

# Wild fires & loss of wilderness

Chris Dean, Head of  
Programme Delivery, Moors for  
the Future

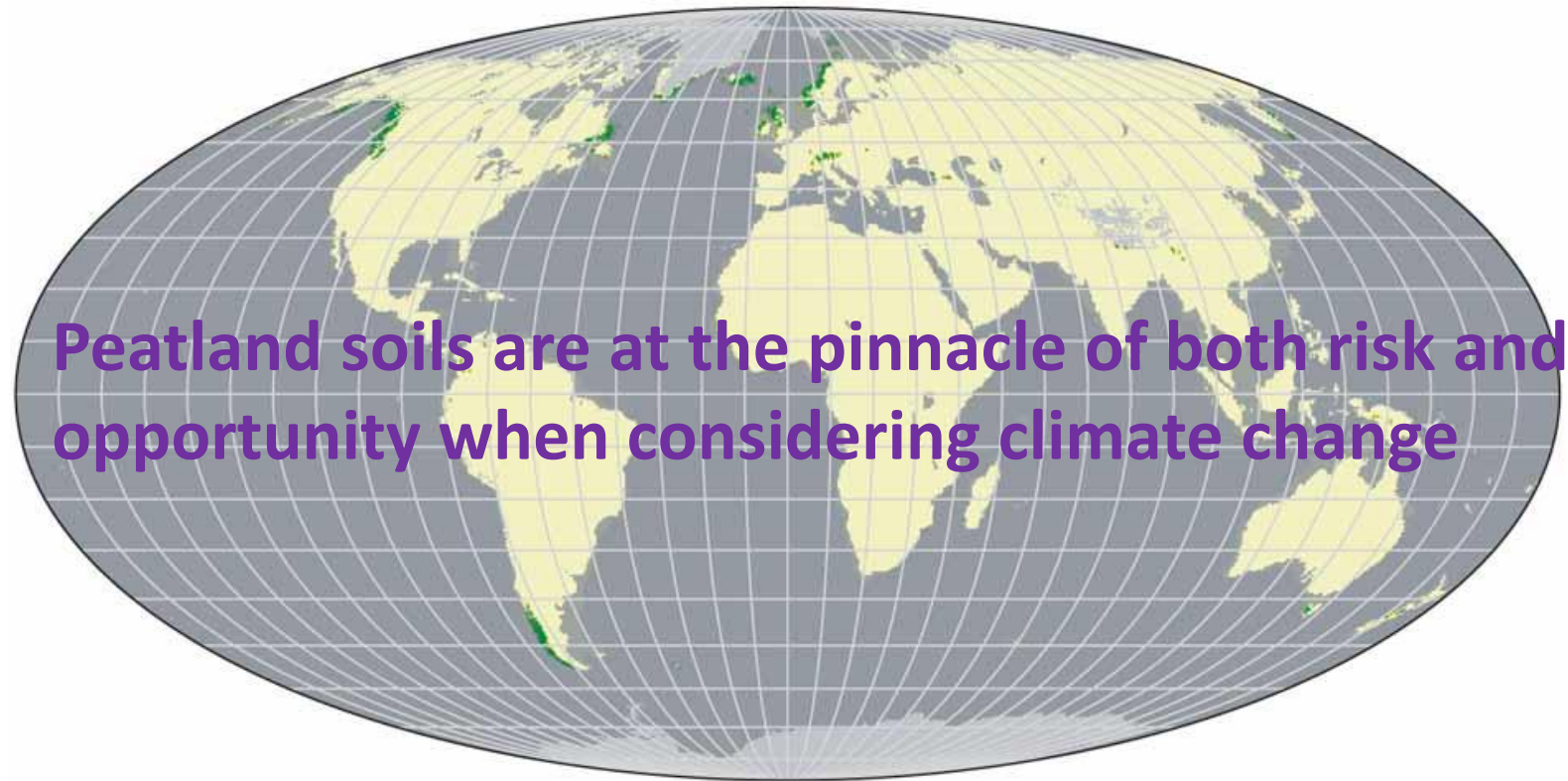


The Partnership so far has brought about the restoration of landscape laid waste by 150 years of industrial pollution and over 400 wildfires.

