

Peat production in Sweden



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Svensk Torv

The Swedish Peat Association

50 members

33 peat producers

Growing media producers

Bedding peat producers

Energy companies

Consultants

Others

- Horticultural peat
- Energy peat
- Peat for bedding
- Peat for other uses

Close cooperation with TorvForsk,
the Swedish Peat Research Foundation



Svensk 
TORV

An active and sustainable Swedish peat production

The purpose:

Create the best possible conditions for peat in Sweden today and in the future.

The mission

- ✓ With a long-term perspective strategically influence the future conditions for peat production.
- ✓ To be the obvious organization in Sweden for knowledge and facts about sustainable peat production and the use of peat.
- ✓ To be the natural meeting place for the peat industry.



We need acceptance for peat and new licences!

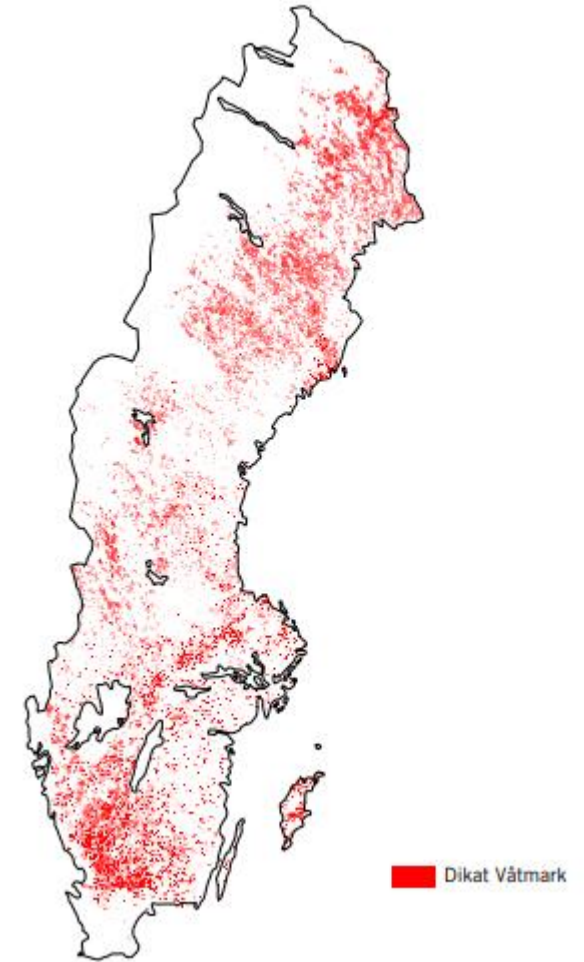
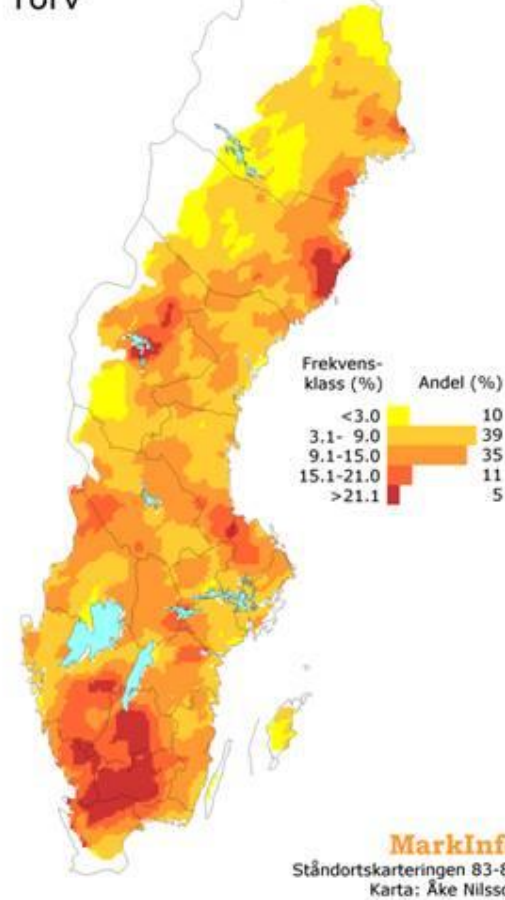
Peat resources in Sweden

6,35 million ha have a peat layer deeper than 30 cm. It is about 15% of the land area.

