

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of individual and corporate 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 1495 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 42 countries.

## Top level keynote speakers in Aberdeen

The IPS Secretariat has now sent out all meeting documents for the Annual Assembly to our National Committees (list of contacts at [www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees)). Whether you are working for a research institute, a company or still study, make sure not to miss this important event! So far more than 100 persons from all over the world have registered. You will be able to attend one or two of 5 field trips, a large amount of workshops and sessions on "Responsible Management of Peatlands", including environmental, social and economic factors, and exciting evening networking opportunities. We are especially proud to have the following high level keynote speakers for you:

- **Professor Chris Evans of the UK Centre for Hydrology and Ecology.** Chris is an expert on GHG emissions from peatlands, a prominent peatland scientist with also a good knowledge of tropical peatland and their GHG emissions.
- **Professor Line Rochefort of Université Laval in Quebec, Canada.** Line is one of the foremost experts on peatland restoration, employing novel methods for the rehabilitation of cutover Sphagnum bogs.
- **Professor Carl Trettin works for the US Forest Service** as Team Leader at the Southern Research Station in South Carolina. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Soil Science at North Carolina State University. His current research focusses on the carbon cycle in wetlands.
- Since January 2015, **Mike Quinn has been CEO of Bord Na Mona**, the public-semi-state company formed in 1946 for the development of peatlands for the generation of electricity. Since then Bord na Mona has diversified its operations greatly and is meeting the challenges of modern society and its environmental issues. Mike has a degree in Physics and Electronics and a postgraduate qualification in Project Management; he has had a career in senior management positions in a range of companies.
- **Nazir Foead is head of the Indonesian Agency for Restoration of Tropical Peatland** that was established a year ago by the President of Indonesia to address the problem of massive CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from developed peatland and fire. Prior to this, Nazir was Coordinator for Climate and Land Use Alliance responsible for direct grants and support. Formerly, he was the Conservation Director of WWF Indonesia, managing over 300 staff in 26 conservation sites.

We are also glad to have the following sponsors with us: VisitAberdeen, Forestry Commission Scotland, James Hutton Institute, Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Klasmann-Deilmann, Vapo, Griendtsveen and Northern Peat and Moss Company. Do not hesitate and come with us to Scotland! The full programme and second circular of the event as well as information on the venue and a continuously updated blog are posted at [www.peatlands2017.net](http://www.peatlands2017.net). Most important deadlines are to date **30 April: standard registration, early May: third circular** with final programme and **19 May: last date** for registration. Speakers will be informed on the acceptance of their abstracts soon.

## April Decisions of the IPS Executive Board

The Executive Board (EB) of the IPS met virtually on **6 April** to discuss most important developments and prospects for the organization. The EB will propose to the Annual Assembly that two Asian representatives will be elected to the Executive Board in 2018 to enlarge our geographical coverage. The EB also dealt with the proposals for Expert Group and Commission staff of the Scientific Advisory Board (to be announced soon). Furthermore, it was noted, that so far 12 applications were received for the Allan Robertson Grants for research students and young professionals (**deadline 30 April!** apply at <https://goo.gl/forms/3DLoUt8yeTvCoVN13>). The EB also approved the membership fees and budget 2017/2018, including project work, for submission to the Annual Assembly. Finally, the EB noted the report of the Editor of the Mires and Peat Journal [www.mires-and-peat.net](http://www.mires-and-peat.net) and agreed on the following deadlines: **30 April 2017** for the final proposal for the IPS Jubilee Symposium 2018, **10 May 2017** for hosting the Annual Convention 2019;

and **1 October 2017** for hosting the International Peatland Congress 2024. Contact your National Committee if you want to take part in the organization of one of our most popular events. The next EB meetings will be held in Aberdeen at the end of May, followed by an autumn meeting in Poland in early October.

