



# Restoration of peatlands to the highest possible degree in a new land reform

## FACT SHEET 2

*Experts and stakeholders agree that restoration of peatlands has a great potential for CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction. The high CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction potential is based on carbon storage in the soil, when agricultural activity is terminated and natural hydrology is restored.*

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- With the agreement on a green transition of the agricultural sector a new land reform is initiated with the purpose of reducing both greenhouse gas and nitrogen emissions from agricultural soils and forests in Denmark.
- The agreement contains an ambition of restoring 100,000 hectares before 2030.
- 4.4 billion DKK (approx. 590 million euro) is allocated to restore natural hydrology on 50,500 hectares of agricultural land and extensification of 38,000 hectares, including previous political agreements. The total sum of 88,500 hectares is regarded as the current potential for larger projects.
- One of the current schemes has so far only restored 1,500 hectares since 2014. This shows that restoration of peatlands is a complex task that takes time and involves many actors.
- Therefore, the agreement allocates 9 million DKK (approx. 1.2 million euro) to an expert group to identify how to overcome barriers and hence increase the potential area for restoration. Additionally, the agreement allocates 60 million DKK (approx. 8 million euro) to consultancy services to support the restoration initiatives.
- Approximately 171,000 hectares of cultivated peatlands exist in Denmark. There are however a number of barriers to restore them, e.g. potential risk of losing remobilized phosphorus to the aquatic environment and flooding of infrastructure and neighboring areas. Moreover, restoration becomes more complex as many peatlands are small and incoherently spread.
- In 2023 or 2024, the progress of the initiatives will be evaluated and the options for realizing additional potentials will be examined.

