

Eurosite Annual Meeting 2025 – peatland Workshop  
Vilnius / Lithuania  
09<sup>th</sup> September 2025

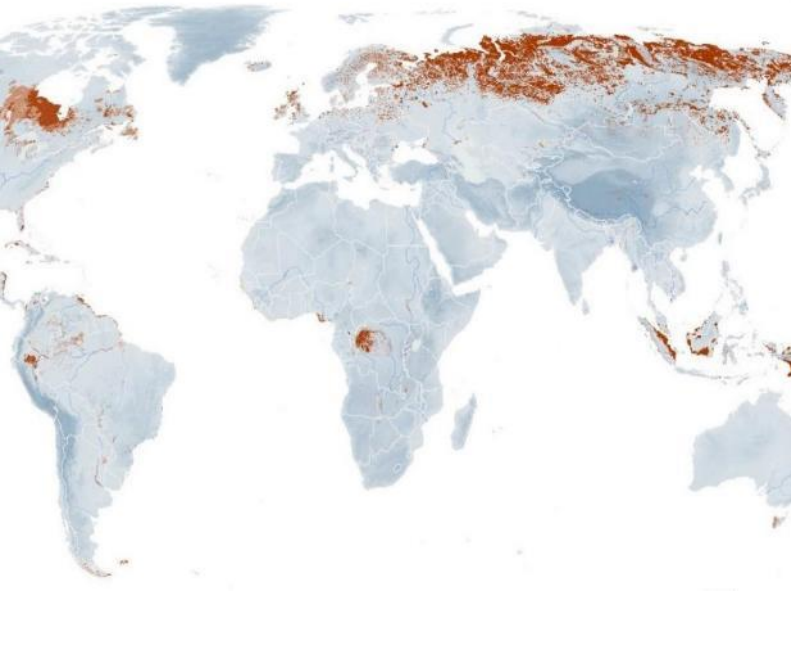


Partner in the

GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE

# The Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas: *State of European Peatlands & Peatland Breakthrough*

Jan Peters, Michael Succow Foundation / Greifswald Mire Centre



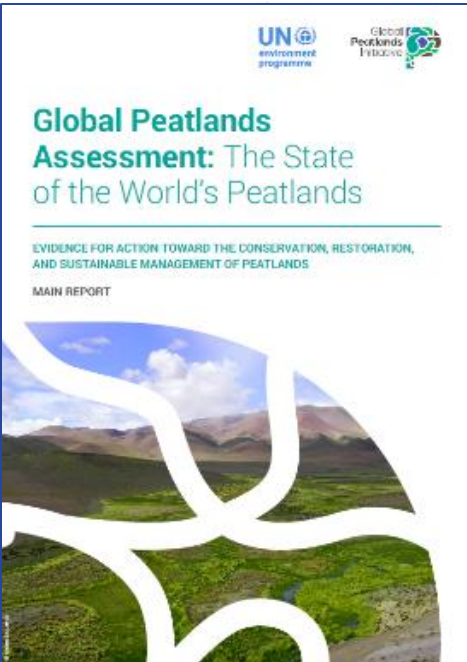




Which pictures are peatlands,  
and which are not?







4% of planet's land surface

1/3 of world's soil carbon  
→ twice as found in entire forest biomass

4 % of all anthropogenic GHG emissions (fires excluded)

~90 % still intact

peat dominated  
peat in soil mosaic

[illegible]

GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE

UN  
environnement  
programme



INTERNATIONAL  
CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)

Supported by:

 Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

Based on a decision of the Parliament  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Maps & graphs: UNEP (2024). Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas – The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps.

greifswaldmoor.de



Get your Atlas to learn more!

