

Revealing global peatland hotspots for climate action: Bridging science and policy
UNFCCC COP29 Side Event Baku, Azerbaijan
21st November 2024



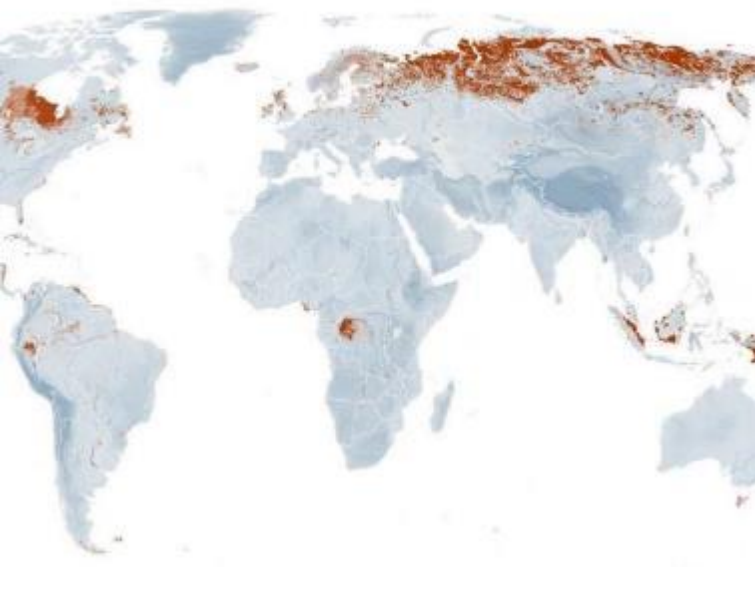
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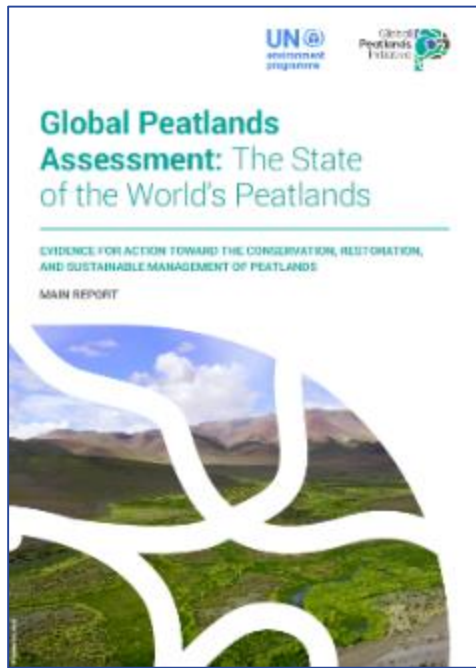
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Revealing global peatland hotspots for climate action