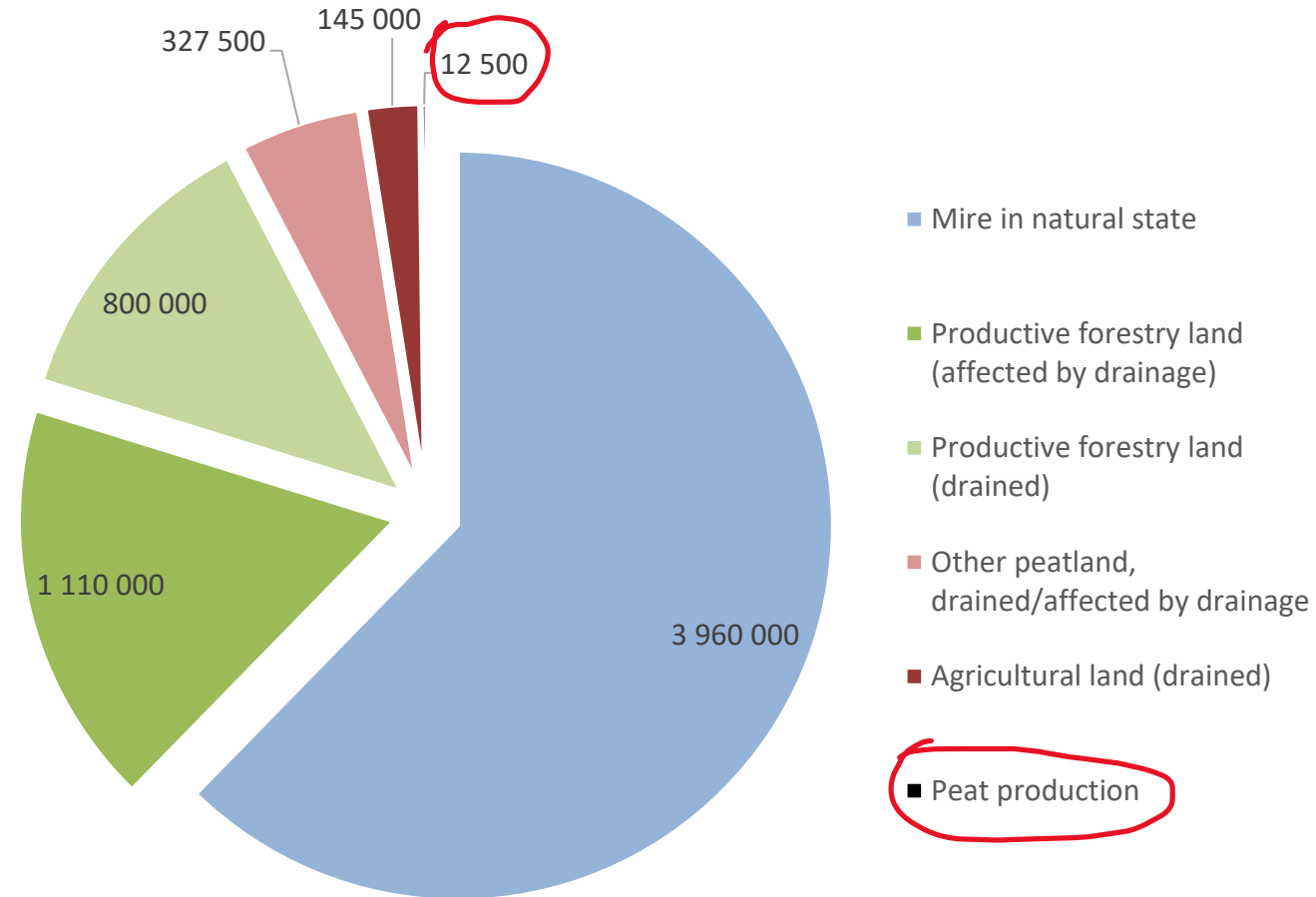
2,6 million ha are drained peatlands. Peat production is using < 12 000 ha, which is < 0,5 % of the drained peatlands.

Översiktskarta över dikade torvmarker. Återrapportering av Våtmarks-satsningen (Länsstyrelsen i Gotlands län, 2018).

