

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,400 individual and institutional members from 43 countries.

Baltic Peat Forum 2015 in Kuressaare, Estonia

Welcome to the 15th Baltic Peat Producers Forum, taking place in Kuressaare, Saaremaa Island, Estonia, **15 - 17 September 2015**. This year, the subject of the forum is "Peat Industry in Turbulence of Politics and Economy". The forum will focus on the peat production industry by addressing topics on politics affecting the production, logistics challenges and market changes. In addition, keynote speakers from the Baltic States and EU will be sharing latest production technology development news, giving the traditional Baltic overview and covering a wide range of other topics. A good event also means meeting colleagues, lively discussions and entertainment. Hence, in addition to the conference, all participants are welcome to the ice-breaking party held in Kuressaare Kurhouse and a gala dinner on the grounds of Kuressaare Castle. All delegates will also have the chance to participate in excursions, either to the Angla Windmill Park, Muhu Island or Abruka Island. The rising importance of Baltic peat will bring together a wide range of specialists from all parts of Europe. For more info: www.bppf2015.eu or ask Erki Niitlaan, erki (at) turbaliit.ee.

SER 2015 in Manchester with 35+ Peatland Contributions

Early registration for SER's 6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration closes on **30 June 2015**. This is also the deadline for presenter registration. IPS members will be present at the following sessions on peatlands, including at least 35 presentations on peatlands and their restoration:

- Restoration of Peatlands after 25 years: Where are we in this Mossy World? Line Rochefort, Canada
- Symposium: Restoration of damaged Upland Blanket Bog, Simon Caporn, Manchester, UK
- Setting priorities in the EU countries to achieve the 15% restoration target in the framework of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020, Jussi Päivinen, Metsähallitus, Finland
- Peatlands 1 - UK, Sarah Ross/Chris Meredith, Penny Anderson Associates Ltd/Cheshire Wildlife Trust, UK
- Peatlands 2 - peatlands around the world, Lars Lundin, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- Symposium: Greenhouse gas dynamics in restored peatlands: Global perspectives, David Wilson, IPS, Ireland
- Peatlands 3 - general, David Elliott, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom
- Peatlands 4 - techniques, Mark McCorry, Bord na Mona, Ireland / Martha Graf, Uni Hannover, Germany

More information is available at the conference website: www.ser2015.org. The conference theme is "Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild". The programme will explore not only the scientific and technical aspects of restoration, but also its economic, social, and cultural dimensions.

Peatlands at Ramsar COP 12

"The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP12) was held **2 - 9 June 2015** in Punta del Este, Uruguay, under the theme "Wetlands for our Future." Over 800 participants representing the 168 parties to the Convention, as well as the International Organization Partners (IOPs) of the Ramsar Convention, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting. COP12 adopted 16 resolutions by consensus, including the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, a new framework for the delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention, peatlands, disaster risk reduction, and a wetland city accreditation of the Ramsar Convention. Among others, the COP called upon the STRP to provide scientific and technical advice on "balancing" wetland conservation and development in the next triennium. This need for balance was also relevant to the contested issue of peatlands and climate change. The main difficulty was the sensitivity to current negotiations on a future climate agreement (in fact, the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies were

meeting in parallel to the Ramsar COP). Parties eventually agreed to highlight the value that wetlands have for climate change adaptation, as well as their potential for mitigation and the need to further study their value as carbon sinks. Having eliminated references to market instruments that were seen as prejudging the outcomes of current climate negotiations, and with questions of mandates of different conventions addressed in a balanced manner, the final resolution was considered useful in encouraging parties to utilize their inventories to map the distribution of their peatlands and the extent of their carbon sequestration.

It is likely that when negotiations on a new post-2020 climate agreement conclude, the issue of adaptation through wetlands management and mitigation in peatlands will receive renewed attention, including possibilities for funding these initiatives within the climate framework." (Source: Ramsar) More info: www.ramsar.org/news/a-brief-analysis-of-ramsar-cop12 and for the full report: www.iisd.ca/vol17/enb1746e.html.

In the final resolution on peatlands, climate change and wise use: implications for the Ramsar Convention (COP20 DR11 Rev.3), the COP encourages parties to, inter alia:

- consider, as appropriate, limiting activities that lead to drainage of peatlands, urging greater international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building;
- designate, as appropriate, as Wetlands of International Importance at least one peatland area; and
- utilise national and regional inventories to map the distribution of peatlands with a view to determining the extent to which they sequester carbon.

In addition, the COP, among others:

- requests the Secretariat, working with the STRP, IOPs and other stakeholders, to compile best practices in peatland restoration techniques and share them through the Ramsar official website;
- encourages Ramsar bodies to collaborate with relevant international conventions and organizations, including UNFCCC bodies, on the relationship between peatlands and climate change; and
- invites the Ramsar Administrative Authorities to bring this resolution to the attention of the national focal points of other MEAs.

The COP furthermore requests that the STRP consider in conjunction with parties and IOPs:

- developing guidelines for inventories of peatlands, and for the further application of Criterion 1 for the selection of Wetlands of International Importance (representative, rare or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type);
- evaluating the progress made with the implementation of the "Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands";
- advising COP13 on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands.

For more information visit www.ramsar.org. For more information on the cooperation of IPS with international conventions and programmes, visit www.peatsociety.org/conventions2014.

Fen Peatland Workshop in Poland in July

An international workshop "Fen peatlands after drainage – landscape and soil" will be held at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland between **6 - 10 July 2015**. The workshop will be co-organized by IPS Commission III, Agricultural use of peatlands and peat. An important issue will be an attempt to elaborate a universal method for classification of organic soils (lowland peat soils) using simple morphological tests. The discussion will be carried out between scientists and other stakeholders. A representative of the Polish Ministry of Agriculture is also invited and a report will be published in Peatlands International 3.2015. More info: www.uwm.edu.pl/en/egazeta/fen-peatlands-after-drainage-landscape-and-soil or contact Barbara Kalisz: barbara.kalisz (at) uwm.edu.pl.

FAO Peatland Practices & Case Studies

To raise awareness on the impact of peatland management practices, the MICCA team at FAO would like to:

- Share with you a collection of case studies on peatland management practices: http://bit.ly/peat_studies
- Invite you to send details of new cases of peatland management by filling in our case study form: http://bit.ly/case-study_form

The current collection of 16 cases from 9 countries illustrates the positive and negative impacts different practices

have on livelihoods and the environment. For more information on peatlands and their management, please refer to their recent publication. More information: http://bit.ly/peat_cc_mitigation_micca and micca (at) fao.org.
(submitted by Armine Avagyan, FAO)

Annual Meeting & Seminar of German Peat Society in Berlin

The German Peat Society (DGMT) will hold a conference on peatlands and its annual meetings 2015 at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin during **23 - 26 September**. For the full programme, a registration form and more information see www.dgmt-ev.de/veranstaltungen.html. The registration fee for DGMT members amounts to € 55, for students € 35. Registration and poster submission is open until **15 August**. The event includes two excursions: Berlin peatlands, Drachenberg, Ökowerk Berlin, Teufelsfenn and Grunewald; as well as the Rhin-Havelluch. Accommodation should be booked soon because of the Berlin Marathon on 27 September. For instructions see the link above (in German).

New Articles in Mires and Peat!

Mires and Peat is the free open-access peer reviewed journal of IPS and the International Mire Conservation group (IMCG). Find it online at www.mires-and-peat.net and in the Thomson Master Journal List (Web of Science). The articles published so far this year are:

Volume 16 (2015)

- Everglades peats: using historical and recent data to estimate predrainage and current volumes, masses and carbon contents (S.M. Hohner and T.W. Dreschel)
- Biosorption of mercury from aqueous solutions using highly characterised peats (A.M. Rizzuti, F.L. Ellis, L.W. Cosme and A.D. Cohen).
- Characteristics of Eastern Canadian cultivated Sphagnum and potential use as a substitute for perlite and vermiculite in peat-based horticultural substrates (M. Aubé, M. Quenum and L.L. Ranasinghe)
- Effects of shading on relative competitive advantage of three species of Sphagnum (J.Z. Ma, Z.J. Bu, X.X. Zheng, J.L. Ge and S.Z. Wang)

Volume 15: Special Volume Mountain Peatlands (2014/15)

- Enhanced sensitivity of a mountain bog to climate change as a delayed effect of road construction (P. von Sengbusch)
- Fen mires with cushion plants in Bale Mountains, Ethiopia (B.W. Dullo, A.P. Grootjans, J.G.M. Roelofs, A.F. Senbeta and C. Fritz)
- Fens of the Sierra Nevada, California, USA: patterns of distribution and vegetation (E.C. Wolf and D.J. Cooper)
- Mires in the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho (P-L. Grundling, A. Linström, W. Fokkema and A.P. Grootjans)

The editors are always happy to receive new manuscripts on any topic relating to mires, peatlands and peat. Please send these to the Editor-in-Chief [o.m.bragg \(at\) dundee.ac.uk](mailto:o.m.bragg@dundee.ac.uk), for friendly editorial management by eminent peatland specialists (O.M. Bragg, R.S. Clymo, S.N.P. Glatzel, A.P. Grootjans, P.M. Jones and J.O. Rieley); minimal publication delays (the average turnaround time from submission to publication is currently less than 230 days); and free global exposure of your work in an ISI journal. (submitted by Olivia Bragg)

Special Volume of Mires and Peat on GHG Fluxes

Mires and Peat are now receiving manuscripts for a Special Volume, Greenhouse Gas fluxes in degraded and restored peatlands: Global perspectives. The purpose of this Special Volume will be to provide a global overview of our current knowledge in regard to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) dynamics along a land use gradient from degraded peatlands to restored/rewetted peatlands. The Volume will open with a number of invited papers from the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) 6th World Conference held in Manchester, England in August 2015. However, this Special Volume is also open to other contributions that fall within the general theme of volume, as well as studies that describe aquatic carbon losses from these peatlands, the development of country specific emissions factors (e.g. CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, DOC) and improved methods for determining activity data. Contact Stephan Glatzel ([stephan.glatzel \(at\) univie.ac.at](mailto:stephan.glatzel@univie.ac.at)) or David Wilson ([david.wilson \(at\) earthymatters.ie](mailto:david.wilson@earthymatters.ie)) to discuss contributions to this volume. Mires and Peat is indexed by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA and Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Mires and Peat also participates in the CABI Full Text Repository.

Managing Molinia? – Conference in Yorkshire

The National Trust in Marsden, West Yorkshire UK is organising a conference entitled ‘Managing Molinia? Molinia caerulea on upland peat in the UK: history, dependencies and the role of intervention in achieving conservation goals.’ in Huddersfield West Yorkshire during **14 - 16 September 2015**. Peat covers much of the flat or gently sloping uplands of the UK, forming blanket mire that can host a number of vegetation types. The type favoured by conservationists, and considered to be associated with the greatest rate of peat formation, involves Eriophorum species, ericaceous shrubs and Sphagnum mosses. In practice, this is lacking over large areas of upland where it might be expected, its place being taken by very dominant Molinia caerulea. This conference examines the place of Molinia caerulea in UK plant communities, factors affecting its growth and experiments looking at ways of adding greater diversity where appropriate. The aim is to gain a clearer understanding, through discussion, of what types of conservation objective should be applied and how to achieve them. The conference will contain two days of presentations and discussion followed by a field trip on Day 3 to look at diversification experiments set up in dominant Molinia on the Marsden Moor Estate. We are able to keep the conference fee low due to generous support from Natural England and the UK National Committee of the International Peatland Society. More information can be found at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsden-moor. (submitted by Craig Best & Jack Rieley)

All-Russian 9th Scientific School of Young Scientists

The 9th All-Russian Scientific School of Young Scientists with International Participation on “Mires and Biosphere” will be held in Vladimir region, Russia, during **14 - 18 September 2015**. On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committees, it is a great pleasure to invite researchers and young scientists studying mires and biosphere to take part in this important event. The School will be hosted by the All Russian Research Institute of Organic Fertilisers and Peat and Tomsk State Pedagogical University. Topics include:

1. Modern paludification of landscapes and mire ecosystems functioning.
2. The physical and chemical properties of mires and nanotechnology of mire resources reprocessing.
3. Anthropogenic influence on mire ecosystems and its restoration.
4. Perspectives of peat industry development in Russia.

The program includes tours to Vladimir-Bogolyubovo, Gus-khrustalny, Suzdal, the National Park “Meshchera” as well as visits to a Vladimir greenhouse plant, peat enterprises and other destinations. The Scientific School will also feature a photo exhibition of Western Siberia and include sales of mire and biosphere books. For more information, see the conference website at <http://ltorf.tspu.ru/school/about-school.html> and/or contact vnion (at) vtsnet.ru or agroecol (at) yandex.ru. (submitted by Lech Szajdak)

New Greifswald Mire Centre bundling Activities

The Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC) in northern Germany is the new umbrella brand for all mire related activities in the town of Greifswald. It combines the efforts of its three constitutional institutes: the Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology of the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de), the Michael Succow Foundation (www.succow-stiftung.de) and the Institute of Sustainable Development of Landscapes of the Earth (www.duene-greifswald.de). The new organisation hosts more than 50 peatland experts from various disciplines, who work together on the interface between science and policy, covering peatland related questions from the local to the global level. The GMC offers science-based solutions for social challenges such as:

- Climate change mitigation: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands
- Climate change adaptation: Ecosystem-based solutions
- Biodiversity: Conservation and restoration of peatlands
- Sustainable use and paludiculture
- Innovative financing: Monetisation of ecosystem services, including carbon credits

The comprehensive “Peatland and Nature Conservation International Library” (PeNCIL) (www.succow-stiftung.de/moorbibliothek.html) and the Global Peatland Database of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) are also part of the GMC. For a complete overview of the aims, expertise, projects, publications and the network surf to: www.greifswaldmoor.de. (submitted by Greta Gaudig)