Bridging science and policy

Jan Peters, Michael Succow Foundation / Greifswald Mire Centre



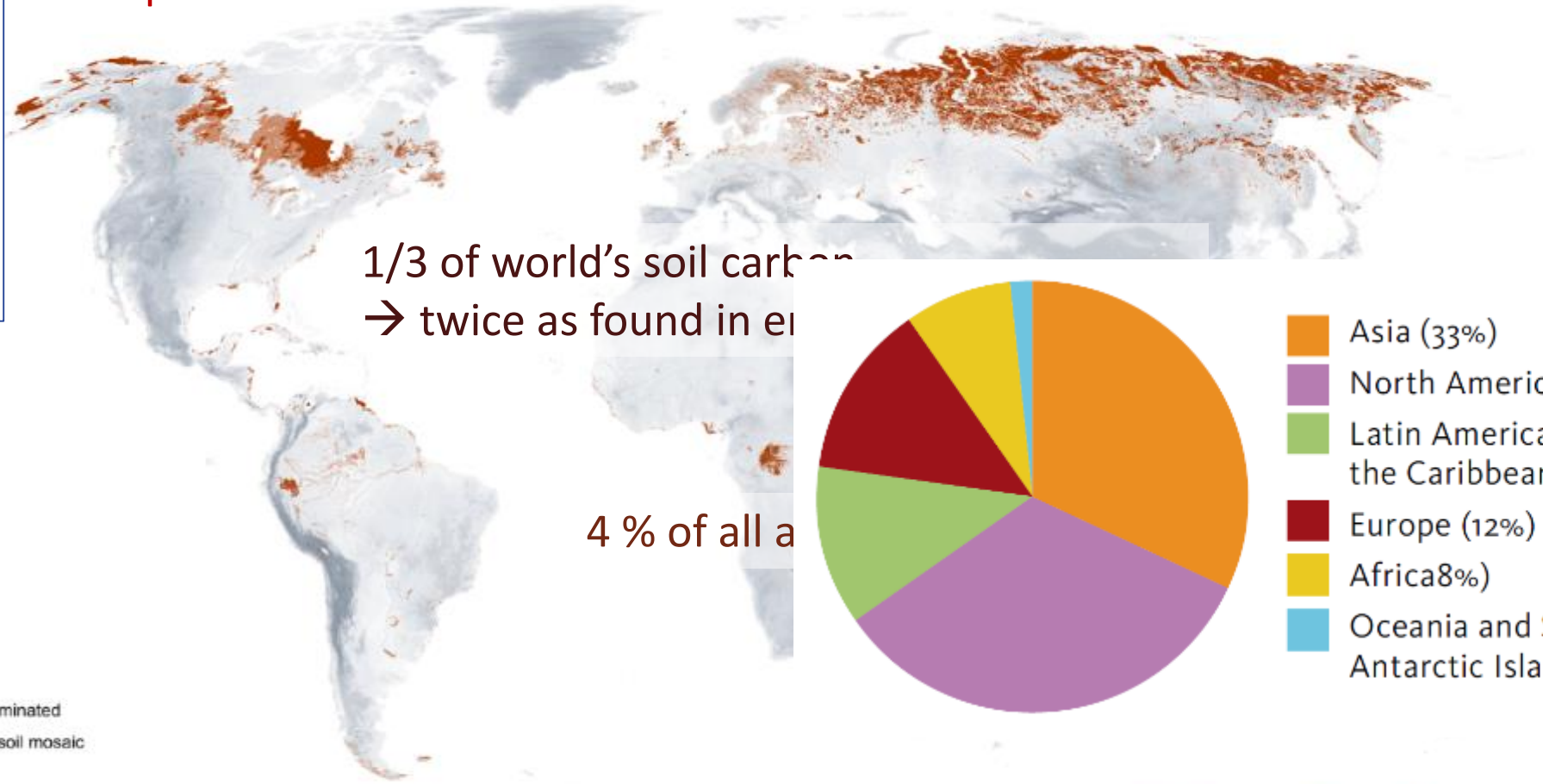


<https://www.unep.org/resources/global-peatlands-assessment-2022>

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

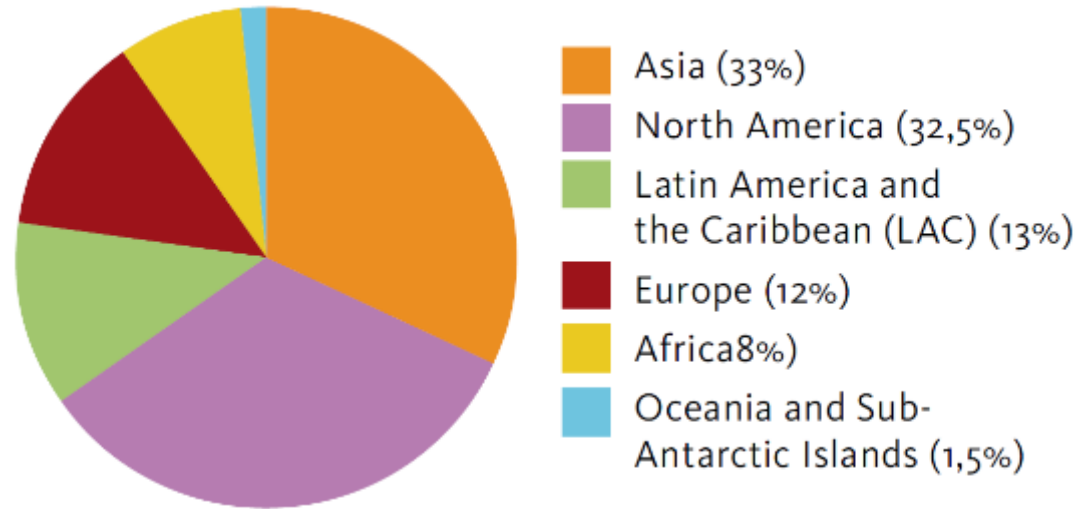


