, claims and MRV before demand expands.

Legitimacy

Treat participation and local benefit as core design features.

Policies can make peatland restoration investable, credible and locally acceptable

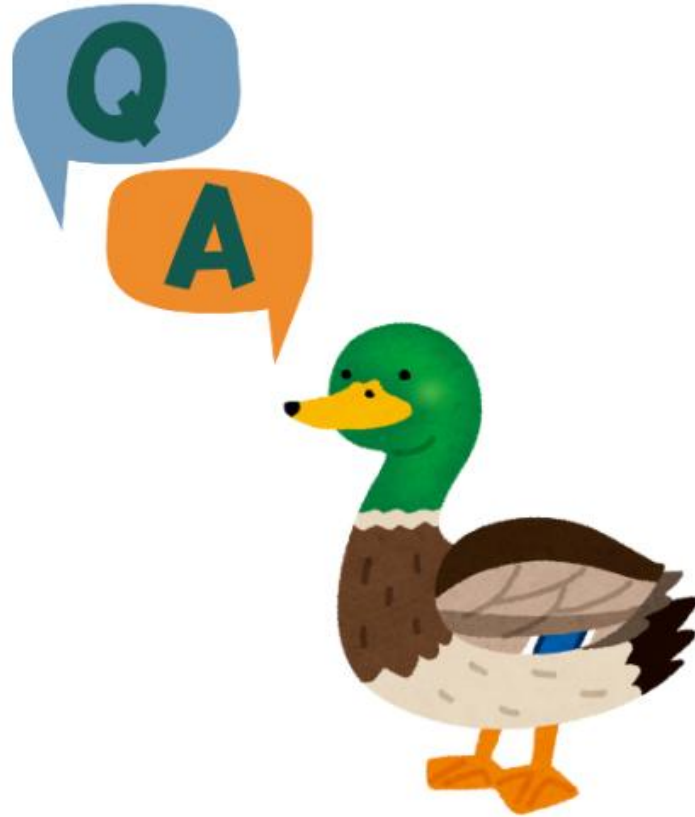
Thank you

Contact
mark.reed@sruc.ac.uk

WET HORIZONS | Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)



Q & A - 5 MINUTES



Nature Restoration Regulation

The political mandate for the restoration of wetlands in Europe – on knowledge, barriers & enablers

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**Succow
Stiftung**



Partner im

**GREIFSWALD
MOOR
CENTRUM**



Jan Peters



Marie Lorenz



Emmi Haltia



Agenda

§

NRR – a short recap

Knowledge – political mandate & scientific base

Barriers – legal & socio-economic

Landowner & citizen survey

Enablers – collaborative & economic

§ Political mandate: What the regulation requires



Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) in a nutshell

- Entered into force: 2024
- First EU law 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 **wetlands, peatlands, rivers, and coastal systems**
- Member States must submit National Restoration Plans (by Sept. 2026)

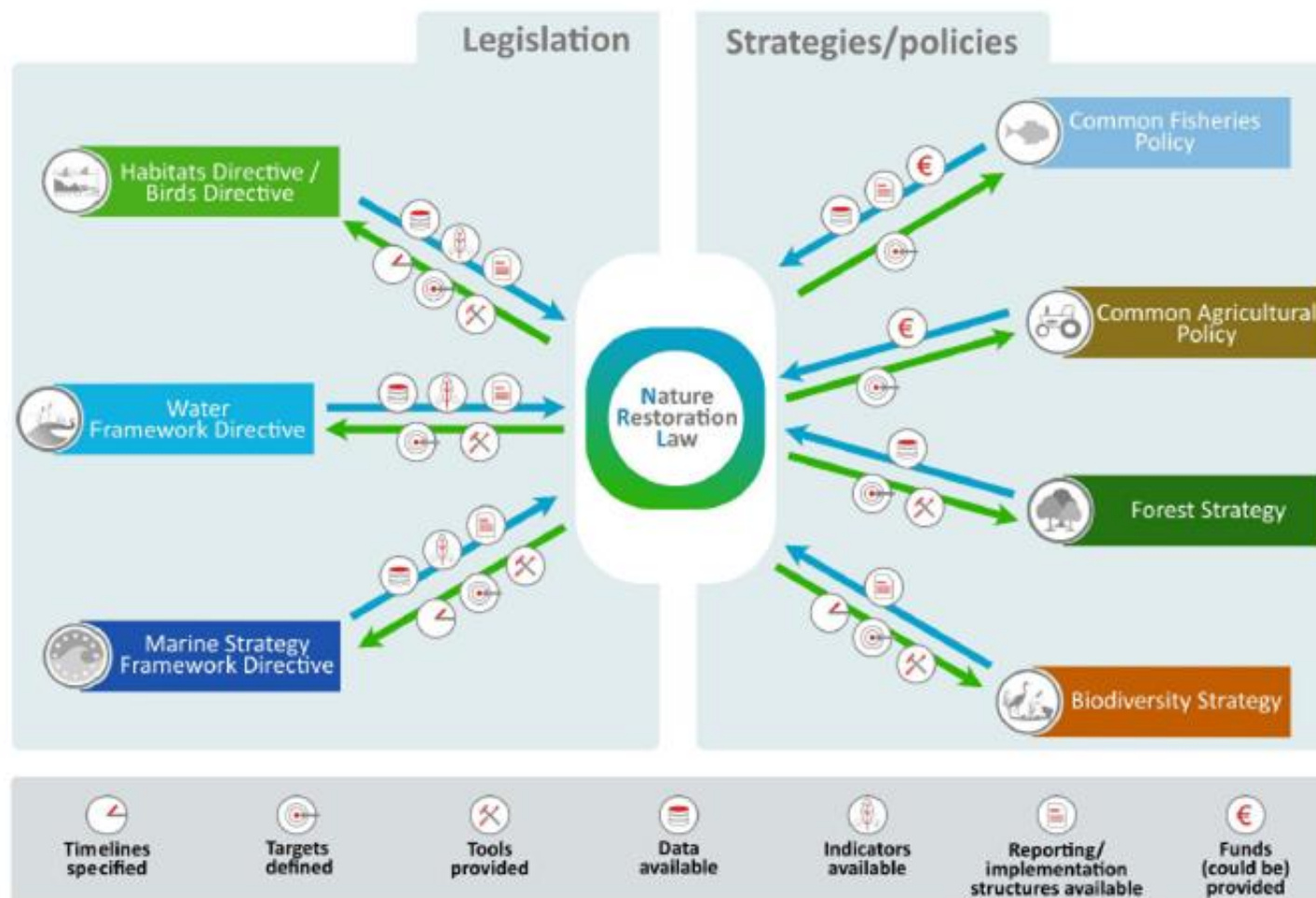


Peatlands in EU Nature Restoration Regulation

- **Restoration of habitats (Art. 4.1)** includes 28 wetland habitat types listed in the EU Habitats Directive
- **Peatlands under agricultural use (Art. 11.4):** 30 % by 2030 restored, ¼ rewetted; 40 % by 2040 restored, ⅓ rewetted; 50 % by 2050 restored, ⅓ rewetted
- **Paludiculture** recognized as restoration measure
- **Count activities on other land uses** like peat extraction, forestry etc. towards targets



