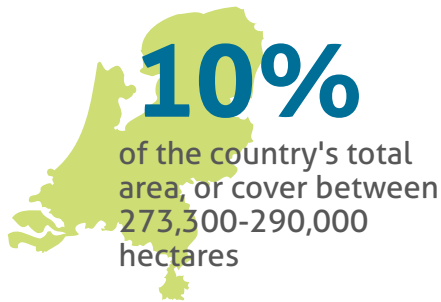


June 2025



Dutch peatlands are mostly located in the north and central-west areas of the country (Figure 1)

Peatlands in Netherlands

The two peat regions are also distinguishable in terms of peat classification, as the northern "hoogveen" are more similar to raised bog landscapes, and the western "laagveen" are fens.

Pristine raised bog landscapes such as the Fochteloërveen in the north are habitats for 300+ vulnerable animal and plant species.

Current Threats

Only **5.5%** are still actively accreting peat.

80% of peatlands are used for dairy pastures.

Around **4.25** million tons of CO₂ annually, related to peatland.



Land subsidence



CO₂ emissions



Flooding risks

Subsidence rates are typically 8-12 mm/year, reaching 20-30 mm/year in extreme cases.



Figure 1: Map of soil types in the Netherlands, including peat



Conservation & Restoration projects

- Project with the Bargerveen at the Dutch-German border, restored 2,100 hectares of peatland where only a single bog pool remained with 100 hectares of peat by 1980.
- The Drentsche Aa project rewetted 500 hectares of peatland, preventing emissions of 400 tons of CO₂ annually.
- Additional projects are underway in the Fochteloërveen peatland.



The Fochteloërveen was once part of a much larger peatland of 25,000 hectares called the Smildigerveen. While it is only about 4,000 hectares today, it is still an important nesting site for the common crane (Grus grus), a rare bird in the Netherlands.



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