4% of planet's land surface

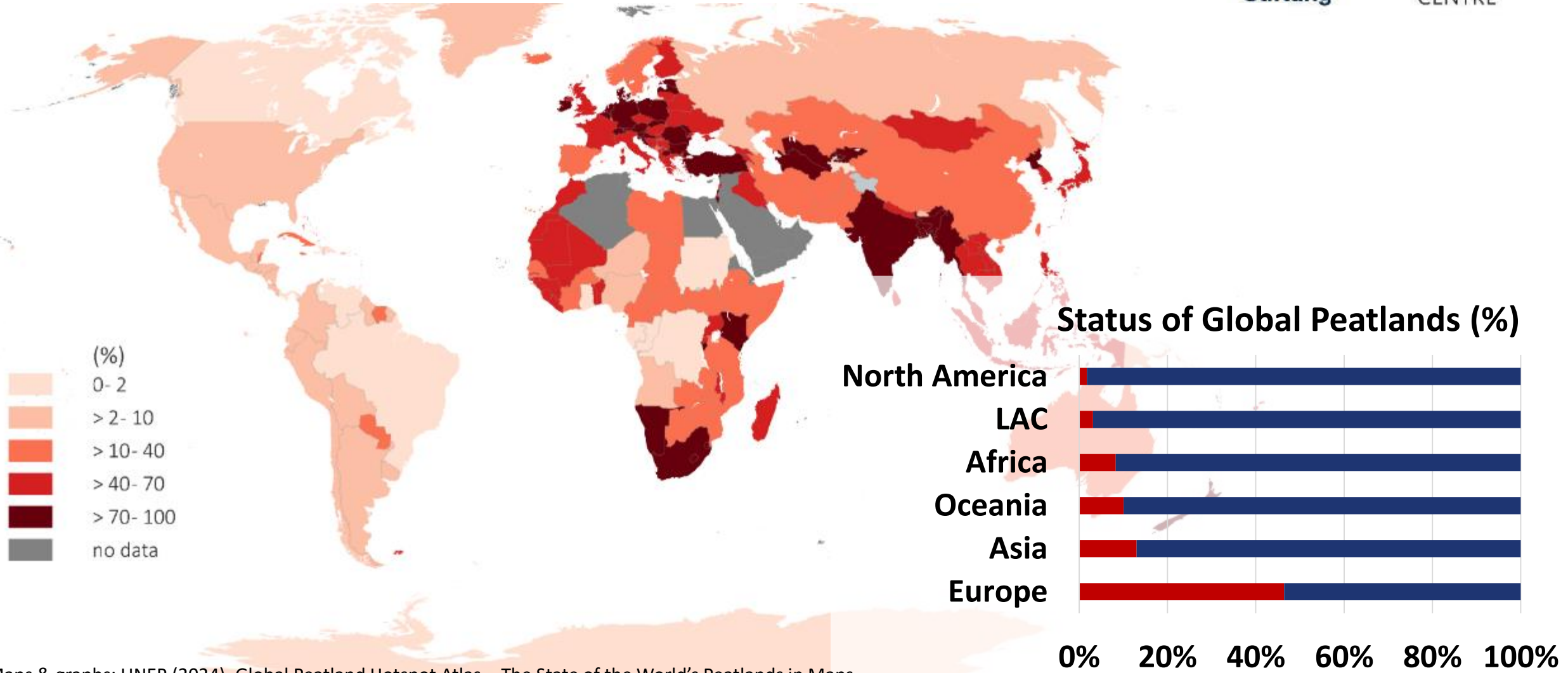


1/3 of world's soil carbon
→ twice as found in atmosphere

4 % of all a

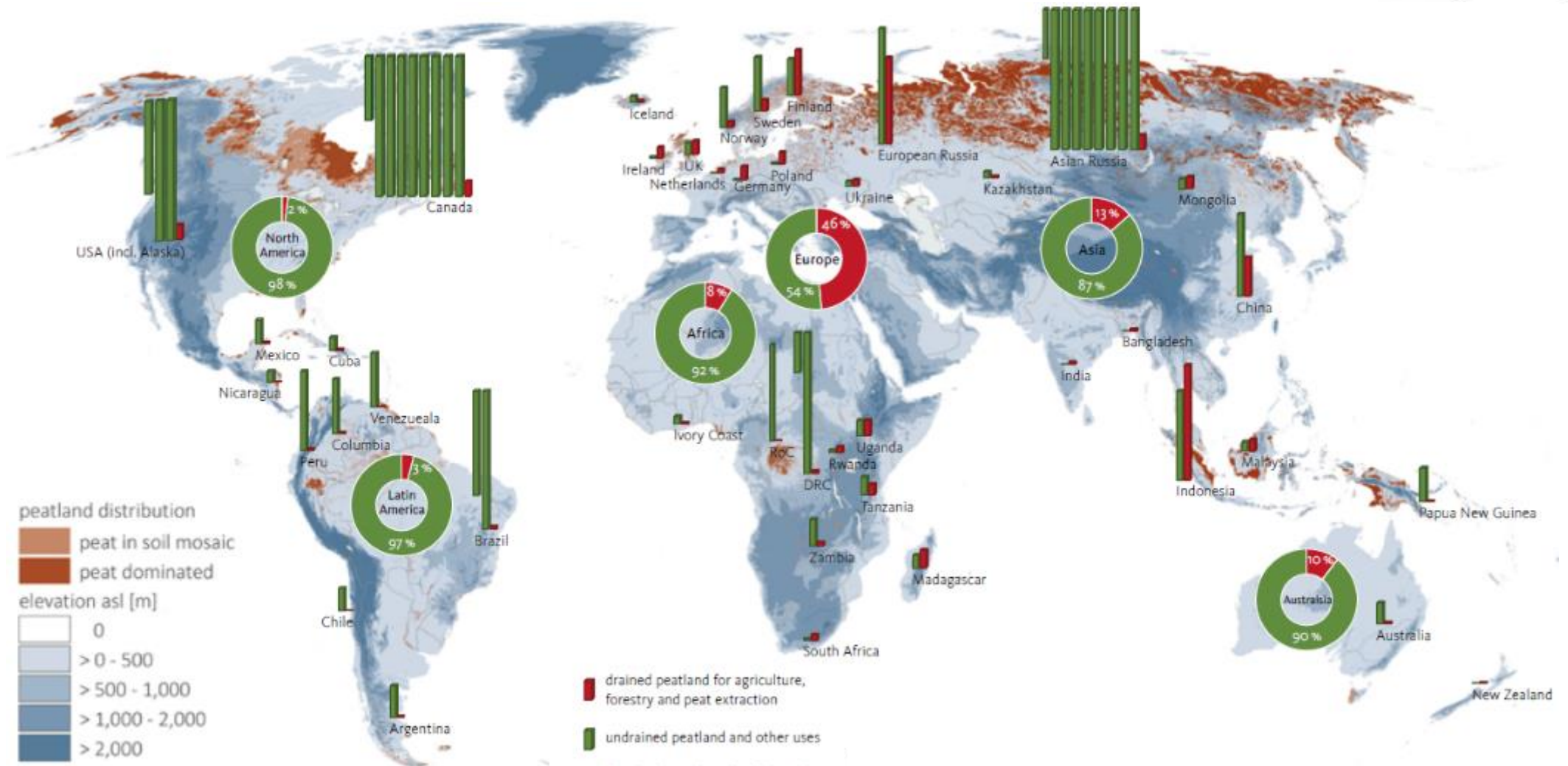


Peatlands are degrading at alarming speed



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

