

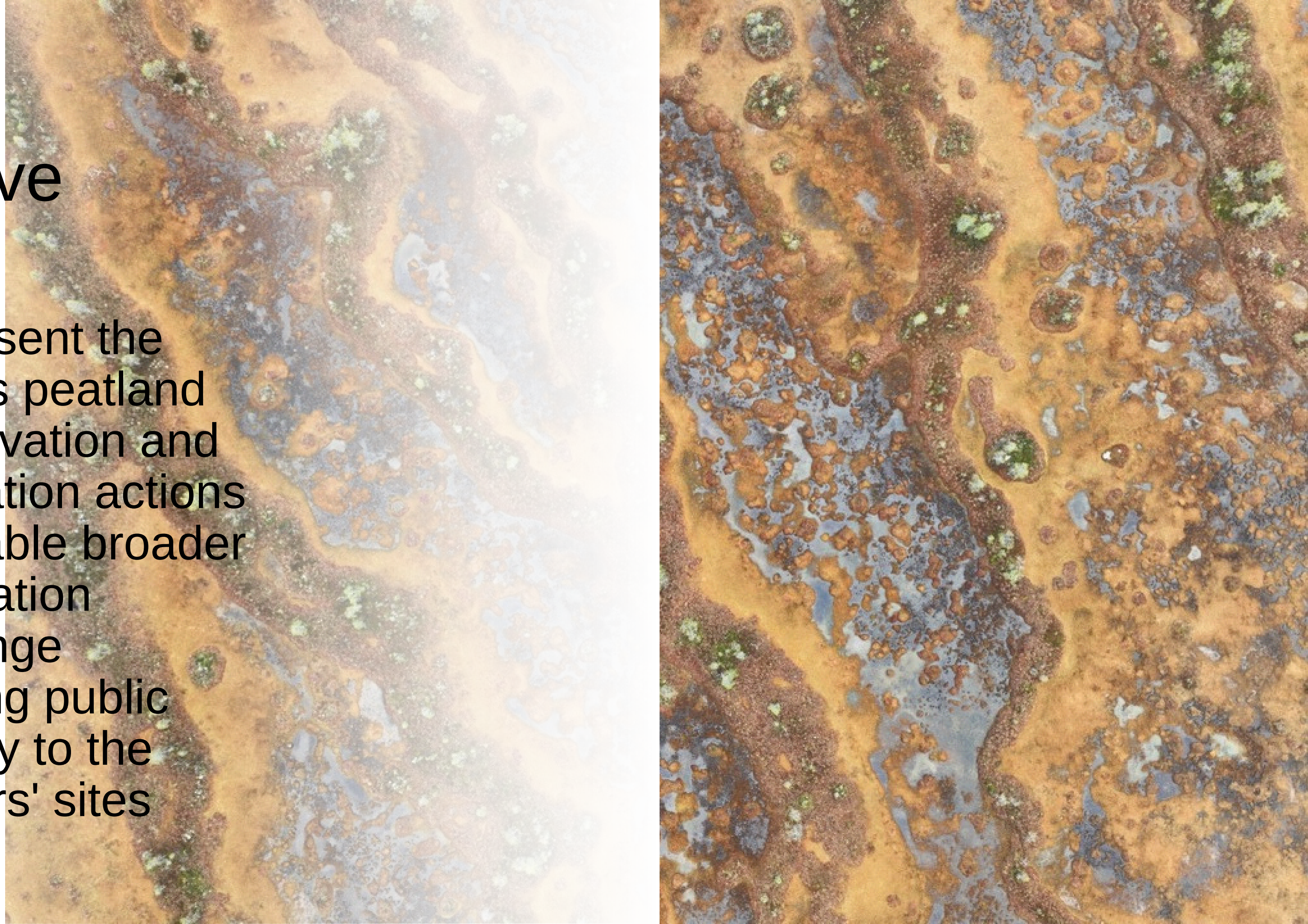
Peatland Restoration Web Atlas

Tiina Oinonen Snowchange Cooperative
12.6.2025

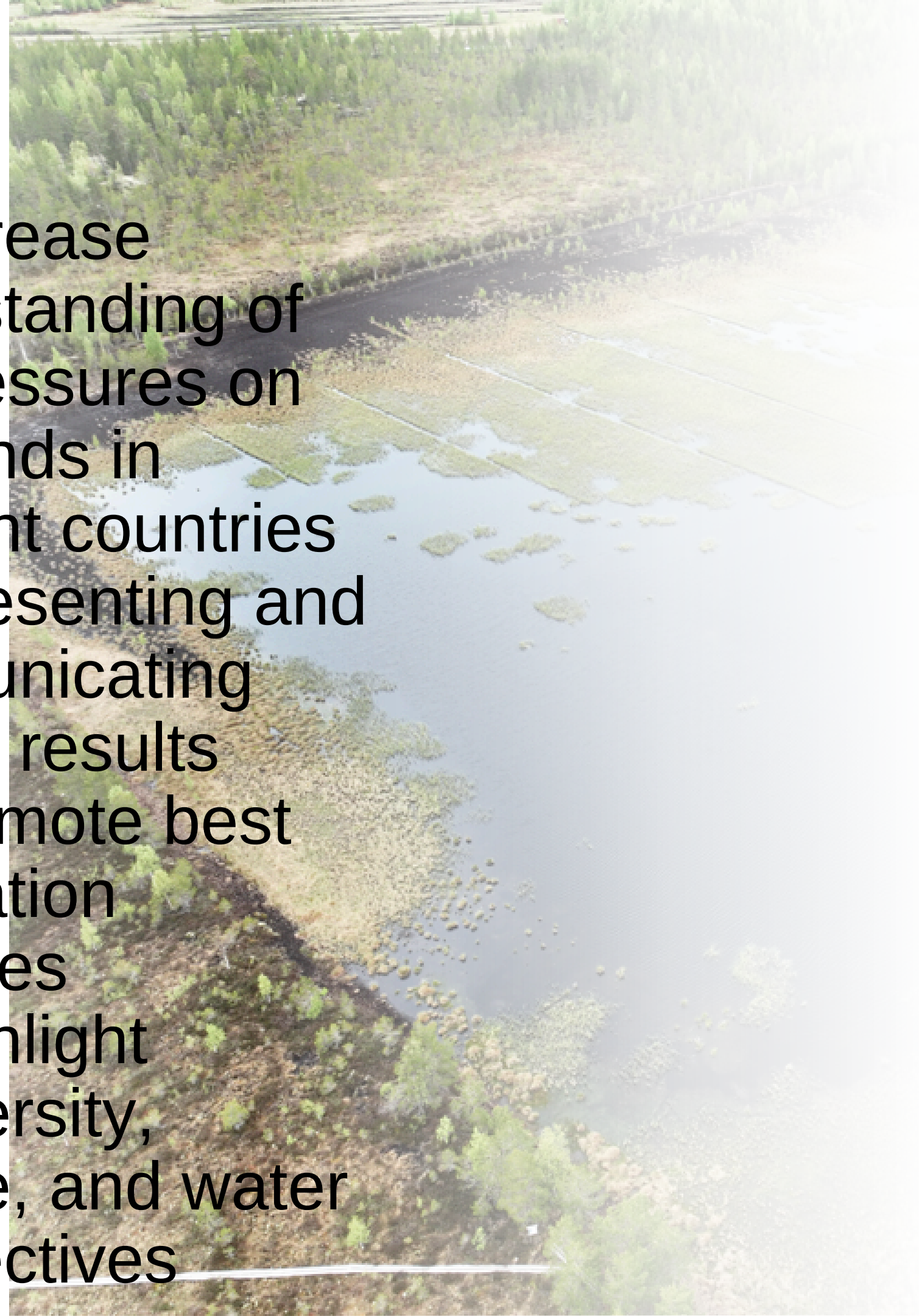


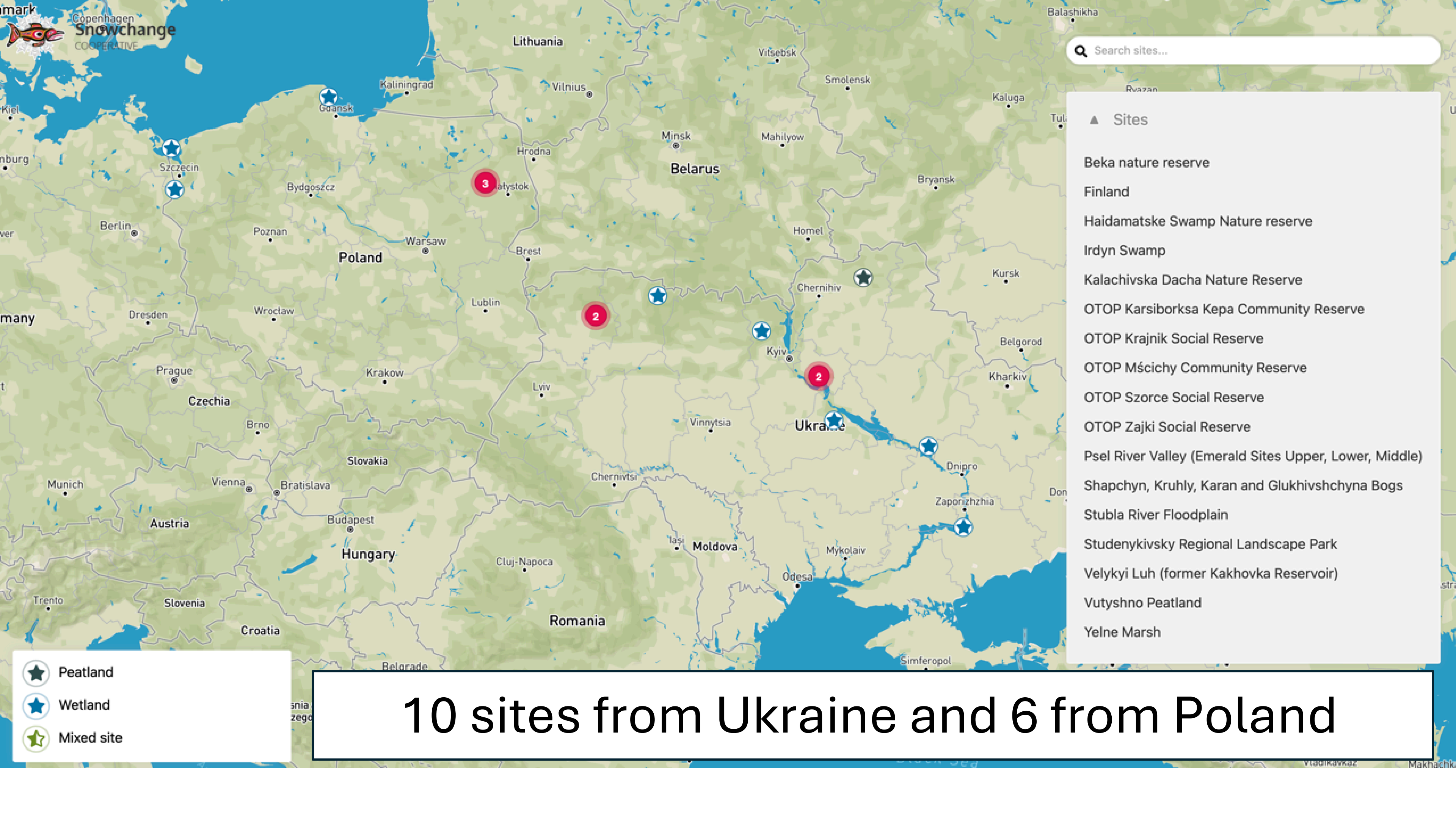
Objective

- To present the various peatland conservation and restoration actions
- To enable broader information exchange
- To bring public visibility to the partners' sites



- To increase understanding of the pressures on peatlands in different countries
- For presenting and communicating project results
- To promote best restoration practices
- To highlight biodiversity, climate, and water perspectives





158 sites in Finland

Search sites...

▲ Sites

Aittokorvenlampi

Altto-oja

Arola

Ellala

Haarasuo

Hanhiaapa

Haravasuo

Hautaneva

Heinäjänkä

Heposuo

Hietaranta

Hietaranta 2

Hirsijärvi

Horneankoski

Hämäläinen

Ilvesmaa

Jaakonvaara

Jokela

Jokiranta

Jokoshaara

► Jukajoki River and its Watershed

Juurikkaneva

Owned by Snowchange

Concession



Snowchange
COOPERATIVE

History

Irdyn Swamp was once the site of extensive peat extraction activities. The first attempts to develop the peat resources began in 1856, followed by intensified operations in 1915 and 1921. Drainage and extraction works continued until 1963, including the construction of a narrow-gauge railway and the use of mechanization. However, over time, these activities ceased, and the swamp now holds potential to become a national park. Today, the area is actively used for water-based tourism, attracting enthusiasts of outdoor activities, particularly those enjoying kayaking and canoeing.



