

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. Our mission is to serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration. Currently the IPS has 1462 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 43 countries.

PERG Technology Transfer Workshop in Québec

Université Laval is pleased to invite the members of the IPS to the 13th Technology Transfer Workshop on peatland restoration of the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG). The workshop will be held in Québec City, Canada on **14 - 15 October 2015** and consists of theoretical information exchange and a field trip in both English and French. The event addresses not only peatland restoration following horticultural peat harvesting, but also in the context of mining, oil spills and several other types of activities in bogs. Registration deadline is **6 October 2015** and more details can be found at www.gret-perg.ca. The Canadian peatland restoration guide can be downloaded at www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/uploads/tx_centrecherche/Restoration-Guide_2nd_2003_01.pdf.

IPS-ISHS Cooperation & Medal to Gerald Schmilewski

The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) held in cooperation with the IPS the SusGro symposium in Vienna on **7-11 September** which was a success for both organisations. Gerald Schmilewski of Commission II attended and gave an introduction to the activities of our Society. At the dinner sponsored by Klasmann-Deilmann, he was awarded the ISHS Medal for his achievements within the ISHS and for enhancing the cooperation between IPS and ISHS. The Award Certificate, signed by ISHS President Roderick Drew, was handed over by Prof. Dr. Michael Raviv (Israel), Chair of ISHS Commission on Plant Substrates. The exact text in the cert is as follows: "The Certificate and medal are presented to Gerald Schmilewski in recognition of the collaboration between the International Peatland Society and the International Society for Horticultural Science, and reflect his personal support and many scientific contributions given at symposia of the Commission Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture, as well as the greatly valued financial support given over many years by his employer, Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH, to ISHS symposia linked to growing media". We are glad to announce that ISHS Plant Substrates sincerely wants to continue its cooperation with the IPS. More information on the ISHS: www.ishs.org and www.ages.at/susgro2015.

Restoration and Industry Cooperation in Canada

For more than 20 years, the Canadian peat industry has been supporting research conducted by Line Rochefort's team at Université Laval which aim at the sound management of peatlands where there has been peat harvesting for horticultural purposes. Over the years, peat companies were added as financial partners to the various grants obtained and the three terms of the NSERC Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management. This partnership has allowed, among others, to develop effective techniques for ecological restoration of peatlands and Sphagnum farming and to pursue fundamental research on the ecology of peatlands and on plants that inhabit them. To thank the industrial partners, the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FSAA) and Line Rochefort welcomed about fifty people during a recognition ceremony held in honour of the industrial partners on **2 June 2015**. For this occasion, a commemorative plaque was unveiled for the lobby of the Paul-Comtois building. Certificates of recognition were presented to 13 companies. PERG also wished to acknowledge the collaboration of François Quinty in peatland restoration work as well as the valuable support of Doris Reeve, CSPMA. (*Écho tourbières*)

New Research Reports from Sweden on Water Quality

The Swedish Peat Research Foundation, TorvForsk, has published two reports related to peat extraction management. The project has been carried out with financial support from the Swedish Energy Agency. One report presents how the outflow from peat cutover areas should be controlled, and relates to Swedish laws and also the EU Water Framework Directive. The design of the control programme is presented to follow both the direct outflow from the cutover area

and also the downstream recipient waters. The importance of water data before start of work and to have natural control waters to relate potential changes to are crucial. The other report considers suspended material (SS) and concluded that there was great variation in concentrations over time showing the need for more intensive monitoring. However, it could also be concluded that the concentrations of SS in the outlet from peat cutover areas did not significantly differ from concentrations in ordinary streams from forest land. Concentrations in stream from agricultural areas showed higher values. The reports can be found at www.torvforsk.se. (Lars Lundin)

IUCN Key Biodiversity Areas Standard Consultation

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has issued a call regarding comments on the 2nd draft of an IUCN Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas. Following the adoption of the World Conservation Congress Resolution WCC 3.01.3, IUCN Species Survival Commission and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas established a Joint Task Force on Biodiversity and Protected Areas. The Task Force mobilized expert input from a large number of stakeholders to consolidate globally agreed scientific criteria and methodology for identifying key biodiversity areas, as sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity. A second draft of the Key Biodiversity Areas Standard is now available at www.kbaconsultation.org and IUCN is seeking comments on this draft. Comments should be sent to [kbacomments \(at\) iucn.org](mailto:kbacomments@iucn.org) by **11 October 2015**. Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas is an important element of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, namely to effectively conserve “areas important of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services,” as well as other related Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For more information see www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2015/ntf-2015-103-pa-en.pdf. (Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias)

Moorland Apps from South Pennines SAC

Four innovative new moorland-themed apps have been launched by the Moors for the Future Partnership. Created through their MoorLIFE Project, these free apps, available to download on smartphones or tablets, provide photographic guides to help identify the wildlife, vegetation and landscape features found on moorland. The apps have been designed with the Peak District and South Pennines in mind but can be used on all moorland in the UK: MoorMOSS – a guide to sphagnum and other mosses, MoorPLANTS – a guide to moorland plants, MoorSIGHTS – a guide to moorland landscape features, and MoorWILD – a guide to moorland wildlife. MoorLIFE is a €6.7 million five-year project, funded by the European Union’s LIFE+ Programme, that has protected 2,500 hectares of active blanket bog by carrying out conservation works on bare and eroding peat in the South Pennines Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA). For further information please see www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorapps or contact [emma.downes \(at\) peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:emma.downes@peakdistrict.gov.uk). (Emma Downes)

APP Commits to Retirement of Commercial Plantations

Asia Pulp & Paper announced it is committing to retire around 7,000 hectares of commercial plantation areas to protect threatened carbon-rich peatlands. Peatland development in Indonesia represents one of the single largest terrestrial sources of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the world. Retiring these plantation areas will help support the Government of Indonesia’s target of a 26% reduction in emissions by 2020. The land marked for retirement is spread across five individual acacia plantation areas in Riau and South Sumatra which have been identified as requiring immediate rehabilitation following recommendations from the applied research institute Deltares. In line with APP’s Forest Conservation Policy (FCP), a Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process will be conducted for the five areas, before any retirement proceeds. Today’s announcement is part of APP’s commitment to establish a science-based landscape approach for best practice peatland management that can be used by the Indonesian Government and plantation companies. It builds on the conservation pledges in the company’s FCP, which placed an immediate moratorium on all natural forests and new peatland development in February 2013. As part of this approach, Deltares is working with APP to carry out the largest mapping exercise ever carried out on tropical peatland areas using LiDAR remote sensing technology. For more info: www.asiapulppaper.com/news-media/press-releases.

Tracking Fires in Southeast Asia Real-Time

The Straits Times has published an interactive map with hotspots and guides how to deal with the haze in Southeast Asia. Real-time satellite imagery from NASA tracks the location of fires and their intensity throughout the region: <http://graphics.straitstimes.com/STI/STIMEDIA/Interactives/2015/09/haze-in-singapore/index.html>.