Drainage for land use is strongest driver for degradation

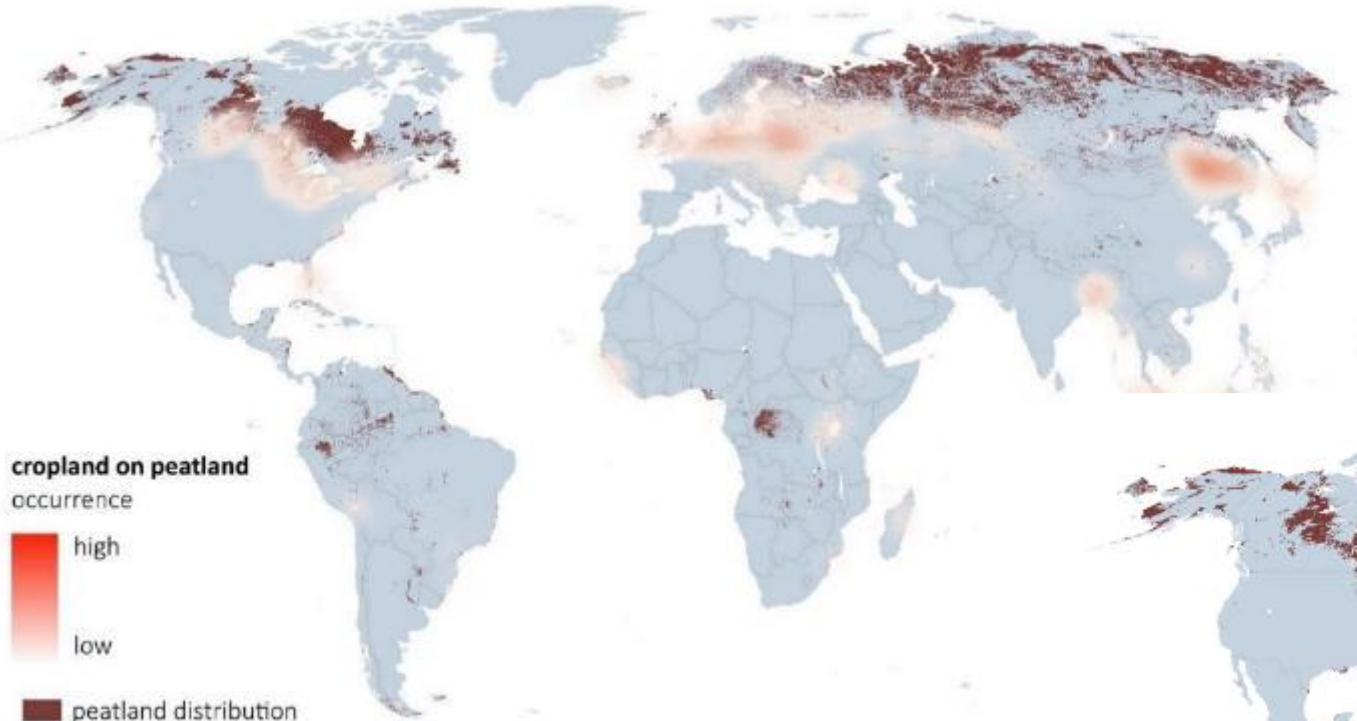


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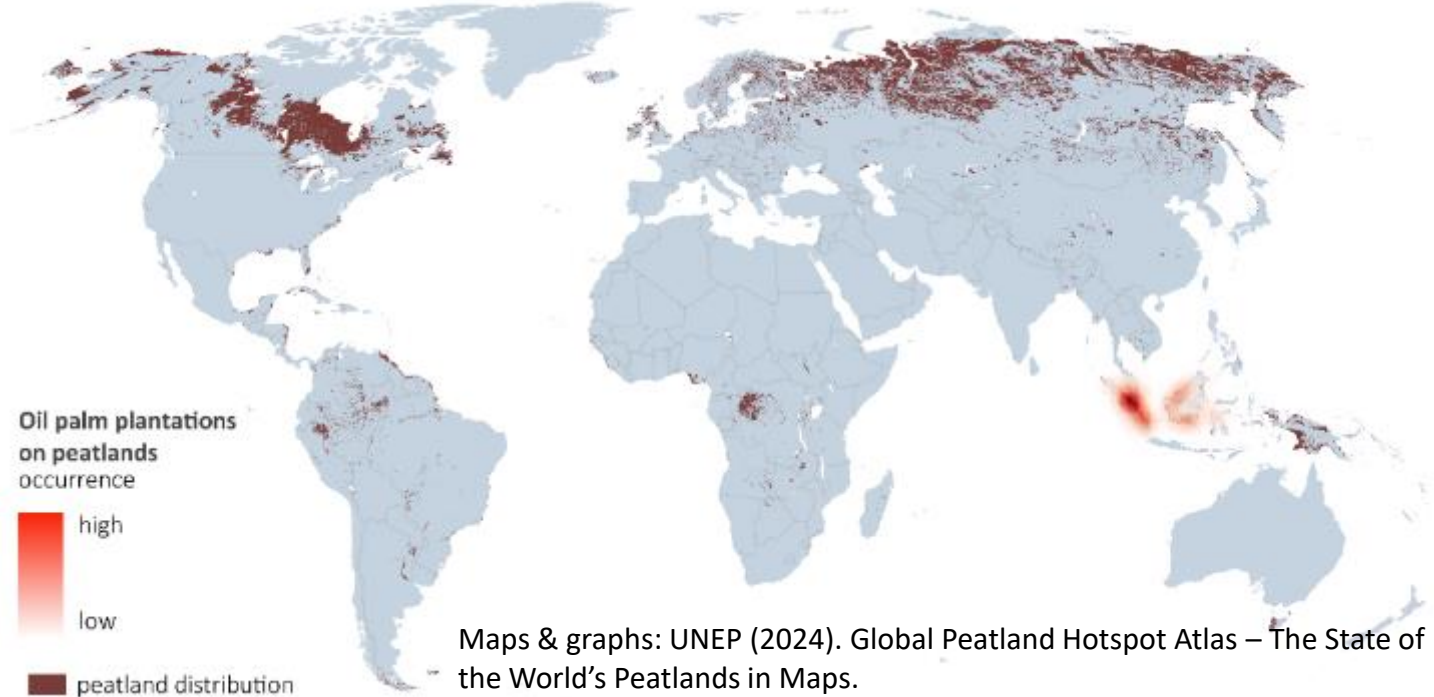
The height and number of bars illustrate the extent of undrained and drained peatlands within a given country.

