



June 2025

14%

of the country's land area, or cover between 600,000-900,000 hectares of peatlands.



Estimates:

253,000 ha of bog
57,500 ha of transition mires
283,300 ha of fens
in the country (Figure 1).

Peatlands in Latvia



Latvia counts 5,799 separate peatland sites larger than 1 hectare, including 7 which are more than 5,000 hectares large.

Latvian fens are often dominated by sedge grasses, with calcareous fens occurring at coastal lagoons, and alkaline fens generally more in the western parts of the country.

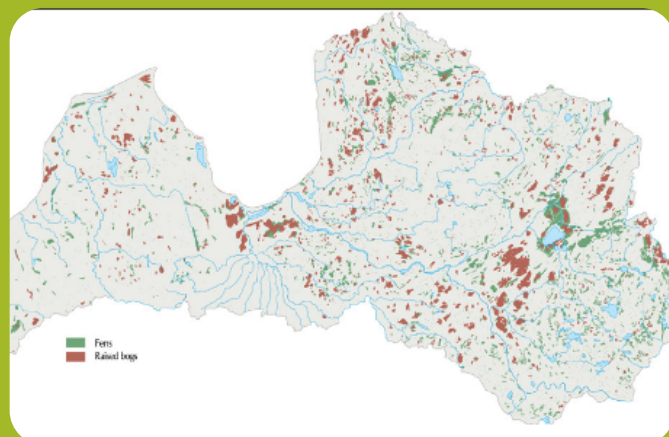


Figure 1: Map of peatlands in Latvia, separated between bogs and fens

Current Threats

74%

of the country's peatlands are degraded

12

million tons of CO₂ annually due to peatland degradation



Drainage for afforestation & agriculture

5th

highest emitter of drained peatland-related emissions in Europe

Today, peat extraction still takes place in Latvia, with 25,739 hectares in 127 separate extraction sites active as of 2024

Conservation & Restoration projects

- Peat extraction in Latvia is strictly regulated, with only 10% of sites established in the last 40 years.
- Conservation projects are active, including the EU Just Transition Fund's plan to recultivate 13,600 hectares of peatlands, potentially saving 134.6 thousand tons of CO₂ annually.
- Additionally, 258,040 hectares of peatlands are currently protected, including areas in the Augstroze Nature Reserve.



Latvian mires are important habitats for various threatened birds, for instance the Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*), the European Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), and the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), alongside a multitude of rare invertebrate species

