

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 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

Apply to host the 2018 IPS Jubilee Conference!

The International Peat Society was established in Québec, Canada in 1968 and will therefore celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2018. We are proud to invite all members, especially National Committees, to consider hosting this event with a special Jubilee Conference in May - June 2018. The proposals must fulfill the following criteria:

- IPS Annual Meetings and symposium considering all peat and peatland interests
- Aim for 200-500 participants both locally and internationally; the official language is English
- Call for papers and presentations at least one year before the meeting
- Availability of proceedings, abstracts and power point presentations freely to the IPS for online publishing after the event
- Use of the IPS logo and global promotion
- Time slot mainly May - June 2018

Applications should be submitted by **28 February 2015** to [ips \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:ips@peatsociety.org) and they should include:

- Proposal for theme, concept and budget; Proposal for scientific and organisation committee
- Payment of 15% of all registration fees to the IPS three months after the event

The decision on the venue and host will be made by the Executive Board by simple majority after a thorough evaluation of all proposals. For further information and guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the IPS Secretariat or the National Committee in your country: www.peatsociety.org/about-us.

Consultation on EU No Net Loss Initiative

The Environment Directorate General of the European Commission has opened a consultation process to private citizens, national, regional and local authorities, businesses, business organizations, NGOs, academia, and professional bodies with regard to the No Net Loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services initiative. This is planned to be launched next year as part of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. The Strategy contains 6 operational targets and 20 associated actions, one of which is to prevent further net loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and thereby influences peatlands. To submit your contribution, visit http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/nnl_en.htm and follow the instructions on the website. DG Environment welcomes comments from citizens, organizations and public authorities. The consultation period is open until **17 October 2014**. (submitted by Jack Rieley, UK National Committee)

Forest Science Conference 2015 in Rovaniemi

The 17th IBFRA Conference "Towards a New Era of Forest Science in Boreal Region" will be held during **24 - 29 May 2015** in Rovaniemi, Finnish Lapland. The event is organized by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) in cooperation with the Arctic Centre and University of Lapland, and will include the following topics:

- Sustainable forest management in an era of global change
- Bioeconomy – switch from fossils to biobased economy
- Managing and valuing ecosystem services for human well-being
- Big-data use and value in the forest sector
- Flow of information from scientist to policy makers and wider public

IBFRA is the International Boreal Forest Research Association, with the mission to promote and co-ordinate research to increase the understanding of the role of the circumpolar boreal forest in the global environment and the effects of environmental change upon that role. For more info: www.ibfra2015.org. (submitted by Sinikka Jortikka, Metla)

IUCN Peatland Action: Learning from Success in Inverness

The Annual IUCN Conference 'Investing in Peatlands' will be held from **20 - 22 October 2014** in Inverness, Scotland. The focus this year will be on peatland management including restoration techniques and benefits. There will also be an update on the work of the Peatland Code and the opportunities for private funding to compliment public funding of peatland management. The program includes seminars and field trips, research meetings, workshops and panel discussions, as well as a poster session. For more information, please see www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org. The IPS will be represented by Professor Jack Rieley, Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board and IPS UK National Committee.

EU LIFE Funding 2014 - 2020 for Environment and Climate

The LIFE Programme for Environment and Climate Action sets its budget for 2014–2020 to € 3.4 billion. The Commission invites legal persons/entities registered in the EU to submit proposals for the 2014 LIFE Action Grants. For the sub-programme for Environment, this call will cover action grants "Traditional" projects, Preparatory projects, Integrated projects, Technical Assistance projects and Capacity Building projects. For the sub-programme for Climate Action, this call will cover action grants only for "Traditional" projects and Capacity Building projects. For more information and detailed instructions how to apply, see: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/>.

Call for Symposia & Workshops at SER 2015 in Manchester

The Society for Ecological Restoration has opened the call for proposals for Symposia, Workshops and pre-Conference Training Courses at SER's 6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration. SER2015 will be held in Manchester, UK from **23 - 27 August 2015**, with pre-Conference Training Courses on 21 and 22 of August. The Conference theme is "Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild". If you would like to contribute to the SER2015 scientific program by organizing a symposium, leading an interactive workshop or conducting a training course in conjunction with the conference, please contact the organizers before **12 December 2014**. More information: www.ser2015.org. IPS has cooperated with SER in organizing their Oulu conference in August 2014.

New Guidelines for Integrated Management in SE Asia

The Global Environment Centre announces the publication of "Guidelines on Integrated Management Planning for Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia". The 91-page document can be downloaded from www.aseanpeat.net. The guide is a result of the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) and SEApeat Project and was prepared by Rebecca D'Cruz, aonyx Consultancy, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. "The document is aimed at practitioners and planners, providing practical, relevant and user-friendly guidelines for the integrated management planning for peatland forests in Southeast Asia (SEA). It focuses on the principles of integrated management planning for peatland forests and provides guidance on dealing with the key drivers of change that underpin peatland degradation and loss in Southeast Asia. It is intended primarily for use by local, regional and national planning authorities, and managers of peatland reserves and sites in the ASEAN States." (submitted by Noor Azura Ahmad, GEC)

New VCS Methodology for Rewetting Peatlands

To help foster projects addressing peatland drainage, WWF-Germany has developed a new VCS methodology that quantifies the emission reductions and removals achieved by rewetting drained peatlands. This methodology falls within the VCS category of Restoring Wetland Ecosystems, and is the first VCS methodology to address emission reductions and removals associated with rewetting peatlands. The methodology applies to project activities in which drained tropical peatlands are rewet through construction of permanent or temporary structures such as dams. These structures reverse the pattern of drainage and the damage caused by pre-existing drainage channels. This methodology is applicable to projects in the main tropical countries with peatland soils in Southeast Asia. Please address any questions you might have to secretariat (at) v-c-s.org. (submitted by Henk Wosten, Wageningen UR)