Main driver: Agricultural use of drained peatlands

Cropland



Palmoil

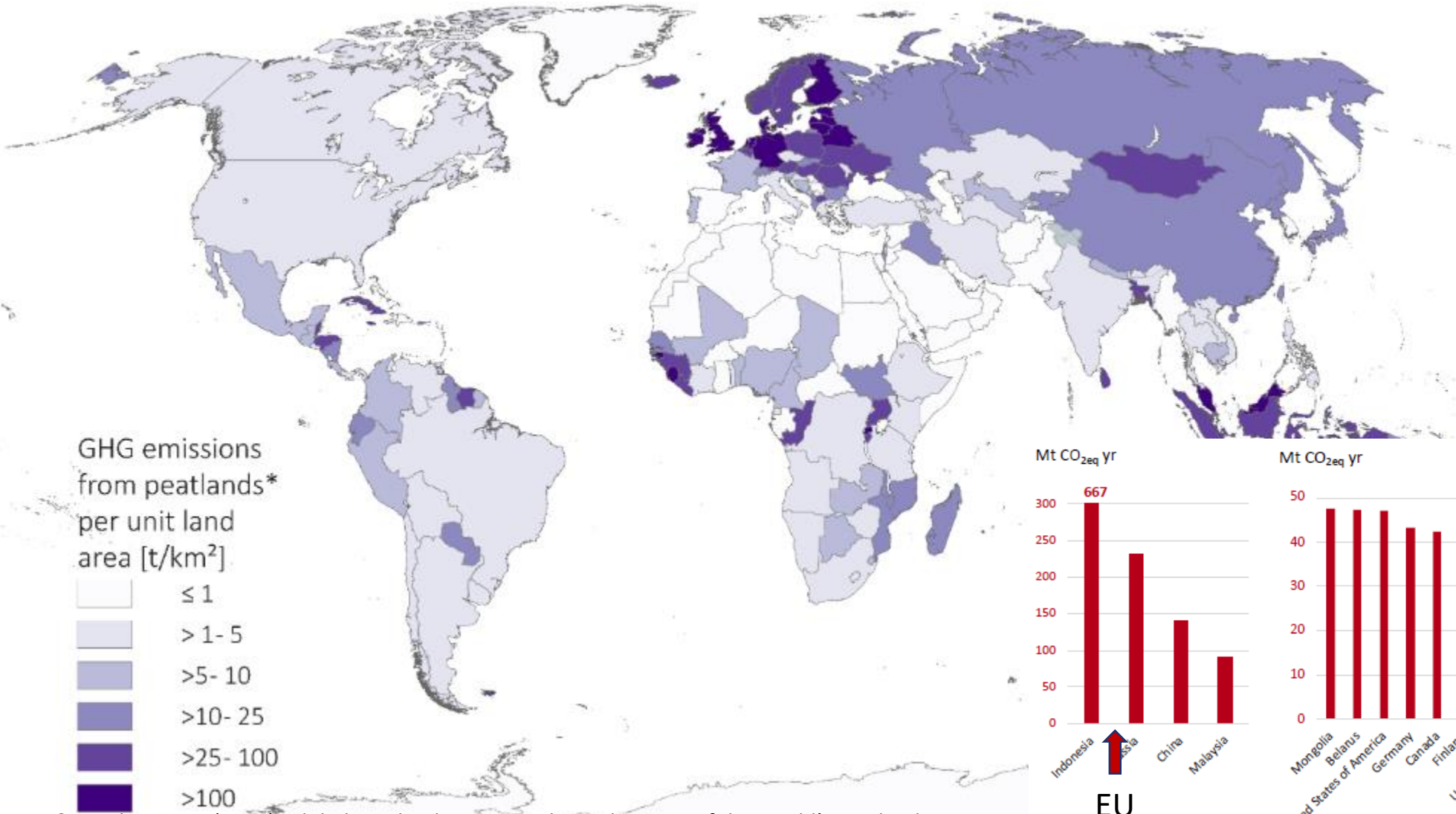


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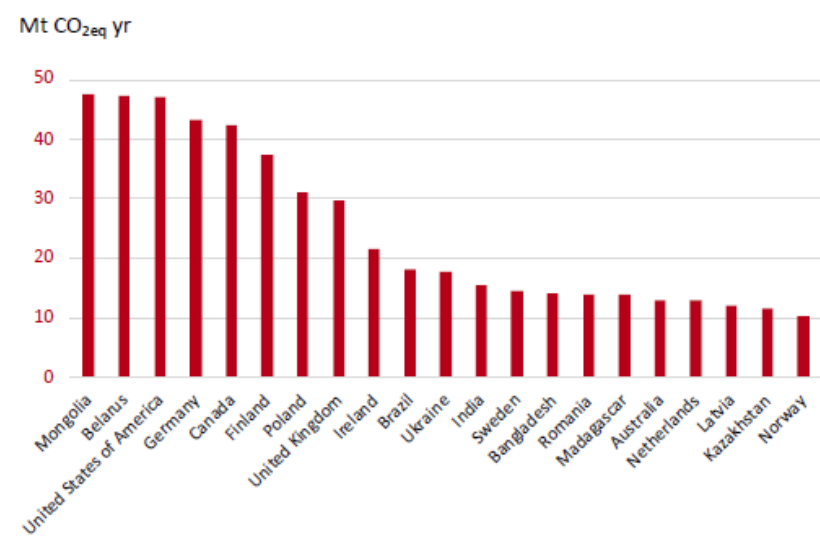
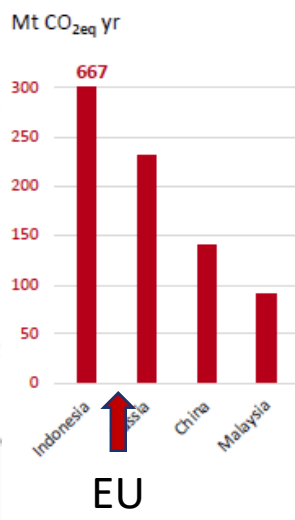
