

Not Too Big  
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Wietse W. Hermanns





*Polders.....*







*... is something the Dutch  
have been working on  
since the 12th Century*



*And the next slides may  
seem typical for Dutch  
landscapes....*













*... which they are in a way,  
as the Dutch also helped  
create this area, some 400  
years ago...*






*Yet it is some 1000  
km's to the East...*



*...and it's far more richer  
in biodiversity , original  
landscape features and  
vegetation types, such as  
vast natural Peat bogs...*





A photograph of a man sitting in a small, dark green boat on a pond. The pond is covered with lily pads and some green vegetation. The man is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark pants, and is looking towards the water. The boat is positioned near the shore, which is covered with tall grass and some small flowers. The water is calm, and the sky is not visible. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Also, being unknown to many (Dutch) experts...





*it could be developed into a reference or pilot area, both for Northwestern Europe and for similar or even quite different delta's, worldwide.*






*Based on a request by  
the local government to  
develop an integrated  
water management plan,*



*we hope to also work on climate resilience through developing large scale pilots...*







*testing the use of buffer zones  
and water retention areas, also  
to prevent the oxidation of peat  
bogs and peatland soils...*





*using species such as the Typha,  
already known for its value as a  
filter...*



*...yet seen  
as a pest in other parts of the  
world, overgrowing drainage  
channels and river deltas*



*...but its fibres may also be used for furniture or insulation material, and its proteins are valuable sources for food production*





A photograph of a Dutch-style landscape. In the background, there are two houses: a yellow one with a red roof and a white one with a dark roof. They are situated behind a body of water, possibly a canal or a lake. The foreground is dominated by bare, dark tree branches that frame the scene. The sky is overcast and grey. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

*So where is this Dutch landscape we hope to preserve but also revive....*



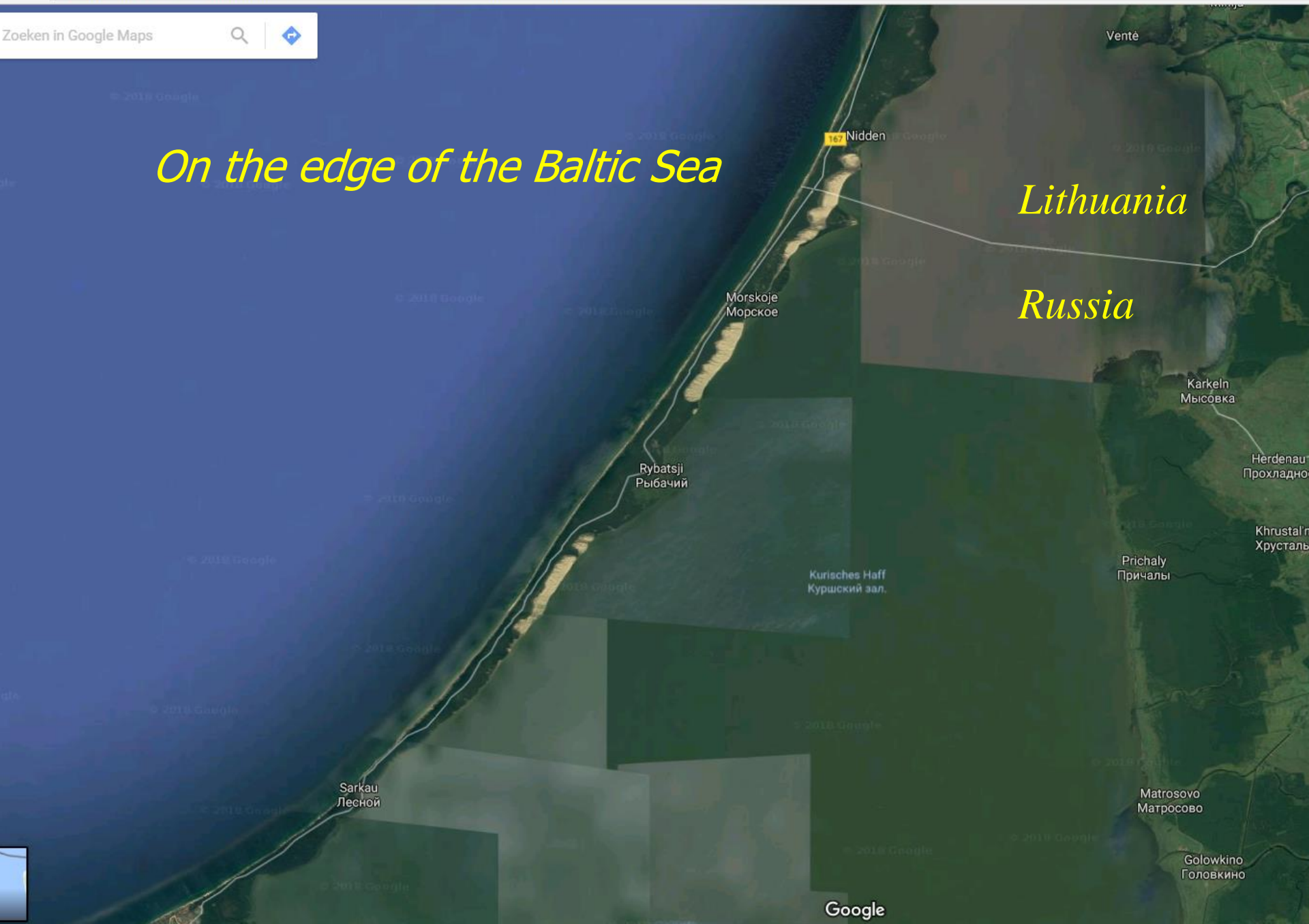
*... this still very natural  
and biodiversity rich delta?*



# *On the edge of the Baltic Sea*

*Lithuania*

*Russia*







Kopenhagen

Polen

Google

Priboy  
Прибой  
Kaliningrad  
Калининград

Memel

Gdynia  
Gdańsk

Szczecin

Berlijn

Kaart

Afbeeldingen ©2018 Data SIO NOAA





*Its landscape actually offers many more gems*







*Yet threats are manifold,  
including peat digging...*





*...and more widespread flooding*









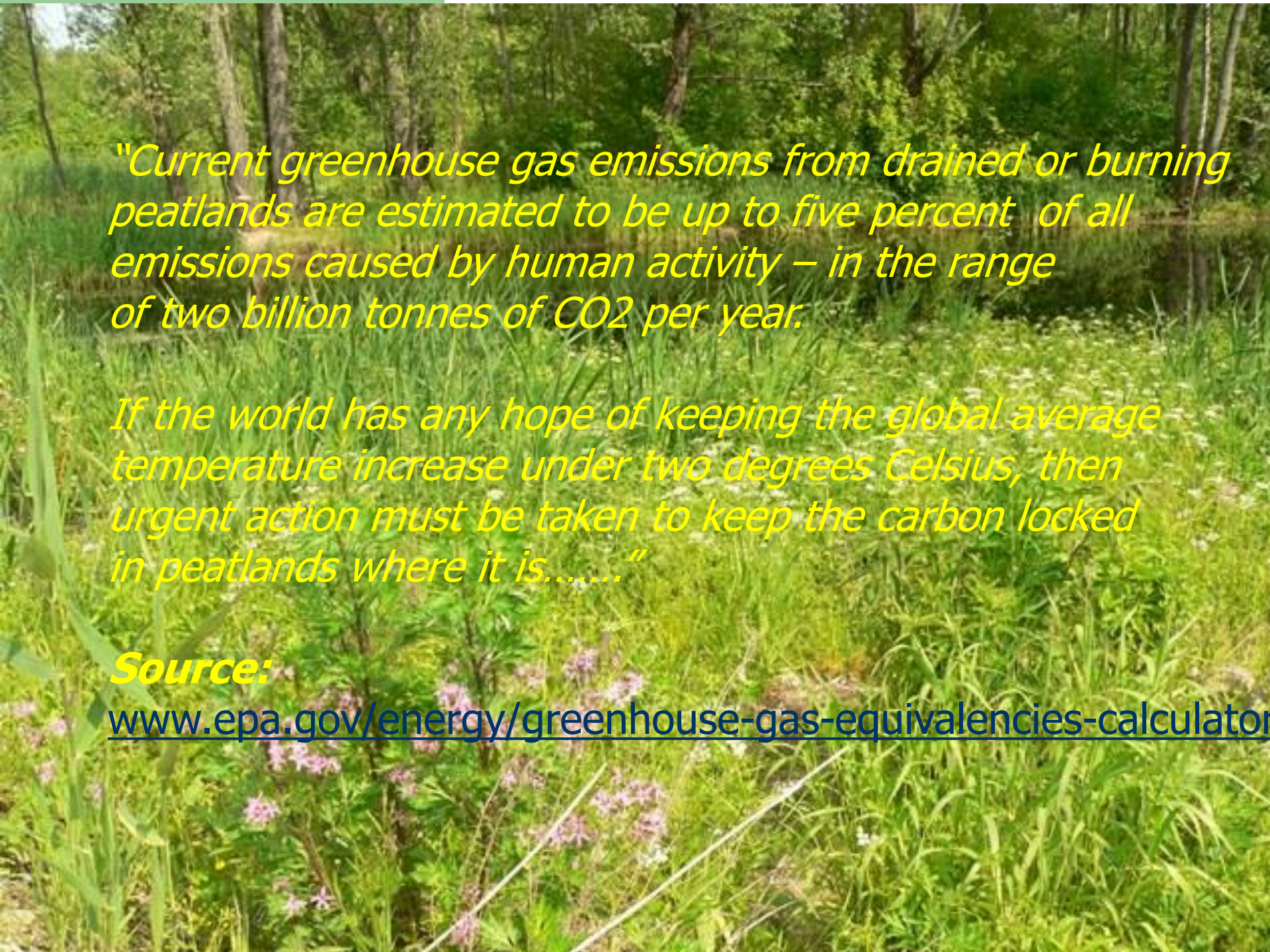
*through developments upstream...*



An aerial photograph showing a vast agricultural landscape, likely a delta or coastal plain, that has been significantly flooded. The fields are a patchwork of green and brown, with large areas of water reflecting the sky. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds, but a bright light source near the horizon creates a dramatic effect of sunbeams (crepuscular rays) shining down on the land. The overall mood is somber and dramatic, suggesting the impact of climate change on agriculture.

*... and climate change.*






*"Current greenhouse gas emissions from drained or burning peatlands are estimated to be up to five percent of all emissions caused by human activity – in the range of two billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.*

*If the world has any hope of keeping the global average temperature increase under two degrees Celsius, then urgent action must be taken to keep the carbon locked in peatlands where it is....."*

***Source:***

[www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator](http://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator)