photo by Andriy Chuyashenko

Connectivity

The proposed national park area is part of the Emerald Network site UA0000254 Cherkaskyi Bir and encompasses more than 10 nature reserves, among which the Hydrological Reserve of local significance "Irdyn Swamp" is particularly important. Currently, over 250 populations of protected species have been recorded in the area. Of the 93 protected species, 29 are listed in the Red Book of Ukraine, 9 are in the IUCN Red List, and 13 species are protected under the Bern Convention. Notably important species include the Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius mnemosyne*) and the large oak longhorn beetle (*Cerambyx cerdo*).



photo by Andriy Chuyashenko

Characteristics

Irdyn Swamp is a nature reserve of national importance located in the Cherkasy oblast of Ukraine. It is a unique wetland ecosystem that includes a significant area of bogs, where rare species of plants and animals are presented. The swamp holds a high conservation status, as it supports rich biodiversity, including numerous species listed in the Red Book of Ukraine and international nature protection lists. It is home to waterfowl, rare amphibians, and other important species of flora and fauna. The area features diverse natural conditions, ranging from oligotrophic to eutrophic bogs, which fosters the development of various ecosystems. Typical species of the forest-steppe zone can be found here, along with rare plants such as the intermediate bladderwort (*Utricularia intermedia*) and the grapevine snail (*Eobania vermiculata*). The swamp is also an important site for nesting and resting migratory birds. Irdyn Swamp is not only a protected area but also a vital part of the natural landscape, influencing ecological stability in the region. The conservation of this area is crucial for preserving wetland ecosystems in Ukraine, as such territories are becoming increasingly rare due to human impact.



photo by Andriy Chuyashenko

Problems and threats

The process of establishing the national park is ongoing, but it is an extremely complex process in Ukraine. It must take into account the interests of all land users, who typically do not support the creation of protected areas. This creates significant challenges, as the interests of local communities, businesses, and other stakeholders often conflict with conservation goals. The difficulty in balancing these interests poses a threat to the successful establishment and long-term protection of the national park.



photo by Andriy Chuyashenko

Species

"Irdynske Swamp is a unique natural area that preserves a vast biodiversity and serves as a habitat for many species of flora and fauna that are in need of protection. However, their existence is threatened by anthropogenic pressure, climate change, and the degradation of natural ecosystems. The establishment of a national park based on Irdynske Swamp will be a crucial step in conserving these species and the stability of the ecosystem, which is vital for regional nature conservation as a whole.

Among the amphibians significant to the swamp's ecosystem, the red-bellied toad (*Bombina bombina*) stands out as a rare and protected species. Its population has sharply declined due to habitat loss, making its conservation critically important. Other amphibians, such as the eastern tree frog (*Hyla orientalis*), common spadefoot (*Pelobates fuscus*), and the lake frog (*Pelophylax ridibundus*), are also part of this natural complex and require stable environments to preserve their populations.

The birds nesting in Irdynske Swamp play a vital role in its ecosystems. Notable species include the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), rough-legged buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*), long-tailed tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*), grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), northern lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*), and raven (*Corvus corax*), among many others. Protecting these species is critically important for maintaining the natural balance of the ecosystem, as they play essential roles in food chains and controlling the population of other species.

Equally important are the mammals that inhabit the swamp, such as the European badger (*Meles meles*) and the European hare (*Lepus europaeus*). These animals serve as indicators of ecosystem health, and their conservation will help maintain biodiversity stability. The protection of species like the musk beetle (*Aromia moschata*) and the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) is particularly important, as they are rare and vulnerable to environmental changes.

Irdynske Swamp is also home to a variety of plant species that thrive in wetland conditions. Among these are the netted crocus (*Crocus reticulatus*), fragrant daphne (*Daphne cneorum*), European ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and common twayblade (*Platanthera bifolia*), among others. These species not only enhance the local landscapes but also play a crucial role in maintaining biodiversity and the stability of the ecosystem.

The territory of Irdynske Swamp is key to preserving many rare and endangered species. The establishment of a national park will not only let organize efficient protection of these species but also provide opportunities for scientific research, environmental friendly tourism, and the restoration of natural processes. Therefore, the conservation of Irdynske Swamp is of great importance for preserving natural heritage, improving environmental conditions, and promoting sustainable regional development."



photo by Andriy Chuyashenko

Monitoring

Each year, several expeditions are carried out with the aim of mapping populations of plant and animal species that are protected under Ukrainian and international legislation. The expeditions focus on collecting data on the biodiversity of the area and assessing the conservation status of these species. Detailed information about the biodiversity of the site is available in the dedicated iNaturalist project, which can be accessed at

iNaturalist

Restoration action

From 2019 to 2024, the Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group (UNCG) has been conducting campaign for the establishment of the "Irdynske" National Nature Park.