Follow QR code:



Or visit:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-peatland-hotspot-atlas-2024>



## Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas: The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps

Visualizing global threats and opportunities for peatland  
conservation, restoration, and sustainable management



Partner in the

GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan

Big thanks to the authors:

Dr. A. Barthelmes,  
Dr. C. Tegetmeyer,  
Prof. Dr. H. Joosten,  
P. Scheel

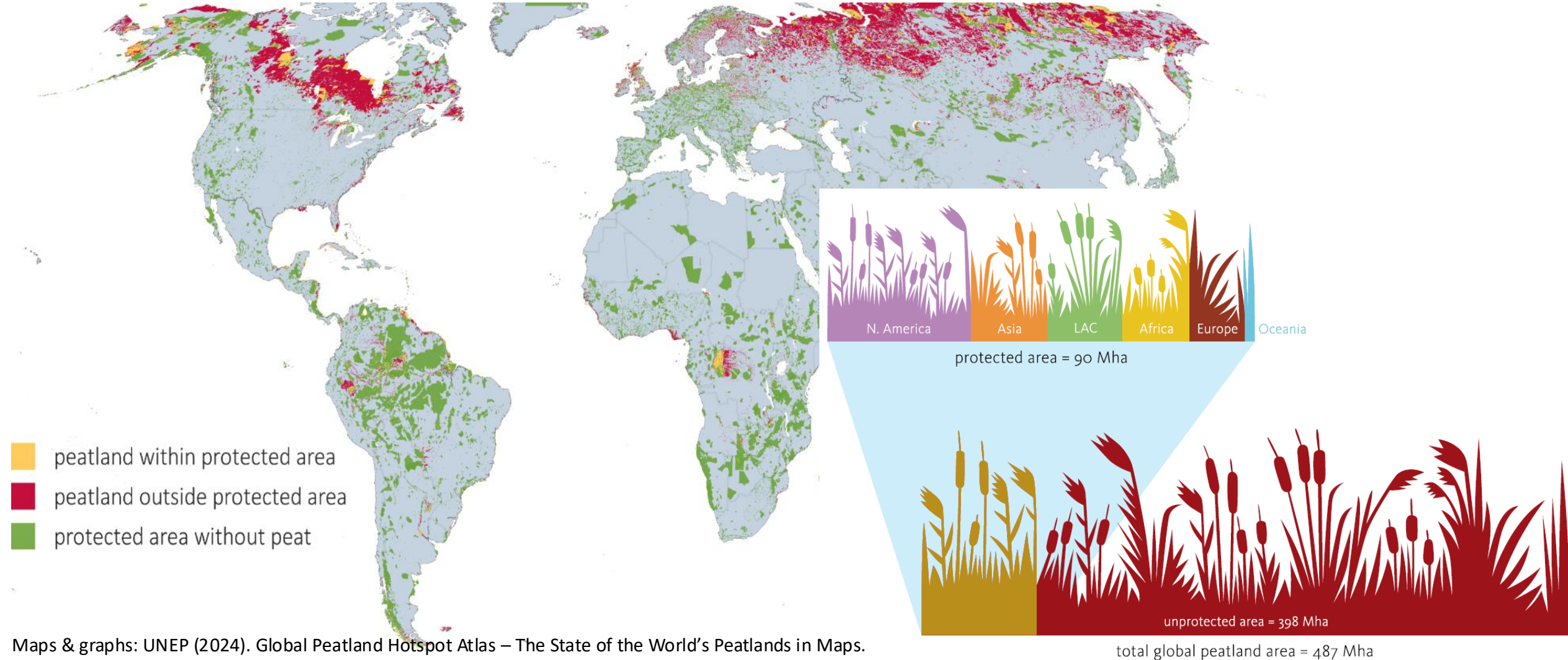
...and the donor:

Supported by:



based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag

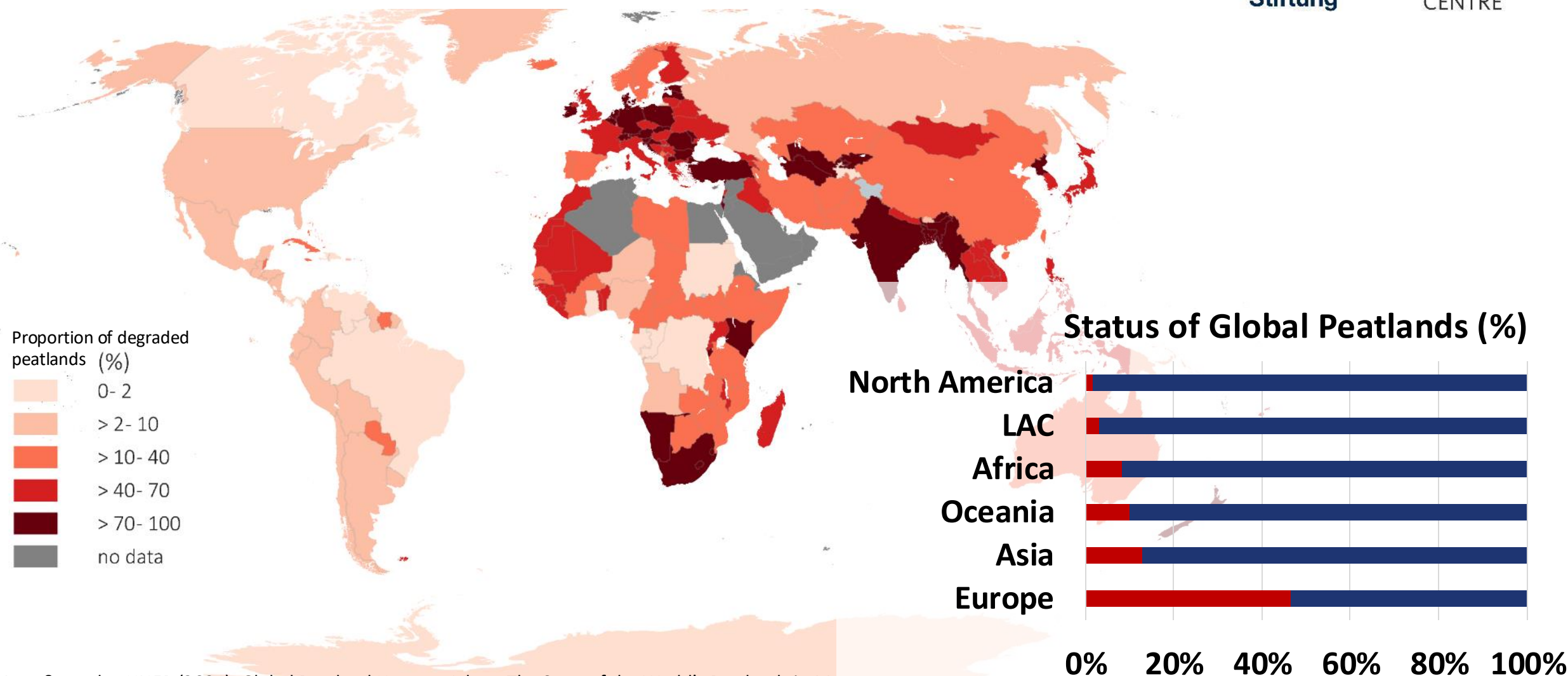
# Almost 90 % of peatlands are still untouched – but few of them are legally protected



Maps & graphs: UNEP (2024). Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas – The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps.



# Peatlands are degrading at alarming speed



Maps & graphs: UNEP (2024). Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas – The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps.

