GREIFSWALD MIRE CENTRE

Selected Global Peatlands Initiative highlights in 2019 and a spotlight on Germany

Franziska Tanneberger, Greifswald Mire Centre

Peatland monitoring advances

Maria Nuutinen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Exploring Synergies for Peatlands –

between multi-lateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

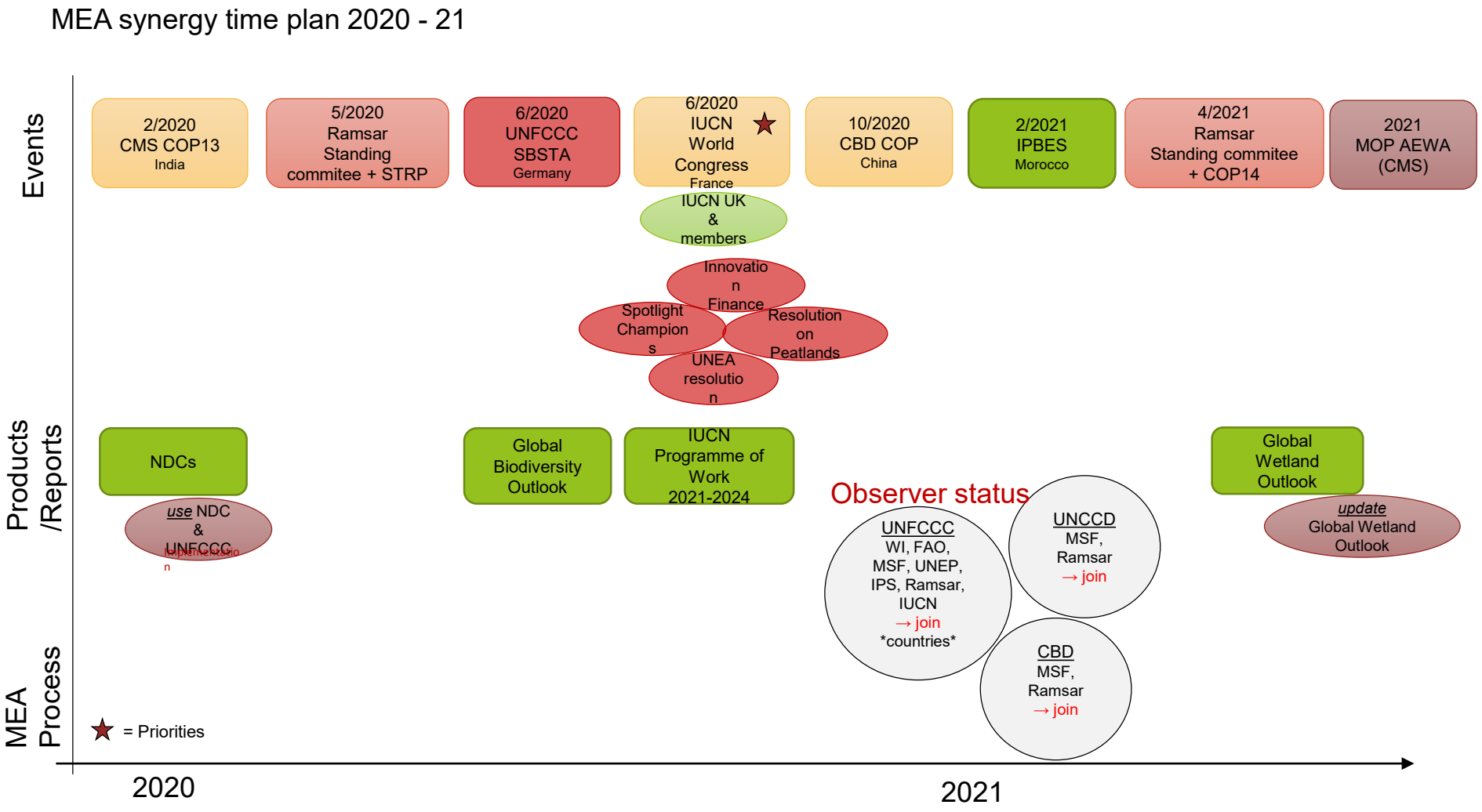
International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm,

21th – 25th May 2019

Peatland scientists and conservationists exchanged with MEA secretariats and UN agencies (via video link)

Organizers

Strategic planning of input to upcoming global events & reports…



Peatland monitoring advances

Maria Nuutinen, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Global peatland monitoring work kick-started