A strong Partnership that has, so far, raised £35m and delivered restoration work to 33 square kilometres of degraded blanket bog with a large programme of associated engagement and science work - delivering critical evidence and change in behaviour

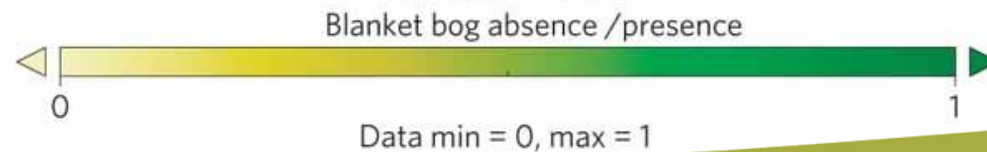
What else is now possible to realise the full natural capital potential amongst these hills and meet the aspirations of 25 YEP

# Think Global - Blanket Bog –its wilderness

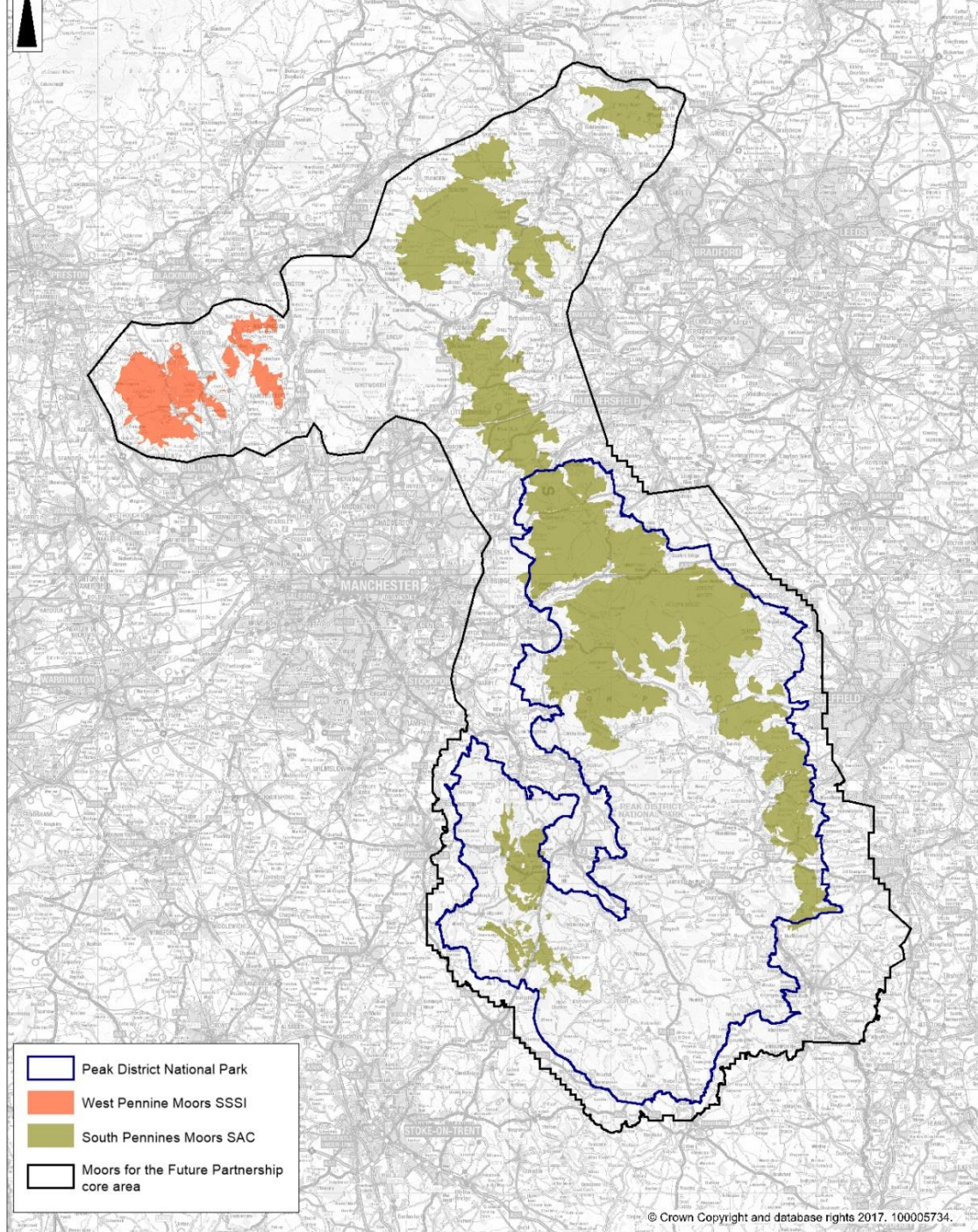


**Peatland soils are at the pinnacle of both risk and opportunity when considering climate change**

Gallego-Sala & Prentice (2013)  
Nature Climate Change







## Black Hill 1976



**2003**

The same family 27 yrs. later with a metre of the surface gone



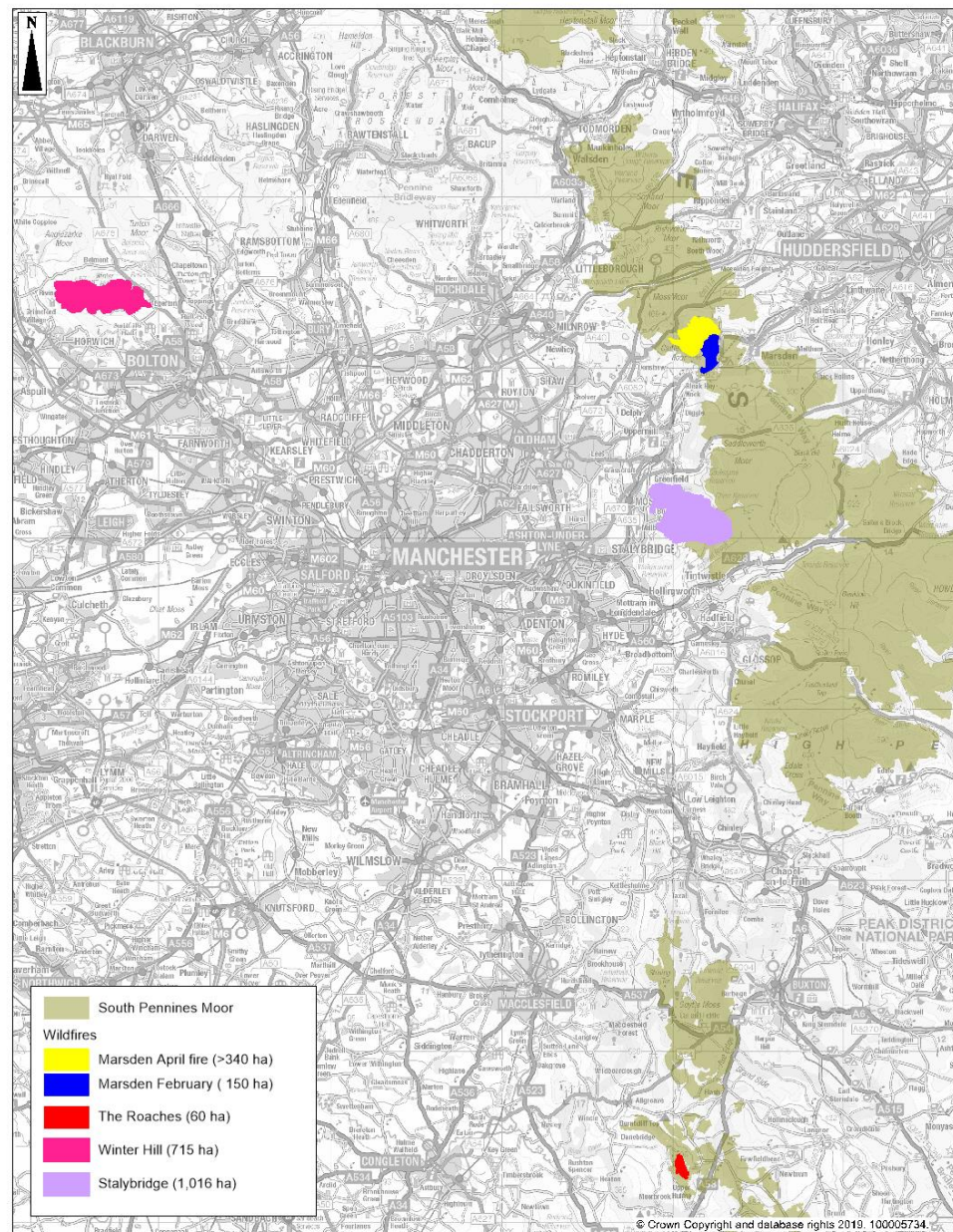
**2016**

40 years later and 10 years after stabilisation by MFFP