Mining operations destroy peatlands



GHG emissions from peatlands



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



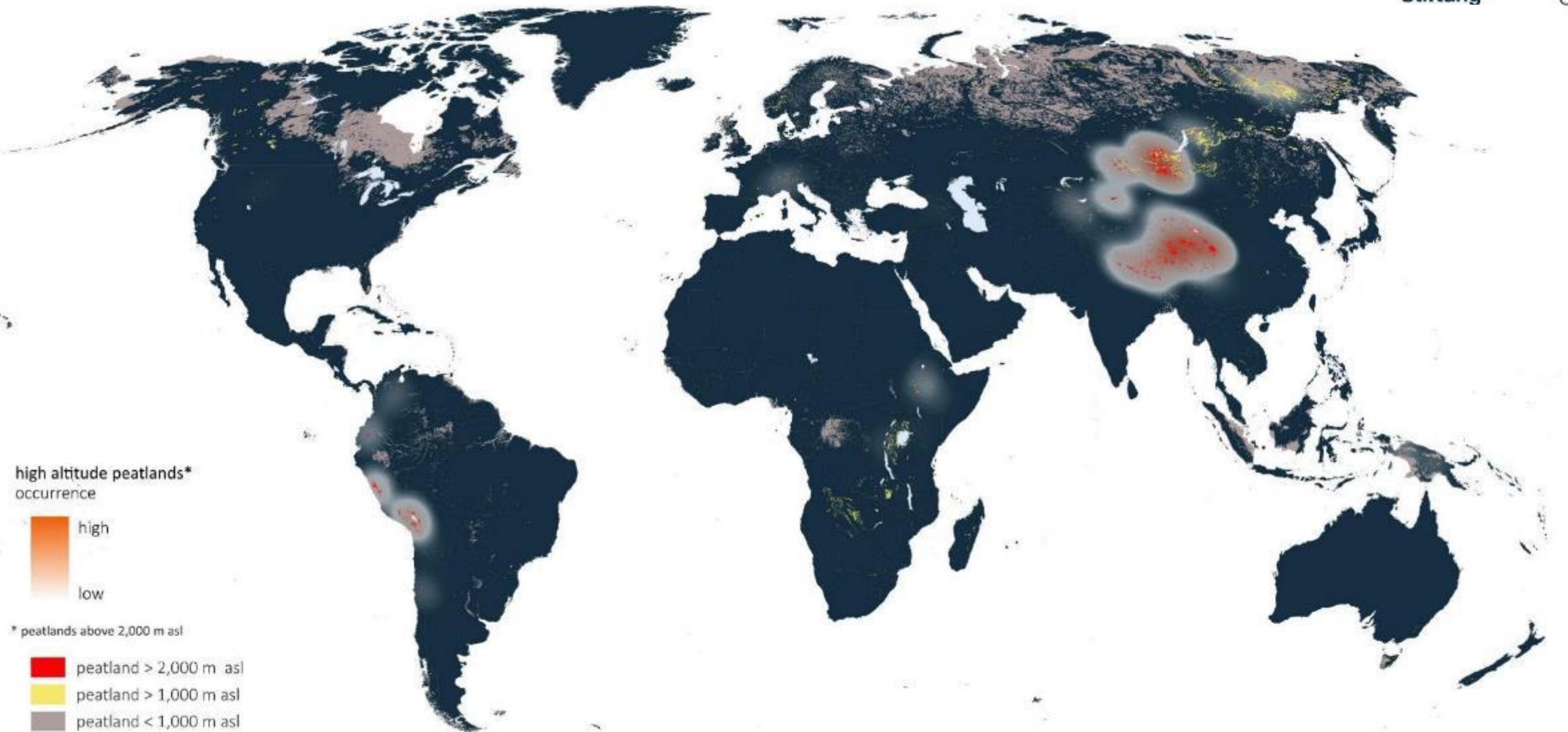
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Peatlands safeguard water supply



