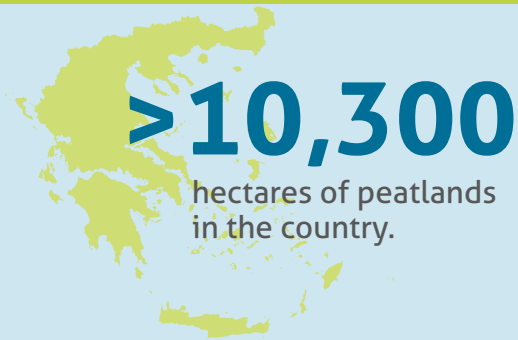




June 2025



The Philippi peatland, which spans 5,500 hectares, is known for having the world's deepest recorded peat, with depths of up to 190 meters.

Peatlands in Greece

Notable peatlands

The Philippi peatland, located in the Drama Basin of Eastern Macedonia, Greece, is a significant intermontane fen landscape.

It spans 5,500 hectares and has accumulated peat for 0.7 to 1.35 million years, with reserves estimated at around 4.3 billion cubic meters.



Elatia Mires, located in the Rhodope Mountains of northern Greece.

Current Threats



Drainage

92-95% of peat soils are drained.



Peatlands cultivation

90%

of all Greek organic soils are estimated to be cultivated in present.



Philippi peatland is almost entirely used for agriculture.

Central areas have subsided by up to 7 meters due to ongoing cultivation & ploughing.



Conservation & Restoration projects

- Little information exists on Greek peatland restoration and conservation projects.
- The Small Prespa fen of 400 hectares, located in the northwestern Macedonia region, became a National Park in 1974, and is protected by the Ramsar convention, although still being impacted by eutrophication from surrounding agriculture.



On top of being geomorphologically famous, the Philippi peatland is also well known for partially being the site of the Battle of Philippi in 42 B.C. This battle saw Octavian and Mark Antony's armies fight (and defeat) the armies of Caesar's assassins: Brutus and Cassius.



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