0 4 8 12  
Kilometres  
Scale: 1:200,000

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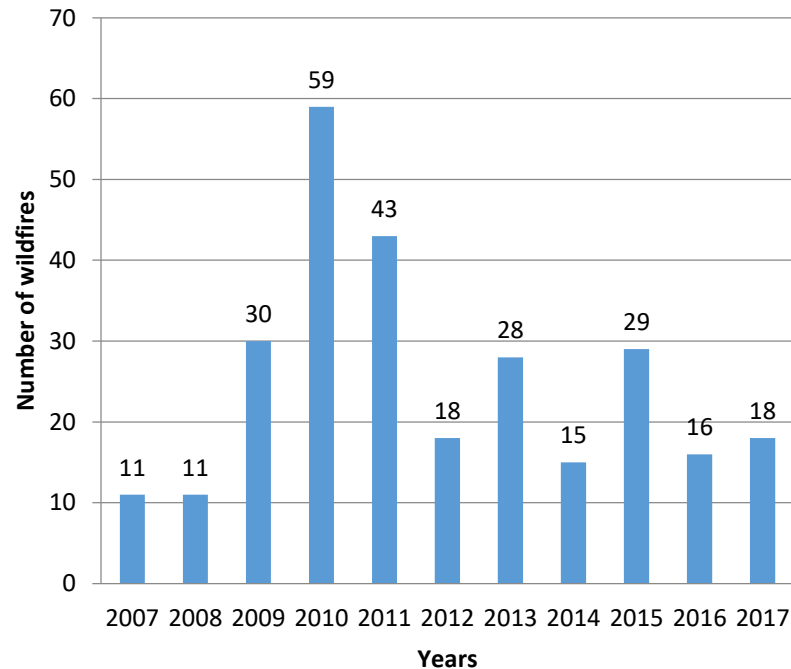
**Moors for the Future Partnership**  
The Moorland Centre  
Fieldhead  
Edele  
Hope Valley  
S33 7ZA  
Tel: 01629 816581  
Email: [moors@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:moors@peakdistrict.gov.uk)  
[www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)

