

# Peatlands in National Restoration Plan of **Lithuania**

# State of play: stakeholder consultation + consolidation of information

## Objectives of the consultation

- Inform about NRR and NRP (benefits, targets and process)
- Raise awareness and increase ownership
- Discuss data, priorities, challenges and opportunities
- Collect and/or co-generate proposals for restoration measures

## February-May 2025

- In February launched **stakeholder registration** for Nature restoration working group (open to anyone)
- Currently **>250 participants registered** across 5 thematic subgroups (least popular marine subgroup)
- **6 meetings held** – introductory meeting in March and 5 subgroup meetings in April
- All **meetings open and public**, presentation materials and recordings available on [dedicated MoE website](#)
- Main discussions on data (e.g. selection of optional indicators), priorities, synergies with other policies and planning documents

## Summer 2025 and next steps

- Preparation of National Reports under the Birds and Habitats directives
- Resumed subgroup meetings from September onwards, starting with discussion on Art 4 (CS of species and habitats)
- Joint process on Art 12 (+ Art 4 forest habitats) with the preparation of the new National strategy for forests
- Discussion on a preliminary list of restoration measures and collection of proposals for additional measures (lessons learned from NECP)

# Nature restoration WG with 5 subgroups



**Marine**  
(Art 5)

**Urban**  
(Art 8)

**Rivers  
and  
lakes**

(Art 9 + Art 4  
river, lake,  
alluvial and  
riparian  
habitats)

**Terrestrial, agricultural  
and forest ecosystems**

Art 10

Art 13

**Art 11**

Art 12

Art 4, excl.  
river, lake, alluvial  
and riparian habitats

**Peatlands**  
(Art 11.4)

Wetland  
habitat  
types of  
Community  
concern

(arable and  
other)  
agriculturally  
used drained  
peatlands

## Challenges (so far)

- Not always easy to engage other colleagues in the process
- Difficult to find **balance between technical questions and broad discussions**
- Some **questions overlap among subgroups** (e.g. forests or rivers in the cities; coastal areas; marine issues caused by pollution on land), **how to ensure they are properly addressed**
- Preparatory work going slower than expected, **need to adjust public consultation schedule**

## Lessons learned

- **Effective forum to discuss** in depth contested and/or neglected topics (e.g. peatlands, river barriers) and find **solutions**
- **Highest quality discussions when questions prepared in advance to guide them**
- Involvement of broad range of stakeholders, open dialogue, **acknowledging earlier contributions** – all this stimulate a meaningful engagement

# Restoration of drained peatlands (1)



## *Art. 11: Restoration of agricultural ecosystems*

4. Member States shall put in place measures which shall aim to restore organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands. Those measures shall be in place on at least:

- (a) **30 % of such areas by 2030**, of which at least a **quarter** shall be **rewetted**;
- (b) **40 % of such areas by 2040**, of which at least a **third** shall be **rewetted**;
- (c) **50 % of such areas by 2050**, of which at least a **third** shall be **rewetted**.

**‘rewetting peatland’** means the process of changing a drained peat soil towards a wet peat soil (Art. 3.23 of the NRR)



# Restoration of drained peatlands (2)

Other relevant conditions from Art. 11.4 of the NRR:

- Restoration measures may be put **in areas of peat extraction sites**; these can be counted as contributing to meeting the respective targets.
- **40 % of target** can be achieved by rewetting drained peatlands under land uses **other than agricultural use or peat extraction** (e.g. drained forests?);
- National and local circumstances shall be taken into account. Reduction of national targets can be sought if dully justified;
- Involvement of farmers and private landowners to process of rewetting peatlands remains voluntary;
- MS shall provide incentives for land managers.