Frekvenskarta för humusformsklassen: Torv



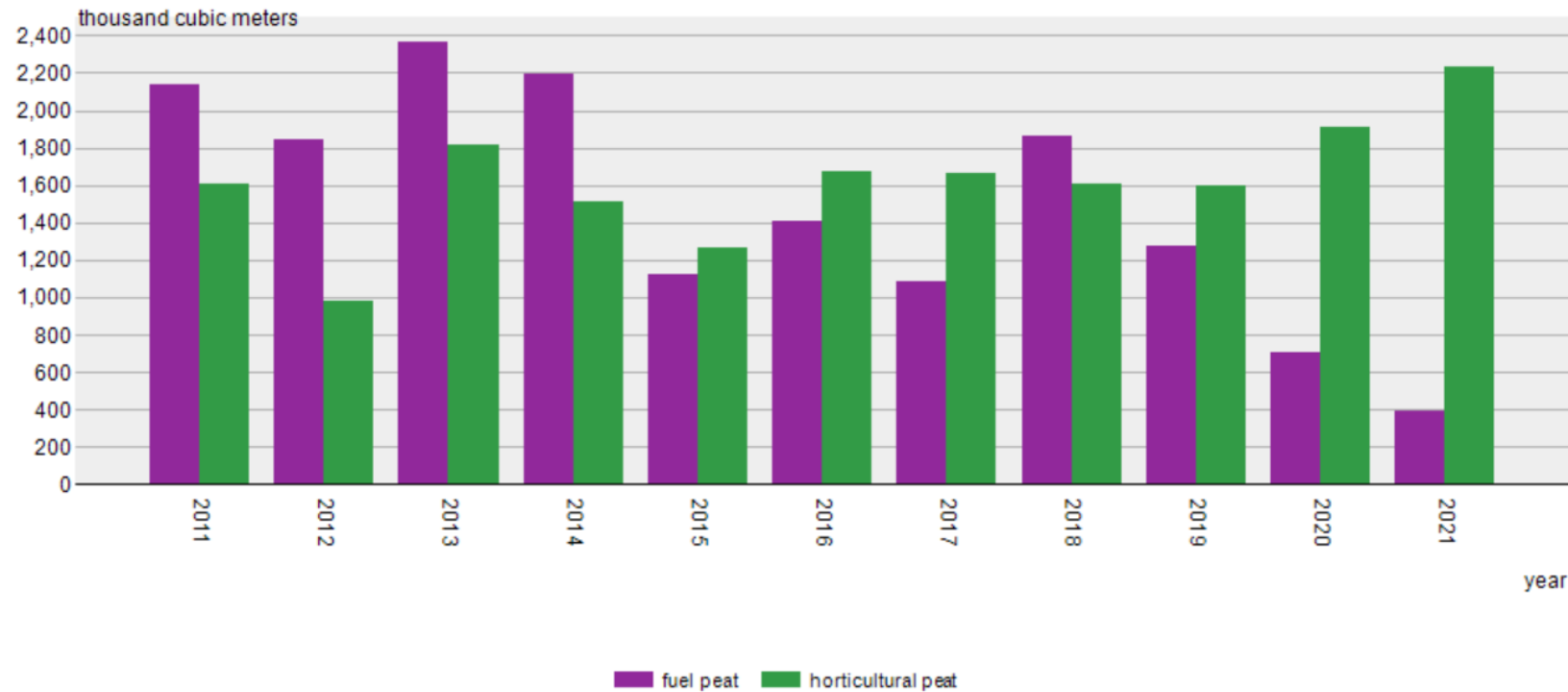
Peatlands in Sweden



Mire and peatland area and use in Sweden (ha). Total 6 355 000 ha.
Source: Naturvårdsverket 2016

Peat production in Sweden 2011-2021

Peat harvesting for energy and horticultural use in thousand cubic meters by type of peat harvesting and year.