Drawing Name:  
Wildfires

Drawn by: JA Date: 29/04/2019

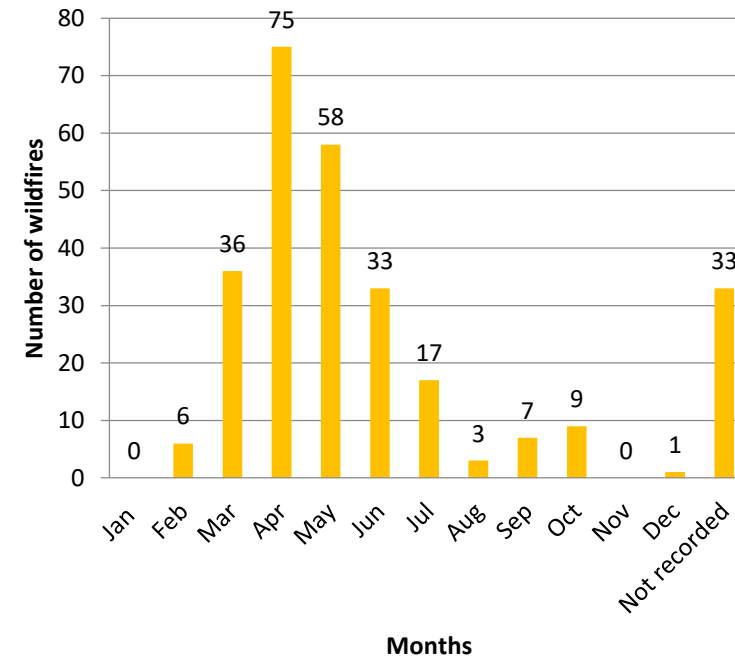
# Moorland wildfire occurrence

**Wildfires per year (South Pennines SAC)**



- Wildfire numbers vary per year, therefore hard to draw trends about wildfire reduction

**Total wildfires per month (between 2007 and 2017)**



- Most wildfires occur in the spring (Mar – May)
- Wildfire can however happen in most months



# Causes of wildfire

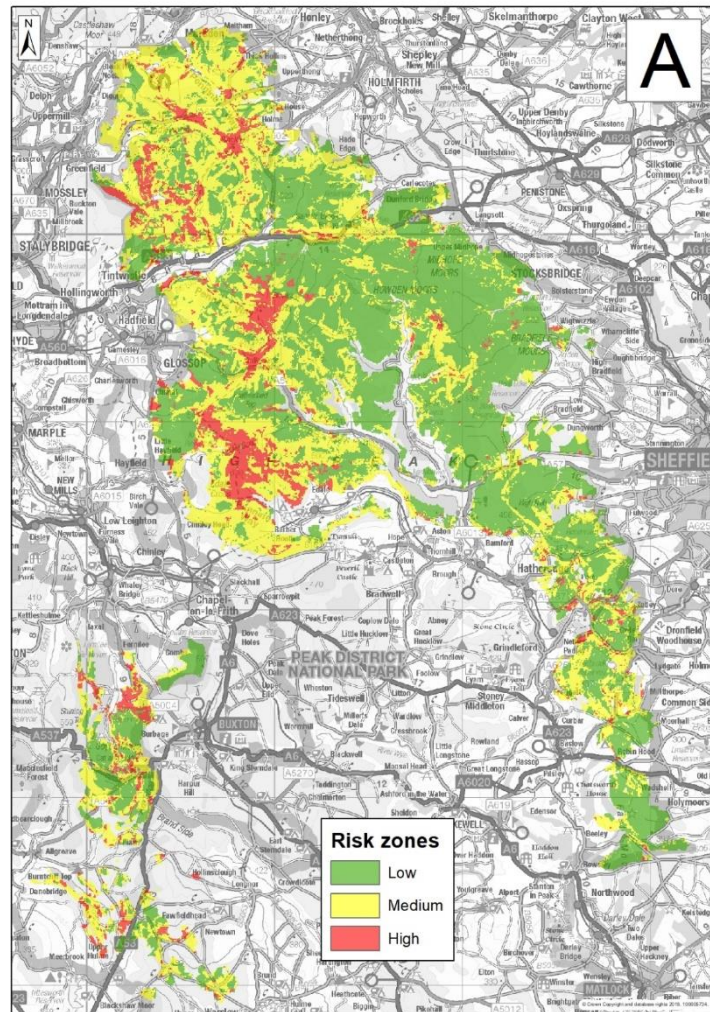
- Of the 540 records in the database (since 2007), 1 is recorded as “natural occurrence”... and even that may be a mistake in data inputting. The rest are caused by people.
- This is a combination of deliberate (arson) and accidental causes (eg BBQ's, discarded cigarettes etc).
- There are a high number of unknown/unrecorded causes (either lack of recording or unable to tell what caused the fire).