2019



2024



Summary

- The Web Atlas strengthens collaboration on peatland protection and restoration across Europe
- It promotes knowledge exchange, highlights best practices, and increases visibility of restoration sites
- The Web Atlas will be useful for presenting projects information and helping to foster landowners engagement and commitment to future projects

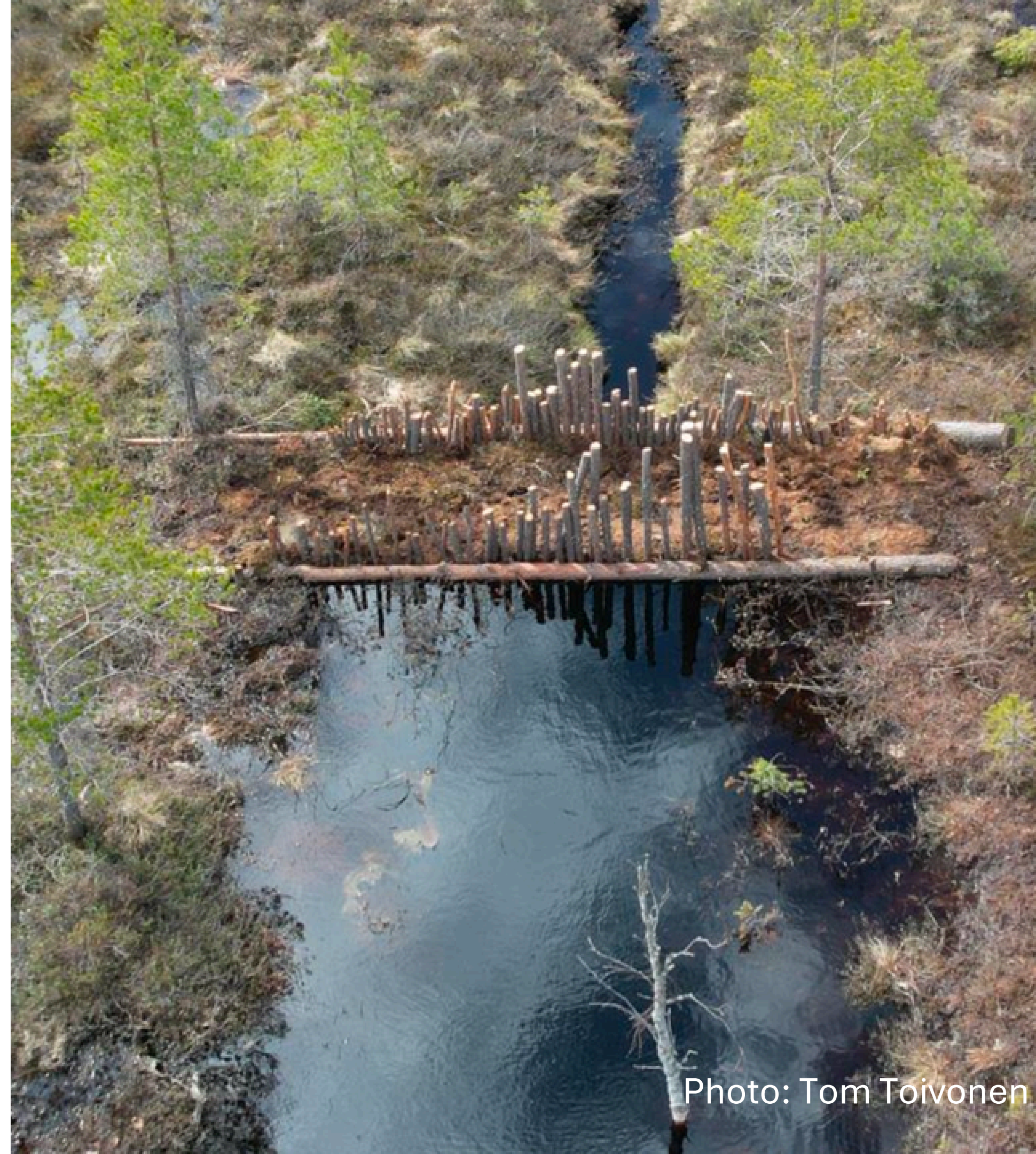


Photo: Tom Toivonen



Thank you!

www.peatlandrestorationatlas.org