

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 42 countries.

Looking forward to the IPS Convention in Leiden!

We encourage all IPS members to sign up for the IPS Assembly and related meetings in Leiden, Netherlands during **17 - 21 June**. There will be again much to see and learn, and you will be able to get to know new people and to meet old friends. The International Society of Horticultural Scientists together with IPS offer the "International Symposium on Growing Media and Soilless Cultivation - Water Efficient Horticulture Word Wide", a full week of presentations, meetings and field trips.

Most important for peat and peatland experts are the city walk and three-course dinner on Wednesday, **19 June**; and the growing media presentations, a panel debate, the IPS Commission II (industrial use) meeting and possibly other IPS Commission meetings, the IPS Annual Assembly and National Committee Round table and related networking activities on Thursday, **20 June**. Friday, **21 June** is full GroSci excursion day.

You are also welcome to participate for instance in the field trip and dinner of the main conference. For more information and to sign up please see the IPS programme at www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013 and all symposium details at www.grosci2013.wur.nl. This is again a great chance to meet and exchange information in the heart of Central Europe. We look forward to seeing you!



IPS Annual Report 2012 is now available

The IPS Annual Report 2012, to be approved at the IPS Annual Assembly 2013 on 20 June in Leiden, is now available at the IPS website. The report contains the Secretary General's Review, the Report of the Executive Board, the official Financial and Auditor's statements about IPS' activities during the last year, and some of the Society's plans for the future. Also, in the document you can find reviews of IPS conferences and other events in 2012, as well as reports and contact details of the IPS Commissions and National Committees. The Annual Report 2012 will be published in the newest issue of Peatlands International (1/2013) in June; but you can download it already now as PDF from our website: www.peatsociety.org/about-us. (Sandra Lubinaite, IPS)

Would your country like to host the 2020 Congress?

All National Committees of the IPS are encouraged to consider hosting the International Peat Congress 2020 in their country. The Executive Board of the IPS has invited all Chairs and Secretaries to consider this opportunity and set the following criteria for the public competition: "The 16th Congress would be held in the summer of 2020 in a country active in research and utilisation of peat and peatlands as well as in the implementation of the Wise Use and Responsible Peatland Management concepts. The bids should include:

- a presentation of the congress city and venue
- a proposal for the theme and content structure of the event
- a draft budget including a payment of 15% commission of all registration fees to the IPS."

Application deadline is **31 August 2013**, after which the Executive Board will hear presentations of the applying countries and make its recommendation to the National Representatives. Those will decide on the venue and organiser of the 2020 Congress at the Annual Assembly 2014. IPS Statutes, Internal Regulations and conference

guidelines (being currently updated) will be applied. It is recommended to use a professional congress bureau already during the application process. International Peat Congresses are held since 1963 every 4 years and attract up to 700 experts from peatland research, the peat industry and others interested in bogs, fens and mires. Recent venues were, for instance: Dublin, Ireland 1984; Leningrad, Soviet Union 1988; Uppsala, Sweden 1992; Bremen, Germany 1996; Quebec, Canada 2000; Tampere, Finland 2004; Tullamore, Ireland 2008; Stockholm, Sweden 2012; and next Kuching, Malaysia 2016. Do not hesitate to contact the IPS Secretariat, your local National Committee or the EB members in case you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you, even before the official deadline!

Tell us your Opinion on IPS' Communication!

The IPS would like to hear your opinion on our communication tools and your media usage, and following that improve our publications and online activities to better serve your needs. For this purpose, IPS communications intern Mr Mark Swarts has created an online survey which can be easily accessed at <http://goo.gl/u1Yfc>. The survey takes approx. 10 minutes and deals with Peatlands International, Peat News, the scientific journal Mires and Peat, as well as the IPS Website & Social Media. We kindly ask you to invest your time and to reply to as many questions as possible. To move between topics, please use the forward/backward buttons in the survey, not your browser. Note also that some of the general buttons will appear in your local language, according to Google settings. The survey will be open until **6 June 2013**. Amongst all who reply five lucky people will receive a quality IPS shirt. In case you have any questions please contact directly mark.swarts (at) peatsociety.org.

