Latvian Peat Association

PEAT PRODUCTION IN LATVIA IN 2018

DEVELOPMENTS OF PEATLAND MANAGEMENT

LATVIAN PEAT ASSOCIATION

- 22 years
- 39 members (22+7+1+9)
- In average 1700 workers are employed in peat extraction and during the season it's ~ 2200
- 27 153 ha of licensed areas for peat extraction (01.01.2018)
- Our members produce ~ 80% milled and ~20% block peat
- 30% substrates, 42% processed peat

RAINFALL MAY-SEPTEMBER 2018

Average 31,6% below the norm

May 23,8 mm = 51% below the norm (49 mm)

3rd driest in the observation history

June 43,9 mm = 40% below the norm (73,3 mm)

July 51,9 mm = 31% below the norm (75,7 mm)

2nd driest in the 21th century

August 69 mm = 10% below the norm (76,7 mm)

September 48,8 mm = 26% below the norm(66,1 mm)

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE SUMMER 2018

MAY = 15,3 C°

3,9 C° above

JUNE = 15,8 C°

1 C° above

JULY = 19,8 C°

2.4 C° above

AUGUST = 18,7 C°

2.2 C° above

SEPTEMBER = 14,6 C°

2.9 C° above

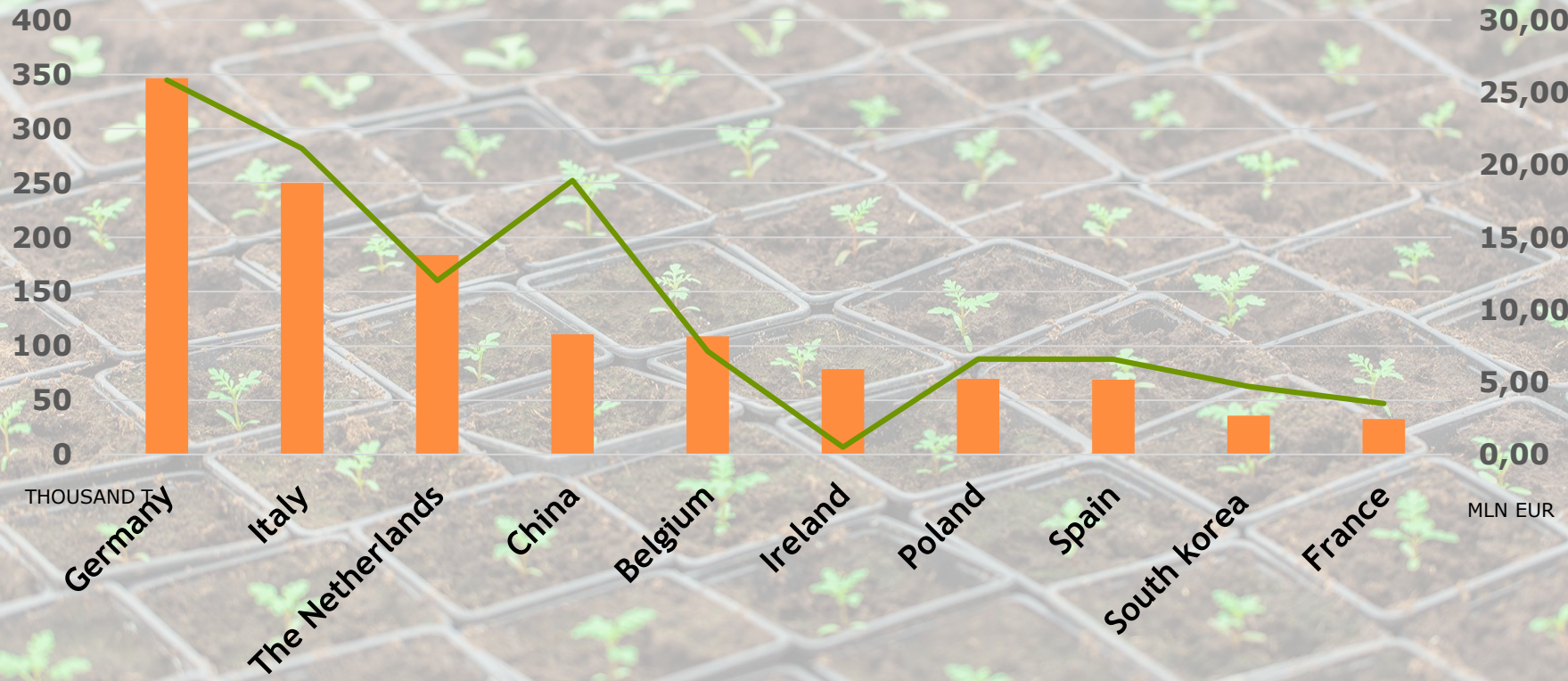
Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre

- Danger of fire because of dry and windy weather

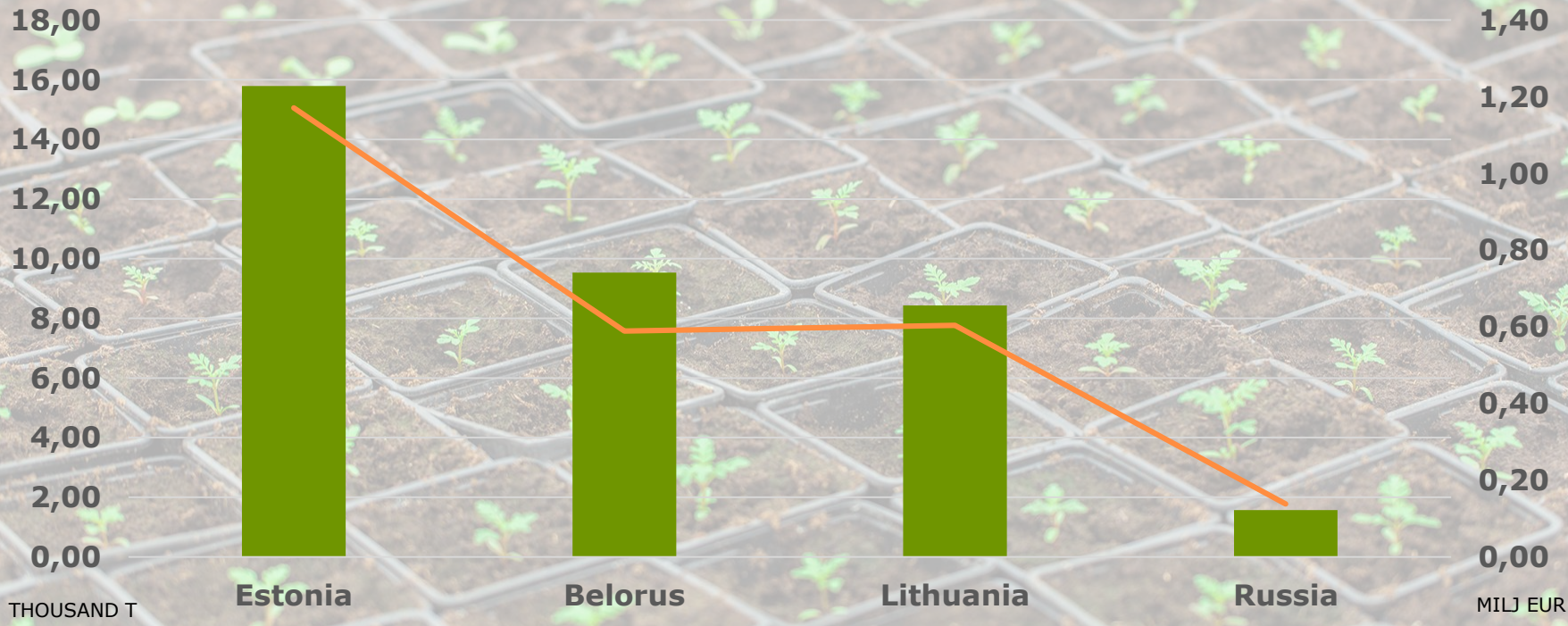
Conclusions

- The problem comes from specially protected nature territories
- No usable roads, no water reservoirs nearby
- The problem should be solved at national level