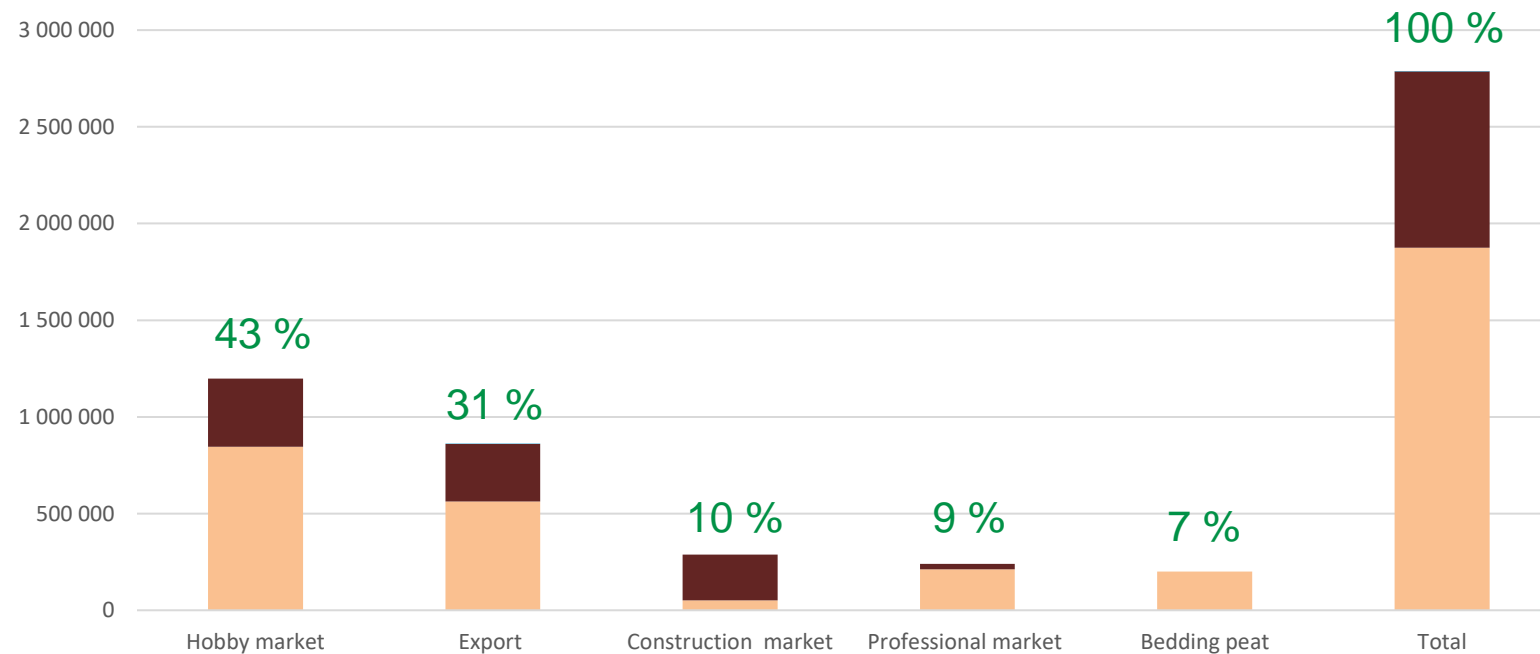
Total harvest 2021:
2,6 million m3

Source: Statistics Sweden

The Swedish horticultural peat market 2020

Swedish horticultural peat market 2020, m3 (EN 12580)

Source: Svensk Torv survey 2022



Total:
2,8 million m3
(EN 12580)

White peat (H1-H5)

Black peat (H6-H10)

Fen peat (H1-H10)

Peat in Growing Media produced in Sweden

- For professional growing: 95,3 %
- For hobby products: 81,7 %
- For construction soil: 4,1 %