New Interns at the IPS Secretariat

The IPS Secretariat was able to get the support of three interns for the summer season 2013 and possibly afterwards. They may contact you and your colleagues in different IPS matters, and of course they are a great help to the IPS staff and our otherwise mainly voluntary organisation. IPS wishes all interns success in their projects and asks for your kind assistance. Here are their introductions:

Ms **Sandra Lubinaite** is originally from Lithuania, born and raised by the shores of the Baltic Sea. Sandra studied Economics & Finance in Vilnius and now she is at the University of Jyväskylä for her Master's in International Business and Entrepreneurship. Her main tasks at the IPS include general office support, editorial help for IPS publications and web services, assistance in preparations of IPS events, the digitalisation of the IPS proceedings and other projects. "I see IPS as a vital organization doing an amazing job in connecting businesses, scientists and other stakeholders to a constructive dialog towards responsible peatland management and I am really happy to work here!"

Mr **Mark Swarts** from the Netherlands introduces himself as follows: "I'm Mark, originally from Utrecht, but I moved to Jyväskylä, Finland, after I graduated from journalism/media studies in Amsterdam. Here in Finland I study Intercultural Communication at the University of Jyväskylä. Besides that, I work as a freelance writer, photographer and video producer. I am glad I got the opportunity to work with the International Peat Society. My task is to analyse the current IPS media landscape and find a way to improve it where necessary. With the help and support of Susann and Jaakko, I am sure that we will get some great results!"

Ms **Henna Honkala** is a Finnish student of the University of Jyväskylä's Corporate Environmental Management Master's Degree Programme. She has started to work on a project regarding the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM) document. The purpose of the project is to utilize and add value to the SRPM by collecting data from the National Committees and IPS members on current national level activities done or achieved based on SRPM in the IPS member countries. The data collected will be compiled into a databank linked to the IPS website for all IPS members to access. In addition, the purpose of the project is to invent ways to utilize the data in teaching materials for educational institutes, for instance.

FAO Workshop Sustainable Land Management in Rome

The FAO Workshop "Towards Sustainable Land Management Practices for Peatlands - Special Focus on Drained Areas" was held in Rome on **7 - 9 May 2013**. Prof. Jack Rieley, Chair of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board and Tropical Peatlands Commission, participated on behalf of IPS together with some 30+ invitees from other organisations. Prof. Rieley contributed the opening keynote to the full and intensive programme and made numerous interventions during the two and half days. In his presentation, he focused on the global area of peatland utilised for agriculture, forestry and

peat extraction and the annual contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from each of these land uses with country examples. He emphasised the very small area of peatland that is utilised for peat extraction globally and the relatively small contribution this makes to global GHG emissions.

As a result of his presentation it was decided to exclude peat extraction drainage from the workshop discussions and the guidelines handbook that will be published by the end of this year. Forestry for timber trees in boreal and temperate zones was also excluded as it was felt this should be the topic of a separate workshop. However, plantations of crops, palms and paper pulp trees that are “harvested” should be considered as agriculture and were included. The Workshop was divided into several parts:

- Part 1: State of Peatlands - mapping and quantification of emissions
- Parts 2 & 3: Peatland Use and Drivers of Land Use Change - opportunities for change, and options for more sustainable peatland management
- Part 4: Planning Session for the Guidebook
- Part 5: Co-operation on Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) development as a tool for peatland rewetting

A report is being prepared by FAO and information about this will be provided to IPS members when it becomes available. FAO recognises that IPS has a large network of scientists and practitioners with a wealth of knowledge in many aspects of peat and peatland, anyone with relevant skills is invited to offer their assistance in the preparation of the guidelines. (*Jack Rieley*)

EPAGMA Energy Peat Forum held in Brussels

EPAGMA's Energy Sector Group organised its first Energy Peat Forum dedicated to the EU's climate and energy package 2030 and the presentation of an innovative Life Cycle Analysis methodology for local fuels in Brussels on **14 May 2013**. Representatives of the energy peat industry, national energy peat associations, and EU officials met to discuss the role of energy peat and local fuels in the context of the Green Paper 2030 on energy and climate change. During the event, EPAGMA's Vice Chairman, Mr. Tomi Yli-Kyyny from Vapo, stated: “Decarbonisation and security of supply should be the two main drivers of the new package. The lesson to be learnt from the 2020 framework is that we should focus more on how to promote indigenous local fuels to keep prices competitive and develop tailor-made strategies to reduce emissions. The Lisbon Treaty confirms this approach: each Member State has the right to define what is best for their needs. Let's empower our local communities and they will make the difference!”