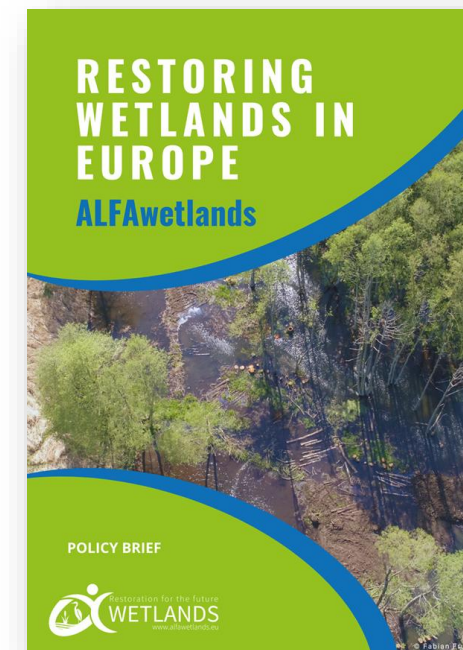
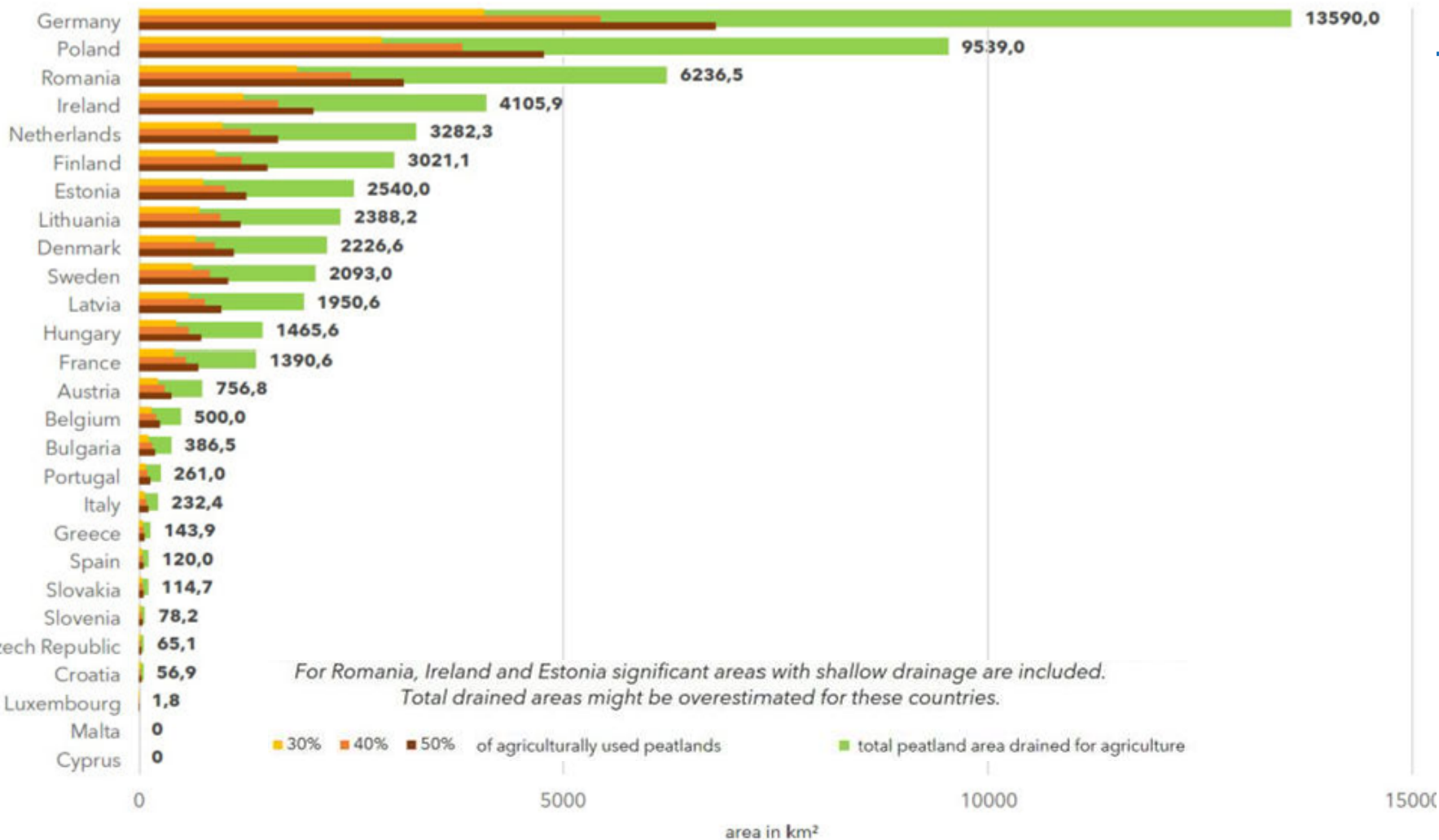
Legal Framework in EU context



Relation between NRR & other European environmental legislations, strategies and policies

Daniel Hering et al. (2023):
 Science; DOI:
 10.1126/science.adk1658

Restoration goals for agriculturally used peatlands (NRR, Art. 11.4)



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

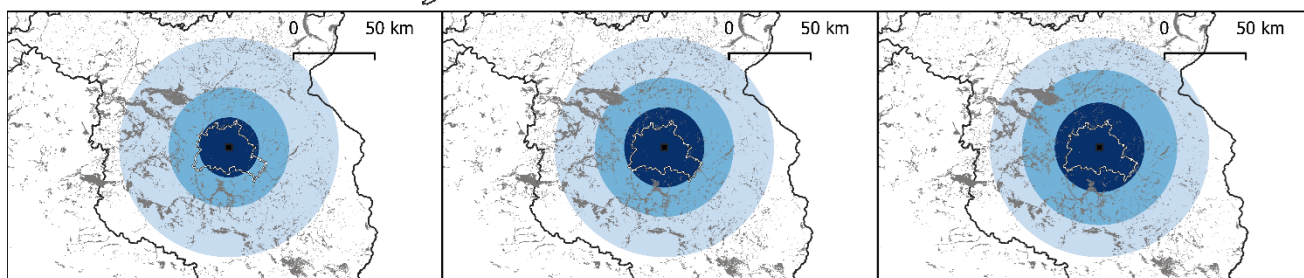


Germany

Agriculturally used organic soils in need of restoration and rewetting measurements according to Article 11.4, Nature Restoration Law.

