

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.

Irish Peat Society Meets in Westport in October

The Irish National Committee of the International Peat Society will be holding its Annual Meeting, Study Tour and Seminar “Managing the Western Peatlands” in Westport, County Mayo during **15 - 17 October 2012**. The Irish Peat Society aims to bring together organisations (including Government bodies, academic institutions, NGOs and forest, peat and energy companies) and individuals with an interest in peatlands and peat. This year the Irish Peat Society will host a Study Tour and Seminar in County Mayo in association with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to highlight some of the management issues in relation to blanket bogs and heathland. The study tour will commence on October 16th and travel to Ballycroy National Park to start the day, later taking in restoration sites around the county and visit some exciting new projects. A seminar will be held on October 17th and we will cover topics such as overgrazing, catchment management, wind farm development and forestry with invited speakers from Scotland and across Ireland. Our base will be the Hotel Westport, Newport Road, Westport, Co Mayo (www.hotelwestport.ie). Our Irish colleagues will circulate an outline cost in the coming month or so but for the meantime please put these dates in your diary. We encourage all interested members to attend and contribute to this knowledge sharing exercise. For more information, please contact Mairead Hynes at mairiad.hynes@bnm.ie or Catherine Farrell, catherine.farrell@bnm.ie. You can also visit and like the Facebook site of the Irish Peat Society www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Peat-Society/190659956823.

Peatland Workshop at IUCN World Congress in South Korea

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is held this year in Jeju, South Korea during **6 - 15 September**. At that event, a workshop on restoration of peatlands “Peatland restoration: a nature-based solution to climate change” will be organised. This workshop will share new conclusions, recommendations and outcomes from the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) National Committee for the UK ‘Peatland Programme’ and discuss with participants how these can be taken forward in countries and regions around the world, specifically:

- the role of peatland restoration as a cost effective nature-based solution to climate change
- the role of peatlands in delivering multiple benefits - clean water, flood amelioration, recreation, biodiversity conservation and cultural heritage protection
- the importance of building resilience into peatland landscapes to protect these multiple benefits, and how this can be practically achieved
- recent decisions on peatland restoration and carbon accounting made at UNFCCC and the implications of these for IUCN members

IUCN is intending to share their findings (including new recommendations from a 2-year Commission of Inquiry on peatlands in the UK) and facilitate exchange of key information between participants as they share their own research and experience of peatland restoration practice and policy. For more information, please visit www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org.

DGMT Conference on Mires and their Catchment Areas

Sections I und V of the German Peat Society (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde, DGMT e.V.) have held a conference and excursion dealing with „Mires and their catchment areas“ (Moore und ihre Einzugsgebiete) during **6 - 8 September 2012** in the Biosphere Reserve Schorfheide-Chorin, Werbellinsee in Brandenburg, near Berlin, Germany. Main topics for the presentations, posters and podium discussions were, among others:

- Interrelations between peatlands and their upper and lower catchment areas
- Hydrological aspects of rewetting peatlands considering their water supply
- Catchment requirements for planning and peatland conservation management
- Consideration of future climate change effects

During the field excursion, the guests have visited peatlands in the Schorfheide area where water levels have lowered by up to 2 m in the previous 30 years, creating challenges for restoration. For more information, please download the 3rd Circular at www.dgmt-ev.de/veranstaltungen.html or directly contact our National Committee Chair at [gerfried.caspers \(at\) lbg.niedersachsen.de](mailto:gerfried.caspers@lbg.niedersachsen.de).

Sphagnum Species Identification Course in Germany

The Mire Information Centre MoorIZ at Ahlenmoor in Wanna, Lower Saxony, Germany is inviting all interested to a full day to learn to identify different Sphagnum moss species on **29 September 2012**. The course will be lead by Dr. Monika Koperski, who is the author of the Flora and Red List in Lower Saxony, and co-author of the reference list for mosses in Germany. The participation fee amounts to €45 including lunch at Restaurant Torfwerk, the maximum number of participants is 20. Please remember to bring warm and waterproof clothes, rubber boots, pen and pencil, a magnifier and your identification guides e.g. by Frahm/Frey or Hölzer. More information can be obtained from www.ahlenmoor.de, [mooriz \(at\) ahlenmoor.de](mailto:mooriz@ahlenmoor.de), phone +49 47 57 8 18 95 58 or www.dgmt-ev.de.

