



LIFE Peat Restore LIFE 15/CCM/DE/000138

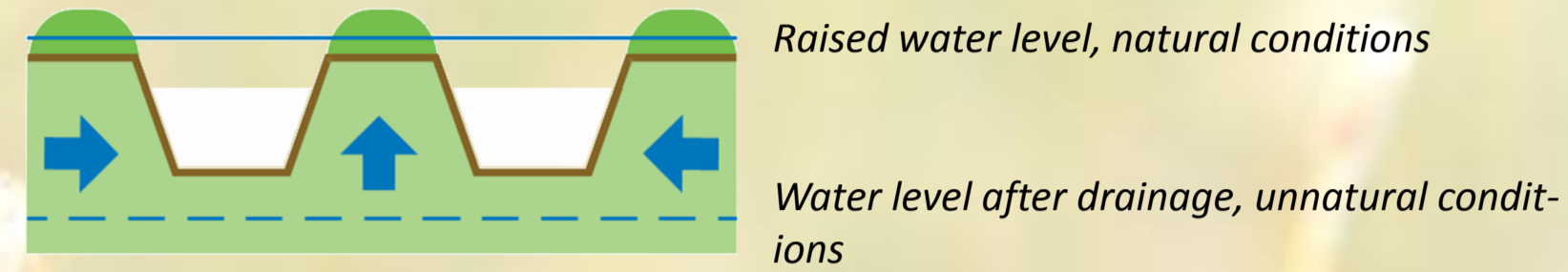


Within a five year period the project aims to restore approximately 5,300 hectares of drained and degraded peatlands in five EU countries: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Germany. Additionally, LIFE Peat Restore will measure GHG emissions before and after restoration to demonstrate to national and EU-level decision makers the important role of peatland restoration in the mitigation of climate change.

Restoration measurements

The restoration measures seek to re-establish the natural function of peatlands as carbon sinks. The main action consists of rewetting drained peatlands.

However, actions will also vary according to the characteristics of each project site. In some areas shrubs and trees will be removed and peat forming vegetation will be planted.



Greenhouse gas measurements

LIFE Peat Restore will implement an innovative method to assess greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on all project sites. Based on the recently developed GEST methodology, GHG will be quantified before, during and after restoration measures. It is expected that the data provided by the monitoring will demonstrate the potential of peatlands for climate change mitigation.

Raising awareness

LIFE Peat Restore will raise public awareness of the importance of peatlands for climate change mitigation and the damages caused by drained, excavated and poorly managed peatlands.

In addition to peat consumers, LIFE Peat Restore will address relevant stakeholders as well as national and EU policy makers to convey the key message that the protection of peatlands is a cost effective way to achieve the emission targets established within the Paris Agreement.

Funded by EU-LIFE Programme

The EU LIFE programme is divided into two sub-programmes: Environment and Climate Action. The LIFE Climate Action supports projects, which aim to develop innovative ways to respond to the challenges of climate change in Europe. Since establishing the EU LIFE funding programme in 1992, more than 300 projects have been devoted to the conservation and restoration of mire habitats. The EU contribution for LIFE Peat Restore is 3,549,480 EUR.