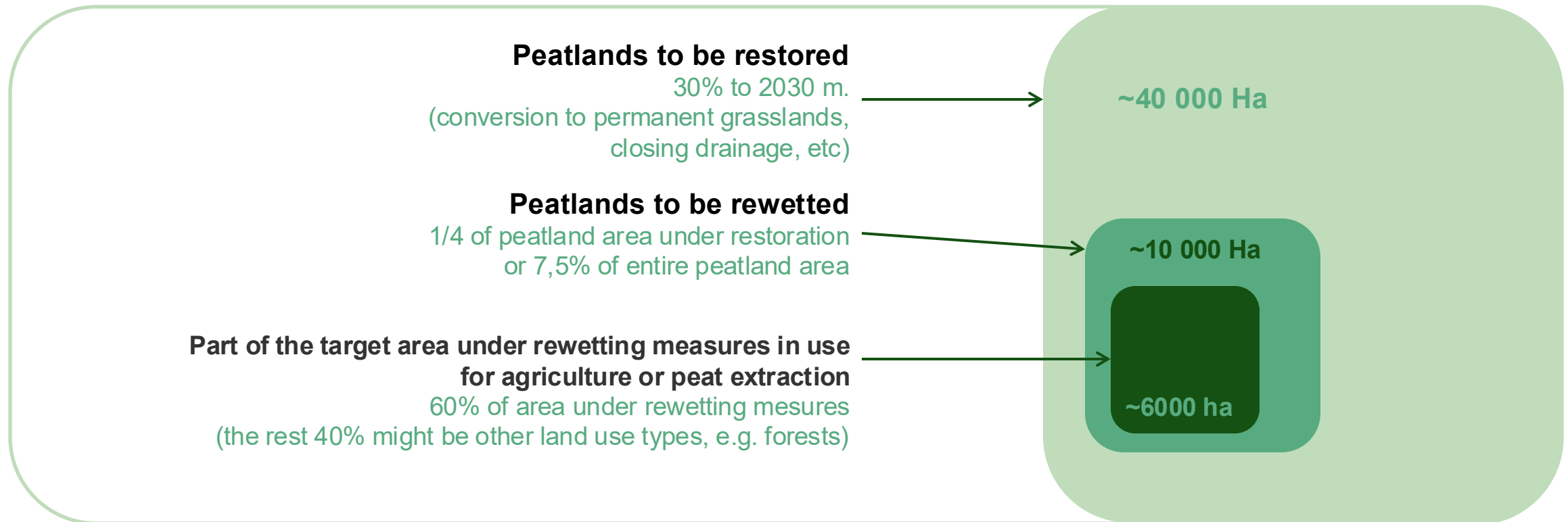
# Restoration of drained peatlands (3)



Some of the recitals of the NRR:

- MSs can choose from a wide range of **restoration measures for drained peatlands** in agricultural use, spanning from **converting cropland to permanent grassland** and extensification measures accompanied by reduced drainage, **to full rewetting** with the opportunity **of paludicultural use**, or the establishment of peat-forming vegetation.
- For maximum of biodiversity benefits, **restoration and rewetting** of areas of drained peatland should **extend beyond** the areas of **wetlands habitat types listed in Annex I to Habitats Directive**.
- Data on area of organic soils and their GHG emissions and removals are monitored and made available by LULUCF sector reporting in national GHG inventories by MSs.
- **Restoration measures for peatlands, including compensations** for possible losses of income can come from a wide range of sources, including Union financing programmes.
- **carbon farming** and other innovative schemes such as **carbon removal certification schemes**, could be **promoted**.

# Orientation data for peatlands restoration targets to 2030 in Lithuania: Total area of peatlands in the country according National GHG Emissions Inventory Report ~135 000 Ha