EPAGMA furthermore presented a Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) on energy peat conducted by IVL, the independent Swedish Environmental Research Institute. “This study demonstrates our members' commitment to a more sustainable development of our business. An LCA perspective sheds light on the potential that our industry has to reduce emissions, since a proper management strategy can shift peat from a source to a sink of CO₂”, highlighted the Chairman of EPAGMA's Energy from Peatland Sector Group, Mr Kari Mutka. The study will form the basis of the industry's upcoming response to the Green Paper 2030 consultation and the policies to reduce CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions in the long run. For more information see EPAGMA's full press release at www.epagma.eu/default/home/news-publications/news.aspx?SiteNote_Mode=Edition. (EPAGMA)

Sustainable Peatland Use in Schneverdingen, Germany

The German Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz (NNA) and the German Peat Society (DGMT) are inviting IPS members to the seminar „Perspectives for sustainable peatland use in Lower Saxony“ in Schneverdingen, Germany during **12 - 13 June 2013**. More than 90% of fens and more than two thirds of raised bogs of Lower Saxony are currently in agricultural or forestry use. This significantly affects typical peatland characteristics, e.g. leads to mineralisation of the soil, CO₂ emissions and leaching of harmful substances like nitrogen and phosphorus to ground- and surface waters. Also physical properties of the peat are influenced negatively. The conference will discuss which kind of peatlands should be used, what alternatives are available for degraded peat soils, and how extensive farming practices could be applied. In addition, paludiculture, conservation values, species and biotope conservation will be topics for discussion. The second day of the event is reserved to an excursion to relevant field sites. The seminar is held in German, the registration fee amounts to € 145, and you can sign up until **3 June**. More information and a list of additional peat and peatland events in Germany can be discovered at www.dgmtev.de/veranstaltungen.html. (*Gerfried Caspers, DGMT*)

Sustainable Agriculture & Environment in Indonesia

Sebelas Maret University (UNS Solo) is happy to invite all IPS members to the “1st International Conference of Sustainable Agriculture and Environment”, to be held in Karanganyar - Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, **27 - 29 June 2013**. Sustainability is the keyword in agricultural and environment management to assure global food security and maintain high quality of human life. The concept of sustainability in environment management in a global scope involves the management of the oceans, freshwater systems, land, atmosphere and energy. This conference will discuss the sustainable management of natural resources, and the main topics include Tropical Agriculture, Biodiversity, Biotechnology, Horticulture, Climate Change, Environment, Agriculture Social Economy, Water Management and Soil Conservation, Integrated Agriculture Management and more. The Call for Papers is now open and the full paper submission deadline is **31 May 2013**. Papers may address one or more of the listed sub-topics, although authors should not feel limited by them. Unlisted but related sub-topics are also acceptable, provided they fit in one of the main topic areas. Registration and payment deadline is **15 June 2013**. For more information please check: <http://icsae.uns.ac.id/>. (Sandra Lubinaite, IPS)

FlowerTrials 2013 in the Netherlands and Germany

This year's FlowerTrials® will take place from **11 - 14 June** at Aalsmeer and the Westland region in the Netherlands, and the Rhineland and Westphalia regions in Germany. At the FlowerTrials®, 2013 growers can find out all they need to know about the latest developments in pot and bedding plants. An added bonus is that you are shown around by professionals. In 2012, this successful event for pot and bedding plants saw twenty percent more visitors as compared to 2011. Visitors came to the event from 61 different countries. During your visit, you can expect to see almost every pot or bedding plant imaginable including orchids, perennials, herbs and vegetables. You will also be presented with an extensive selection of new varieties grown from seed and cuttings. Displays will include young plants, pre-finished and finished plants as well as varieties that offer possibilities for licensing. In addition, you can check out marketing programs, trends and interesting concepts for making products more eye-catching and for promoting sales. This year, five new companies will take part in the FlowerTrials® so the total number of participants will be 41. For more information, visit www.flowertrials.com. (Astrid van Duijn, Elbee)

Cultura 2013 Prize to Prof. Hans Joosten

On **20 June 2013** the Alfred Toepfer Foundation will award Prof. Dr. Dr. H.C. Hans Joosten the CULTURA Prize 2013, the European Prize for Sustainable Land Use. The CULTURA Prize has been presented throughout Europe since 2008 in recognition of innovative and exemplary approaches in the fields of Nature Protection, Agriculture and Forestry and the sciences associated with them. The prize is intended to support future efforts of the prize winners, to raise public awareness of scientific and practical achievements, and enhance insights into the connection between scientific progress, practical innovation and the development of rural areas. The prize is endowed with € 25,000.