Peatland problems are caused by **drainage**



Partner in the



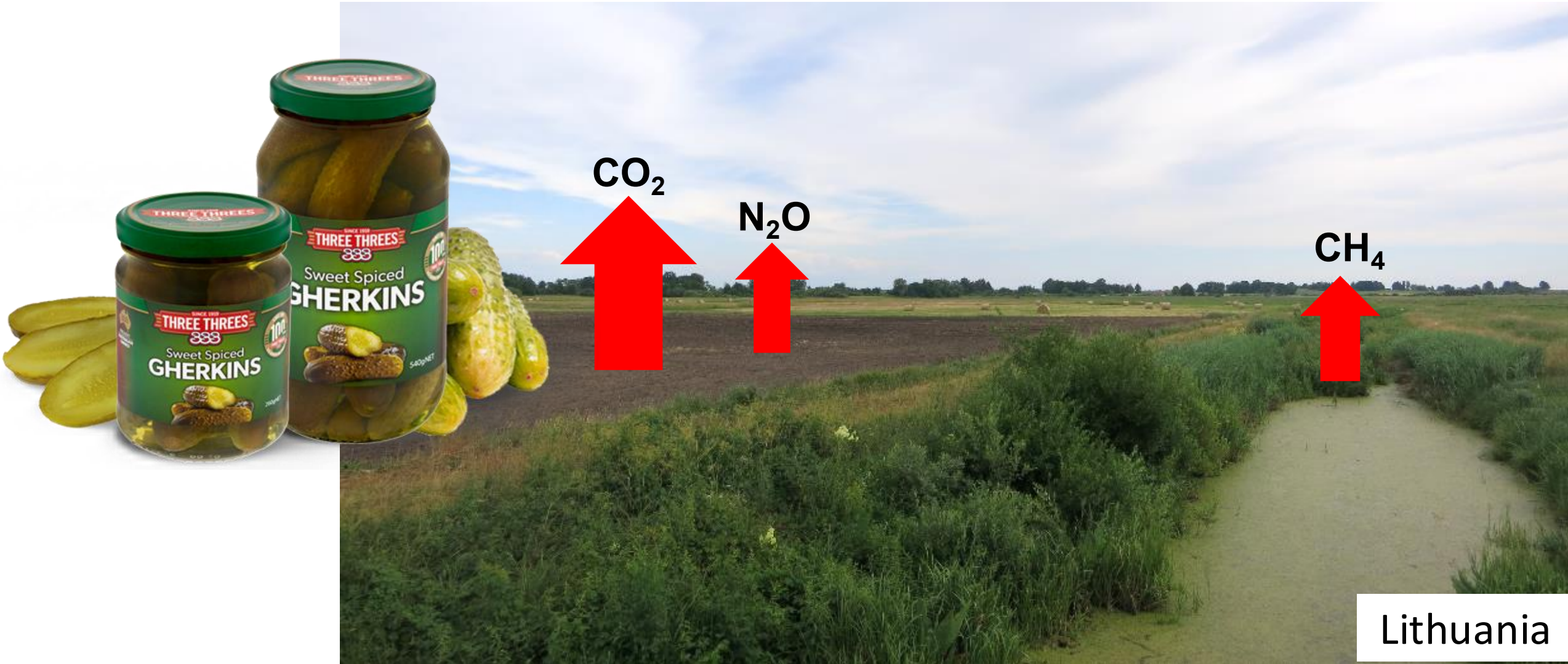
GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE



Rwanda/Burundi



Peat is like pickles - When you remove the conserving water, the organic matter rots away → GHG emissions





# Drainage for land use is strongest driver for degradation

e.g. cattle on drained  
peat grassland with  
emissions of 29 t  
CO<sub>2</sub>e/ha\*yr