Source: Svensk Torv survey 2022



The process to get a permit



First assessment done by county administrative boards, there are 21 in Sweden



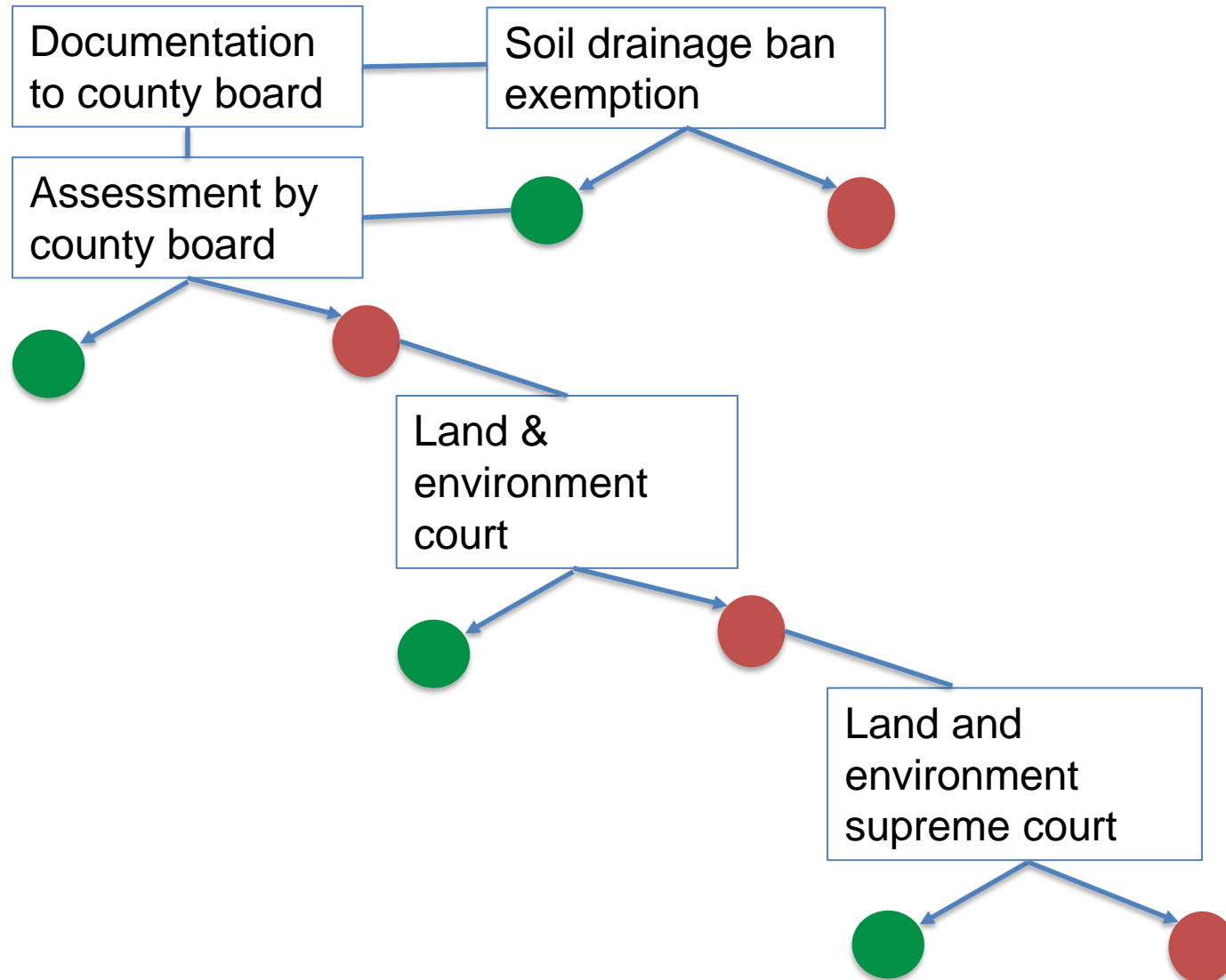
Red =
Soil drainage ban

Exemption from soil drainage ban needed in Southern Sweden.

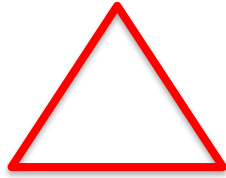
Most horticultural peat production sites are located within this area.

Figur 1. Generellt markavvattningsförbud enligt 11 kap. 14 § MB gäller i stora delar av södra Sverige (rödfärgade kommuner). I övriga delar av landet gäller tillståndsplikt för markavvattning.