ASEAN Photo Contest “Our Precious Peatlands”

The Global Environment Centre (GEC), with support from the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP), SEApeat Project, Canon Marketing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, Canon Opto (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd and Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Photogroup, is pleased to announce the launch of a photography contest “Our Precious Peatlands” to promote sustainable management of peatlands in Southeast Asia and to raise awareness for the communities living in and around them. The contest is open until **30 September 2012** to photographers of all nationalities. Photos must be taken from the peatlands in Southeast Asia by focusing on biodiversity and livelihood. For more details, please visit www.aseanpeat.net/contest. Please feel free to share and circulate the info. (*Chin Sing Yun*)

Workshop on Deforestation of Tropical Peatlands

The Indonesia Peat Association (HGI) is holding a Workshop on Deforestation of Tropical Peat - Development of Deforestation Standards” in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia on **12 September 2012**. Southeast Asia is the region with the highest annual level of carbon emissions from deforestation during the period of 2000-2005. In Indonesia, this increase in greenhouse gas emissions occurs in the lowland-coastal areas of Sumatra and Kalimantan. The scope of the one-day workshop is to better understand the development of measurements of carbon emissions from deforestation, and to exchange existing experiences. In addition, the preparation of standards related to deforestation and carbon stocks should be discussed. Keynote speakers include Dr. Iman Santoso,

Dr. Bambang Setiadi, Dr. Suwido Limin, Prof. Mitsuru Osaki, Prof. Dr. Supiandi Sabiham, Dr. Muhammad Evri, Dr. Nur Masripatin and Y. Kristianto Widiwardono. Participation is free of charge, sponsor is the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). For more details contact the Conference Secretariat, a_widyantoro (at) yahoo.com, phone: +62 21 574 7041. (*Hendrik Segah*)

Wild Fire and Carbon Management Workshop in Bogor

A JST-JICA International Symposium on “Wild Fire and Carbon Management in Peat-Forest” is held in Indonesia in Bogor during **13-14 September**. This event will help to share updated information, experiences on project activities and include other special sessions such as recent forest and climate change activities in Indonesia (REDD+ and MRV), a JICA joint session, capacity building & networking. Objectives are to synthesize knowledge on past, present and future trends relating to wildfires and the carbon management of peat-forest, provide information on the possible impacts of climate change, as well as guidance for stakeholders in the area of planning, implementation and scenarios and to compile a roadmap that provides a short to long term vision on research needs. For more information, please contact Dr. Joeni Setijo Rahajoe at joenir (at) indo.net.id or Dr. Hendrik Segah at segah (at) census.hokudai.ac.jp. (*Haris Gunawan*)

New Book on Tropical Peatland

Peatlands of the Western Guayana Highlands, Venezuela: Properties and Paleogeographic Significance of Peats, Joseph Alfred Zinck and Otto Huber (Eds.); Ecological Studies 217. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Heidelberg, August 2011, hardback; ISBN: 978-3-642-20138-7; 295 pp. including 3 appendices; Cost: £90; 143\$; 114€

This book presents the results of fieldwork carried out in the western section of the Guayana Highlands of northeastern tropical America in 1992-1996. The peatlands of the tropical highlands in Venezuela are unique and their morphological, physical and chemical characteristics and their peculiar soils are described in detail, providing insights to an otherwise little known ecosystem. The Guayana Highlands, rising from lowland rain forests and savannas up to 3000 m elevation, are characterized by ancient tablelands called ‘tepuis’. The peatlands that developed on the tepuis constitute unique and fascinating ecosystems and are the focus of this book, which starts with an overview of tropical and subtropical peats, followed by an introduction to the geo-ecological features of the Guayana region as a whole, with special emphasis on the diversity of the vegetation cover from lowlands to uplands to highlands. The core subject centres on the properties and dating of the peat deposits and the interpretation of the chronological record in terms of past environmental changes. This well-illustrated book will appeal to a broad range of scientists interested in tropical highland peats, including quaternarists, soil scientists, geomorphologists, geographers, geologists, ecologists, botanists, hydrologists, conservationists, and land use planners. (*Jack Rieley*)

Brand new Book: Peatland Ecology and Forestry

Päivänen, J. & Hånell, B. 2012. Peatland Ecology and Forestry – a Sound Approach. University of Helsinki Department of Forest Sciences Publications 3: 1–267. ISBN 978-952-10-4531-8

This comprehensive presentation discusses peat and mire properties relative to forestry practiced both on pristine mires and drained peatlands. The emphasis is on Nordic conditions. Where relevant, the approaches applied in other parts of the boreal and temperate zones are also discussed. The book is plentifully illustrated. Subject index and almost one thousand references enable its use both as educational text book and reference work. The book is a common effort of the Department of Forest Sciences, University of Helsinki and the Department of Forest Ecology and Management, Swedish Agricultural University. For orders and enquiries please contact forest-office (at) helsinki.fi.