Germany

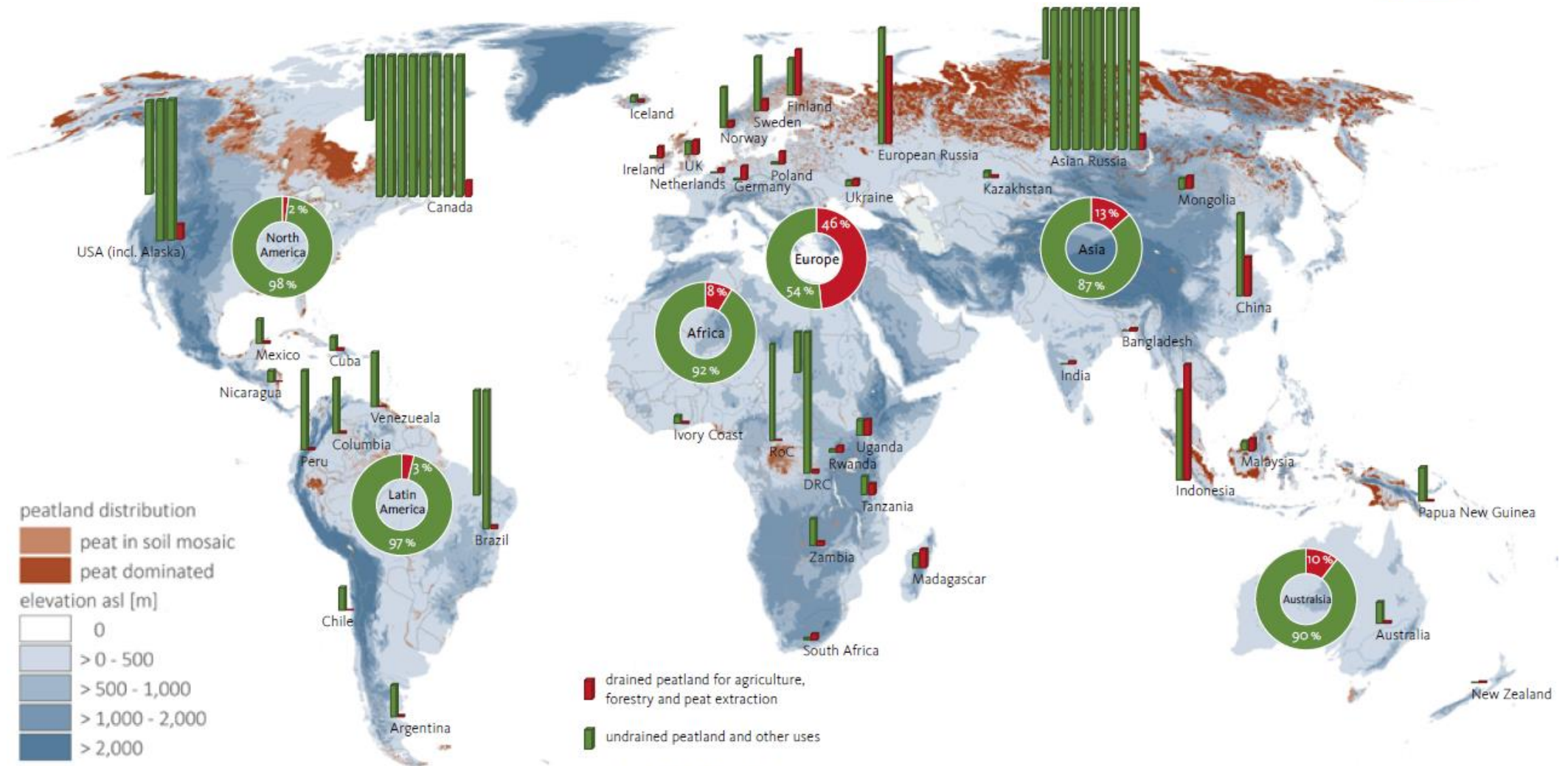


1 kg cheese  
= 55 kg CO<sub>2</sub>

1 l milk  
= 2,4 l petrol



# Drainage for land use is strongest driver for degradation

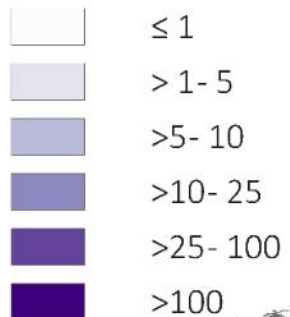


Maps & graphs: UNEP (2024). Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas – The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps.

The height and number of bars illustrate the extent of undrained and drained peatlands within a given country.

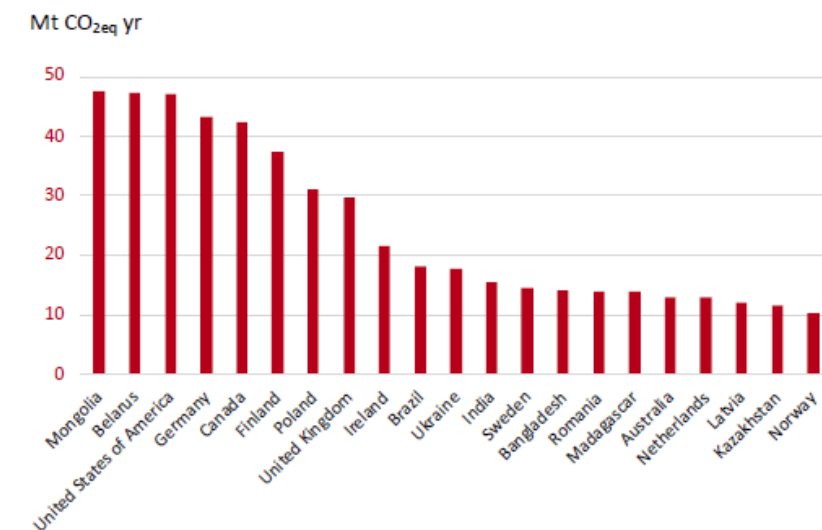
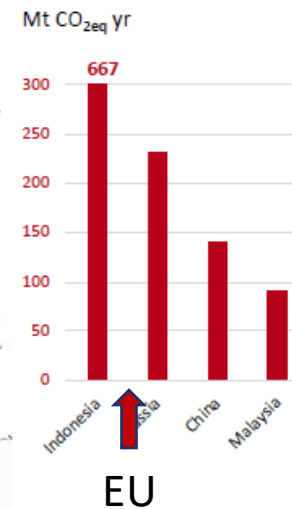
# GHG emissions from peatlands