The process to get a permit

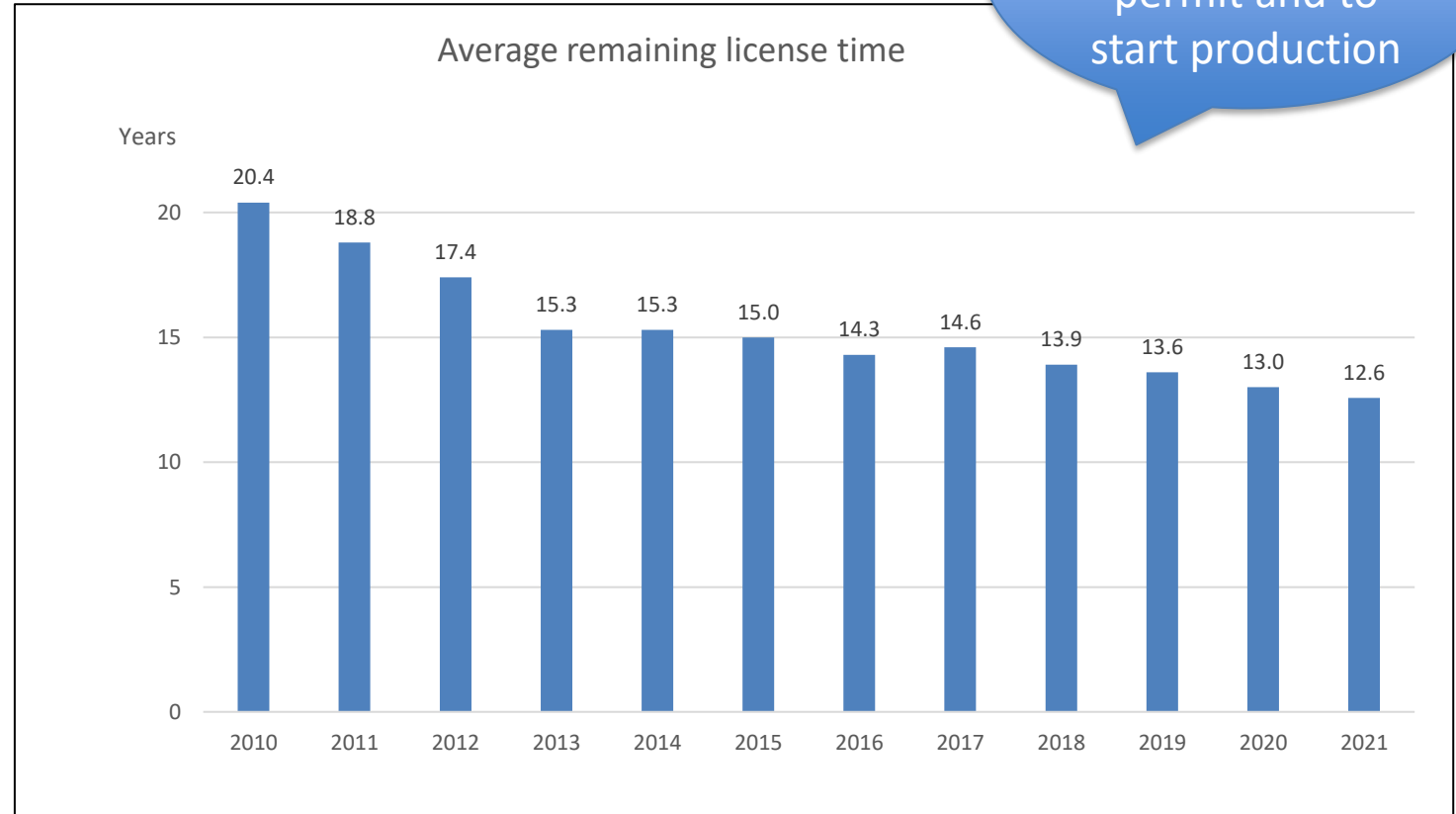


Remaining permit time



Peat production sites are not replaced in step with a long-term sustainable peat production.

It takes 5-8 years to get a new permit and to start production



Source: TorvFabrikernas Centralförening (TFC) 2022

Peat and the Swedish legislation

- All peat extraction is today regulated by **Miljöbalken – The Swedish Environmental Code**.
- Earlier fuel peat extraction were regulated by **Lagen om vissa torvfyndigheter, Torvlagen – the Peat Law**. This law was taken away 2017 but there are still concession areas. Today also horticultural peat is produced on these areas.
- **Only drained peatland areas are relevant for permit application, no pristine peatland.**
- After use restoration is mandatory and funds are set aside already when permission is given.

