

2. Study areas

2.1 Introduction

The experimental basis for field research of Histosol properties and P leaching were 7 study areas, in which representative experimental sites were selected, equipped with automated field stations and devices for periodic soil analyses and soil solution sampling. All study areas were fen peats and represent nationally and internationally important wetlands. They were under previous agricultural use, re-wetted in last decade or are foreseen for re-wetting. Furthermore, common are concerns about ecological effects of the re-wetting, and the quality of adjoining surface waters and the drinking water resources. The study areas represent the climatic conditions of the geographical areas in western maritime, baltic/northern lowland, subalpine and mediterranean zones as shown in Figure 2.1. Meteorological information on the sites is given in Table 2.1. In the following chapters the sit detail, including the geographical and geological setting, the hydrological and meteorological characteristics, land use and associated conflicts and concerns, and information on relevant previous research.

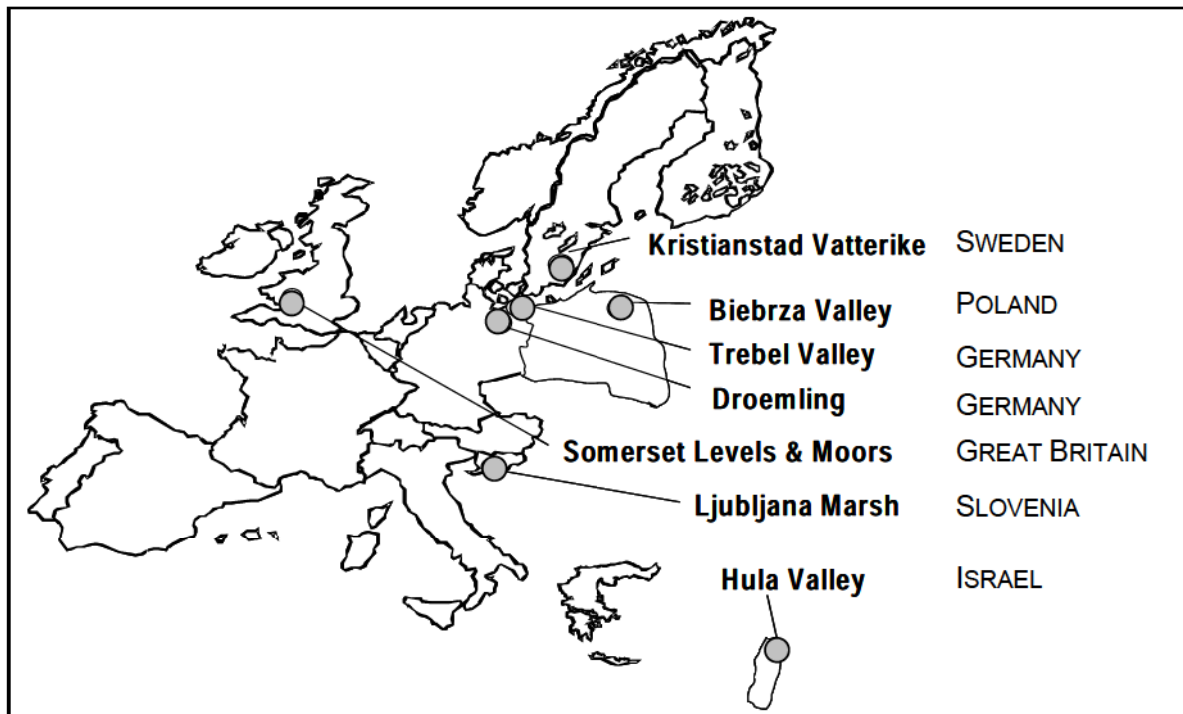


Figure 2.1 Overview of the study areas

Table 2.1 Geographical position and basic climatic characteristics of the study areas

Study area	Latitude	Longitude	Temperature (Average °C)	Precipitation (mm year ⁻¹)
Somerset Levels and Moors	51°10'N	3°W	11	700
Kristianstad Vattenrike	57°30'N	12°E	7	700
Trebel Valley	54°05'N	12°45'E	7	600
Droemling Nature Reserve	52°50'N	11°10'E	8	600
Biebrza Valley	52°N	21°E	8	580
Ljubljana Marshes	45°58'N	14°28'E	10	1400
Hula Valley	33°N	35°30'E	19	500

UFZ Report

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with phosphorus from degraded and re-wetted
peat soils**

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