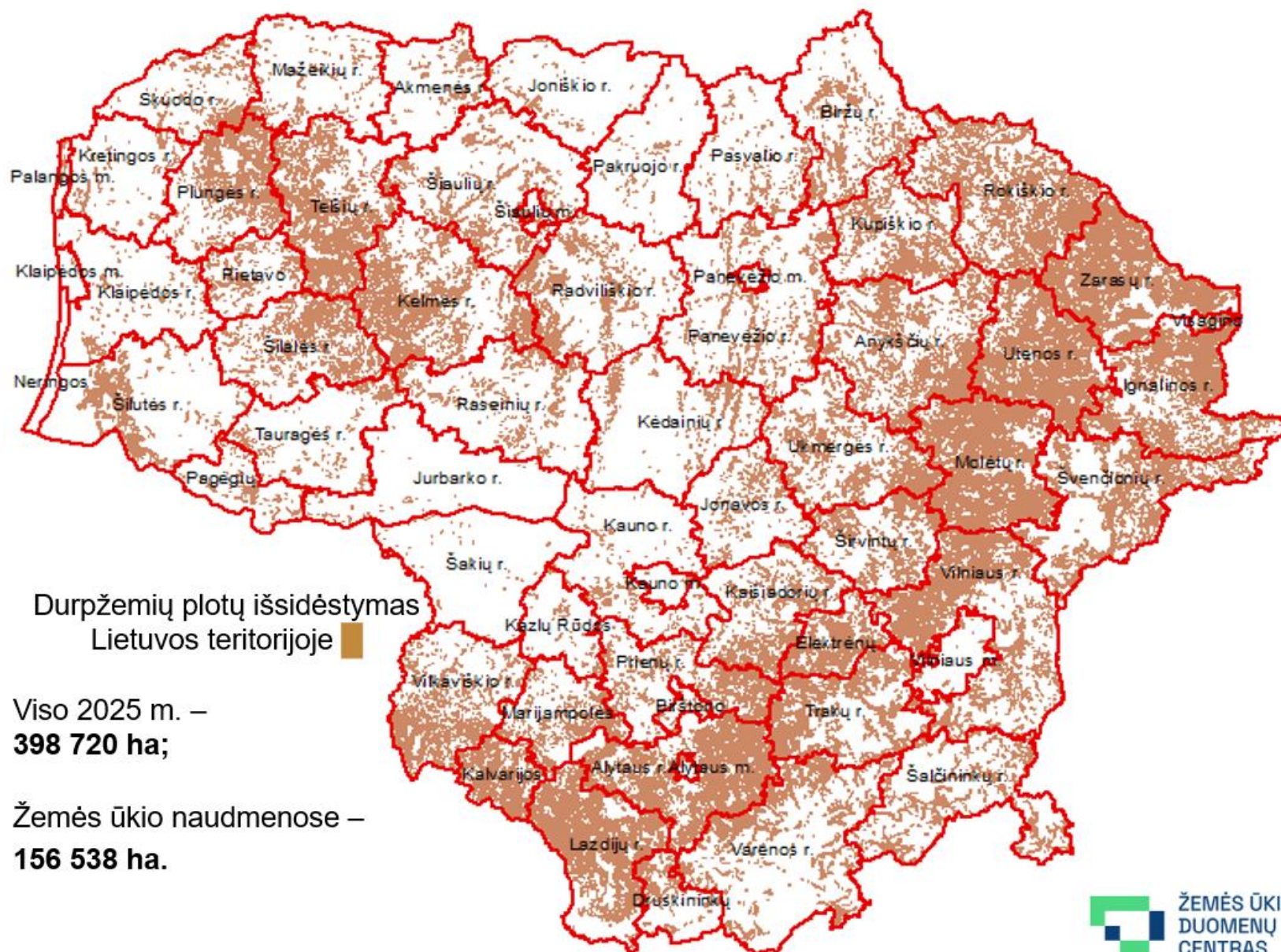
# Where the possibilities to meet the target to 2030?

Restore peatlands		Rewetting peatlands	
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target area of CAP SP 2023-2027 <b>measure for conversion of arable peatlands to grasslands</b> - 9,2 thousd. Ha (progress: 2,8 thous. Ha joined the measure in 2024 and 3,1 thous. Ha joined in 2025)</li> <li>• Series of other <b>support measures for sustainable management</b> of wetlands and grasslands;</li> <li>• <b>Entry in force of GAEC 2 standard in 2025.</b></li> </ul>	NECP 2021-2030 sets the target to restore water regime in <b>8 thous. Ha of peatlands in agricultural use</b>	60 % of the Target (6000 Ha)
<b>Peat extraction</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changing the legislation allowing for earlier partial restoration of excavated peatlands</li> </ul>	
<b>Forests</b>	-	NECP 2021-2030 sets the target to restore <b>4 thous. Ha forests on peatlands</b> with damaged water regime	40 % of the Target (4000 Ha)
<b>Habitats of Community interest</b>	-	The PAF for 2021-2027 sets the priority target to restore hydrological regime in <b>13 thous. Ha</b> (3 thous. Ha beyond <i>NATURA 2000</i> network), Progress: <b>1275 Ha</b> implemented restoration.	

Rewetting target to 2030: 10 000 Ha

Peatland restoration target to 2030: ~ 40 000 Ha

## Puzzle of data usage: location of peatlands used for agriculture





Puzzle of data usage: location of peatlands with 0,5+ meter thick  
peat layer



Gamtos paveldo  
fondas

# Spatial priorities for restoration

## The old new role of wetlands in national defence

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Restoring the EU's drained bogs would stop both Russian tanks and planet-warming pollution.

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AUGUST 26, 2025 4:45 AM CET

BY ZIA WEISE, WOJCIECH KOŚC AND VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA

In February 2022, as Russia marched on Kyiv, Oleksandr Dmitriev realized he knew how to stop Moscow's men: Blow a hole in the dam that strangled the

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## Lithuania recovers bodies of dead US servicemen

updated

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2025.03.31 09:07



The rescue operation in Pabradė | Lithuanian Armed Forces

The US armoured vehicle that sank in a swamp near the Pabradė training area in eastern Lithuania was recovered on Monday morning. Later the same day, the US army confirmed the deaths of three American servicemen, saying the search for the fourth soldier was continuing.

aA

# Thank you!

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