The total area of drainage-based agriculturally used organic soils in Germany corresponds actually to the size of the blue circle, in total 1,359,000 ha

■ peatland/organic soil distribution



restoration goal 2030

■ restored ≈ 428,5220 ha
■ rewetted ≈ 107,130 ha

restoration goal 2040

■ restored ≈ 571,363 ha
■ rewetted ≈ 190,454 ha

restoration goal 2050

■ restored ≈ 714,204 ha
■ rewetted ≈ 238,068 ha

Restoration goals for agricultural peatlands in Germany

Distribution of peatlands in Germany and a schematic illustration of the size of peatland area affected by NRL goals in Germany, compared to the size of Berlin


(own compilation GMC, based on Global Peatland Database, September 2024)

Knowledge base

Strong scientific foundation

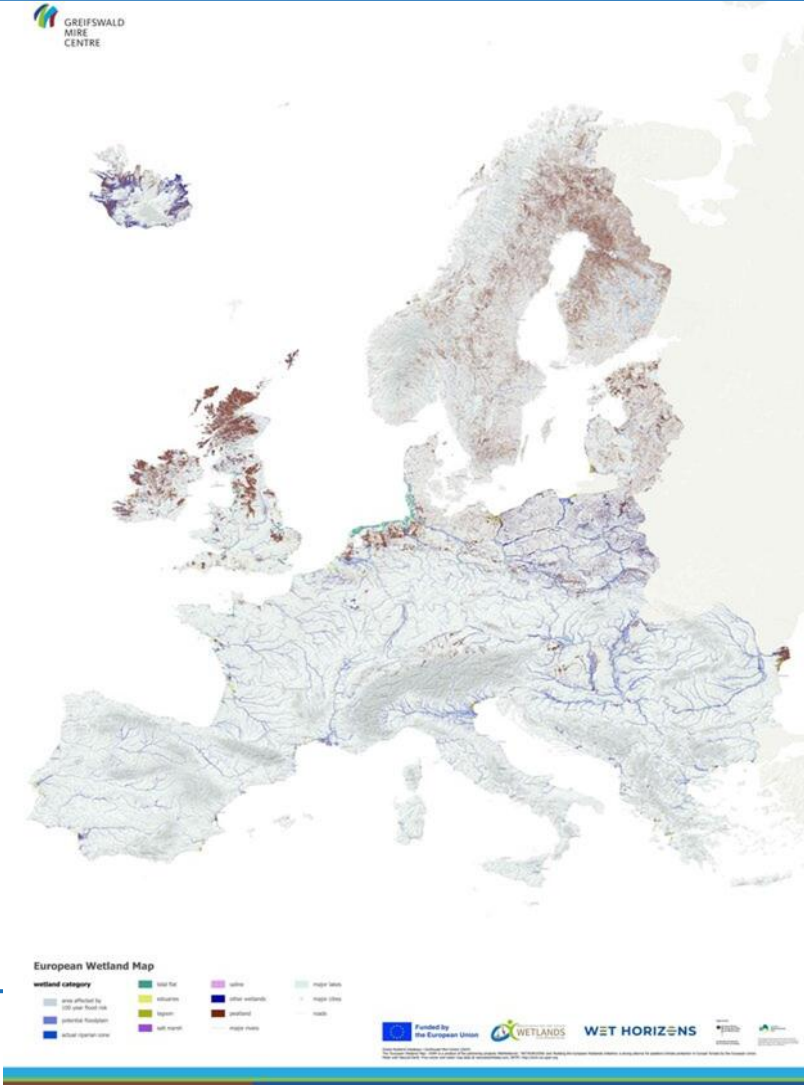
- Well-understood wetland ecology
- Proven restoration techniques
- Nature-based solutions (NbS) framework

Advances

- Spatial mapping & monitoring tools  European Wetlands Map
- Decision-support systems (DSS)
- Integrated socio-ecological data for stakeholder engagement

Remaining knowledge gaps

- Long-term restoration impact
- Site-specific effectiveness
- Scaling from pilot → landscape level
- Socio-economic trade-offs



Key challenges & legal barriers: Aligning legal frameworks to enable large-scale restoration



Citizen & Landowner surveys

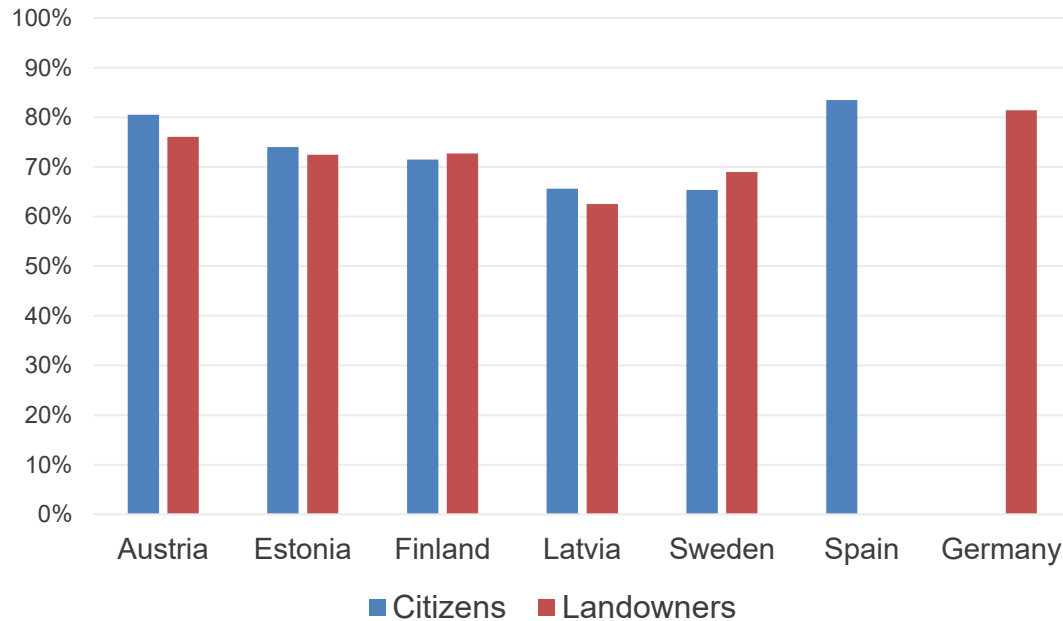
- Citizen survey: Data collection in May-June 2025
- Landowner survey: Data collection January-February 2026
- Online surveys distributed by polling company Bilendi
 - Screening question in the landowner survey: *Do you own land or manage land owned by someone else? For example, agricultural, forestry or idle land of at least one hectare.*
- Surveys included sections for:
 - respondent characteristics
 - attitudes towards restoration
 - knowledge on restoration
 - citizens: WTP for wetland restoration programme
 - landowners: WTA for wetland restoration activities