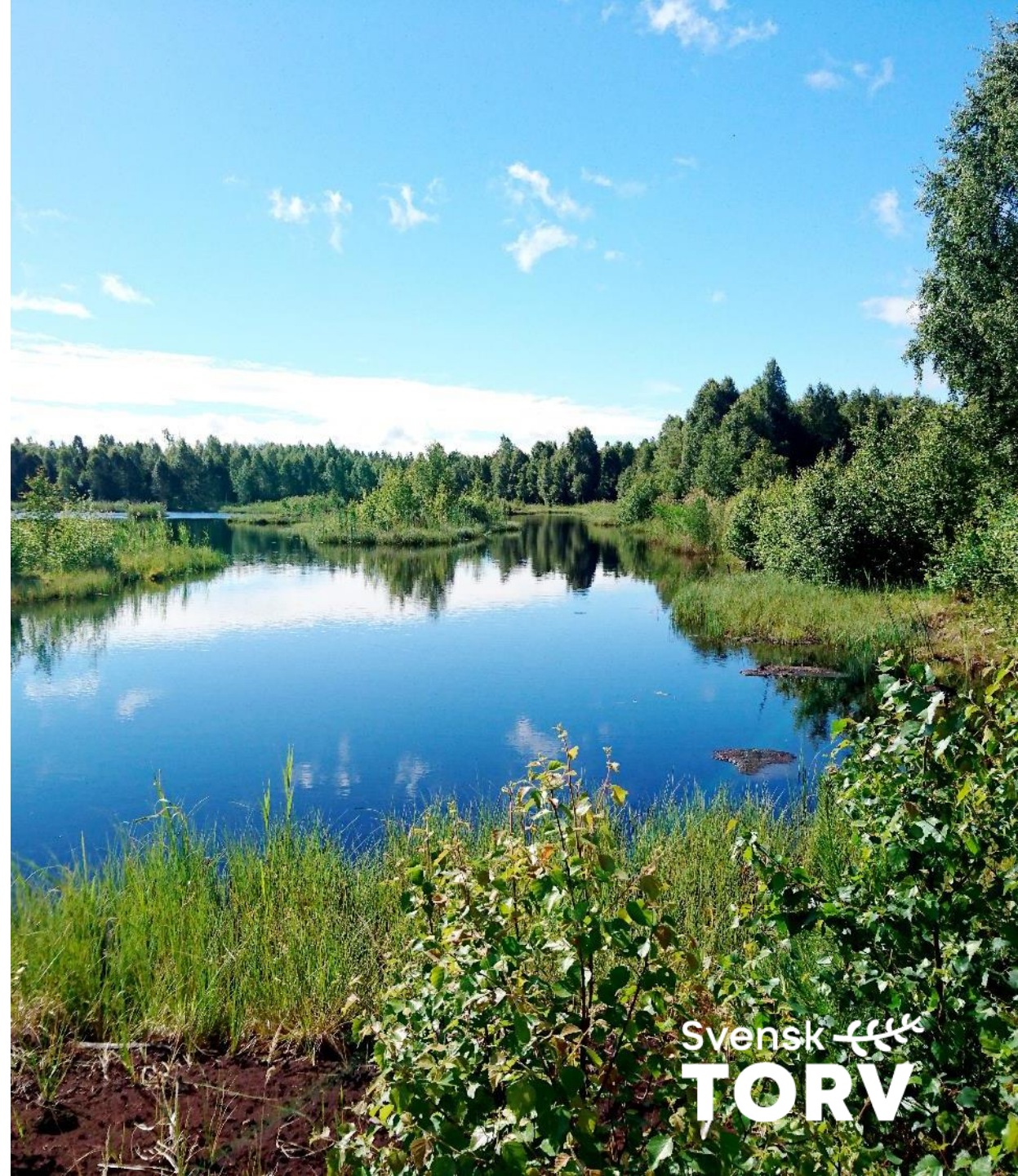
After use

In collaboration with land owners, supervising authorities and county boards peat extraction sites are being restored when peat production has stopped.

Most common has been to afforestate and/or create new wetlands with open water areas.

Huge interest today to install solar cell parks on cut over peatlands. They can be combined with wetland areas and paludiculture/grassland.

About 3000 restaured hectars has been given back to land owners, from the 1990'ies until today.



The obstacles

General:

- Huge scepticism against peat among politicians and decision makers.
- The values of peat products for the society are not understood.
- Little support from peat users - professional growers, farmers using bedding peat, power plants.
- Nomenclature – decision are made on wrong premises
- Extremely ambitious environmental targets in Sweden

Permit application:

- Soil drainage ban demands exemption before permit is assessed. No exemption = no assessment.
- Very extensive documentation is requested, some not even relevant to our operations.
- Assessment of documentation and request for documentation is not equal among county administration boards.
- The legislation gives room for interpretation fx transition into new state of nature
- Case managers sometimes guided by personal opinions.
- High expenses – added investigations often required
- Application process takes long time and the final decision may not be positive. 1 of 10 applications go to a permit.

During peat production:

- Self inspection protocols
- Regular water quality control
- Regular supervision by the authorities (announced and unannounced)
- Scheduled audits by county board

After use:

- Authorities more or less misinterpret the legislation.

Thank you!

Any questions?

Read more on our website: www.svensktorv.se

Or send us an email: info@svensktorv.se



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