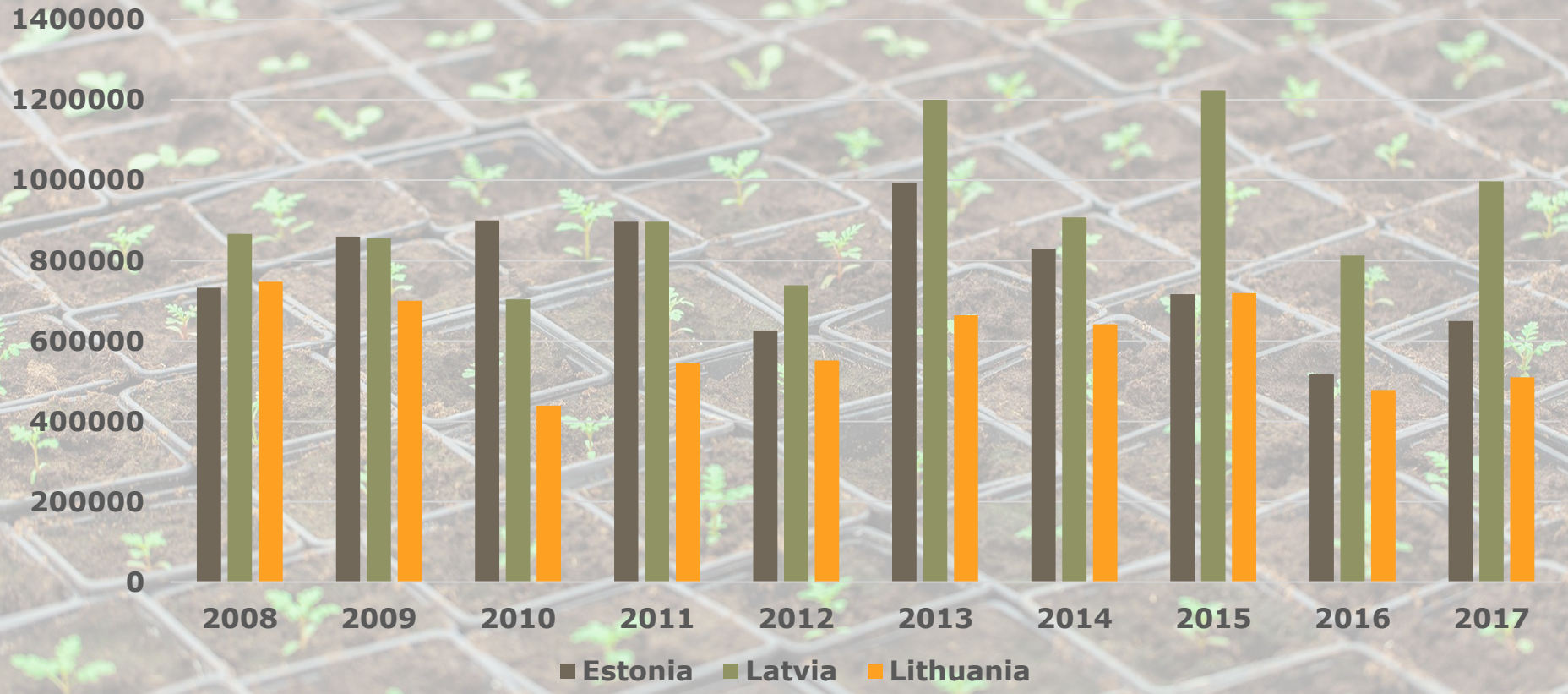
PEAT EXPORT 2017 TOP10, th.T/mln EUR



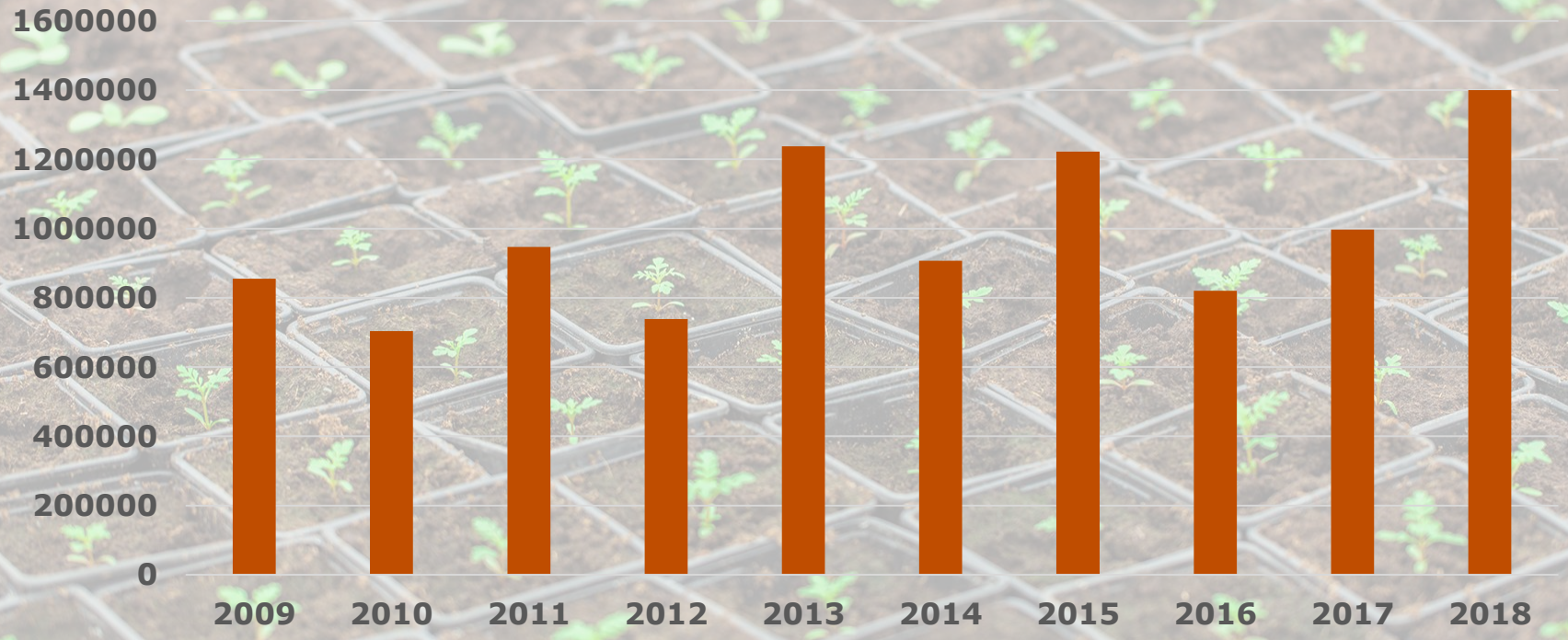
PEAT IMPORT 2017 TOP4, th.T/mln EUR



PEAT EXTRACTION IN THE BALTICS 2008 – 2017 th T



PEAT PRODUCTION IN LATVIA 2009 - 2018 t



Topical issues

- Licence for peat extraction until 75 years
- Peat producers can’t brake the contract from one side

- MC regulations on Public land rent;
- 3rd year in LIFE Restore project
- Wide discussion with ministries (Env, Agri), NGO in scope of Peat strategy