| | Citizens | Landowners |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Austria | 811 | 295 |
| Estonia | 809 | 233 |
| Finland | 807 | 499 |
| Germany | - | 453 |
| Latvia | 896 | 243 |
| Spain | 817 | - |
| Sweden | 806 | 454 |
| Total | 4946 | 2177 |

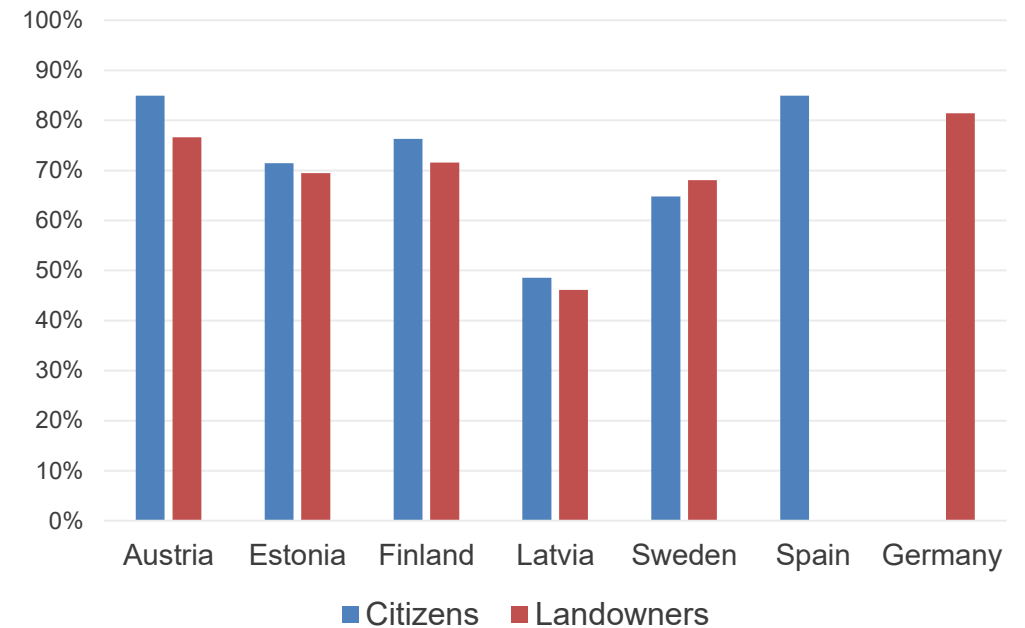
Is restoration necessary? Is it beneficial?



Wetland restoration is necessary.



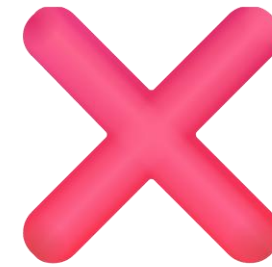
Wetland restoration is beneficial.



% of respondents who agree or somewhat agree with the statement (1-5 Likert scale)

Barriers

- High costs, economic risk
- Loss of income or land-use flexibility
- Bureaucracy and legal uncertainty
- Fear of coercion or permanent restrictions
- Lack of trust and perceived ideological pressure



Open question in the end of the landowner survey: *If you wish, you may add to your answers or share your thoughts on restoration. All ideas are welcome and appreciated. n=438 (2177)*

Enablers

- Voluntary participation & respect for property rights
- Fair and predictable compensation (covers costs and income loss)
- Local, site-specific solutions instead of one-size-fits-all
- Trust-based cooperation with authorities and experts
- Clear, science-based information and practical support



From practice to policy to practice



New funding scheme for peatland restoration launched in Germany last week as major enabler: € bn 1.75 till 2029 from Federal Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity (national funds)



Commission approves €1.3 billion German State aid scheme for rewetting of farmed peatlands

Neues Förderprogramm leitet Trendwende ein im Umgang mit Mooren in Deutschland

17.04.2026

© BMUKN/ Sascha Hilgers






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Michael Succow Foundation

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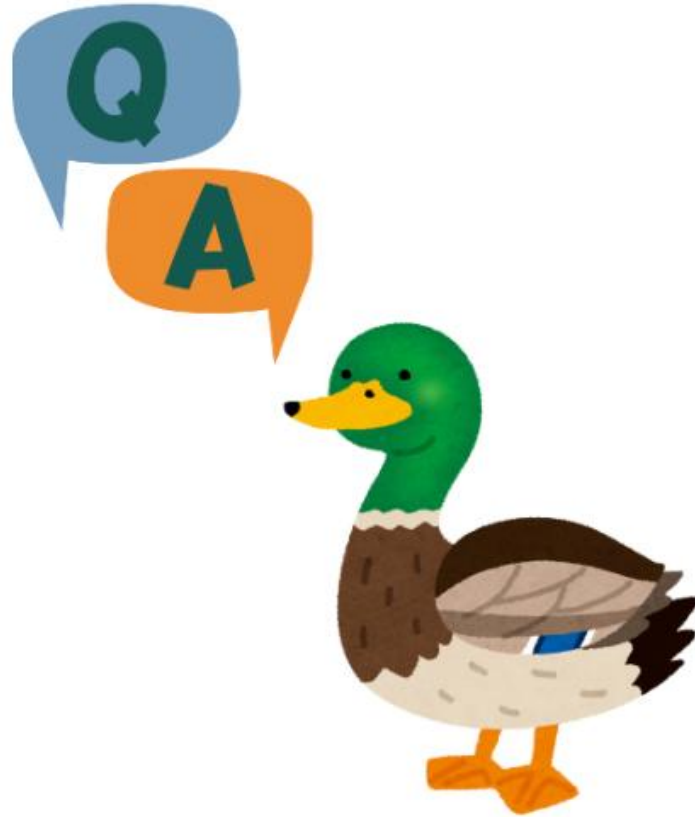
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**Natural Resources Institute
Finland**

www.luke.fi

Q & A - 5 MINUTES



Webinar From Policy to practice: Unlocking Wetland restoration through Markets, Regulation and Communities