- Objective: Support in particular developing countries in **understanding better the status of their peatlands**, reporting on them and, ultimately, **reducing carbon losses** from peatlands.
- Building on peatland **rewetting** monitoring in Indonesia,
- Inspired by and benefitting from advances in the UK and other temperate and boreal countries,
- Work coordinated globally by FAO
- May 2019: 35 peatland experts from 4 continents met in Rome for four days of technical exchanges

Results: Recommended priority actions I

1. Start with **countries' needs**, and with **institutions mandated** to collect, analyze, use and report on the data.
2. Focus on harmonized **map**, is still the most important hindrance for countries to effectively monitor peatlands and their GHG fluxes. – Including shallow peat!
3. **Update the globally accepted guidance*** with the latest GHG emission measurement data for peatlands.
4. **Make guidance** on methods, approaches and tools for peatland monitoring **more accessible** to countries and develop capacity.
5. Bring together not only the national institutions, policy-makers and research partners, but also people with concrete **field experience** to better understand the local realities and knowledge when developing capacity.
6. Improve **methods** to collect, analyze, manage and share ground truth data, which currently is the biggest limiting factor.

*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Wetlands Supplement (IPCC, 2014)

Recommended priority actions II

7. Integrate peatlands into **holistic land use monitoring systems**, making sure their unique characteristics are being understood (water!).
8. Aim for monitoring systems that allow reporting to various aims and conventions in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals.
9. Start work streams on peatland **mapping** and **fire monitoring**.

Invitation for European colleagues:

- Invest in harmonized assessment and monitoring methods – and share your results: Join the Peatland monitoring online community of practice through https://dgroups.org/fao/peatlands/events/monitoring/join

Contact:
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Bringing GPI into practice – through a collaborative project

- Project funded for 2019-2022 by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry of Environment (BMU) - 2M Euro
- Implementing organization: UN Environment
- Partner institutions: FAO, Governments of Indonesia, Peru, Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo
- Contributions by other GPI members
- Main objectives:
    1. Emphasize status and importance of peatlands
    2. Increase knowledge and data accessibility
    3. Build capacity in partner countries, and
    4. Guide global and national peatland policies.

Implemented by:

UN environment

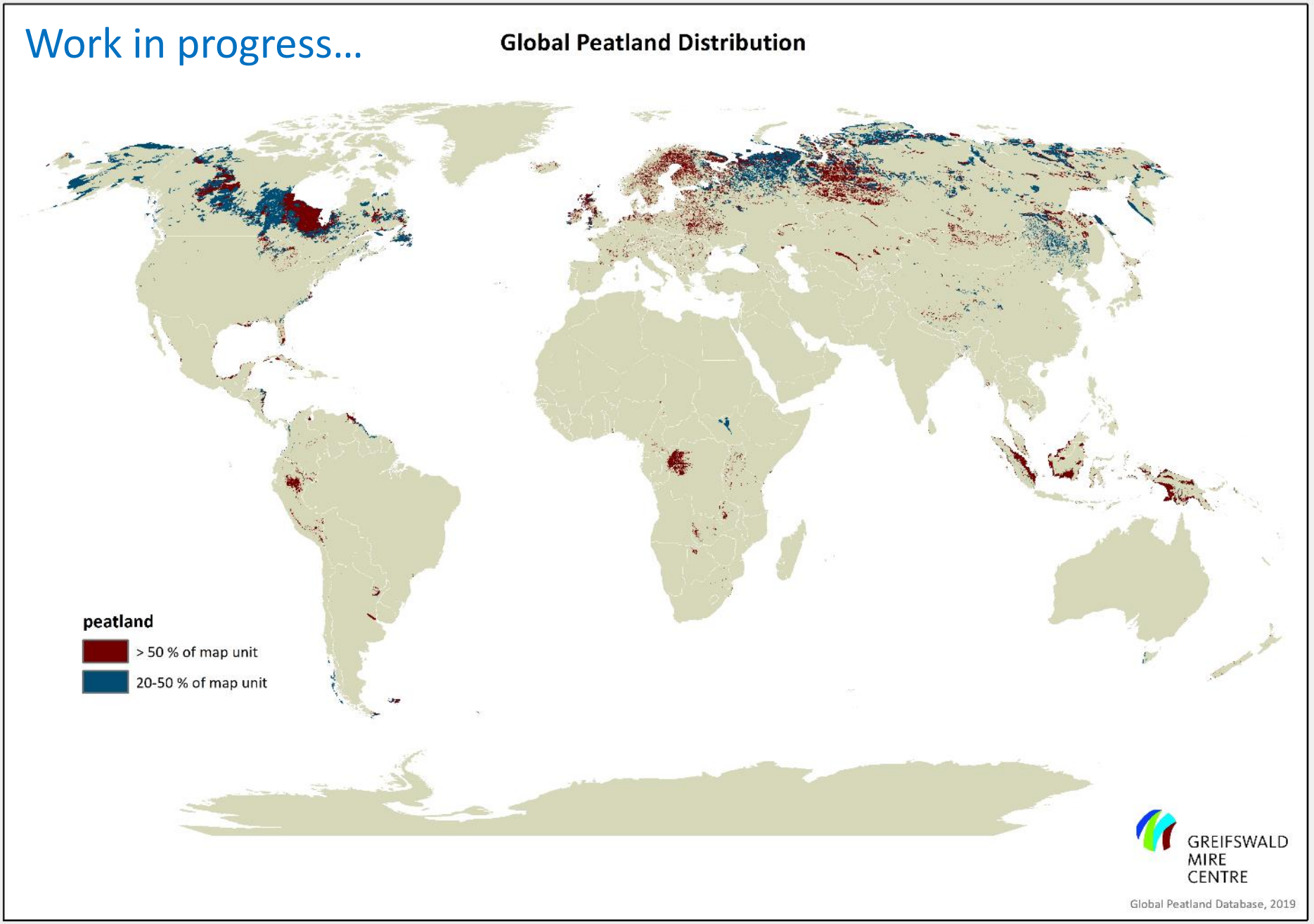
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Supported by:

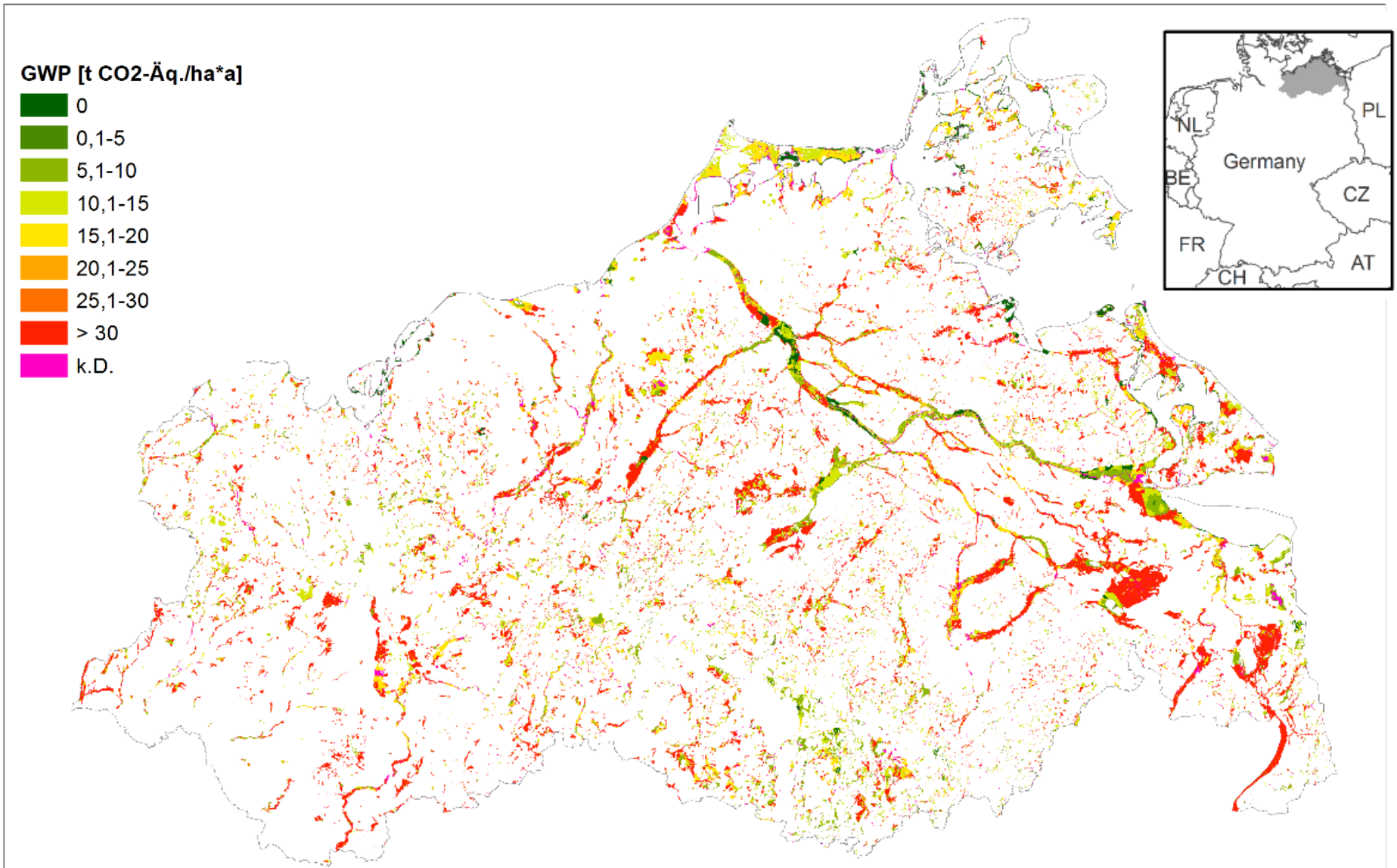
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Work in progress…