Leave Peat in Peatlands

EU climate mitigation project

LIFE Peat Restore

2016 - 2021



www.life-peat-restore.eu

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Leave peat in peatlands



Peatlands globally

Formation of peatlands

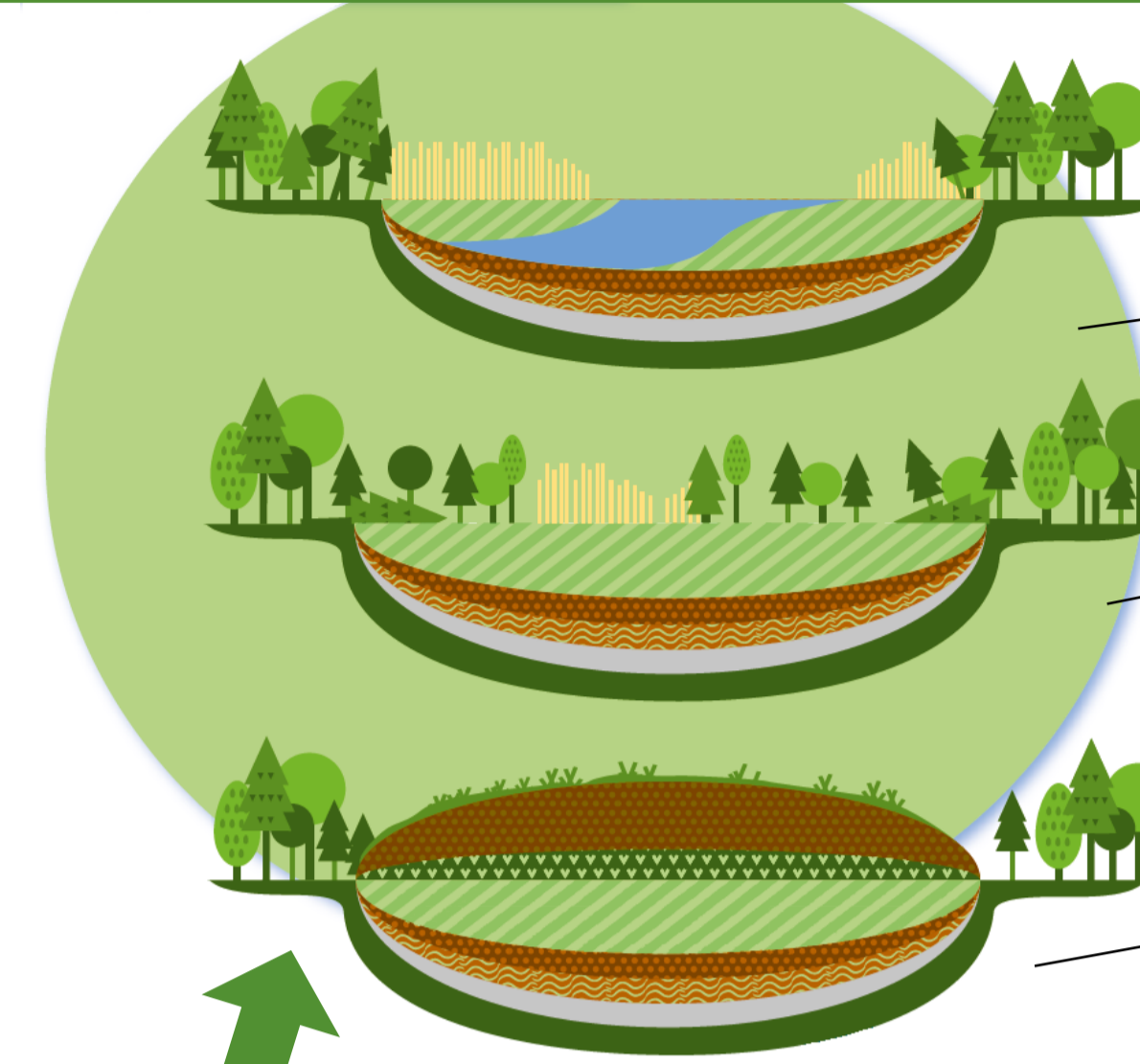


Peatland and climate protection

Peatlands are among the key habitats contributing to climate change mitigation. Human-caused degradation of peatlands for economic purposes, such as peat extraction, drainage from agriculture or afforestation, diminishes the capability of peatlands to store carbon. Most importantly, peatland degradation turns these valuable carbon sinks into sources of greenhouse gases.

3 % global land cover
30 % of the soil carbon

Peatlands account for only 3% of terrestrial surfaces worldwide, but they store nearly 30% of the soil carbon.



Fens feed from groundwater and often form in floodplains and wet hollows, as well as in overgrown lakes (seen in the image). As dead plant particles accumulate, peat layer starts to develop.

Transition mires refer to the stage of mire development between fen and raised bog. They are fed by both ground and rainwater.

Raised bogs develop from fens in areas of high precipitation, after the transition mire stage. They are only fed by rainwater, which is generally low in nutrients. During bog development, the peat layers grow upwards in the shape of a dome, as a result of peat formation.

Value of peatlands



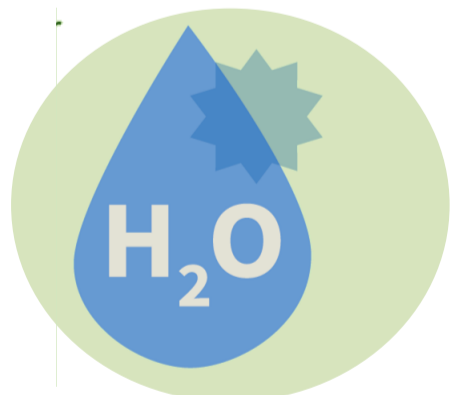
Peatlands preventing climate change

Healthy peatlands store twice as much carbon as all forests worldwide. In drained conditions the carbon is released in form of carbon dioxide (CO₂), causing global warming.



Peatlands as flood control

Peatlands function as the "kidneys" of landscapes, filtering the water and retaining pollutants. Peatlands absorb rainwater like a sponge, thus helping us become more resilient to floods.