Governing the Tide: A Policy Roadmap for Europe's Coastal Wetlands

Mar Otero (European Topic Center-
University of Malaga)



OBJECTIVES

- 1. Assess the extent to which EU and national policies support wetland restoration** and delivery of key ecosystem services
- 2. Identify needs for data, information systems, methods and tools** of decision-makers and practitioners to implement policy targets for wetland restoration
- 3. Synthesise key project insights** for decision-makers and practitioners
- 4. Develop guidance to assist national authorities and practitioners on the use of RESTORE4Cs methods and tools** to address key policy targets

STRATEGY

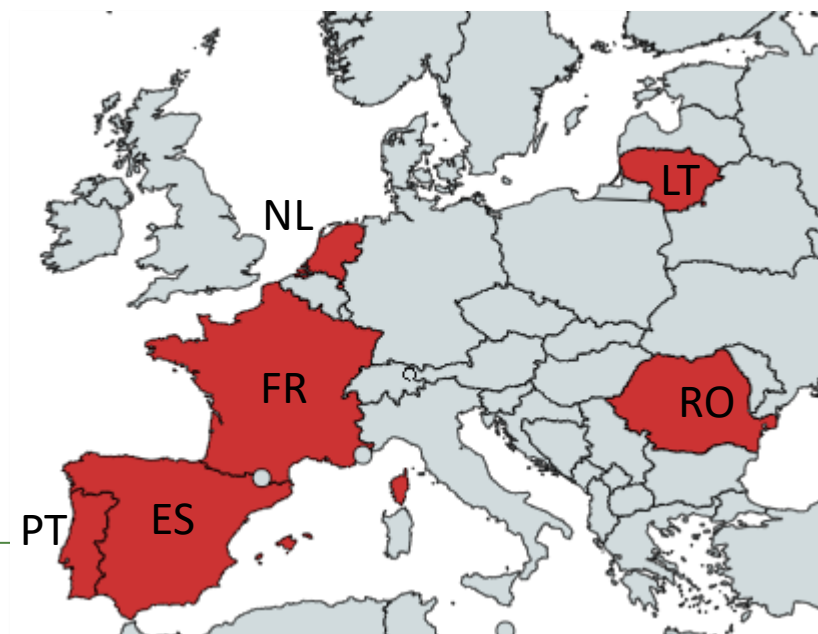
1. Inventory and analysis of policies which are relevant to European coastal wetland restoration and conservation at EU, international, and national levels
2. End-user needs assessment with online surveys and end-user workshops and indicator framework to monitor policy targets
3. Policy Briefs and EU Assessment of Coastal Wetlands with Information and Decision support tools
4. Implementation roadmap on coastal wetland restoration with EU principles and “test” for two focus regions

► **Inventory EU, international and national policies** on coastal wetland restoration & conservation

27 EU & international policies which address wetlands

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nature/Biodiversity [7] | Climate [5] |
| Regional sea conventions [3] | Marine/Coastal [2] |
| Water [3] | Pollution/quality [2] |
| Agriculture/soil [2] | Cross-cutting [3] |

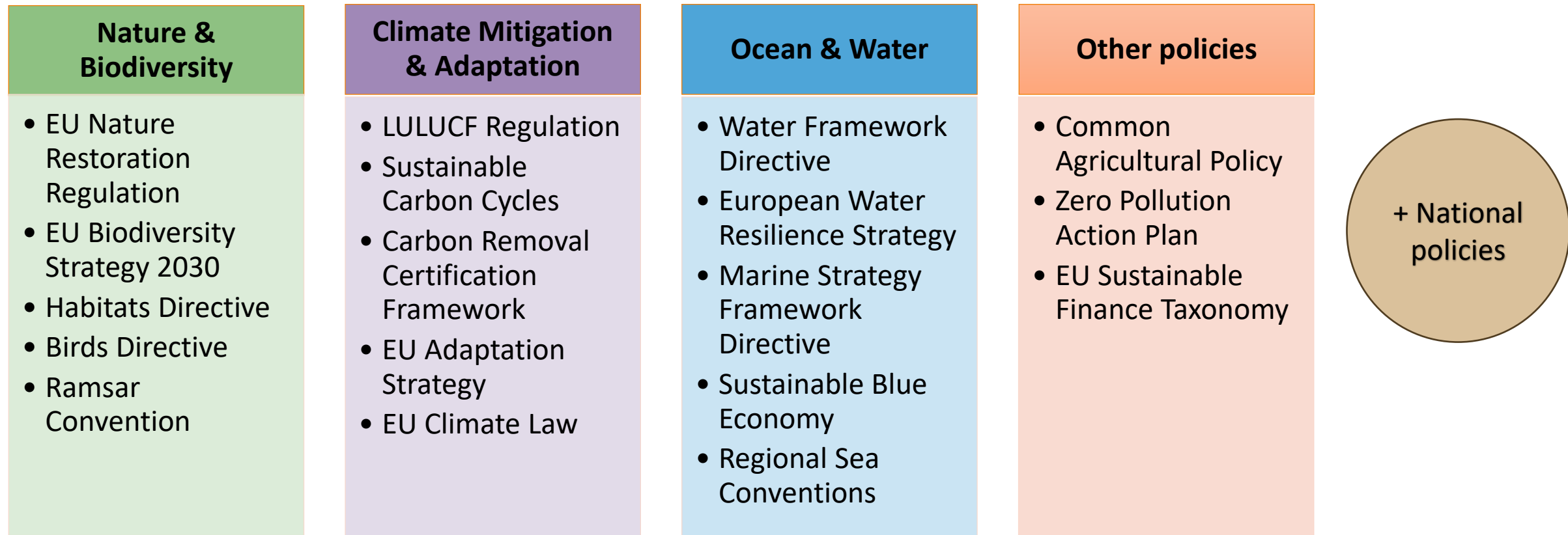
National policies & governance setting for coastal wetlands conservation and restoration in **6 EU countries**





Diverse policy landscape for EU coastal wetlands

- ▶ Ambitious policy targets to be achieved 2030-2050 (EU NRR, LULUCF, climate neutrality)
- ▶ Few EU & international policies explicitly refer to coastal wetlands





Take-aways on policy implementation

- No consistent definition of coastal wetlands in EU policy framework. A unified definition harmonised with Ramsar Convention can eliminate differences in policy implementation.
- Tracking progress on targets: lack of standardised data on wetland status, lack of uniform metrics and indicators to measure restoration progress & results for climate mitigation.
- National & subnational level: Emerging good practices for coastal wetlands & climate resilience
 - **National restoration/biodiversity strategies** in Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, France, incl. wetlands
 - **Specific wetlands targets** in FR and ES (area-based targets for restoration; strict protection targets)
 - **Voluntary mechanisms for carbon offsetting projects** including restoration and conservation of coastal ecosystems (Andalusia, Valencia, ...)



