



Peatland Programme

Clifton Bain, Director IUCN UK Peatland Programme

The Old Era

“moss ... is considered as incapable of being employed as soil for rearing useful productions and therefore extensive mosses have in general been abandoned as barren and unproductive wastes”

Anderson, James
(1794) *A practical
treatise on peat moss*



The New Era

Peatlands – A prime example of a nature based solution to global problems



Peatland restoration - the low hanging fruit in tackling climate change

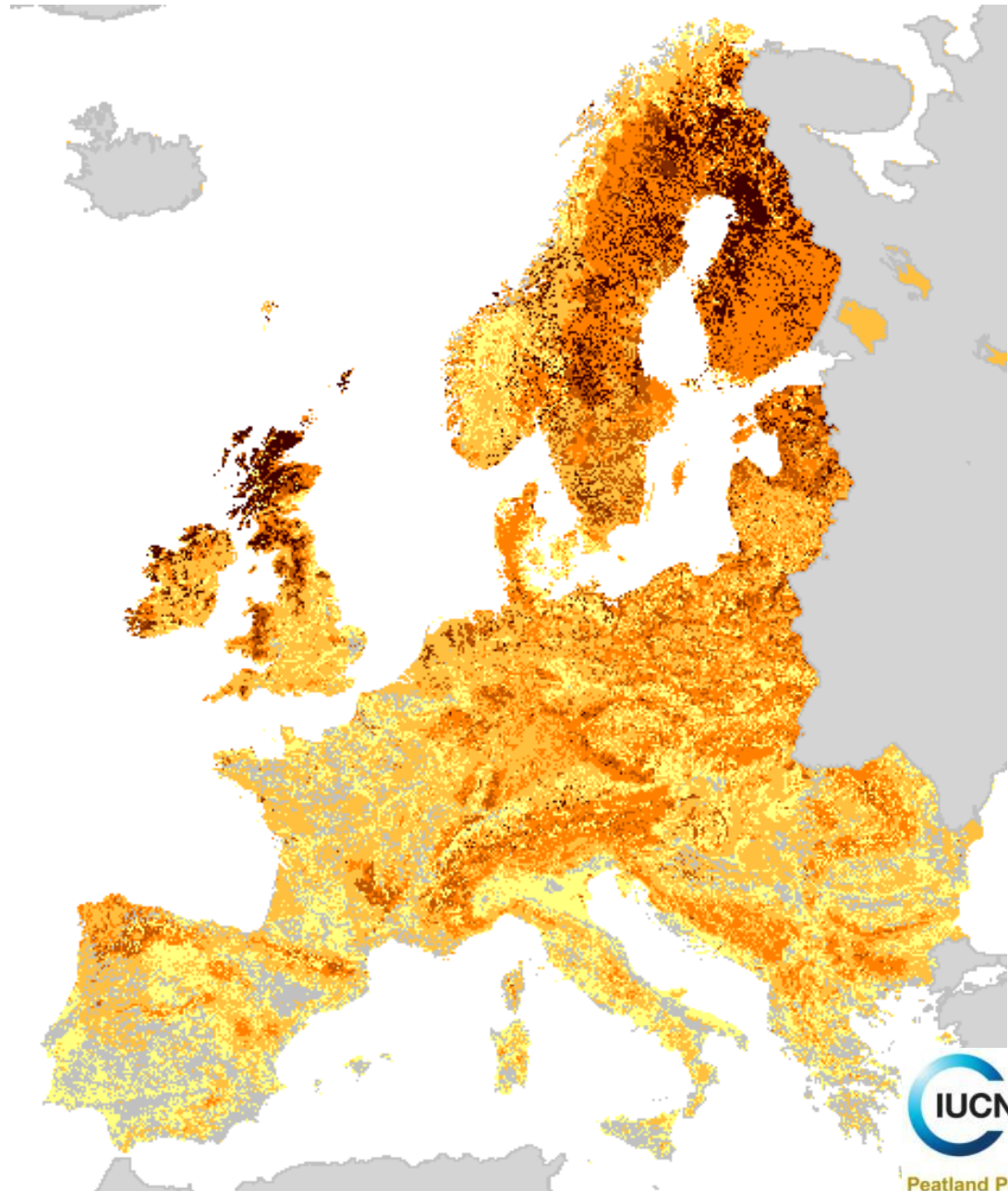
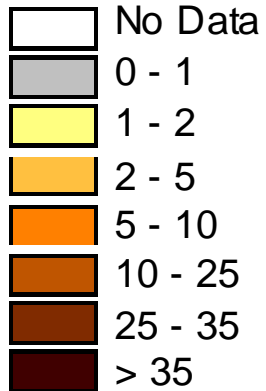
Peatlands are a productive ecosystem of value to society