Peatlands as groundwater filters

Pollutants dissolved in water are absorbed by mire plants and when the plants die, the pollutants are permanently stored within the peat.



Peatland as a valuable habitat

In addition to providing a habitat for specific flora and fauna, peatlands are also important resting and breeding grounds for migratory birds.

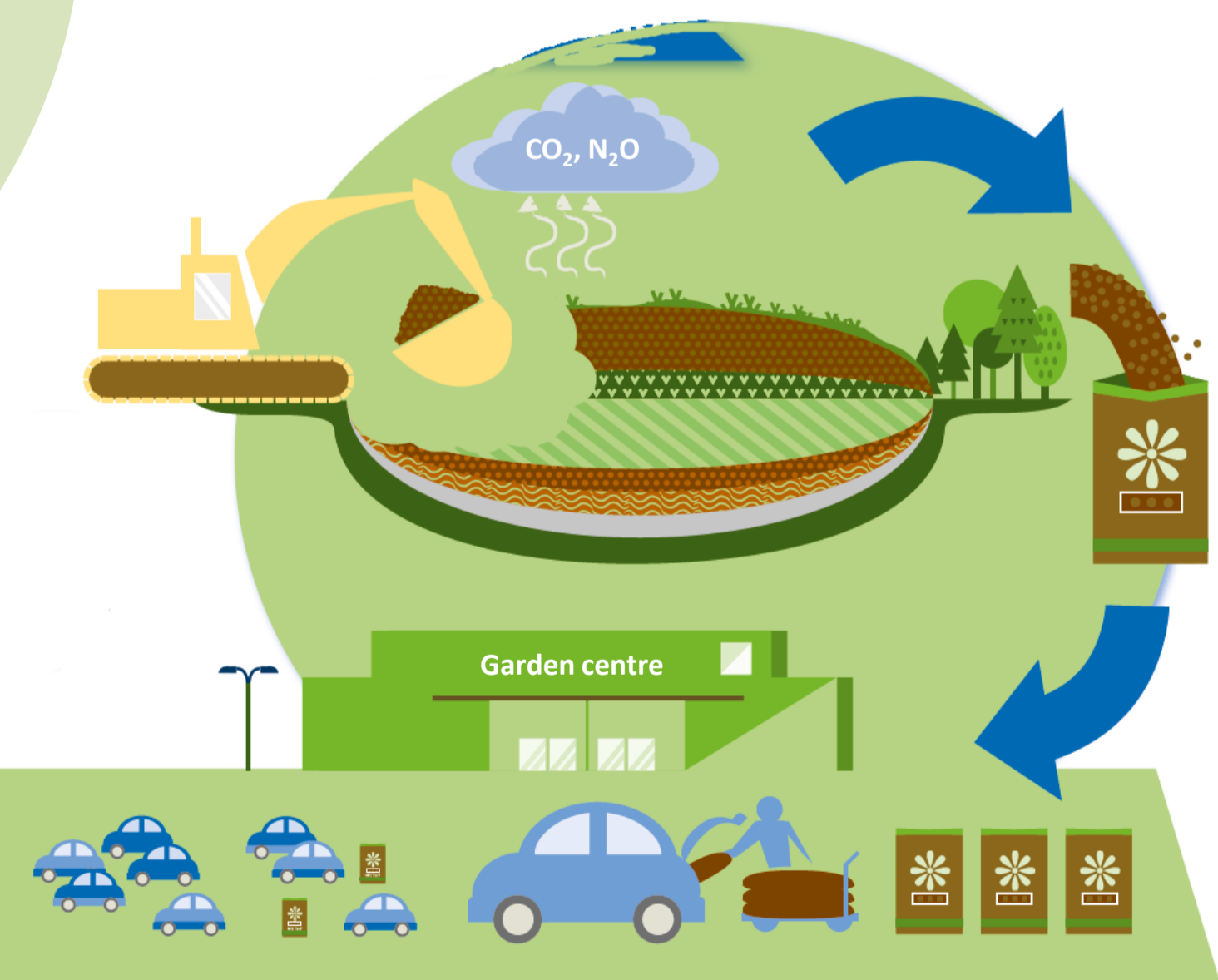
Sustainable alternatives to peat: compost, bark, wood chips and certified coir.

And your harvest will be better than you ever imagined!

Without peat!

You have the choice!

The hidden costs of peat products



Every time we buy peat products for our gardens, the product prices are not taking into account the full costs to our society and environment. For example, the costs of damages caused by peatland degradation are not included, such as floods or air pollution. It is the tax payers who must bear those high costs left out of the original price.

Without peatlands, who will keep our climate healthy, filter our groundwater and protect our homes from floods?