RE store
LIFE projekts

Administration of Latvian Environmental Protection Fund

Nature Conservation Agency Republic of Latvia

Latvijas Kūdras asociācija

Apvienība Baltijas jūras krastu aizsardzībai
BALTIJAS KRASTI

SILAVA

Sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia

Inventory of degraded peatlands

GHG emissions measurements

Assessment of ecosystem services

Recommendations for recultivation

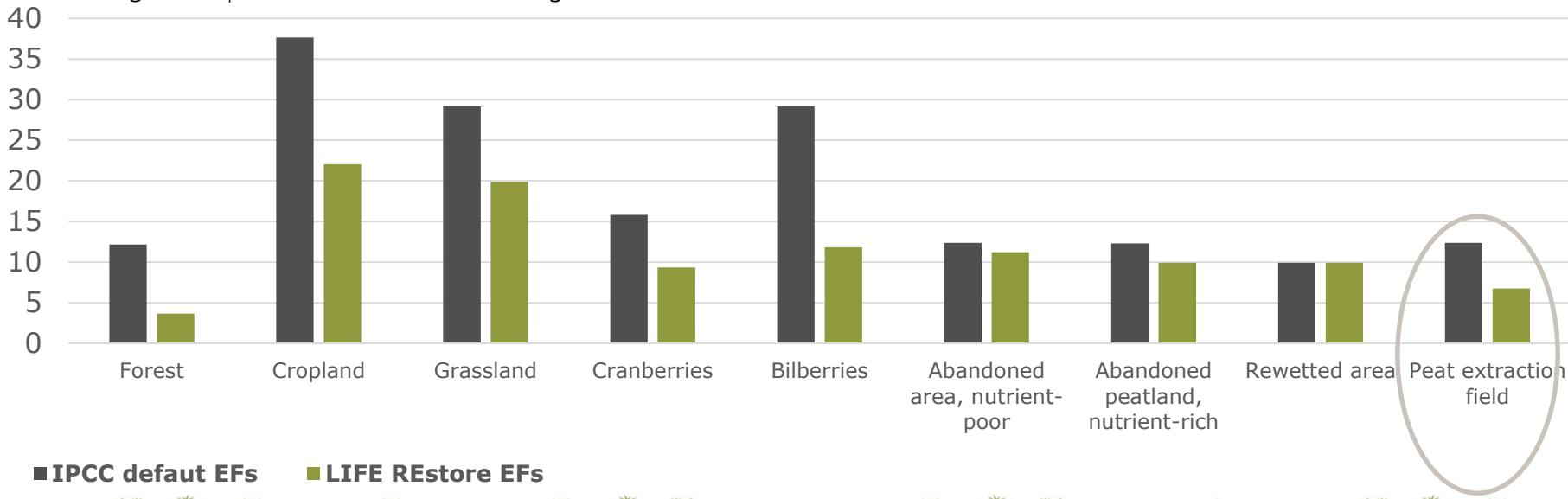
Demo-sites for recultivation scenarious

Land use optimization model

The activities are implemented with the financial support of the EU LIFE program within the project ''Sustainable and responsible management and re-use of degraded peatlands in Latvia'' (LIFE REstore, LIFE14 CCM/LV/001103) from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2019.

GHG emissions factors – lower than considered

- Approbation of methodology of GHG emissions accounting for organic soils and development of national GHG emission factors
- 42 sites – different land use types of organic soils – 24 months - 19 000 GHG samples
- Results of 1st GHG emissions accounting year – emissions lower than considered/ than IPCC default emission factors
- Highest CO_2 emissions from cropland, lowest – from forest
- Berry plantations in abandoned peatlands can reduce CO_2 emissions significantly
- Largest CH_4 emissions from natural bogs



GHG emissions factors – lower than considered!

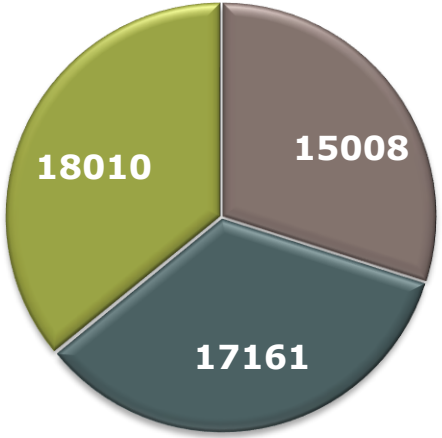
According to the national GHG inventory report organic soil is the absolutely biggest source of the GHG emissions in Latvia. At the same time there are many evidences that these emissions are considerably overestimated.

The LIFE REstore project is one of such studies proving that the perception of the climate change impact of drainage of organic soils should be changed, and the actual emissions from dominating land use categories of organic soil like forests, cropland, grassland and peat extraction fields are considerably smaller than we are used to think.

LIFE REstore also provides better understanding of possibilities to reduce GHG emissions from organic soils by afforestation and establishment of horticultures.

Inventory of degraded peatlands in Latvia and recultivation scenarios

Peat extraction affected territories in Latvia, ha



50 000 ha
affected by peat extraction

18 010 ha
degraded peatlands

List of territories where peat extraction might be continued

List of territories for recultivation – LIFE REstore recomendations for the management of degraded peatlands

7 recultivation scenarios with implementation criteria and methods

Optimization model

Latvian Peat
Association
INGRIDA KRIGERE
member of the board
THANK YOU