GHG emissions from peatlands in NE-Germany

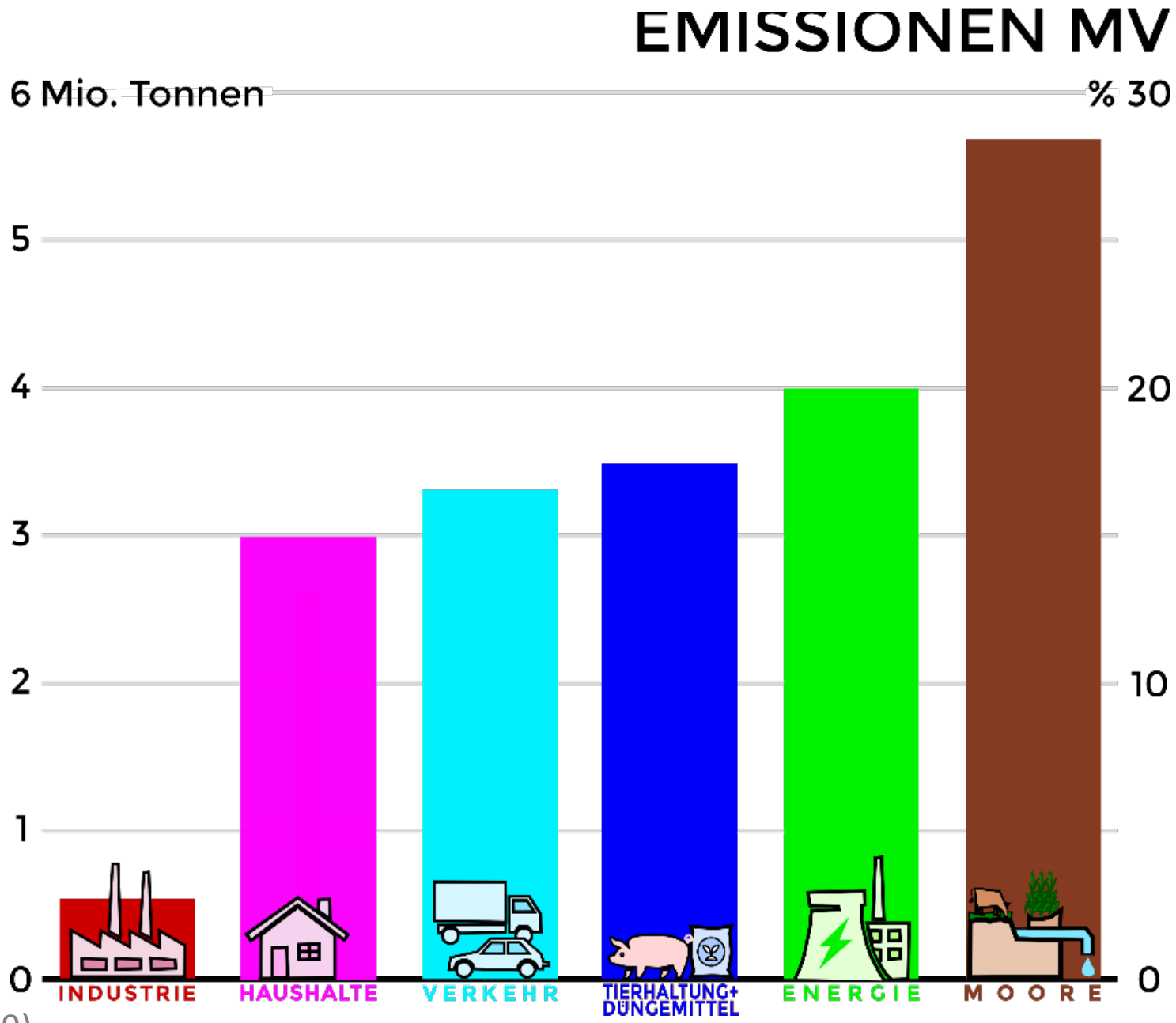


Sources:

Greenhouse gas Emission Site Types (GESTs) (2019); biotope types (2013-2015); biotope and land use types (1991, 2012)

Map: F. Reichelt (2019)

GHG emissions from peatlands in NE-Germany



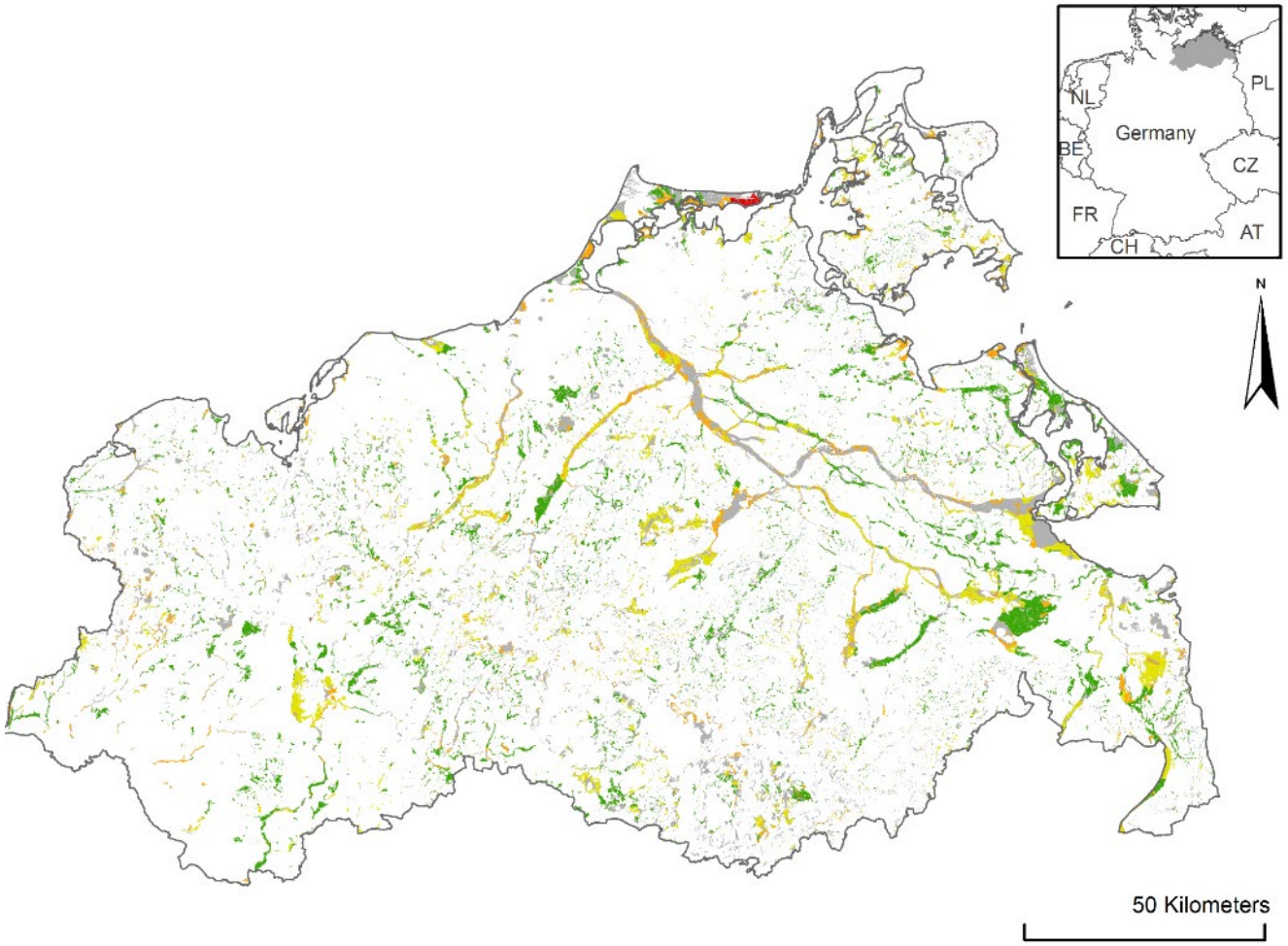
GMC (2019)