Hans Joosten, professor of Peatland Studies and Paleoecology at Greifswald University, is a powerhouse of global peatland research. Whether in rubber boots on field excursion, in lecture halls or at meetings of international bodies – for years Joosten has been fighting for the exploration and protection of peatlands against climate change, soil degradation and the loss of land and biodiversity. Hans Joosten and his team have not only delivered outstanding scientific research on peatlands from Siberia to Senegal, Cuba to China and from the Andes to Australia. Joosten is also remarkably committed to politics: he has promoted recognition of peatlands and their potential for mitigation action under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and its Kyoto Protocol. For the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) he is compiling guidelines for assessing and accounting greenhouse gas emissions from organic soils worldwide. Together with FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) he is developing concepts for a sustainable peatland management, for which he coined the term “Paludiculture”.

To propel the rewetting and conservation of peatlands, Joosten helped establish global carbon accounting mechanisms for the voluntary carbon market (VCS). With “MoorFutures” co-created a local instrument for CO₂-accounting and financing of peatland-rewetting. As Secretary General of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) and member of the Advisory Board of the Michael Succow Conservation Foundation he is at the very center of a global network for the protection, utilization and exploration of peatlands. Since 2008 the 58-year-old Joosten is Professor extraordinarius of Peatland Studies and Paleoecology at the Institute for Botany and Landscape Ecology at the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Germany), and made the institute into a globally acknowledged hub

for peatland studies and peatland protection. To complete his lifetime achievements he is currently building an international centre of peatland expertise. Prof. Joosten's message to everyone is that the future of peatlands must be wet! (*Nina Körner, University of Greifswald*)

Bioenergy 2013 Conference Launches Programme

The International Bioenergy Fair and Conference 2013 will be held at the Jyväskylä Congress and Fair Centre Paviljonki, Finland during **4 - 6 September 2013**. The Conference will focus on the factors affecting the future of the bioenergy and biobased modern technologies and business solutions, including logistic systems, management, total procurement chains, the effects of the energy markets, the influence of green marketing and other trends affecting forestry, agriculture, industry and climate. The programme includes a conference with plenary sessions, oral presentations and poster viewing, the International Bioenergy Exhibition, industry tours and visits to practical bioenergy targets, and a great social programme. All presentations are held in English. Abstract for the poster session can still be sent to the organisers until **30 June**. For the detailed programme, instructions and to rent exhibition space, please visit www.bioenergy2013.fi. (*Mia Savolainen, Benet Ltd*)

IUCN – Investing in Peatlands in York, UK

The latest "Investing in Peatlands" Conference organised by the IUCN UK National Committee Peatland Programme is set for this **10 - 12 September** in the historic city of York. The fourth in the series of conferences, this year's theme is "Partnership for a New Peatland Era" and will explore how the conservation, government and business sectors come together to meet the challenge of restoring a million hectares of peatlands through partnership approaches. The Conference will highlight examples of good practice, identify barriers that still need to be broken down and highlight opportunities for taking forward partnership action both in the UK and internationally. Registration will be opened shortly, with early-bird registration required by **30 June**. For more information please visit: www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/news/230. (*Rea Chris, IUCN*)

Workshop on Peat and Humic Substances in Riga

On **10 - 12 October 2013**, the international workshop "Peat and humic substances and their application" is going to take place in Riga, Latvia. The workshop is organized by the University of Latvia, the Latvian National Peat Society, the Institute for Process Development, Peat and Natural Products, the German and Finnish Peatland Societies in cooperation with IPS Commission IV (Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat), and Commission VI – (Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics). The conference objective is to bring together researchers and stakeholders to discuss recent research on peat properties and applications, as well as humic matter properties and peat application in balneology, medicine and agriculture – in short, innovations in peat research. A special area of interest of this conference includes application of peat and curative mud in medicine, cosmetics and balneology. Conference topics will include:

- Properties of peat. Diagenesis of peat, peat organic matter. Properties of fen peat. Properties of sapropel. Metals in peat and in sapropel
- Properties of humic substances. Properties of peat: elemental composition, functional, spectral characterization. Interactions of humic substances with metals and other pollutants.
- Applications of peat. Applications of peat in medicine, balneology, agriculture and technologies
- Applications of humic substances. Applications of humic substances in cosmetics, agriculture and technologies

For more information please visit: www.lu.lv/innovation+peat and contact the organising or scientific committee of the workshop. (*Maris Klavins, University of Latvia*)

Bord na Móna Energy Mountdillon received ISO 50001

Bord na Mona Energy Mountdillon received certification to ISO 50001 in November 2012, with the support of John O'Sullivan, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, through their Agreements Manager, James Conroy, Capstone Energy. ISO 50001 is an accredited European Energy Management System that facilitates management of

Moundillons fuel and electricity use which accounted for over € 1.7 million in 2012, which accounts for 23% of Feedstock as a whole. There is an Energy Team in place which includes Moundillon Management, Feedstock Environmental Department and Innovation, who are tasked with measuring, managing and implementing projects to reduce its fuel and electricity usage, while still maintaining its service to its customers. Projects identified for the coming season include tractor efficiency, road and rail peat transport, energy efficient pumping, workshop and office efficient lighting, heating and compressed air and training for all significant energy users in Moundillon. Feedstocks Asset Management and Quality Management System's will also complement the energy reduction initiative at Moundillon, through the proactive maintenance of all fuel using plant and equipment to their optimum energy usage. Moundillon will also be used as a test bed for future energy reduction opportunities through its energy management system, which will facilitate the testing of these energy reduction opportunities at Moundillon, and will be rolled out to all other Feedstock Operations. (*Enda McDonagh, Bord na Mona Energy Ltd*)

UK Peatland Management & Ecosystem Services Project

The peatland project BD5104 "Restoration of blanket bog vegetation for biodiversity, carbon sequestration and water regulation" funded by the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) will support blanket bog management research on 850,000 acres of UK heather moorland from 2011 to 2016. Its aim is to acquire experimental data to underpin the development and refinement of possible management techniques. Moorland Association members say the five-year project commissioned by Defra is expected to shed new light on complex ecological issues. The project outcomes are expected as follows:

- Provide in depth understanding of the management implications on key ecosystem services related to biodiversity, carbon and water.
- Provide a cost benefit analysis based recommendation on the most feasible and best management regime for heather dominated blanket bogs, particularly in respect to environmental implications
- Achieve increased awareness of the ecosystem function and services provided by blanket bogs amongst stakeholders such as landowners, managers and associated user groups.

To find out more please visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/york.ac.uk/peatlandesuk/home>. (*Rea Cris, IUCN*)

New Dartmoor Mires Project Newsletter and Website

The Dartmoor Mires Project is a 5 year pilot project aimed at testing the feasibility of restoring degraded blanket bog on Dartmoor. The project which began in 2010 is led by Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA) in partnership with Natural England, the Duchy of Cornwall, Dartmoor Commoners' Council, the Environment Agency, and South West Water, which has provided significant funding. The project aims to restore 110 hectares of blanket bog during its five years, and is undertaking an extensive research and monitoring programme to assess the success and affects of these works. For more information please see: www.dartmoormiresproject.org.uk. (*Rea Cris, IUCN*)

6th Int'l Conference on Climate Change, Reykjavik

The call for papers for the "Sixth International Conference on Climate Change" is now open! The conference will take place on **27 - 28 June 2014** in Reykjavik, Iceland and will include 4 major scientific themes:

- Scientific Evidence of Climate Change, Assessing Impacts in Divergent Ecosystems (Forest and grassland ecosystem impacts, Impacts on wilderness and protected areas etc),
- Human Impacts and Impacts on Humans and
- Technical, Political and Social Responses to climate change.

Virtual participation is available for those who are unable to attend the conference in person. Proposals for virtual presentations may be submitted at any time, up to the start of the conference. All conference registrants may also submit their written papers for publication in the International Journal of Climate Change: Impacts and Responses. For more information please check: <http://on-climate.com/the-conference/call-for-papers/2014-call-for-papers>. This year's conference is held in Mauritius, **18 - 19 July 2013**. (*Sandra Lubinaite, IPS*)

Last chance to sign up for the IPS Convention in Leiden! www.peatsociety.org/ipsleiden2013.