



Poland

European Peatland Factsheet

June 2025

1,495,000

hectares (4.79%) of the country territory.



Peatlands in Poland occur both within alpine and continental biogeographic zones, but with a higher presence in the north of the country.

Peatlands in Poland

Most peatland sites in Poland are small (<15 hectares), but those over 100 hectares constitute 32% of the total. Approximately 92% of these sites are fens, mainly in central lowland areas.

Notable peatlands

- Slowinski National Park is home to significant transition mires and bog areas.
- Common peatland habitats include Sphagnum acid bogs, calcareous fens, alkaline fens, and bog woodlands.



Figure 1: Peat bog complex at Castro Laboreiro, Melgaço, Portugal



Current Threats

84% of Polish peatlands are considered degraded, only 16% able to form peat

Three main cause:



Agriculture
(70%)



Wasteland
(13.8%)



Forestry
(11.7%)

Peatlands emit

33.9

million tons of CO₂ annually, with subsidence rates of 3-30mm due to erosion and compaction.

Conservation & Restoration projects

- As of 2020, over 1,300 peatland sites covering 237,700 hectares in Poland are in conservation
- At Slowinski Park Narodowy, 1,350 hectares of bog habitat are being restored to prevent 37 million tons of CO₂ emissions.
- International projects will rewet 300 hectares of drained peatlands in the Masuria region, and further develop 90 hectares of paludiculture in Kuwasy
- Within the Oder Delta, 20,000 hectares of peatlands are identified as capable of being rewetted

DID YOU KNOW?

Polish peatland projects aim to conserve key bird species like the Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*), which has 25% of its global population in Eastern Polish fens, particularly in Biebrza National Park. To maintain habitat quality, 1,200 hectares of fens are managed through regular mowing to prevent vegetation succession.



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Wetlands
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