

REWETTED WETLANDS

- Benefits of rewetting include the **impact reduction of natural disasters** such as flooding, **improved water quality** by limiting nutrient release and algae bloom, and **climate change mitigation**.
- Restoration of these areas could potentially prevent up to **100 billion tons of CO₂ emissions by 2100**.
- Paludiculture, the growth of vegetation on wet and rewetted peatland, **supports all these benefits** while still **allowing sustainable agricultural production**.

FOLLOW US

Learn more about the project at www.wethorizons.eu



WET HORIZONS

OUR PARTNERS



Funded by
the European Union

DRIED WETLANDS

- Globally and annually, drained peatlands emit approximately **2 gigatons of CO₂** by microbial peat oxidation or peat fires. This is approximately **5% of all anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**.
- Continuing the current rate of wetland degradation could result in the release of **408 gigatons of CO₂** between 2021 and 2100.
- Europe has been the worst affected area by wetland loss. Multiple countries have lost over **75% of their wetlands**.



Boosting crucial **wetland knowledge**



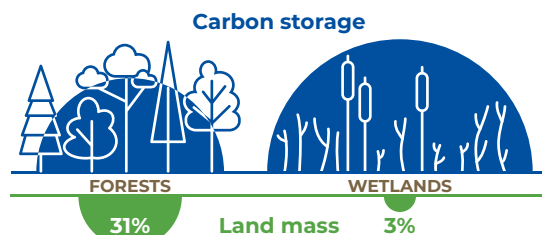
Digital **tools** for **fast-tracking restoration** action



Guidelines and **best management practices**

WHY CARE ABOUT WETLANDS?

Wetlands include peatlands such as fens and bogs. These areas are important environments for biodiversity and climate mitigation, due to their ability to sequester carbon and protect against flooding. Peatlands **store twice** as much carbon as the global forest biomass, despite **only covering 3% of land mass**.



Despite this importance, **less than 20% of Europe's wetlands** are in good ecological condition. The draining, degradation and destruction of these wetlands has resulted in the release of its stored carbon and the loss of unique biodiversity. Without mitigation actions, the EU will continue to release **220 Megatonnes of CO₂** from drained peatlands. This making the EU the **second-largest emitter of greenhouse gas from drained peatlands**.

WHAT ARE THE WET HORIZONS PROJECT GOALS?

WET HORIZONS aims to fast-track wetland restoration by **improving data quality** and using the results from the project to **produce tools for decision makers**. It has the following main components:

1 A holistic approach to collecting data:

Wetland and peatland researchers will work with greenhouse gas experts and individuals studying agroecology, biology, climate change, modelling and policy analysis. The data collected from wetlands across Europe will be used to determine which ones should have priority for restoration based on factors such as greenhouse gas emissions, and provision of ecosystem services (e.g. improved water quality).

2 Filling in knowledge gaps:

The project will provide missing wetland data including the impact of restoration for climate and biodiversity. Some data will be collected via citizen science. Researchers will also analyse the socioeconomic impacts of wetland restoration.

3 Producing resources for decision makers:

At the end of the project, updated wetland maps, guidelines, an app and other tools will be created to inform policy makers about best management practices for wetlands and approaches for restoration action.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN I GET THESE TOOLS?

The project kicked off in September 2022 and ends in August 2026. Results are **expected towards the end of the project** and will be available in open-access repositories to maximize their use and outreach. **Follow our social media channels** (see backside) to stay posted!