RESTORE4Cs Policy Briefs

- Coastal wetlands for EU climate goals, National Restoration Plans, Social acceptability, Coastal wetlands assessment, indicators, landscape classification units,...
- Available in 7 languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, Romanian, Lithuanian)
- Online Policy Briefs: <https://www.restore4cs.eu/resources/policy-briefs/>

RESTORE4Cs
POLICY BRIEF

How can coastal wetlands help achieve EU climate goals?

An issue brief on the importance of European coastal wetlands for reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions

RESTORE4Cs
POLICY BRIEF

Unlocking potential of coastal wetlands in Europe: Integration into National Restoration Plans

RESTORE4Cs
POLICY BRIEF

Fostering inclusive and cross-sectoral action for wetlands: Building a Community of Practice supporting Ramsar Resolution XIV.17

RESTORE4Cs
POLICY BRIEF

Beyond public funds: diversifying financing for wetland restoration

RESTORE4Cs
POLICY BRIEF

Advancing Policy Integration Across Mediterranean Countries: Aligning with the Barcelona Convention and International Commitments Through a Common Evidence-Based Strategy

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Coastal wetlands are important natural carbon sinks, but they are being lost at an alarming rate. Restoring and protecting coastal wetlands is a key strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality.
- 2. Wetland restoration can contribute to the EU climate goals, such as the 2035 target to reduce net emissions to zero. Wetland restoration can also contribute to the EU biodiversity goals, such as the 2030 target to restore 30% of degraded ecosystems.
- 3. Wetland restoration can also contribute to the EU climate goals, such as the 2035 target to reduce net emissions to zero. Wetland restoration can also contribute to the EU biodiversity goals, such as the 2030 target to restore 30% of degraded ecosystems.

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. The development of a Ramsar Resolution XIV.17 is a key step towards the implementation of Ramsar Resolution XIV.17. It provides a common framework for action and a call to action for governments, the private sector, and civil society.
- 2. National Restoration Plans should be developed to support the implementation of Ramsar Resolution XIV.17. These plans should include measures to restore and protect coastal wetlands, such as the creation of protected areas and the implementation of restoration projects.
- 3. To ensure the success of coastal wetland restoration, it is essential to involve all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, and civil society. This requires a multi-stakeholder approach and the establishment of a community of practice.

RESTORE4Cs
A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR RESTORED WETLANDS

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. The global funding gap for ecosystem restoration is estimated at \$120 billion annually. This requires innovative financing mechanisms that involve the private sector and civil society.
- 2. Wetland restoration can be a profitable investment. It can provide ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, water purification, and flood protection, which can be monetized through various mechanisms.
- 3. The role of governments is crucial in ensuring that wetland restoration is a profitable investment. This requires the implementation of policies and regulations that support wetland restoration and the creation of a favorable regulatory environment.

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Introduction

Coastal wetlands in the Mediterranean region are vital ecosystems that provide numerous ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, water purification, and flood protection. However, these ecosystems are being lost at an alarming rate due to various factors, including land reclamation, urbanization, and agricultural expansion. This policy brief aims to highlight the importance of coastal wetlands and the need for their restoration and protection. It also provides a common evidence-based strategy for advancing policy integration across Mediterranean countries, aligning with the Barcelona Convention and international commitments.

Policy indicators and metrics to track progress of coastal wetland restoration and its impact on climate mitigation

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Extension of Coastal Wetlands Protected and Strictly Protected</p>  | <p>Representativity of Coastal Wetland Habitats in Protected Areas</p>  | <p>Improved Coastal Wetland Health</p>  |
| <p>Vulnerability to Climate-Related and Natural Disasters</p>  | <p>GHG Emissions and Abatement from Coastal Wetland Land Use Conversion and Restoration</p>  | <p>Coastal Wetland Restoration Rate</p>  |
| <p>Share of Utilised Agricultural Area under Supported CAP Commitments in Coastal wetlands</p>  | <p>Overall funding sources for coastal wetlands</p>  | |

