

June 2025

915,000

hectares of peat soils, of which around 325,000 are mires.



20%

of land area covered by peatlands.



Estonia is one of the world's most peat-rich country!

Peatlands in Estonia



Among Estonian peatlands, peat depth can reach up to 18 meters, although average depths are typically around 3-5 meters.

Of the functioning mires, most (151,200 hectares) are bogs, while 40,000 hectares are intact transitional mires, and 42,300 hectares are fen landscapes.



Aerial photographs of the restoration project at Laiuse residual mire. The left image was taken in 2002, and the right in 2022

Current Threats



Drainage

By 1992, 560,000 hectares of peatland forest was drained.



Agriculture,

forestry & peat extraction are the main land uses for peatlands in Estonia.

<70%

of degraded mires

for economic reclamation, causing up to 10.14 million tons of CO₂-eq emitted annually.



Peat extraction

128 extraction sites, mining 400,000 – 900,000 tons of peat per year.



Conservation & Restoration projects

- Estonia is well-involved with peatland protection and restoration. Its national Action Plan for Protected Mires (2016-2023) aimed to restore 10,000 hectares of peatlands by 2020, while protecting a further 190,000 hectares.
- As of 2024, these targets have been widely exceeded, with over 17,000 hectares restored by the State Forest Management Centre.

DID YOU KNOW?

Estonian mires are crucial landscapes for several important fauna and flora, such as the capercaillie (*Tetrao urogallus*), common crane (*Grus grus*), and carnivorous sundew (*Drosera spp.*).



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