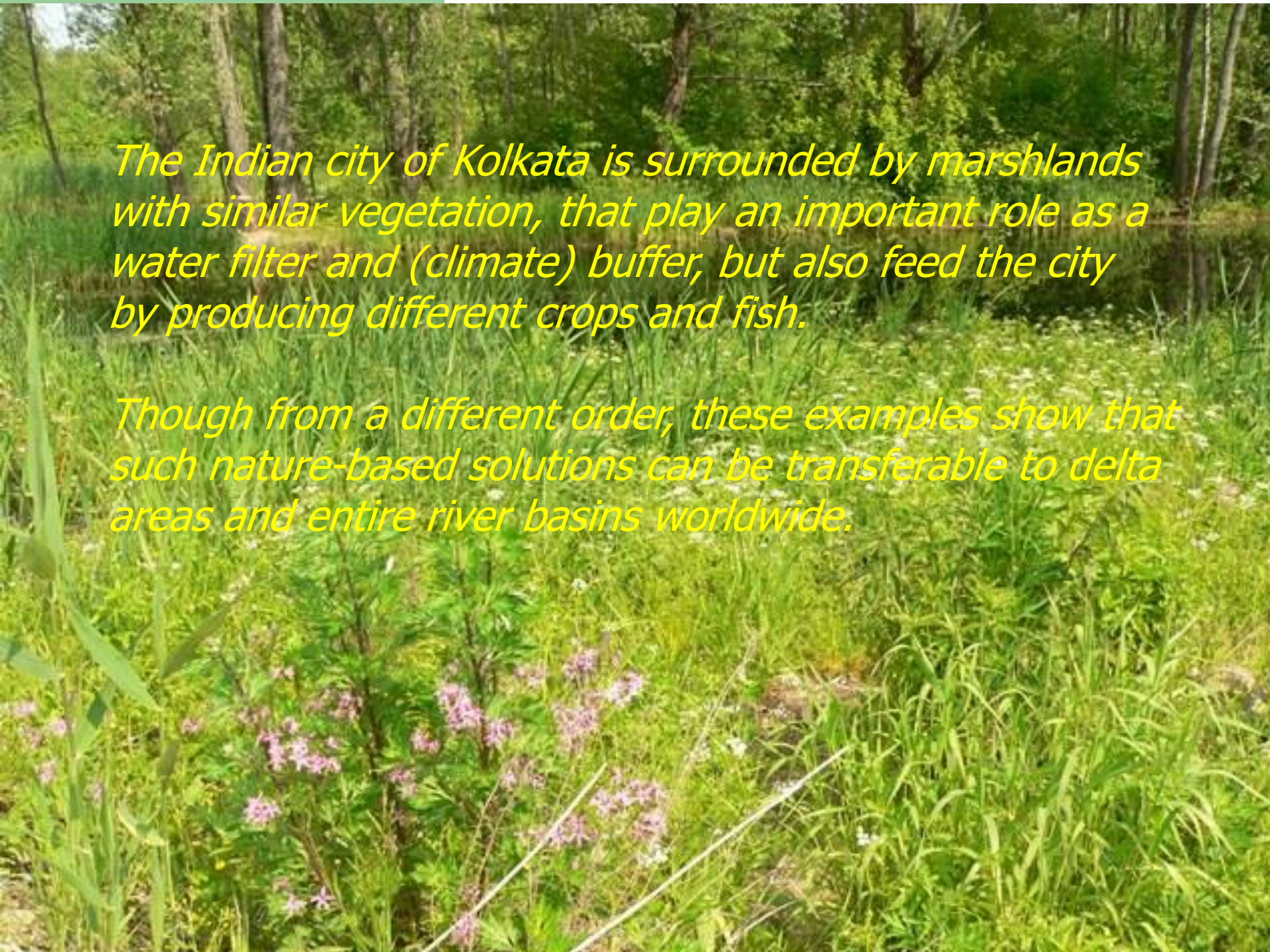




*... which could be much higher if the permafrost starts melting at a larger scale...*

*In the Neman river basin as a whole there is some 160,000 hectares of degraded peat soils emitting millions of tons of Greenhouse gases, with similar amounts coming from deltas or other river basins in Europe alone.*





*The Indian city of Kolkata is surrounded by marshlands with similar vegetation, that play an important role as a water filter and (climate) buffer, but also feed the city by producing different crops and fish.*

*Though from a different order, these examples show that such nature-based solutions can be transferable to delta areas and entire river basins worldwide.*





*We are in touch with the EU,  
WWF and others...*



A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat, frozen body of water under a pale, overcast sky. In the lower-middle ground, three people are walking away from the viewer across the ice. The person on the left is wearing a dark jacket and dark pants, carrying a yellow bag. The person in the middle is wearing a patterned jacket and dark pants, carrying a green bag. The person on the right is wearing a patterned jacket and dark pants, carrying a green bag. The foreground shows a rocky shoreline with dark, wet rocks and some dry vegetation. The overall mood is desolate and expansive.

*...but can still use help from YOU,  
especially to transfer the idea to  
other deltas in the world!*





*Want to know more?*

Get in touch!  
And... thanks!



Contact : Wietse W. Hermanns  
[info@hermannsconsultancy.com](mailto:info@hermannsconsultancy.com)  
+31 6 53489938



**HERMANNS CONSULTANCY**