Key question: How do we effectively raise awareness of wildfire risk to reduce the accidental incidences of wildfire?

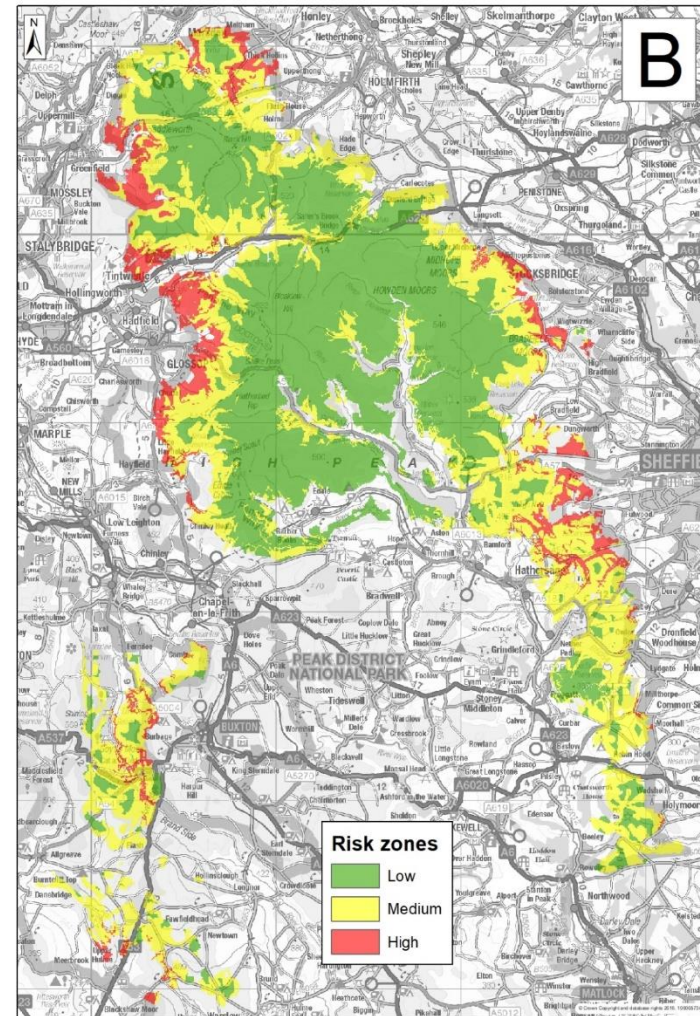
# Wildfire risk

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HIP

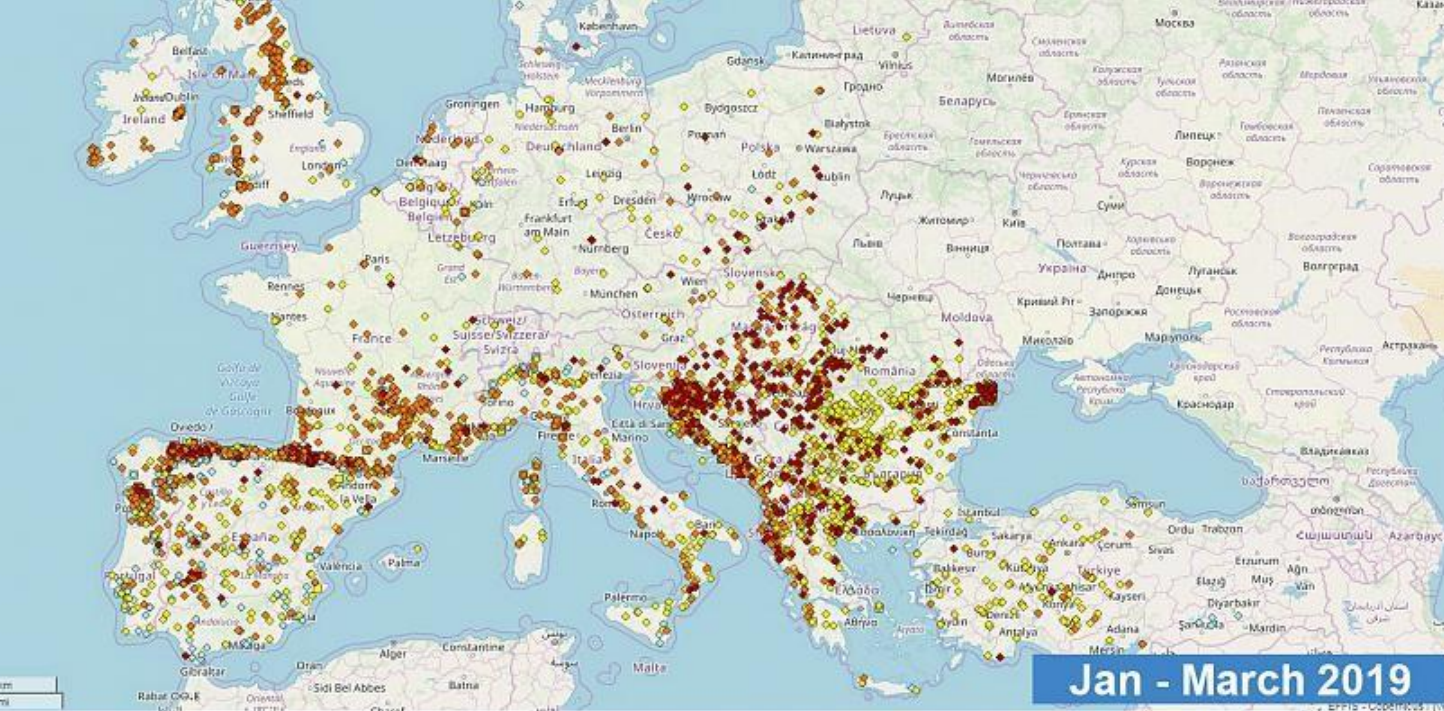


1976 - 2003

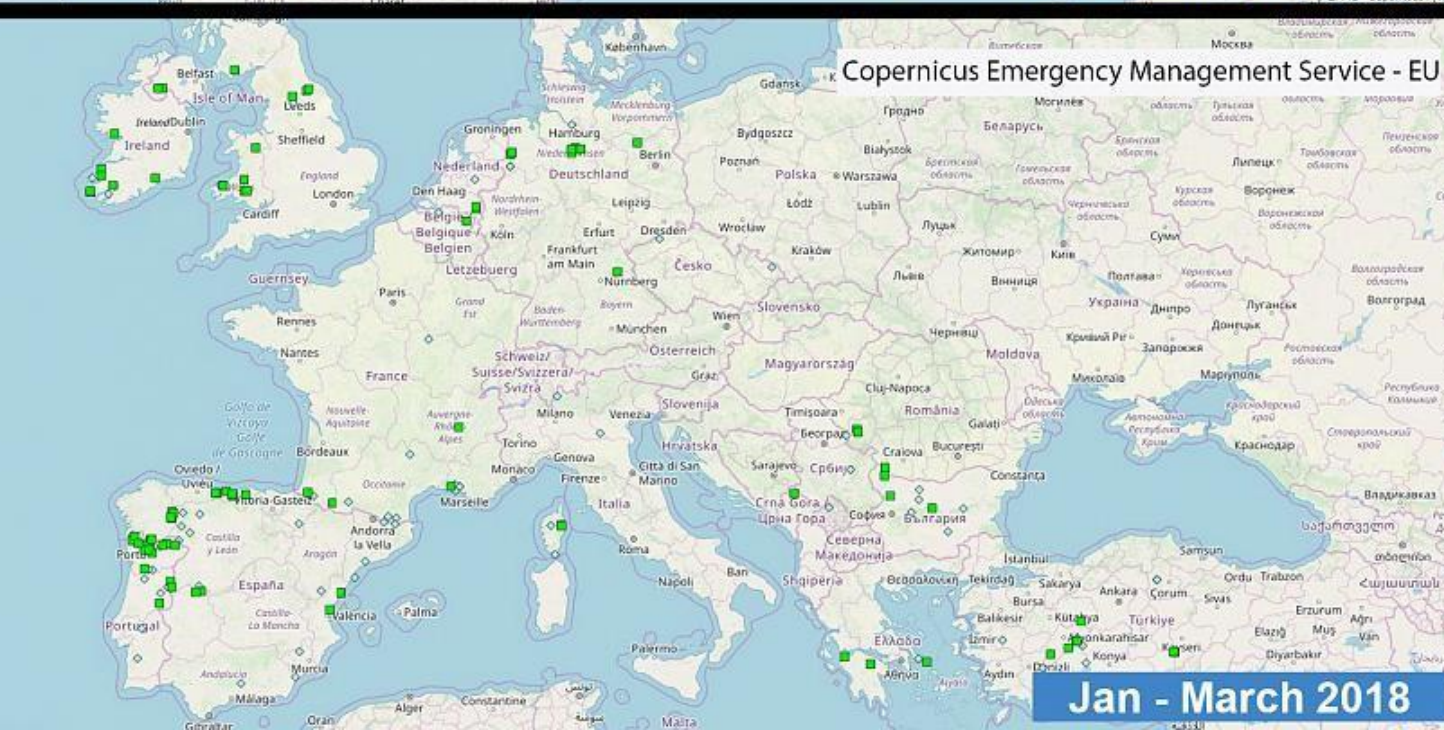


2009-2018





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# Peatlands and Sustainable Development

- 2015 **peat fires in Indonesia** emitted a total of **18 GT CO<sub>2</sub>e**
- Such fire-emission events are not accounted for in IPCC's future climate scenarios but are significant in overall global emissions
- The 2015 Indonesian peat fires resulted in **16.1 billion USD overall economic damage in Indonesia**, affected **43 million people**, hospitalized 550,000 and killed thousands of people