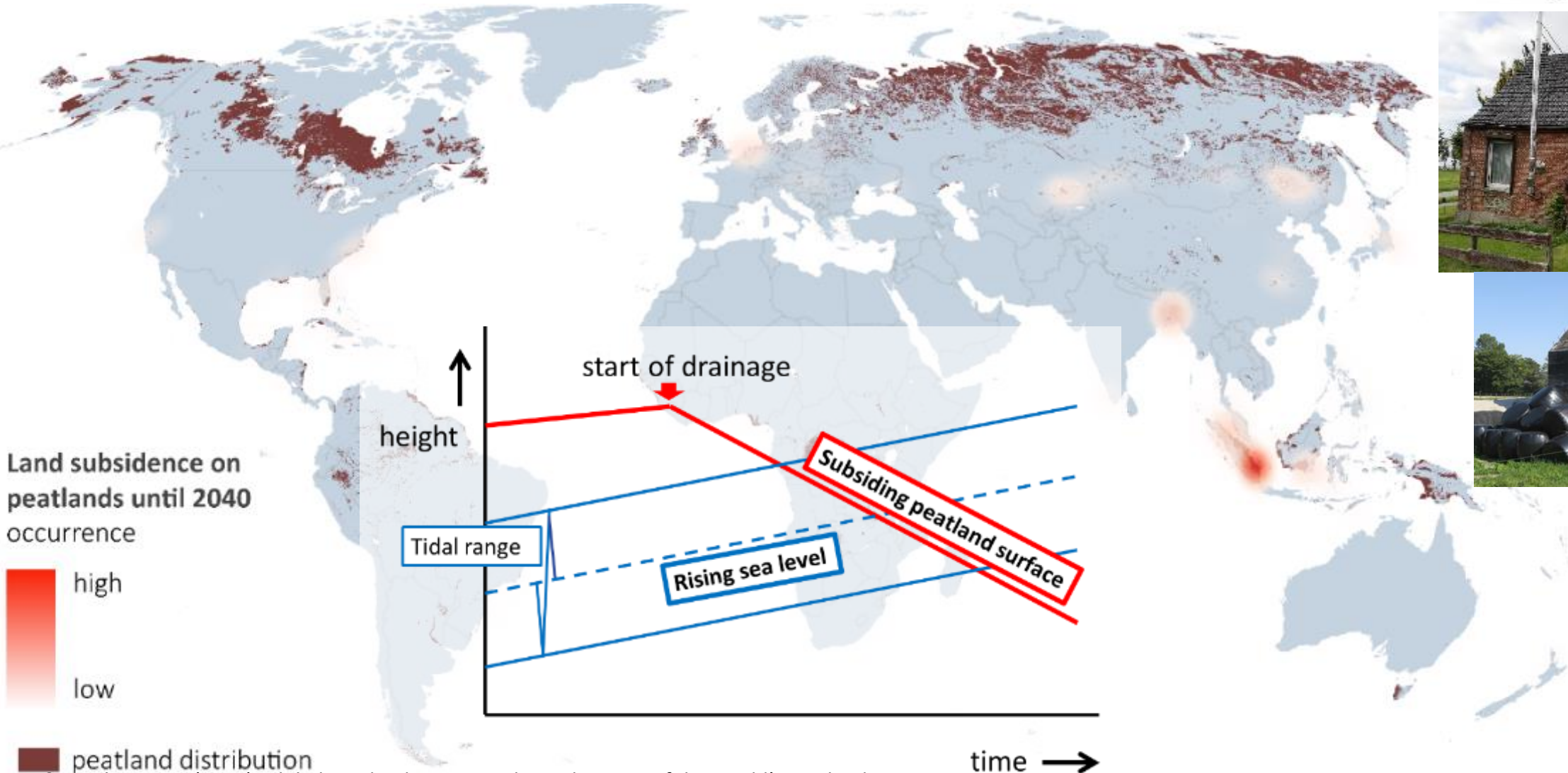
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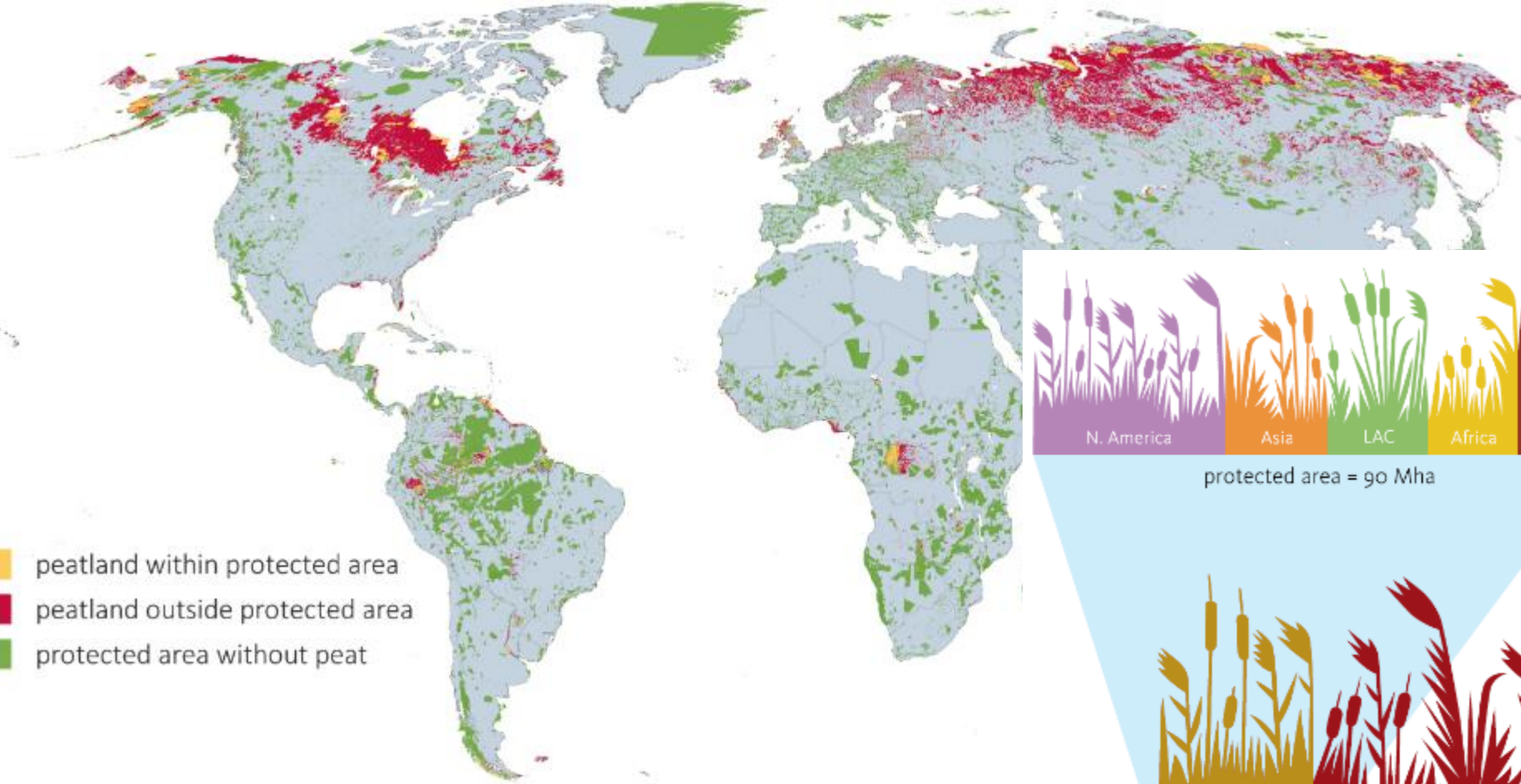