To reduce peatland emissions, peatlands are being rewetted and paludiculture (=wet agridulture/forestry) demonstration sites are established –
e.g. this cattail cropping paludiculture site established on 8 ha in September 2019

We have developed a paludiculture land classification to assess areas with least nature conservation restrictions for paludiculture

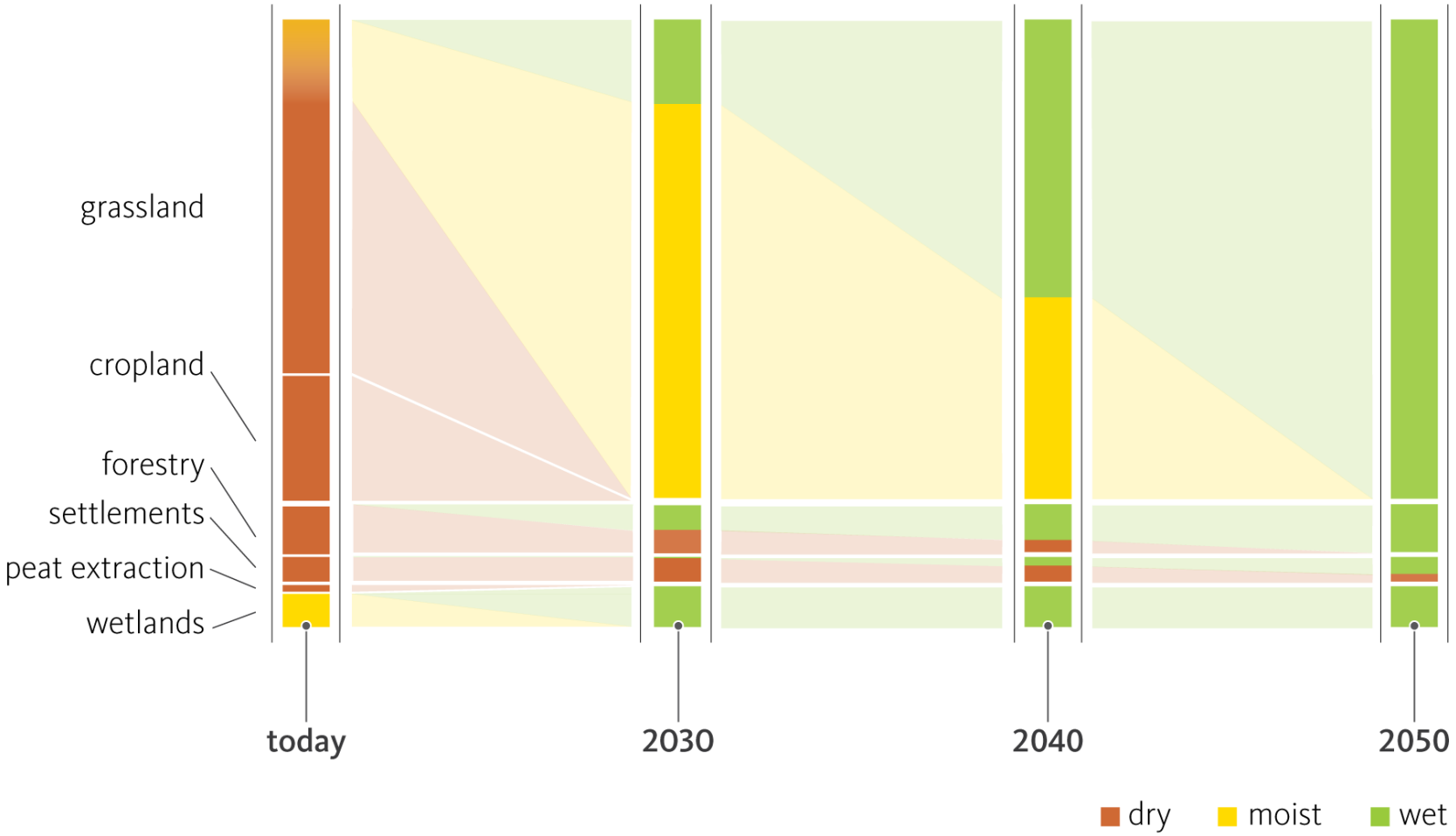
Nature Conservation restrictions for paludiculture

