



LIFE PEAT CARBON

We envision a world with thriving, carbon-sequestering peatlands, that provide restored ecosystem services to humans and nature

To secure a livable planet for all and combat climate change, it is essential to upscale peatland restoration measures in Europe. LIFE Peat Carbon works across European borders with a multidisciplinary team from Latvia, Finland, Denmark and Germany to restore peatlands for humans and nature.

LIFE PEAT Carbon wants to successfully showcase the potential of peatland restoration as a climate change mitigation measure and increase the awareness of peatlands as valuable habitats for key species. During our project timeframe, peatlands will be restored by the construction of dams on drainage ditches along the peatland perimeter. By raising the water levels, natural vegetation will be able to regrow and carbon is prevented from being released from the peat.

An important aspect of our project is the implementation of innovative methods, such as the creation of an ecosystem model based on remote sensing and monitoring results. This will allow to closely supervise resulting changes in the hydrology, vegetation and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, the quality of the gathered data will be improved, resulting in reliable impact measures concerning peatland restoration. The knowledge gained by our monitoring and restoration activities will be shared through events hosted in Germany and Denmark.

Furthermore, LIFE Peat Carbon aims to raise awareness of peatlands' key role in greenhouse gas reduction and as one of the last refuges for wildlife. Therefore, multiple educational and experimental moments will be created, such as events, workshops, exhibitions, etc. – reconnecting the public and policymakers with peatlands through storytelling.

Project activities:

- Implementation of climate change mitigation (CCM) measures in peatlands to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Latvia and Finland, contributing to the 2050 climate-neutrality target as part of the European Green Deal
- Innovative monitoring of the CCM measures in two peatland restoration sites in Latvia (Cena Mire, Lielais Pelečāre Mire) and two sites in Finland (Välisuo Mire, Matorova Mire)
- Monitoring of three LIFE project sites where peatland restoration was carried out previously in Latvia (Cena Mire, Melnais Lake Mire, Sudas-Zviedru Mire)
- Development of a tool for the application of replicable and transferable remote sensing (RS) based monitoring and modelling tools for GHG assessments and inventories
- Carrying out innovative dissemination, awareness raising and training activities to improve knowledge on peatlands in the project countries and beyond
- Harmonising peatland communication efforts, inside and outside LIFE Peat Carbon



More information:

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Expected results:

- Reduced amount of CO₂ emissions are estimated to reach 37117 tons CO₂ eq. yr¹ in Latvia and 3500 tons CO₂ eq. yr¹ in Finland
- Positively affected area of 5076 ha in Latvia and 338 ha in Finland
- Comprehensive methodology for assessment of the CCM impacts of the implemented measure
- Emission projections, and additions to GHG inventories in The Baltic Sea region
- Internationally applicable Best Practice Book on implementation and monitoring CCM measures
- Streamlined GHG measurement and data processing methods
- Ecosystem model for degraded and abandoned peatlands in The Baltic Sea region
- Increased awareness of authorities, decision-makers, locals, experts, and other relevant stakeholders regarding the impact of peatland extraction, management and restoration
- Improved synergies with other LIFE peatland projects in terms of communication activities and policy messages

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