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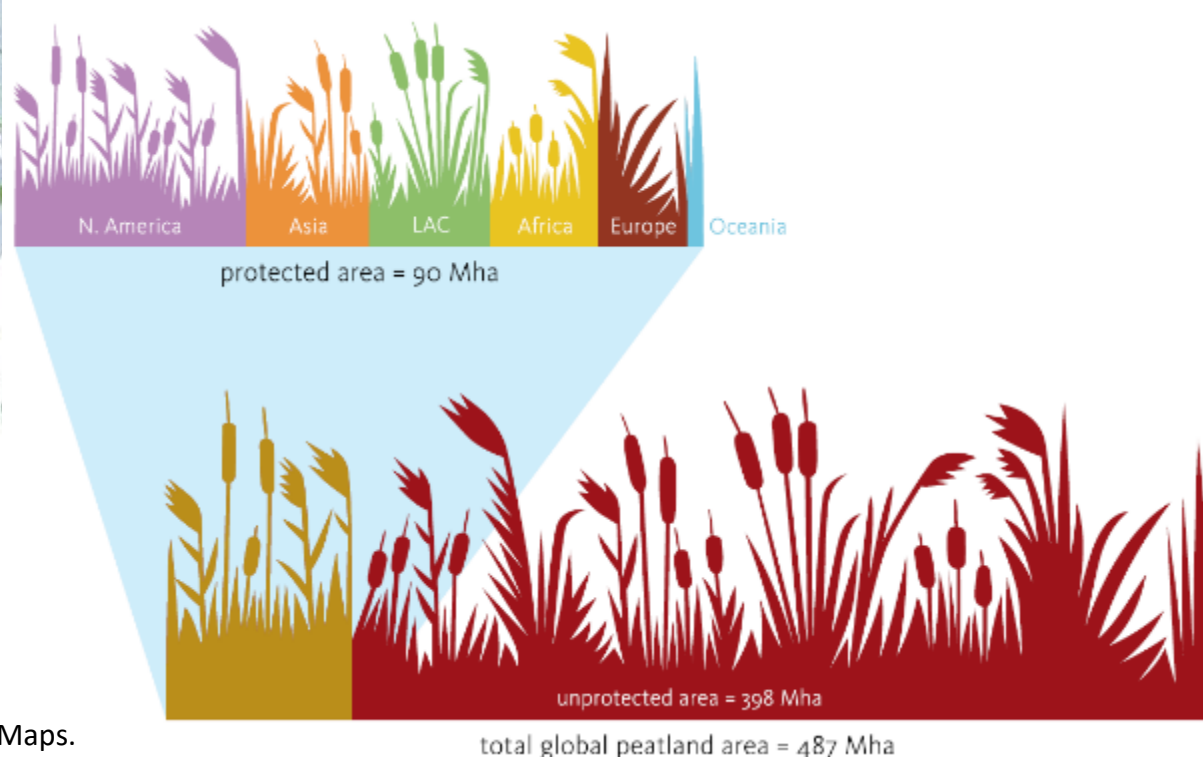
We loose land while sea level is rising



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



- peatland within protected area
- peatland outside protected area
- protected area without peat



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First priority is conservation
– second restoration of degraded areas



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



- saving GHG emissions
- storing carbon
- harbouring biodiversity
- Buffering & purifying waters
- 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

Get your Atlas!

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



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Big thanks to the authors:
Dr. A. Barthelmes,
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Prof. Dr. H. Joosten,
P. Scheel

Thank you!

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