- **Paludiculture impossible** 17 km²
- **Strong restrictions** for paludiculture, 288 km²
- **Limited restrictions** for paludiculture, 499 km²
- **No restriction** for paludiculture, 855 km²
- **Peatlands without agricultural use,** 1,255 km²



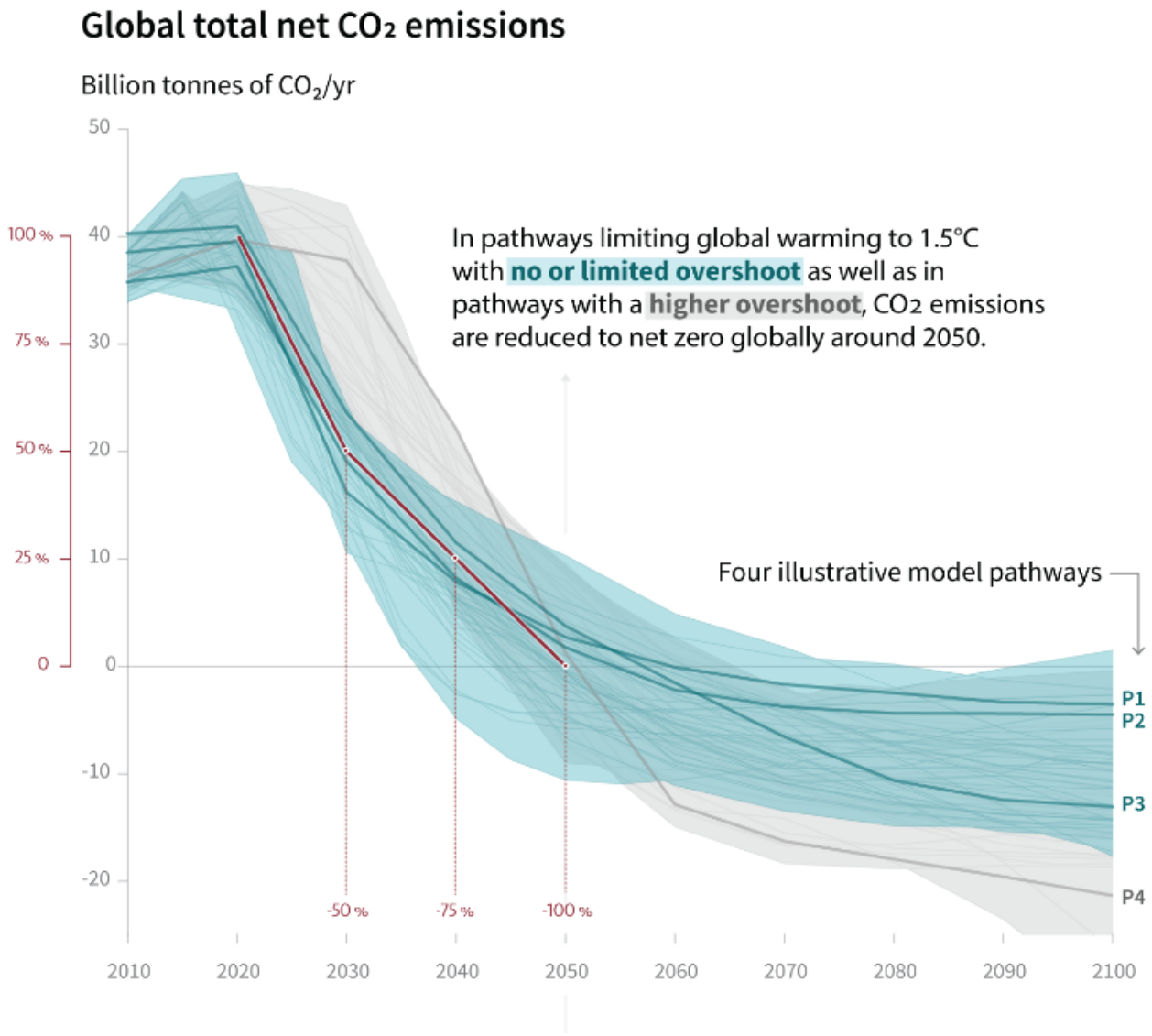
LM MV 2017, Tanneberger et al. in prep.

