

Welcome, **BUFFER+** kick-off participants

BUFFER+, why, what and how.

Groningen, 12 October 2023

Roos Galjaard, BUFFER+ project manager

BUFFER+ carbon & water

BUFFER+

**BUFFER carbon + water in peatlands:
landscape based solutions for climate adaptation.**



Climate and environment

...
and 7
associated
organisations



21 partners from BE, FR, IE, DE, NL
Cooperating from 2023 - 2027

EU funding
€5,8 million

Total project budget
€9,7 million

Why?

Wet and healthy peatlands have a strong natural potential to save carbon and, due to their water buffering capacity, play an important role in managing periods of excessive rains or droughts. Yet, in North-West Europe regions large areas of peatlands are drained for peat mining, agriculture or forestry, which makes them CO2 emission sources rather than sinks.

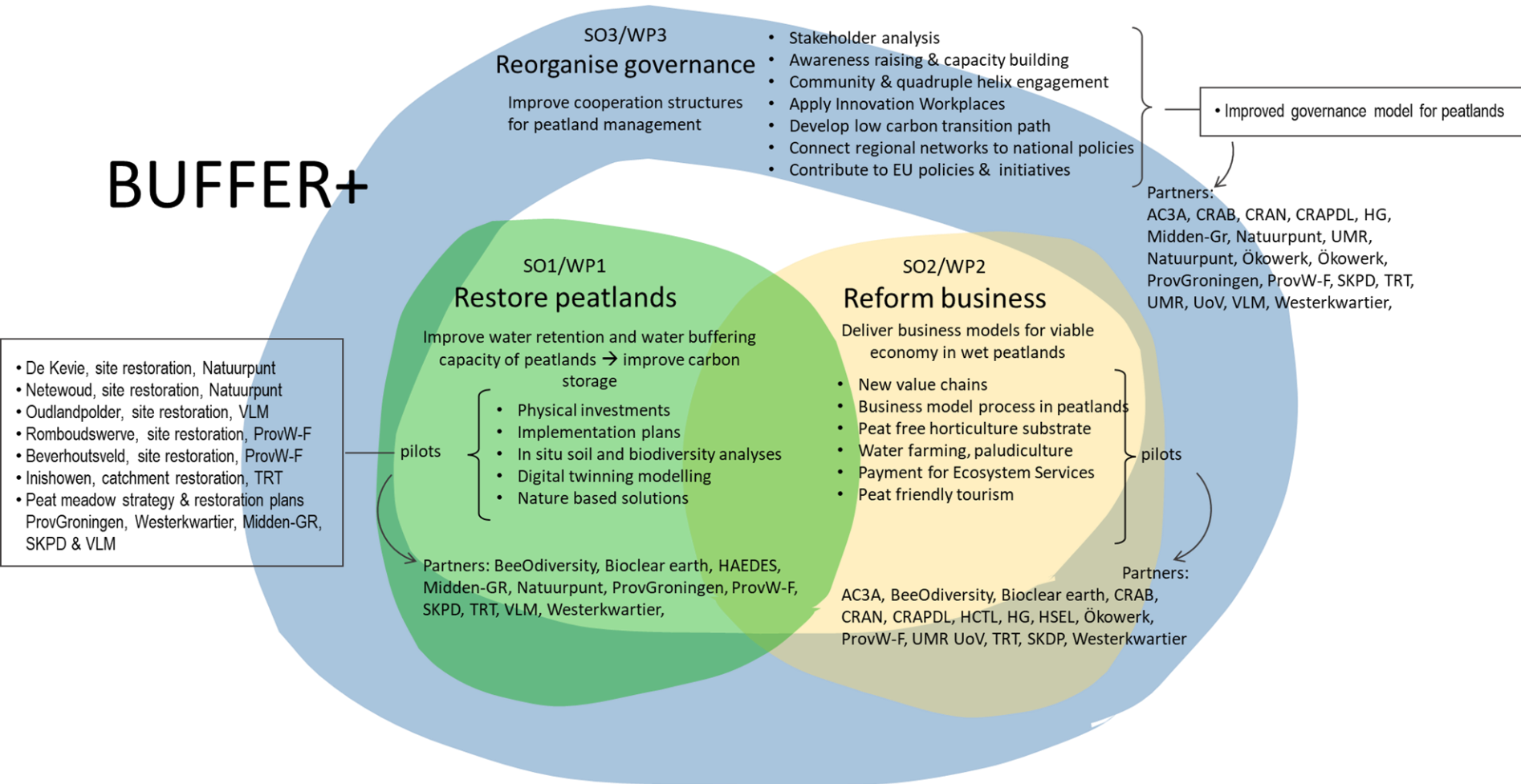
By restoring the capacity to buffer carbon and water, BUFFER+ partners aim at climate change adaptation and mitigation, while at the same time restore biodiversity and create new revenue streams.

What?

- 1) Sustainably rewetting, restoring and preserving peatlands and shaping new landscapes to create buffers for carbon and water and increased biodiversity.
 - 2) Develop new or scaling up existing business models for farmers and other landowners/-users in peatland areas , to boost sustainability transitions to mitigate and adapt to climate change, while stimulating a sustainable local economy.
 - 3) Improving governance of peatlands by involving and engaging stakeholders from industry, academia, public authorities and citizens in decision-making processes and in taking responsibility for co-creation and scaling up of newfound solutions.
-

BUFFER+

BUFFER+



How? WP1

Natuurpunt takes the lead in WP1

- Partners implement pilots on (plans for) restoring peatlands, water retention and integrated water policy;
 - Bioclear earth:
 - microbial analysis & assessments in Groningen, Flanders and Ireland;
 - BeeOdiversity:
 - monitoring and analysis of biodiversity at 4 sites in NL, IE, FR, BE;
 - HAEDES:
 - digital twinning: support partners in systematically collecting data before and after applying their measurements
 - develop a data platform for full data access and apply this in detail at ProvW-F and Groningen/Westerkwartier.
-

How? WP2

AC3A takes the lead in WP2.

- Payment for Ecosystem Services and development of other incentive schemes for farmers
 - Alternative solutions to peat-based potting soils
 - Business modelling processes, including Train the Trainer workshops and co-creation methodologies
 - Peat friendly tourism
 - Wet crops, paludiculture
 - Water farm concept and cooperative business models
-

How? WP3

University of Marburg takes the lead in WP3

In WP3 all partners will shape **new regional governance models**, encouraging the ongoing dialogue and facilitating a regional policy transition in peatlands with **members from industry, academia, public authorities and citizens**

- community engagement processes;
 - Innovation Workplaces;
 - awareness raising and capacity building experience;
 - joint regional strategies
 - Transnational cooperation and networking will (partner meetings and joining European initiatives)
-



Expected results

- Regions and organisations with **increased adaptive capacity** to deal with water and land management issues in peat lands through the quadruple helix cooperation;
 - **Increase of restored/preserved peatlands** which buffer more water and carbon, while benefitting landowners/-users, and inhabitants, and **biodiversity** at the same time;
 - Tested, implemented and upscaled **business models** and economic opportunities in wet peatlands;
 - **Joint strategies** on restoration, economic opportunities and governance.
-

Spread the word

- [Meetings, workshops, site visits](https://meetings.bufferplus.eu)
- <https://bufferplus.nweurope.eu/>
- <https://twitter.com/bufferplus>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bufferplus/>



Interreg



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

North-West Europe

Thank you
