



PRESS RELEASE

New European Project ForPeat Launches to Restore, Manage and Monitor Forested Peatlands

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A new European research project is setting out to rethink how one of the planet's most powerful yet overlooked ecosystems is managed. The **ForPeat project** has officially launched, bringing together experts from across Europe to improve the restoration and sustainable use of forested peatlands, critical landscapes for climate regulation, water management, and biodiversity.

Peatlands may only cover a small fraction of the Earth's surface, but their importance is outsized. They store immense quantities of carbon, accumulated over thousands of years, making them one of the most effective natural systems for climate mitigation. However, decades of drainage and intensive land use, particularly for forestry, have significantly altered their functioning. In many cases, these ecosystems have shifted from acting as carbon sinks to becoming sources of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change rather than mitigating it.

The ForPeat project focuses specifically on forested peatlands, which are widespread across large parts of Northern and Eastern Europe, and often subject to competing environmental and economic pressures. Instead of promoting a single restoration pathway, the project takes a more nuanced approach. It explores how different management strategies can be adapted to local conditions to maximise environmental, economic and social benefits. This reflects a growing recognition that restoring peatlands is not a one-size-fits-all challenge.

To generate robust, real-world evidence, the project operates through a network of Open Labs located across diverse European regions. These sites function as living laboratories where researchers monitor changes in greenhouse gas emissions, soil carbon dynamics, water systems, and biodiversity. By combining field observations with advanced monitoring technologies and modelling tools, ForPeat aims to build a comprehensive understanding of how different management approaches perform over time.

A defining feature of the project is its strong focus on translating scientific knowledge into practical solutions. The outcomes are intended to support policymakers, land managers, and industry stakeholders in making informed decisions that align environmental protection with socio-economic needs. The project aims not only to deepen scientific understanding but also to ensure that this knowledge is accessible and actionable, helping to guide the transition towards more sustainable land-use practices across the continent.

Project details

Grant Agreement No: 101219060

Start date: October 1st, 2025

Project duration: 48 months

EU Contribution: € 9 999 470,00

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