We have developed a country-specific transformation pathway for peatlands in line with the Paris Agreement



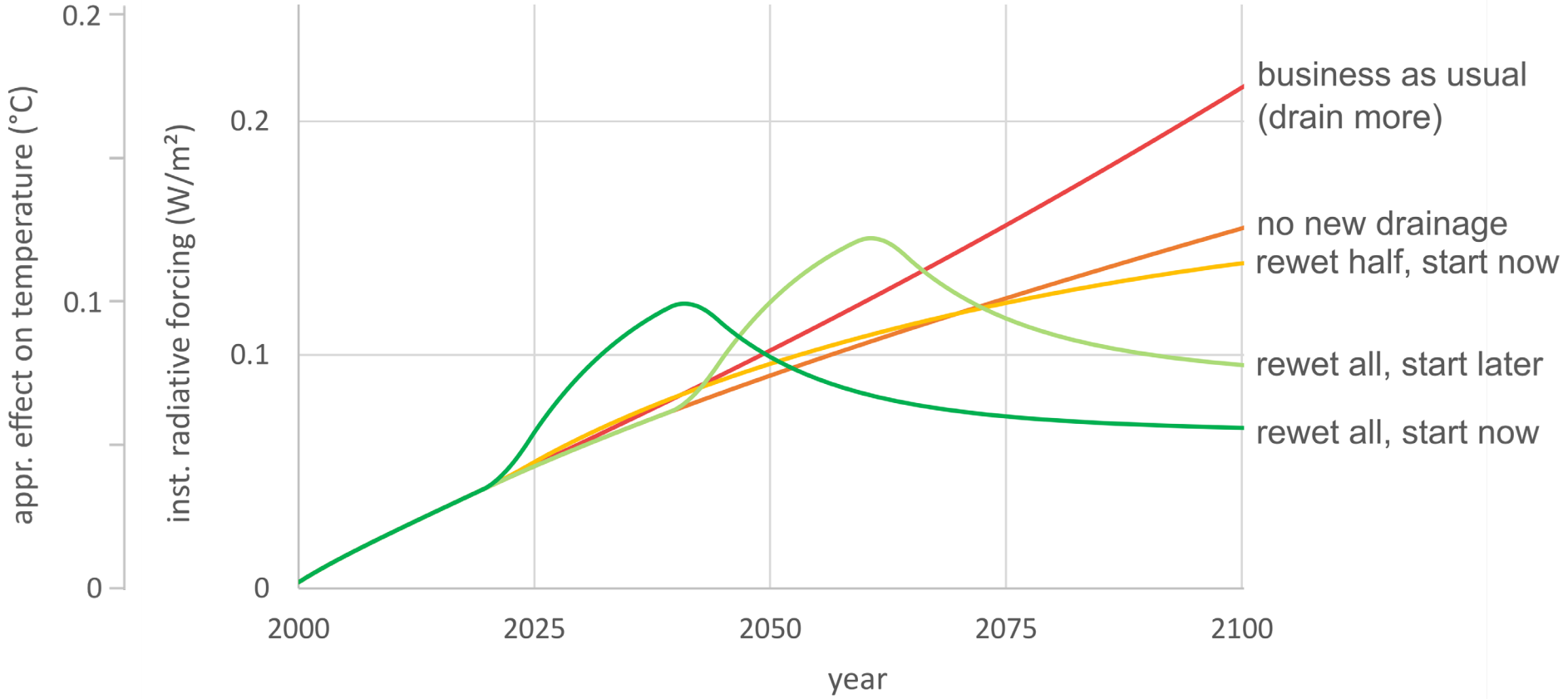
GMC (2019); data for Germany

… to clarify the boundaries of peatland rewetting works until 2050



GMC (2019), IPCC (2018)

Very recent analysis of radiative forcing effects of methan and carbon dioxide: Hurry up!



Günther et al. in prep.

Current ‚hot topics‘

- National Peatland protection strategy under development (2019/2020)
- Climate protection programme 2030 presented 20.09.2019: no concrete measures on peatlands → strong protest of scientists, including peatland scientists (GMC position paper)
- Paludiculture pilot sites: 46 Mio Euro funding approved to start 4 sites over 10 years in 2020
- GAP issues: active lobbying and networking, e.g. lunchtime seminar about paludiculture at DG Agri 18.10.2019 in Brussels

Thank you for your attention!

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