

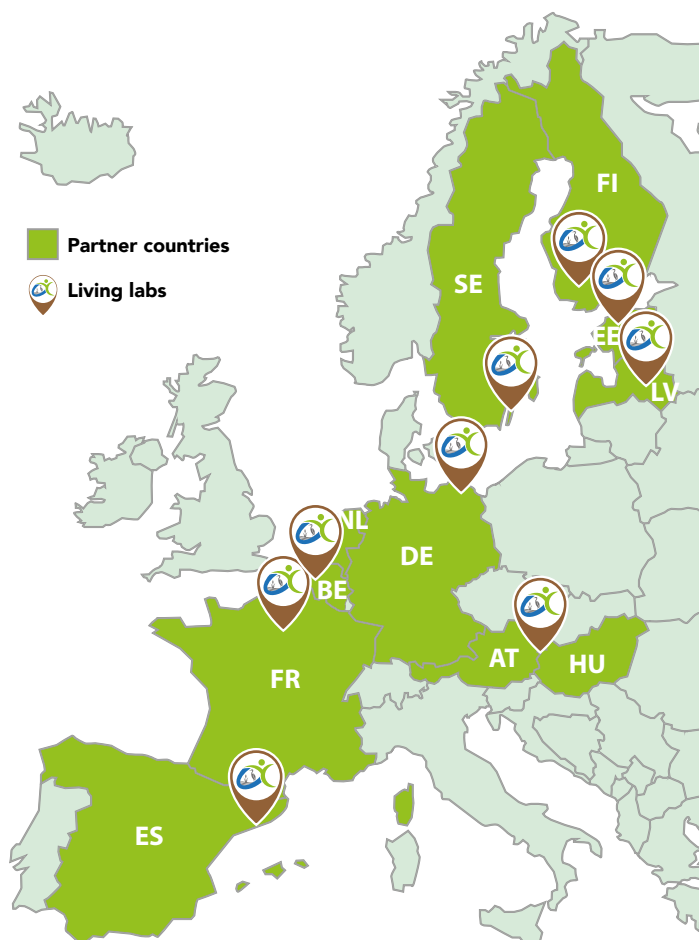
FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY & PRACTICE

ALFAwetlands Factsheet 2026

Six pathways to use ALFAwetlands knowledge

As EU Member States move towards the implementation of National Restoration Plans under the Nature Restoration Regulation, ALFAwetlands provides a strong evidence base for effective restoration. Its maps and restoration scenarios can help identify priorities; ecological, climate and socioeconomic results can inform choices on measures and incentives; co-creation approaches support stakeholder participation and inclusive wetland restoration; practical guidance and open outputs help translate national targets into locally workable restoration actions. This compact guide brings these resources together, highlighting ALFAwetlands policy briefs, key exploitable results, policy synthesis, restoration guidance and open research outputs for European wetland restoration.

01	Economic & Social Impacts of Restoration <i>Policy synthesis</i>
02	Co-Creation for Inclusive & Collaborative Restoration <i>Policy Brief 1/2026</i>
03	Rewetting for Resilience <i>Policy Brief 2/2026</i>
04	Reuse, Adaptation & Upscaling <i>Key exploitable result</i>
05	Nature Restoration Guidelines <i>Best practices for wetlands restoration</i>
06	Open access & continued use <i>ALFAwetlands on Zenodo</i>



ALFAwetlands' nine Living Labs represent the diversity of European wetlands, from peatlands to coastal wetlands, and play a key role in supporting and integrating interdisciplinary research across ecological, environmental, economic, and social sciences at the local level.

01 · ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACTS OF RESTORATION

Policy synthesis

ALFAwetlands investigates economic & social impacts of wetland restoration and transforms these findings into policy recommendations. Effective restoration should:

- Target sites with strong climate, biodiversity and water benefits
- Engage stakeholders early; compare options on benefits, costs, feasibility and acceptability
- Reduce landowner barriers via compensation, advice, flexible schemes and aligned incentives

02 · Co-Creation for Inclusive & Collaborative Restoration – lessons learned from ALFAwetlands Living Labs

Policy brief 1/2026

One of the reasons wetland restoration fails is the lack of engagement with actors in the landscape. ALFAwetlands presents:

- A designed process with concrete steps for inclusive restoration implemented in four project's Living Labs in Sweden, Germany, Finland and Latvia
- Lessons learned from implementation and evaluation
- Guidance for collaborative wetland restoration, including a Handbook and recorded webinars and training sessions

03 · Rewetting for Resilience: Cost-Effective Strategies for Restoring Agricultural Peatlands

Policy Brief 2/2026 - KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Restoring agriculturally used peatlands^[1] offers exceptional climate benefits:** Rewetting a relatively small area of agriculturally used peatlands can deliver substantial emission reductions and make a significant contribution towards EU climate neutrality objectives.
- 2. Biodiversity recovery through policy coherence:** Rewetting peatlands in intensively drained landscapes delivers simultaneous climate benefits and boosts wetland species if planned carefully in site-specific context, supporting coherent achievement of EU environmental targets.
- 3. Paludiculture can transform restoration economics:** Paludiculture – the productive use of wet peatlands – significantly lowers economic barriers to restoration and creates viable business opportunities. With strong paludiculture product demand, restoration could be practiced even without additional climate-policy incentives.



For further information and Policy recommendations, read the full Policy

^[1] In the context of climate reporting, 'peatlands' are referred to as organic soils.

04 · Reuse, Adaption & Upscaling

Key exploitable results

ALFAwetlands' key exploitable results turn scientific knowledge into practical resources supporting effective wetland restoration across Europe. They include:

- European wetland data, maps and restoration-priority information
- Methods, models and indicators for GHG, biodiversity and ecosystem services
- A guide to knowledge coproduction in multifunctional landscapes
- Socioeconomic evidence on public values, landowner acceptance, costs and incentives

05 · Nature Restoration Guidelines

Best practices for wetlands restoration

The Nature Restoration Guidelines platform provides practical guidance for European wetland restoration, including peatlands and connectivity of rivers and floodplains. The platform includes practical restoration pathways for peatlands, accompanying guidelines for assessing site conditions, for planning and design for implementation, monitoring and management. Moreover, an overview of funding options for peatland restoration is provided.

- Use the guidance as a practical companion to ALFAwetlands policy and research outputs
- Link site assessment and restoration design to long-term monitoring and adaptive management
- Support practitioners and authorities implementing restoration under European policy frameworks



Co-creation in Upper Peene Valley, Germany - Landscape walk with local stakeholders.
@ Marie Lorenz

06 · Open access & continued use

ALFAwetlands on ZENODO

Explore and cite the project's open research outputs through the ALFAwetlands Zenodo community, part of the EU Open Research Repository. Use it to find records, support FAIR reuse and provide links to project results. The community brings together ALFAwetlands publications, datasets, deliverables and other research outputs in one openly accessible and citable repository.



A simple route from evidence to action

I · DISCOVER	II · APPLY	III · SHARE
Policy briefs, guidance and open outputs	Adapt evidence to local restoration and policy contexts	Cite, disseminate and connect others to ALFAwetlands

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