GHG emissions  
from peatlands\*  
per unit land  
area [t/km<sup>2</sup>]



25 key countries emitting  
85 % of GHG emissions  
from peatlands globally

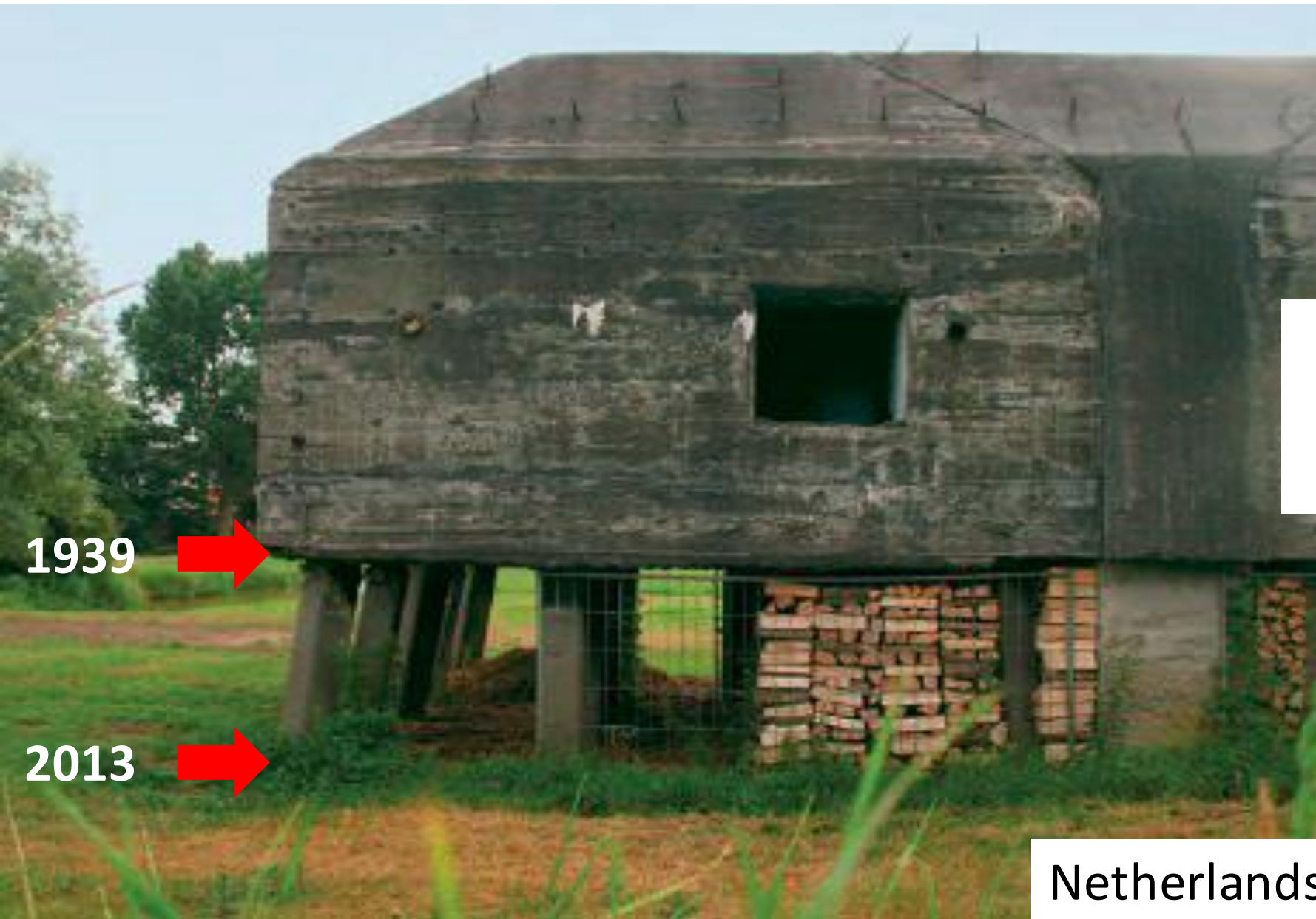
EU 2<sup>nd</sup> largest emitter!



