

# LIFE PEAT RESTORE

## Peatland restoration in northern European countries – testing innovative techniques of peat forming vegetation in bare peat surfaces and water bodies

LIFE 15 CCM/DE/000138

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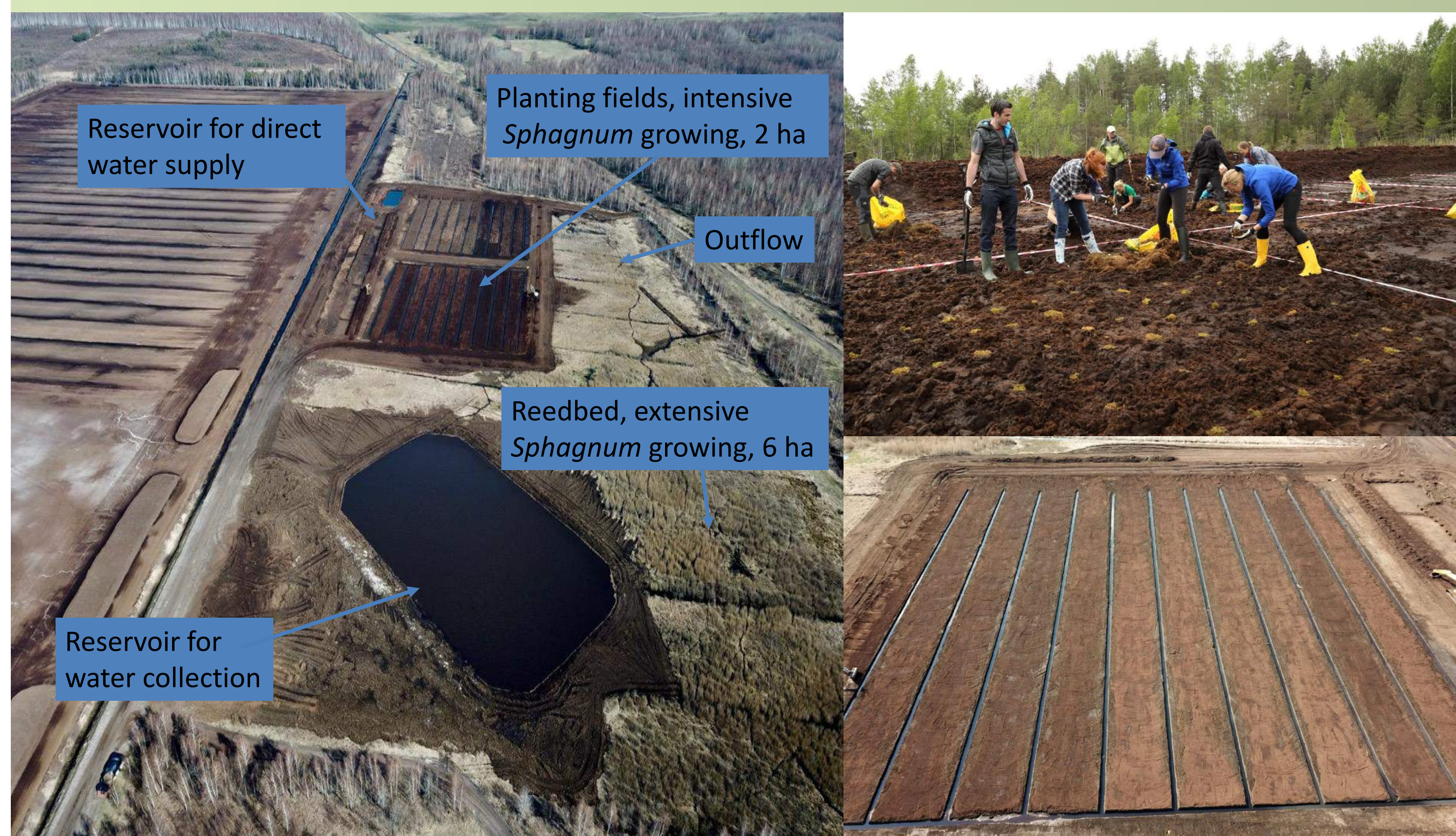
### Background

- EU-LIFE project "PEAT RESTORE" aims to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by restoring approximately 5,300 ha of degraded peatlands across 11 project sites in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.
- Application of the GEST approach (Greenhouse Gas Emission Site Type, after COUWENBERG et al. 2008 & 2011) including mapping, analyses of soil and water properties, and GHG-measurements for estimating the climate effect of the restoration measures.

### Project Sites (green), with described measures (red)



### Lithuanian Fund for Nature starts large-scale *Sphagnum* farming in Lithuania's Aukštumala peatlands



Technical setting of *Sphagnum* planting in Aukštumala; field prepared for growing (lower right); experimental *Sphagnum* planting in Kemere/ Latvia 2018 (upper right).

- On post-extraction sites left with bare peat, spreading of *Sphagnum* to allow for faster regeneration of peat forming vegetation.
- Following German examples of *Sphagnum* farming pilots, establishment of intensive *Sphagnum* growing on 2 ha of prepared fields by spreading with applied machinery.
- On 6 ha of former reed bed extensive *Sphagnum* growing.
- Water reservoirs safeguard a steady water supply.
- In 3 further sites *Sphagnum* spreading in smaller scale. Implementation 2018 to 2021.

### Klub Przyrodników reshapes open post-extraction water bodies in Polish Słowiński National Park

- Wind exposure on larger post-extraction water bodies prevents establishment of peat forming vegetation. GHG emissions stay high.
- Measures needed for creating better growth conditions of such vegetation by initializing overgrowing on water bodies' surfaces.
- On one water body artificial floating islands with peat forming vegetation are being tested: to reduce wave energy, stimulate vegetation colonization.
- On another water body earthworks will alter the shorelines by constructing a dam, solid islands and atolls, creating calm places for vegetation establishment.
- Testing since 2017, implementation until 2021.



Technical planning for initializing overgrowing of water bodies; installing floating islands.



Preparing floating islands with plants; established peat forming vegetation after one winter.

Partners:



Co-Financiers:



Contact details: Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Charitéstr. 3, 10117 Berlin, Germany, Leticia Jurema: [Leticia.Jurema@NABU.de](mailto:Leticia.Jurema@NABU.de), [www.life-peat-restore.eu/en](http://www.life-peat-restore.eu/en)