- Climate change
- Water quality, flood alleviation
- Biodiversity, sport ,leisure, historic archive

A secure peatland future depends on the value of these benefits being transferred to those who manage them.

Carbon

Organic Carbon (%)







Hill Drains - Moor Grips





on loss of DOC/POC from peatlands also affects Water Quality



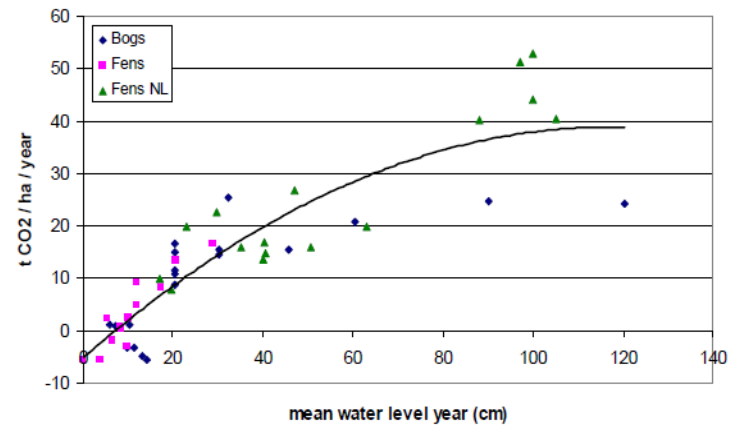


***Sphagnum* building blocks**

**Natural resilience
to climate change**

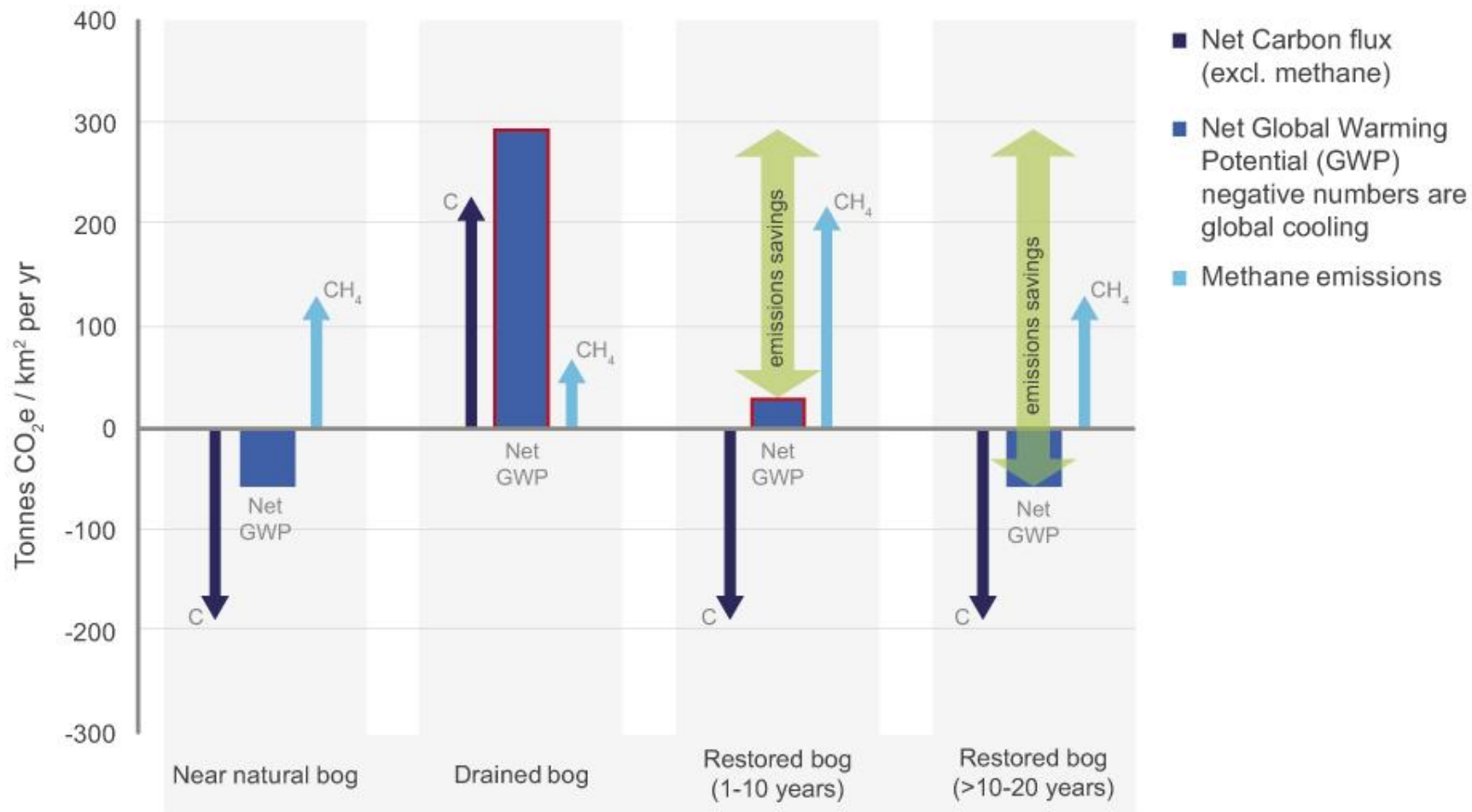


Peatlands Need Water



CO₂ emissions of peat soils enhanced under lowered mean annual water tables (reproduction with kind permission from Couwenberg and Van den Akker (Verhagen *et al.* 2009))





**Recovery of water levels and key
peat forming vegetation**



Capable of delivering large scale restoration



Forest planting



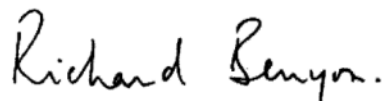


Train >

A Framework for Action

This letter is a statement of intent to protect and enhance the natural capital provided by peatlands in the UK and British Overseas Territories. We hope this letter will provide a signal to encourage public bodies, the private sector and local partnerships to continue working together towards our shared goals. We will continue to provide support through our work in the following areas:

- land management policies for the conservation of peatlands, including through the planning framework;
- funding support through agri-environment schemes;
- engagement with work by the IUCN and others to develop the potential for private funding mechanisms to support peatland restoration; and
- further research on the management of peatlands for water quantity and quality regulation, preserving archaeological and historic record, and the abatement potential and carbon sequestration that might be expected from management interventions including restoration.



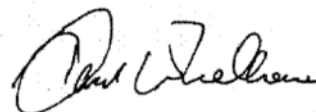
RICHARD BENYON Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, Defra



JOHN GRIFFITHS Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Welsh Government



ALEX ATTWOOD Minister for the Environment, Northern Ireland Executive



PAUL WHEELHOUSE Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Scottish Government

PEATLANDC*DE

The UK Peatland Code is designed to provide an open, credible and verifiable basis for business sponsorship of projects undertaking UK peatland restoration.

**Bundle the benefits biodiversity carbon and water
and combine funding sources – Agri Env, PES, CSR**



Focus on where we are going
and stick together