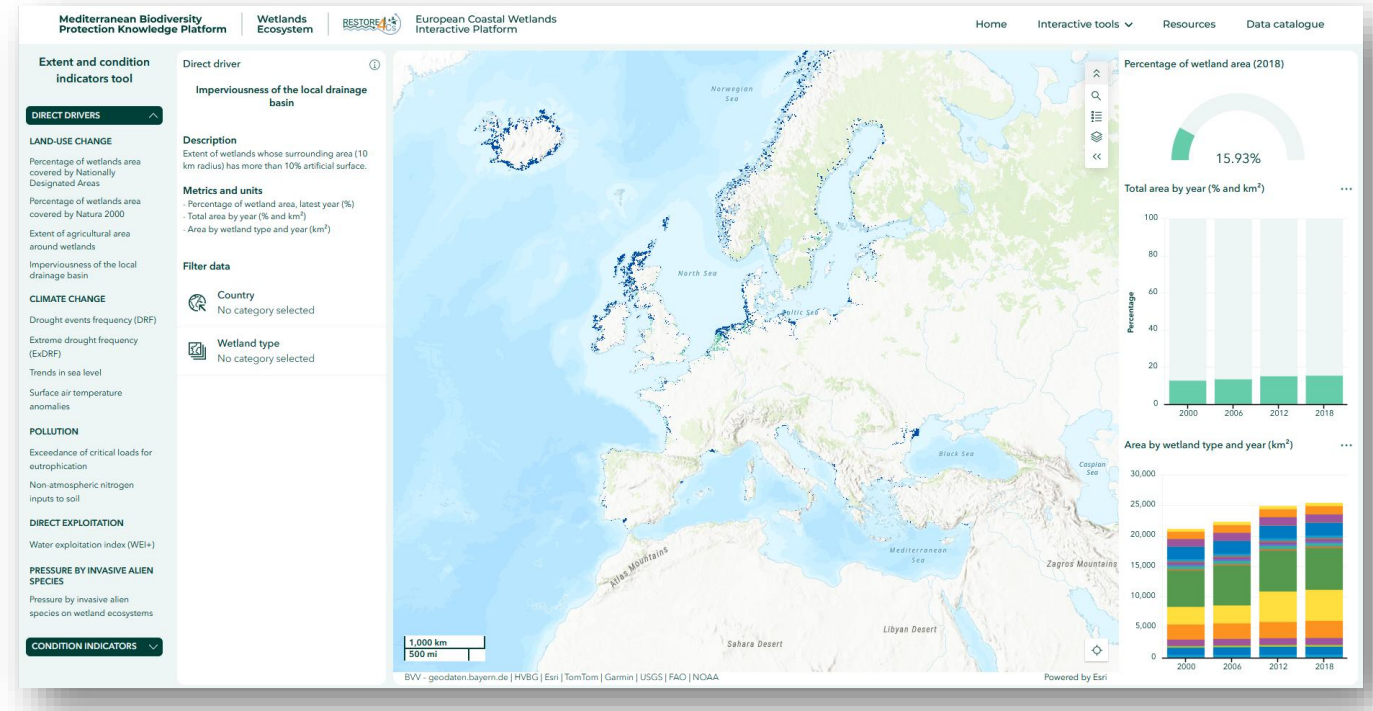




Online Platform

Main achievements

- **First information platform on coastal wetland ecosystems.**
- **Interactive tools** allow in-depth consultation of assessment results, with filters for countries and wetland types, and download option of graphs.
- **Data Catalogue** gives access (visualisation, download) to all geospatial datasets created in the project.



<https://biodiversity.uma.es/knowledge-platform/wetlands-ecosystem/interactive-tools/european-coastal-wetlands-interactive-platform/>

Policy progress tracking tool

Policy progress indicator



[Background paper European Coastal Wetland Indicators: A proposal for monitoring policy progress across space and time](#)

Extension of Coastal Wetlands Protected and Strictly Protected

Representativity of Coastal Wetland Habitats in Protected Areas

Coastal Wetland Restoration Rate

Vulnerability to Climate-Related and Natural Disasters

GHG Emissions Abatement from Coastal Wetland Land Use Conversion and Restoration

Share of Utilised Agricultural Area (UAA) under Supported CAP Commitments in Coastal wetlands

Overall funding sources for coastal wetlands

Extension of Coastal Wetlands Protected and Strictly Protected

| Metric | Units |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Total coastal wetland extent in Protected Areas and in Strict Protected Areas | % / km ² |
| 2. Total coastal wetland extent in Natura 2000 sites | % / km ² |
| 3. Total coastal wetland extent designated as Ramsar and/in Natura 2000 | % / km ² |
| 4. Total coastal wetland protected as a proportion of coastal wetlands | % / km ² |

Filter data

Country
Spain

Wetland type
No category selected

Include...

- All wetlands
- Only natural wetlands
- Only artificial wetlands



Metric 1: wetland extent in Strict Protected Areas

1.04%
Area: 31.77 km²

Reference year: 2025

Metric 2: wetland extent in Natura 2000

60.63%
Area: 1,855.17 km²

Reference year: 2023

Metric 3: wetland extent as Ramsar and Natura 2000

35.19%
Area: 1,076.73 km²

Reference year: 2025

Metric 4: coastal wetland protected

55.95%
Area: 1,711.71 km²

Reference year: 2024



Status assessment of European Coastal Wetlands (UMA)

- First dedicated **coastal wetland ecosystem condition assessment** at EU-scale, following the SEEA methodology.
- Methodological alignment with and contribution to the **MAES2IPBES approach**.
- Enhanced understanding of **data gaps for driver and condition indicators**.
- Continued Loss of Wetlands: From 2000 to 2018, wetlands in coastal Europe declined by 1.1% due to land conversion (Urbanization (6%) and agricultural expansion (20%))



Implementation roadmap of RESTORE4Cs – A guide for authorities

- Guidance to national authorities & practitioners on how to use RESTORE4Cs tools & results to plan and define priorities for coastal wetland restoration and contribute to key policy targets
- **Blueprint** which can be used by any country to design own roadmap/strategy: Structure, step-by-step guidance and principles





Roadmap - Main blocks of actions



Step-wise use

1

Baseline assessment

- Identify key implementation challenges which need to be addressed to promote coastal wetland restoration for climate change mitigation
- Define main characteristics of coastal wetlands
- Assess current conditions of coastal wetlands
- Map policy targets for coastal wetland restoration for climate mitigation and other co-benefits

2

Operationalise targets and prioritise coastal wetlands for restoration

- Select clear, measurable and policy-relevant indicators and metrics to track progress
- Identify potential restoration sites
- Prioritise coastal wetland sites with highest potential impact on climate mitigation and other co-benefits

3

Plan restoration activities

- Scope suitable restoration techniques to increase GHG mitigation capacity of coastal wetlands
- Assess benefits and costs of restoration actions for climate change mitigation
 - Identify funding sources
- Sustain restoration outcomes, including through monitoring for adaptive management
- Learn from past restoration experiences in coastal wetlands



Pilot national roadmaps for coastal wetland restoration

- Two pilot roadmaps (Romania and Portugal)
- Focused on priority items which need most urgent attention in country setting
- Knowledge-based recommendations e.g. on coastal wetland typology, priority zones for restoration
- Consultation with selected stakeholders on key implementation challenges, roadmap priorities and recommendations for coastal wetland restoration



T7.3 Decision-Support Toolbox (TdV)



