



THE PEATLAND POST



Snowy peatland landscape - a unique winter sight. Photo: Judith Bouma



Peat Pals for LIFE

Dear Reader,

The end of one year and the start of another is the time of looking back on what we achieved in the past year and looking forward to the plans and possibilities of the year ahead. With this edition of the Peatland Post, together with the [Peat Pals for LIFE](#) team, we invite you to recollect your memories about past events, take a look at newly published video material, enjoy some peatland-related publications and fill your calendar with the upcoming events!

2025 was a busy year for peatlands, with a plethora of inspiring and impactful events, where current policy and technological developments in peatland conservation and restoration efforts could be discussed and new plans made. 2026 will carry the torch forward: We hope that you will be able to participate in some of the highlighted events, and that we will be able to meet and join forces for some live peatland action!

Your Peatland Post Team

THE PEATLAND POST IS HERE PEAT PALS FOR LIFE EDITION



Peatland News

InterLIFE Benelux 2025: Working together restoring nature in the Benelux

On the 17th and 18th of June, 2025, the first InterLIFE Benelux meeting was organized since 2019 by Natuurmonumenten. During the two days of the event, more than 80 participants from the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg came together around the central theme: Nature restoration in transition zones.



Enjoy a retrospective of the InterLIFE meeting in [Dutch](#), in [English](#) and a short summary on [LinkedIn](#)!

Monitor visit to the Valley of the Abeek

For the second time in the project, project partners and the project's monitor on behalf of ELMEN met on the 16th of September, 2025, this time in Belgium. The full-day event started with updates from the project partners and a discussion with the project's monitor, after which two Belgian project sites were visited.

For more information on the activities and photos of the day, follow [this](#) link!



Peatland Perspectives: restoring nature's climate heroes for tomorrow



Organised by four projects working together in the Netherlands and Germany, the Peatland Perspectives symposium was held from 8-10 October, 2025. Hosted at the Provincial House in Zwolle and attracting about 200 participants, the symposium aimed to support the complex challenge of European peatland restoration by offering diverse perspectives and creating space for open dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cross-sector collaboration.



Read more about the event [HERE!](#)

Peat restoration as a tool for climate mitigation - Video from Natuurpunt

Peat is crucial, both for nature and for our climate. Healthy peatlands are the largest natural carbon store on Earth. However, due to drainage, degraded peatlands emit large quantities of greenhouse gases. That is where LIFE Multi Peat comes in. This large-scale European project, led by partners such as Natuurpunt, focuses on the hydrological restoration of degraded peatlands in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Poland. What are we doing in this project?

- *Rewetting*: We are restoring the hydrology by closing ditches and dikes, raising the water levels.
- *Less CO₂*: This raised water level immediately reduces greenhouse gas emissions. In the Valley of the Grote Beek (Beringen, Ham, and Leopoldsburg) alone, it is estimated that this will reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 1,000 tonnes per year!
- *Biodiversity*: Wet, healthy peatlands provide a vital habitat for numerous (endangered) species and restore European protected habitats.
- *Water buffer*: Healthy peatlands act as natural sponges that retain water, which is essential in the fight against drought and flooding.
- *Paludiculture*: We are testing and promoting alternative wet land-use practices such as paludiculture (e.g., harvesting willows) as a sustainable alternative to drainage-based agriculture.

The video is available in Dutch with English subtitles.



The European Peatland Policy Working Group – contribution of the LIFE Multi Peat project to policy and decision making

Peatland restoration in Europe depends not only on sound science and practice, but also on coherent and ambitious policy. Drained peatlands account for over 5% of the EU's annual greenhouse gas emissions, yet policies affecting peatlands are still often fragmented across climate, agriculture and biodiversity sectors. [The European Peatland Policy Working Group](#), established within the LIFE Multi Peat project, addresses this challenge by strengthening coordination and policy impact at the European level.

The Working Group brings together experts and representatives from peatland-rich European countries to exchange knowledge, discuss policy developments and jointly develop recommendations for EU policies affecting peatlands. Meeting quarterly, it provides members with updates on key political initiatives, access to a strong international policy network, and opportunities to engage with decision-makers from national to EU level. Niall Ó Brolcháin (ASPECT Unit Leader, Data Science Institute, University of Galway) chairs the group.

The EPP Working Group is open to new members with expertise or interest in peatland-related policy. By joining, participants can contribute their perspectives, help shape future European peatland policies, and collaborate with peers working at the science–policy interface. The group is also involved in the development of the [European Peatlands Initiative \(EPI\): a Community Platform](#).

Those interested in strengthening the voice of peatlands in European decision-making are warmly invited to [get involved!](#)

LIFE PeatCarbon project steering and scientific group meeting held

On 14 November 2025, the joint hybrid meeting of the LIFE PeatCarbon project's Steering and Scientific Groups took place at the University of Latvia House of Science in Riga, bringing together 20 participants from all project partner countries. Cooperation partners from Latvia, Finland and Germany presented the latest information on progress in peatland restoration, the dynamics of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, remote sensing tools, hydrological monitoring and communication activities.