Maps & graphs: UNEP (2024). Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas – The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps.



# Too little recognized: **Subsidence**



Drainage → subsidence  
(loss of height): 1-5 cm  
annually

Netherlands



Peatland subsidence will in this century lead to uncontrolled flooding of 10-20 million ha of productive land worldwide



Partner in the



GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE



Indonesia

Aljosja Hooijer



# Only wet peatlands will bring us closer to achieving the SDGs!

- saving GHG emissions
- storing carbon
- harbouring biodiversity
- buffering & purifying waters
- protect fertile soils
- producing goods (paludiculture)
- Amaze people

## PEATLAND AS A FACTOR

Impact of peatlands and wetlands on selected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



**SDG 2 – Zero hunger:** Peatlands improve ecosystem functions and regulate water. They prevent soil subsidence – and ensure food production



**SDG 6 – Clean water:** Almost all of the freshwater in the world is related to wetlands



**SDG 7 – Clean energy:** Renewable biomass from peatlands generates heat, sustainable and regional



**SDG 11 – Sustainable cities and communities:** Peatlands reduce flood risk and cool global climate



**SDG 12 – Responsible consumption:** Sustainable management of peatlands with paludiculture combines economic independence and ecology



**SDG 13 – Climate action:** Intact peatlands store huge amounts of carbon



**SDG 14 – Life below water:** Healthy and productive oceans need functioning coastal wetlands



**SDG 15 – Life on land:** 40 percent of the species live and breed in wetlands



# the **Peatland** Breakthrough

A call to action that brings together public and private stakeholders around a shared vision to upscale and accelerate peatland conservation, restoration, and sustainable management worldwide





# the **Peatland** Breakthrough

## **Catalyse proven solutions by:**

- Agreeing on actionable and science-based shared global targets and principles
- Building a powerful network to drive action, including key land-use stakeholders
- Growing capacity and finance for large scale peatland restoration
- Advocating for peatland-positive land use policies and practices
- Developing investable pipeline of restoration programs



# Two phases of the Peatland Breakthrough



## Phase 1: Development

- Build momentum and awareness
- Science-based & widely accepted targets
- Engage experts and stakeholders
- Financial strategy & 1<sup>st</sup> project pipeline

COP30



## Phase 2: Implementation

- Turn targets into action at all levels & deliver impact on the ground
- Concrete project pipeline
- Enabled by finance, policy & best practice
- Drive progress through regional and sector pathways

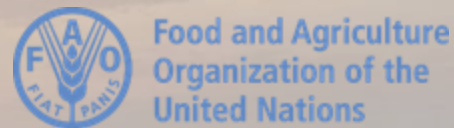
Governance: The PB is coordinated by a Steering Group and four expert Working Groups, ensuring strategic direction, technical rigor, inclusiveness, financial strategy and outreach.



# the **Peatland** Breakthrough

**to be launched soon (*probably Oct. 2025*)**  
**Stay tuned!**

**A growing coalition of peatlands voices**



**In collaboration with**







# Thank you!

Jan Peters  
Managing Director  
Michael Succow Foundation / GMC  
[jan.peters@succow-stiftung.de](mailto:jan.peters@succow-stiftung.de)



Partner in the

GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE

Supported by:



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

on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag



European  
Climate Initiative  
EUKI



Get your Atlas to learn more!

Follow QR code:



Or visit:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/report/global-peatland-hotspot-atlas-2024>



## Global Peatland Hotspot Atlas: The State of the World's Peatlands in Maps

Visualizing global threats and opportunities for peatland  
conservation, restoration, and sustainable management



Partner in the

GREIFSWALD  
MIRE  
CENTRE



**COP29**  
Baku  
Azerbaijan

Big thanks to the authors:

Dr. A. Barthelmes,  
Dr. C. Tegetmeyer,  
Prof. Dr. H. Joosten,  
P. Scheel

...and the donor:

Supported by:



based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag