

The International Peat Society (IPS) is a non-governmental, non-profit multidisciplinary organisation of scientific, industrial and regulatory members both individual and institutional. The mission of the IPS is to bring people and organisations together to foster the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

IPS Commission Elections 2012

The work of the International Peat Society is mainly carried out by the IPS National Committees and the nine IPS Commissions. Every fourth year key persons are elected for the topical Commissions of IPS, which will happen now at the International Peat Congress in Stockholm. To make the decisions easier, we invite all members of the Society to submit their proposals for Chair, Vice Chair and/or Secretary already now to the IPS Secretariat. The actual elections will take place at the Commission meetings on **3 and 5 June**, to be confirmed by the Executive Board of IPS.

Please send your proposals/applications for these positions by **15 May** at the latest to the IPS Secretariat, [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org). Each proposal should be supported by two IPS members and, if possible, include the CV of the person concerned. It would be beneficial if the candidates were present at the Commission meetings in Stockholm. All Commission Chairs will be members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), as in the past.

According to the IPS Internal Regulations, Chairs can be re-elected only once which means that the term of office is max. 8 years. This has been reached for many Commissions. However, we need strong, active and motivated persons for the future work of IPS – therefore several Chairs are ready to continue their tasks if no other volunteers are found:

Commission I - Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-18:20 hrs

Chair: Lars Lundin – over 8 years -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: Maria Strack – open

Secretary: open

Commission II - Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes

Meeting: Sunday, 3 June, 16:00-17:30 Commission II, 17:30-18:30 Energy Peat Working Group

Chair: Gerald Schmilewski – since 2006 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: Pat Fitzgerald – open + available for re-election

Secretary: open

Commission III - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-17:20 hrs

Chair: Lech Szajdak – since 2004 -> open, not available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Commission IV - Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:30-18:20 hrs

Chair: Jürgen Schoenherr – since 2010 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Commission V - Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-17:20 Commission V

Chair: Catherine Farrell – since 2008 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Commission VI - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-18:20 hrs

Chair: Riitta Korhonen – since 2004 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Commission VII - Ecology and management of forested peatlands

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-18:20 hrs

Chair: Hannu Hökkä – since 2004 -> open, not available for re-election

Vice Chair: Florence Renou-Wilson – open, not available for re-election

Secretary: open

Commission VIII - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-18:20 hrs

Chair: Michiel Gerding – since 2008 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Commission IX - Tropical peatlands

Meeting: Tuesday, 5 June, 16:20-18:20 hrs

Chair: Jack Rieley – since 2008 -> open + available for re-election

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Standing Committee on Peatlands and Climate Change

Chair: Mats Nilsson – since 2011

Vice Chair: open

Secretary: open

Peat at GeoResources Conference in Hanover, Germany

“GeoResources in the 21st Century” is the slogan of the 2012 annual meeting of the German Society for Geosciences (DGG), being held during in Hanover during **1 – 3 October 2012**, together with excursions on **29 - 30 September** and **4 - 5 October 2012**. Geoscientific work, in research and practice, results in numerous contributions widening our knowledge and coping with open questions. The team organising the GeoHannover 2012 invites you to look for answers, to present solutions, and not last to get to know the most recent scientific findings on these issues. With regard to peat, the German Peat Society (DGMT) is asking all interested to present this important resource, its characteristics and use at a special session G4 “**Moore und die Bedeutung des Rohstoffs Torf in Deutschland**” on **3 October**, 10:30 - 16:00. There is also the possibility for exhibiting a poster or

sponsorship. If you are interested, please contact [gerfried.caspers \(at\) lbg.niedersachsen.de](mailto:gerfried.caspers@lbg.niedersachsen.de) or Silke Kumar at [torfwerk.moorkultur \(at\) ewetel.net](mailto:torfwerk.moorkultur@ewetel.net) as soon as possible. In general, abstracts can be submitted directly to the conference organisers until **30 April 2012**, further instructions and a programme are available at www.geohannover-2012.de.

Peatland Restoration Map (BETA) of Commission V

The International Peat Society and its Commission V on “Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands” have launched a prototype of an IPS map for peatland restoration and rewetting projects. The map is based on Google Maps and can be opened at www.tiny.cc/peatrestmap. Each project pin linked on the map contains basic information on the project title, location, grid reference, type, area in ha, management, keywords, links to additional information and contact data. If you want to add project sites in your country, please send the relevant data to [catherine.farrell \(at\) bnn.ie](mailto:catherine.farrell@bnn.ie), ask her to invite you as map editor, or request a preset information sheet from her. More information on IPS Commission V can also be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c5-restoration. Please share the map and invite your colleagues and partners to contribute.