- **Drainage of peatlands causes land subsidence.** The entire area of lowland peatlands in Southeast Asia (~25 million ha) may become flooded – **making sustainable development impossible.**



20 October 2015  
Palangkaraya



Picture: Kuala Lumpur under haze of Indonesian peat and forest fires



## What are the challenges posed from a damaged and poorly performing landscape failing to meet the 25 Year Environment Plan (YEP) goals?

- Poor drinking water quality
- Massive carbon source (500+ tonnes per km)
- Large contribution to failing waterbody condition
- Large contribution to failing SSSI condition
- Rapid reaction to heavy rain
- Poor resilience to fires
- Poor resilience to drought
- It is not really wilderness anymore is it?

**All of this can be fixed and turned into positive ecosystem benefits.**

***Changing Behaviours: caring for the places we love***



**So where do I come in ? How can I help?**

Public pressure and awareness

Influencing behaviour

Ambassador for the bog





## **So where do I come in ? How can I help?**

Winning slowly is basically the same thing as loosing outright.

In the face of both triumphant denialism and predatory delay, trying to achieve climate action by doing the same things, the same old ways means defeat.

It guarantees defeat.

(Alex Steffen)



**the importance of imagining persuasive, positive possible futures:** “It’s literally true that we can’t build what we can’t imagine,... The fact that we haven’t compellingly imagined a thriving, dynamic, sustainable world is a major reason we don’t already live in one.” (Alex Steffen)