The meeting confirmed that the project has reached an important stage of scientific and practical development



– active peatland restoration work is underway at the project sites, the first stable datasets on water table levels, GHG emissions, vegetation recovery and hydrological regime has been collected, and coordinated solutions for the next phases of the project are being prepared.

You can read the full article on the [LIFE PeatCarbon website](#).



LIFE PeatCarbon - How do Latvian peatlands fit into NATO's frontline defence strategy

Natural peatlands are fundamentally defined by their permanently or near-permanently waterlogged conditions. This constant water saturation is not just a characteristic of peatlands—it's the very mechanism that allows them to exist and function. Intact or rewetted peatlands can recapture the traditional role that these waterlogged ecosystems historically played as a natural defence system. Peatland rewetting is highly important as when peatlands are wet, no military equipment can simply drive through it.



That's why peatlands are of great significance for the natural protection of NATO border regions. Most of the EU's peatlands happen to be located along NATO's border with Russia and Belarus, stretching from the Finnish Arctic through Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, across the Suwalki Gap and into eastern Poland. You can read the whole article [HERE](#).

Join Europe's growing peatland movement!

We're thrilled to kick-off the brand-new European Peatlands Initiative (EPI): a Community Platform on Slack, created under the EUKI project [Building a European Peatlands Alliance - EUKI](#).

More info: <https://www.eurosite.org/join-europes-growing-peatland-movement/>

How to join? Take a look at the [Terms of Use](#) and complete the [Application Form](#)!

Join today and be part of Europe's growing peatland movement!"

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Further readings

- Nature article about "[Identifying hotspots of greenhouse gas emissions from drained peatlands in the European Union](#)" with authors from the University of Greifswald among others

- Authors of the University of Greifswald, University of Antwerp, Technical University of Munich and University of Warsaw published an article about how ["Paludiculture maintains peat formation potential in rewetted temperate fens"](#)
 - Agricultural Systems article about ["Agriculture on wet peatlands: the sustainability potential of paludiculture"](#) featuring authors from the University of Greifswald and the University of Warsaw among others
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Peatland Events



[Bog to the Future – tech innovations in peatland restoration](#)

Location: British Embassy in Berlin

Date: 10 March, 2026 from 18:00-20:00 CET

The event is in collaboration between NABU, the UK Science & Technology Network, the Scottish Government and the British Embassy Berlin.

The event will showcase state-of-the-art solutions from Germany and the UK of how nature conservation practitioners have partnered with scientific institutions and tech companies to implement durable, large-scale, cost-efficient peatland restoration projects. You will get the chance to interact with all presenters and network with other attendees over drinks and finger food.

Registration will open mid-January, so please keep an eye out and register as soon as it becomes available.

DATE

11-12(-13) May 2026

Turnhout, Belgium

Option to also participate in the final conference of LIFE Nardus & Limosa at the same location on 13 May



Save the Date: InterLIFE Benelux 2026

Location: Turnhout, Belgium

Date: 11-12(-13) May, 2026

This year, the conference will be hosted by Natuurpunt and the project LIFE Nardus & Limosa.

On the first day (11 May, 2026), various speakers and workshops will spark knowledge exchange and networking regarding the challenges and results of nature conservation in the Benelux followed by field visits on the second day (12 May, 2026).

Those interested can subsequently join the final conference of LIFE Nardus & Limosa on Wednesday, 13 May. During this day, the project's experiences and results will be shared with interesting speakers, focusing on key themes such as: soil management, grassland restoration, phosphorus mining, meadow birds and many more.

More details will follow soon! For questions, please contact [Jef Hendrix!](#)





International Peatland Society Annual Convention in Ireland

Location: Tullamore, Ireland

Date: 8-12 June, 2026

The event will bring together members and partners of the International Peatland Society for discussions, networking and cooperation on peat and peatland topics. The event will include field trips, the IPS Annual Assembly, Executive Board elections, and a variety of social events.

Further details and the full programme will be announced closer to the event.



Get involved: Power to the Peatlands conference

Location: 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

Date: 2-4 September, 2026

Preparations for the second edition of the European Power to the Peatlands conference are in full swing, and we are excited to share our progress and invite you to take an active role. The core ambition of Power to the Peatlands 2026 is clear: to serve as a catalyst for the implementation of the European Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR). Our focus is not just

on the theory (the 'what'), but primarily on the practice (the 'how'). We are bringing together scientists, policymakers, land users, the private sector, and communication experts to formulate concrete, feasible solutions for peatland restoration.

Call for sessions and ideas

A conference that truly connects is one we build together. Do you have an innovative idea for an interactive workshop, a specific theme that must be addressed, or a suggestion for a session that directly links science to practice? We want to hear from you!

Please contact: info@powertothepeatlands.com

Mark your calendar: on 2 February 2026 we will open

- **Call for Abstracts:** We invite you to present your work. Whether it is scientific research, a practical case study, or a policy success story, we are looking for contributions that highlight the relevance to peatland restoration practice. Deadline for abstract submissions is 1 March 2026.
- **Registration:** From this date, you will be able to officially register for the conference.

[Register your interest](#) and stay informed about our updates!



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