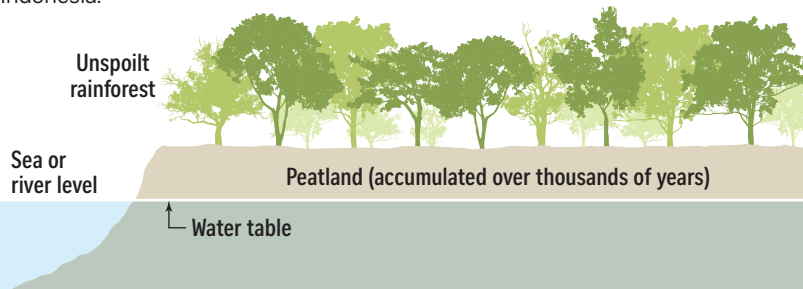


Nature's storehouse

Peatlands store huge amounts of carbon and water. Destroying them creates a ticking time-bomb by risking huge fires, choking haze and vast plumes of greenhouse gas emissions.

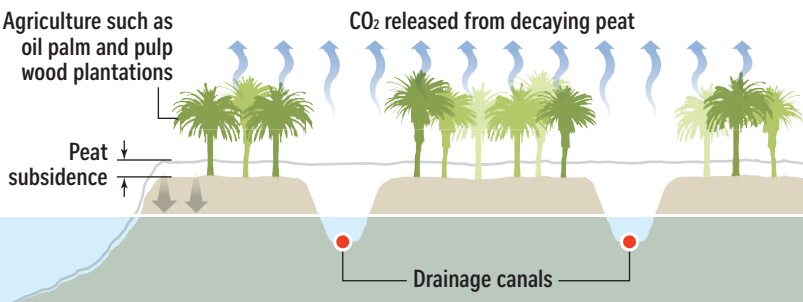
PRISTINE FORESTED PEATLAND

- About 60 per cent of the world's tropical peatlands are found in South-east Asia, mostly in Indonesia.
- The dense rainforests on the peatlands have some of the richest plant and animal life on the planet.



MONOCULTURE PLANTATION

- Peatlands store a huge amount of carbon, which is released as carbon dioxide (CO₂) when the swamps are cleared, drained and burned.
- Indonesia's peat swamp forests store about 40 billion tonnes of carbon. This is comparable to the Amazon rainforest – the single largest terrestrial-carbon sink in the world.



FIRE THREAT

- During the dry season, drained peatlands dry out, making them highly flammable.
- Fires can start naturally or are lit by companies, farmers and illegal loggers to clear the land. The blazes can burn for weeks or even months, producing thick, toxic smoke.



REDUCING THE RISKS

- Building dams across the drainage canals raises the water table again during the wet season and reduces the rate of peat decomposition, subsidence and fire risk.
- This 'rewetting' of peatlands is a key way Indonesia is trying to restore peatlands and better manage water levels and reduce CO₂ emissions.