## IPCC Report Outlines, including Climate Change and Land Use

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has agreed the outlines of two new reports that will help governments understand the impact climate change is having on human activities and nature on land and sea and how human activity in these areas is affecting climate change. The Panel approved the outlines of the Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, and **Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems**, both to be finalized in September 2019. The agreed outlines, subject to final edits, are available on the IPCC website, [http://ipcc.ch/scripts/session\\_template.php?page=45ipcc.htm](http://ipcc.ch/scripts/session_template.php?page=45ipcc.htm). The decisions were taken at the 45th Session of the IPCC, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 28 - 31 March. The 46th Session of the IPCC will be held in Montreal, Canada, on **3 - 9 September 2017**. For more information, visit the IPCC news section at [www.ipcc.ch/news\\_and\\_events/PR31032017.shtml](http://www.ipcc.ch/news_and_events/PR31032017.shtml). (IPCC)

## Nature Protection, Tourism and Education in the Harz Mires

A seminar on Mire Tourism, Policies and Education will be organized by the German Peat and Peatland Society (DGMT) in the Harz Mountains at the Drübeck Monastery near Wernigerode during **22 - 23 May 2017**. Registrations can still be sent to Jörn Kasch, [kasch@dgmtev.de](mailto:kasch@dgmtev.de). Introductory presentations will be given by Dr. Gerfried Caspers, Dr. Michael Haverkamp, and Professor Dr. Vera Luthardt of the DGMT as well as Andreas Pusch, Head of the National Park Harz. Main topics are mire tourism in Germany (Michael Haverkamp), sensibility of mire types for conservation & tourism (Vera Luthardt), added value by tourism (Elke Baranek), best practices from Nature Park Bourtanger Moor Bargerveen (Uwe Carli), nature education at Wurzacher Ried (Franz Renner), nature experiences at Diepholzer Moorniederung (Imke Schweneker) and success criteria for mire experiences from Blumberger Mühle (Jana Gerkens). The afternoon will deal with political framework discussions, including goals of the new peatland protection concepts in Baden-Württemberg (Burkhard Schall), the peatland landscape program of Lower Saxony (Ulrich Sippel), infrastructure and peatland restoration in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Cathinka Eick), peatland-friendly tourism, possibilities and limits (Felix Grützmacher), cooperating for peatland protection (Jessica Meissner), the MoorDialogue (Susanne Abel), and, in the evening, tracking historical Harz travelers (Uwe Lagatz). On the second day, there will be theoretical introductions to the peatlands of the National Park Harz (Kathrin Baumann and Meike Hullen) and an excursion to the Visitor Centre Torfhaus next to the famous Brocken mountain. Registration fees amount to €45/30 (members/students). More information in German can be obtained from [www.dgmtev.de](http://www.dgmtev.de).

## GLF Photo Competition: Peatlands Matter

The Global Landscapes Forum: Peatlands Matter has launched a photo competition as a kick-off to their conference on **18 May** in Jakarta. The competition is open to anyone and everyone, whether you are a professional photographer or a casual enthusiast. To participate, photographers must first upload their photos to the [landscapes.org](http://landscapes.org) website to be considered for the jury's choice award. Once your photo has been approved and uploaded to the website, you can then begin promoting your work on social media platforms. Winners of the **audience choice** award (USD 1,000) will be selected before the conference on the **12 May**, and there is no deadline for submission. The deadline for submissions for the **jury's choice award** (1st prize: USD 1,000, 2nd prize: USD 500) is **2 May**, and the winners will be selected by 12 May. The 20 most popular photos will have their work displayed at the Forum in Jakarta, where participants at the conference will have the opportunity to contribute to the vote tally. To participate or see the submission gallery, click [www.landscapes.org/peatlands/glf-photo-competition-peatlands-matter/#participate](http://www.landscapes.org/peatlands/glf-photo-competition-peatlands-matter/#participate).

## Excursion to Hossa National Park in August

This year's field trip of the Finnish Peatland Society will go to the Hossa potential National Park during **16 - 18 August**. The excursion includes an introduction to local mire sites, catering, bus transport and sauna (optional peat treatment) as well as accommodation at Martinselkosen Wildlife Centre. Meeting and return point is Oulu, costs €245 plus €25 for peat therapy per person. Registration is open at <http://suoretki2017.blogspot.fi> until **28 May**.