Forest Ecosystems and Climate Change Conference in Tours

An international conference on “Tackling climate change: the contribution of forest scientific knowledge” will be held in Tours, France on **21 - 24 May 2012**. The event will focus on the current state of knowledge on climate change impacts on forest ecosystems, services and activities. It will highlight methods and challenges to mitigate or tackle those impacts, both before they arise and once they have occurred. It will show how climate change and forest sciences address the issues facing forest managers. The official language of the scientific part of this conference is English, the forum for stakeholders will be held in English and French. Registration fees are discounted until 30 April 2012 and full information on the conference can be found at www.gip-ecofor.org/tours2012.

Third AEBIOM Bioenergy Conference in Brussels

The 3rd AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference 2012 is organised under the patronage of the Danish Presidency at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels, Belgium on **25 - 27 June 2012**. As speakers, high-ranking European Commission officials, industry decision makers and leading scientists are confirmed. The annual conference has become Europe’s major occasion for discussion and networking amongst important industry leaders and policy makers. Bioenergy is the largest renewable energy source in Europe and around 300 industry representatives are expected to be present at this event. Accommodation discounts are available until **1 May 2012**. For more information, please visit www.aebiom.org/conference2012. (*Anamaria Olaru*)

Ramsar Technical Report on Healthy Wetlands

Ramsar Technical Report No. 6, Healthy wetlands, healthy people: a review of wetlands and human health interactions, is now published and available for download in PDF format at www.ramsar.org/pdf/lib/rtr6-health.pdf. The 106-page report, published jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO), focuses on providing advice to wetland managers and decision-makers on the range of often complex issues concerning wetlands and human health and well being. The benefits of wetland ecosystems for human health can be approached in at least three interrelated ways: by recognizing the human needs that are met by water in its setting; by recognizing the health products that come from wetland ecosystems; and by recognizing the economic value of wetlands in

a full sense to sustainably improve their socio-economic conditions. The information in the report should help to facilitate dialogue between wetlands and human health professionals in their respective efforts to maintain and improve wetland ecological character and people's health. (Monica Zavagli, Jack Rieley)

Turf Cutting Debate Continues in Ireland

Spring has been time of heavy discussions on traditional turf cutting in Ireland. Between 1997 and 2002, Ireland had designated 53 raised bogs as Special Areas of Conservation where turf-cutting is prevented under the EU Habitats Directive (see also Peatlands International 2/2011). However, dialogue with local families who have cut peat on these sites for private heating for generations, did rarely happen. If peat is produced now at these SACs, Ireland is at risk of fines of up to €25,000 per day to the European Commission, and legal action is taken – which is difficult to understand by those whose land is affected. When first protests came up last year, the Irish government established a Peatlands Council and a Peatlands Forum to involve the Irish Farmer's Association, the Turf Cutters and Contractors Association, Bord na Mona, as well as other representatives of turf-cutting and environmental groups in decision-making. As a result, a report was published in 2012 and a national plan for the conservation of the protected bogs was agreed to be drafted. Also compensation packages are being offered, including a relocation to alternative bogs or alternatively, if this is not available, a payment of € 2,000 or the delivery of 15 tonnes of turf to each home for 2012. Families who want to cease cutting turf completely can apply for a payment of annually € 1500 for the next 15 years, and a one-off sign-up payment of € 500. This has been applied for by some 1,500 persons, but there is still uncertainty between different groups whether peat can be cut this season or not. For more information on the topic, please see e.g. www.tiny.cc/lxdwcv.

New Papers in Mires and Peat in 2012

Mires and Peat is the openly accessible peer-reviewed scientific journal of IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group. To download these articles, please visit www.mires-and-peat.net.

- Winter emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide from a minerotrophic fen under nature conservation management in north-east Germany. V. Huth, G. Jurasinski and S. Glatzel (Mires and Peat 10: Article 4)
- The Hula Peatland: Past, Present and Future - Foreword. R. Payne and M. Gophen (Mires and Peat 09: Article 00)
- Towards developing IPCC methane 'emission factors' for peatlands (organic soils). J. Couwenberg and C. Fritz (Mires and Peat 10: Article 3)
- Geochemical evidence for different peat sources in the Siak estuary and along the east coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. R. Wöstmann and G. Liebezeit (Mires and Peat 10: Article 2)
- Behaviour of an organomontmorillonite-acetochlor formulation in drained wetland soils of the Hula Valley. G. Rytwo and O. Rabinowitz (Mires and Peat 9: Article 6)
- Instability in newly-established wetlands? Trajectories of floristic change in the re-flooded Hula peatland, northern Israel. D. Kaplan (Mires and Peat 9: Article 5)
- Microscopic charcoal and tar (CHAT) particles in peat: a 6500-year record of palaeo-fires in southern Sweden. L.G. Franzén and B.A. Malmgren (Mires and Peat 10: Article 1)
- A longer-term perspective on human exploitation and management of peat wetlands: the Hula Valley, Israel. R.J. Payne (Mires and Peat 9: Article 4)
- The catastrophic dieback of *Typha domingensis* in a drained and restored East Mediterranean wetland: re-examining proposed models. by R. Simhayov, M.I. Litaor, I. Barnea and M. Shenker (Mires and Peat 9: Article 3)