Decision-Support Toolbox

Wetlands restorability

Pressures

Protection

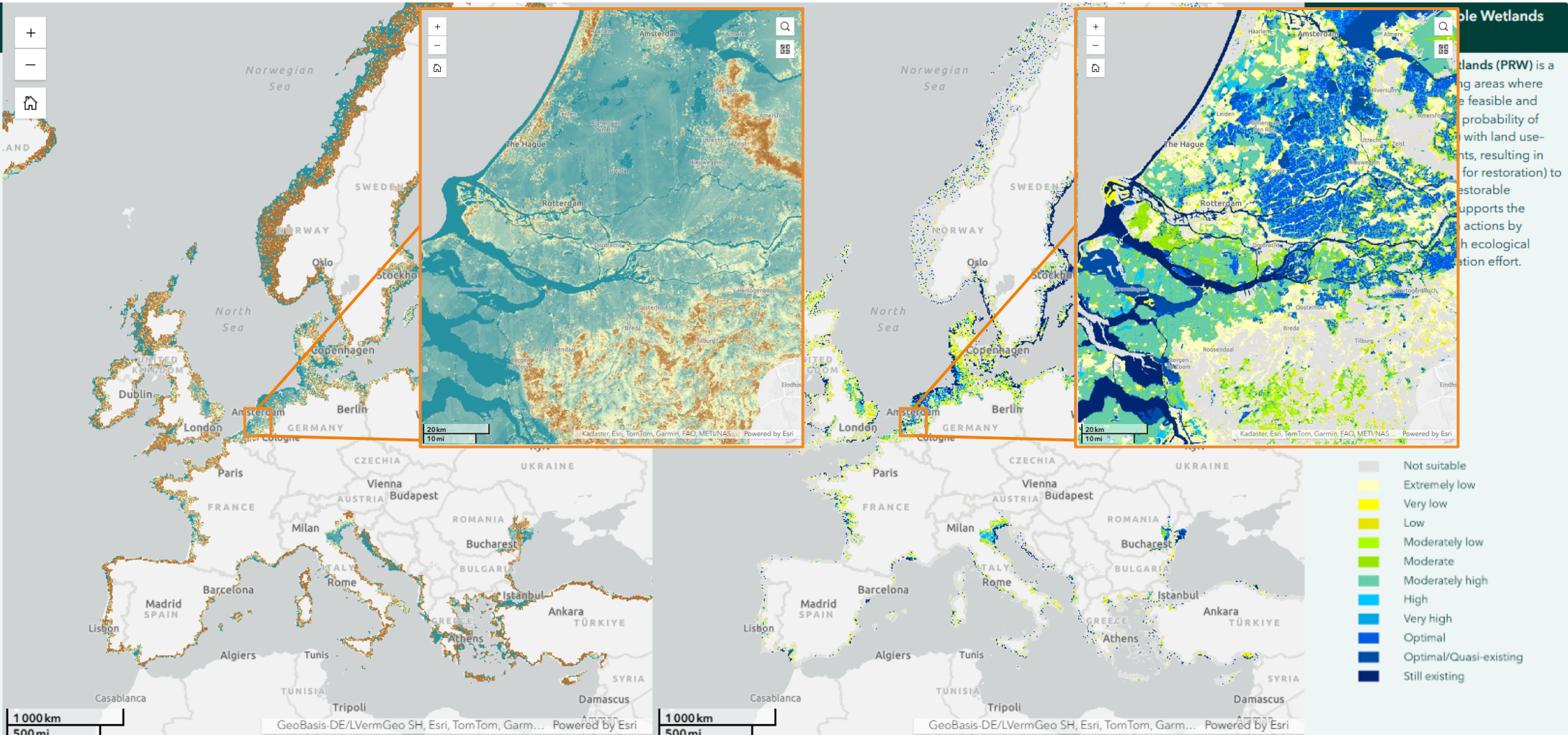
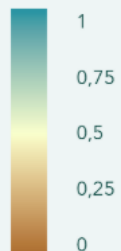
Ecological relevance



Potential Waterland Areas

Potential Wetland Areas (PWA) is a probabilistic map indicating the likelihood of occurrence of wetland habitats across the landscape. Values range from 0 (very low probability) to 1 (very high probability), based on topographic, hydrological, geologic and climatic conditions typically associated with wetlands. The PWA map helps identify areas where wetlands are likely to occur or could potentially exist under suitable conditions.

PWA indicator



Potential Restorable Wetlands

Potential Restorable Wetlands (PRW) is a map of areas where the restoration of wetlands is feasible and the probability of success is high, resulting in a high ecological value. This map supports the actions by which the restoration effort is maximized.





Roadmap recommendations

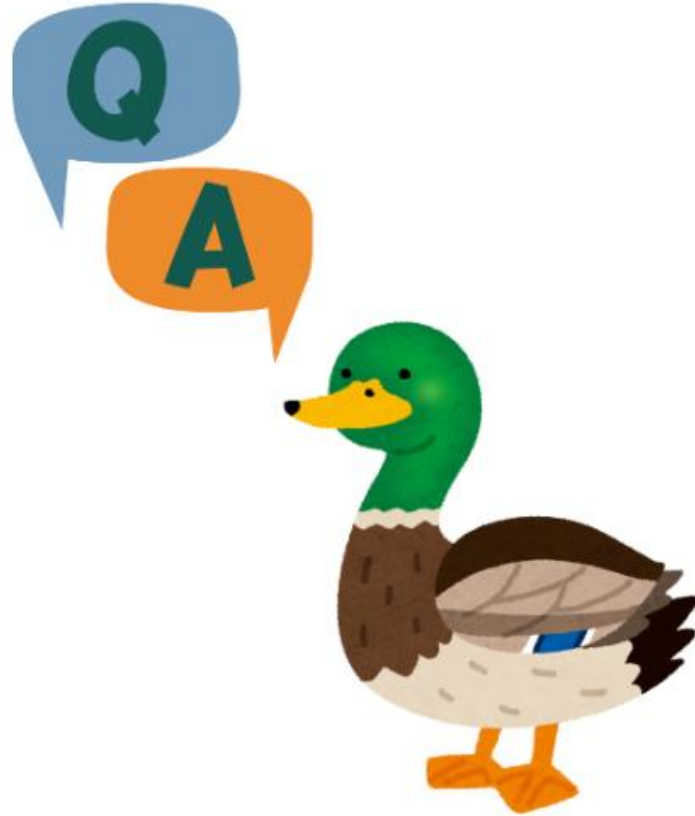
- **Identify key implementation challenges** for coastal wetland restoration to set priorities for roadmap/strategy development
- **Embed clear and operational definition** of coastal wetlands in national legislation
- **Use coastal wetland restoration as NbS** for climate change mitigation
- **Use best available scientific knowledge** (Interactive Platform) **to establish a national baseline** (coastal wetland area, type distribution, protection coverage, pressures and conditions)
- **Integrate policy outcome indicators** into national wetland strategies
- **Identify high impact restoration zones** for coastal wetlands (spatial DSS)
- **Engage actively with stakeholders** for the development of a national roadmap or strategy for coastal wetland restoration
- **Increase public awareness and improve knowledge about the climate change mitigation potential** of coastal wetland restoration and associated benefits among local stakeholders.



Thank you!



Q & A - 5 MINUTES



FINAL FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE



Wetlands in action

SESSION 6

Tools for Climate
Resilient Wetland Restoration

May 6th, 2026

10:00-11:30 (CEST)

Online

Speakers:

Jyrki Jauhiainen | Natural Resource Institute Finland, Luke – ALFAwetlands

Christoph Schroder | European Topic Centre for Spatial Analysis and Synthesis, University of Malaga – RESTORE4Cs

Anis Guelmami | Tour du Valat – RESTORE4Cs

Jaime Ribalaygua Batalla | Climate Research Foundation – REWET

Marta Stachowicz | Warsaw University of Life Sciences – WET HORIZONS

Alessandro Gimona | The James Hutton Institute – WET HORIZONS



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