

The International Peatland Society (IPS) is an organisation of corporate and individual 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 1462 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 43 countries.

Peat Dialogue Project on its Way

Wise Use of Peatlands – a central mission of IPS – requires effective dialogue and cooperation between stakeholders with widely diverging interests: NGOs for nature conservation, technical and scientific experts, peat producers and users of peat, such as horticulture. Positive cooperation can mobilise win-win outcomes by which both nature protection is improved, and the availability of peat supplies for strategically important applications is secured. Recent cooperation between NGOs and industry in Germany (the NABU-IVG project) and the development of the RPP Standard for Responsibly Produced Peat are shining examples of this approach. To better communicate the advantages of such cooperative strategies, IPS has started a dialogue process entitled “Communicating Cooperative Strategies for the Wise Use of Peatlands”. In the dialogue process, representatives of leading NGOs from Estonia, Germany and the Netherlands work together with people from peat producing companies. The project is facilitated by Bernd Hofer (Hofer & Pautz, Münster, Germany) and Reinier de Man (Consultant, Leiden, The Netherlands). On 19 May 2015, a stakeholder meeting will take place in Bremen, Germany, during which a common position paper will be discussed. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, further activities for communicating cooperative peatland strategies will be started, presumably after the summer. The ultimate goal of this project is to encourage policy makers to use the opportunities of win-win solutions: solutions that allow for peat extraction under strict conditions and, at the same time, effectively contribute to protecting nature and climate. (*Guus van Berckel*)

Preview Peatlands International 1-2.2016

Peatlands International 1-2.2016 are currently being edited and will be published soon with the following topics.

- A special week dedicated to peatlands in Caithness and Sutherland, Scotland
- Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH - An important player in the Emsland economic region
- Outflow of suspended solids from cutover peatlands in Sweden
- Agricultural Research and Practice in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland
- The Blackland Centre: Valuing the Neglected
- Pôle-relais tourbières / The French Mire Resource Centre
- Mining projects and Nordic peatlands
- Measuring Carbon Flows and Biomass in Forestry Drained and Pristine Peatlands in Southern Finland
- A new trend in the baling of peat and substrates
- Peat moss cultivation project underway

The Editors hold their right to edit, shorten and retain articles for a later issue. To be an author for PI 2.2016, please contact susann.warnecke@peatlands.org as soon as possible, latest by **30 May**.

Tram Trinh new Intern for the IPS Secretariat

From 2nd of May, Ms Tram Trinh has been working as new intern for the IPS office in Jyväskylä. She is from Vietnam and currently pursuing a Bachelor Degree in International Business at JAMK University of Applied Sciences in Jyväskylä, Finland. She took interest in environmental issues and is thrilled to work in and experience a new, international working environment, in which she believes could make the most out of what she has been taught and studied herself in the university. “I believe in the values IPS deliver and the potential of spreading them to the society. Being a part of IPS sure will help bring out the best of me interpersonal-wise and professional-wise.” Ms Trinh will assist the IPS mainly in promoting the International Peat Congress, preparing the Annual Assembly and other meetings, and editing publications of the IPS. She can be reached at tram.trinh@peatlands.org. Former intern Jane Kask has done a great job for us but continues now to face new challenges in Helsinki.

GHG Emission Factors Associated with Rewetting of Organic Soils

This new and significant paper has been published in *Mires and Peat*. This paper has been prepared by a team of international experts on greenhouse gas emissions from peatland headed by David Wilson the Chair of IPS Commission 10 - Peatlands and Climate Change: "Drained organic soils are a significant source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere. Rewetting these soils may reduce GHG emissions and could also create suitable conditions for return of the carbon (C) sink function characteristic of undrained organic soils. In this article we expand on the work relating to rewetted organic soils that was carried out for the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Wetlands Supplement. We describe the methods and scientific approach used to derive the Tier 1 emission factors (the rate of emission per unit of activity) for the full suite of GHG and waterborne C fluxes associated with rewetting of organic soils. We recorded a total of 352 GHG and waterborne annual flux data points from an extensive literature search and these were disaggregated by flux type (i.e. CO₂, CH₄, N₂O and DOC), climate zone and nutrient status. Our results showed fundamental differences between the GHG dynamics of drained and rewetted organic soils and, based on the 100 year global warming potential of each gas, indicated that rewetting of drained organic soils leads to: net annual removals of CO₂ in the majority of organic soil classes; an increase in annual CH₄ emissions; a decrease in N₂O and DOC losses; and a lowering of net GHG emissions. Full paper: <http://mires-and-peat.net/pages/volumes/map17/map1704.php>. (submitted by Jack Rieley)

Bord na Móna outlines Biodiversity Plan

Bord na Móna has announced on 18 April that it has begun its transition away from harvesting peat for energy production and has committed to a comprehensive and informed bog rehabilitation programme. The company has rehabilitated 12,000 hectares of cutaway bogs, amounting to 15% of its total landholdings. It plans to increase this substantially over the next six years, according to Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 2021. Key actions under the new plan include a new community wetland to be developed at Corlea, Co Longford this year; a greenhouse gas monitoring site at Lullymore, Co Kildare, to be operational in May; a range of communication and engagement events promoting value of biodiversity, including an 'Eco-Rangers' primary school education programme; company promotion of Natural Capital accounting, recognising the 'real value' of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services; and the continuation of ongoing baseline surveys and rehabilitation programmes. For more information see www.rte.ie/news/2016/0418/782644-bord-na-mona and <http://biodiversityactionplan.bordnamona.ie/index.html>.

IUCN Briefing Notes on Peatlands

IUCN has published briefing notes on different aspects of Peatlands, written and prepared by Richard Lindsay, Richard Birnie and Jack Clough. They are aimed at policy makers, practitioners and academics to help explain the ecological processes that underpin peatland function. Understanding the ecology of peatlands is essential when investigating the impacts of human activity on peatlands, interpreting research findings and planning the recovery of damaged peatlands. These briefs have been produced following a major process of review and comment building on an original document: Lindsay, R. 2010 'Peatbogs and Carbon: a Critical Synthesis' University of East London. published by RSPB, Sandy. Support has been provided by Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, the Forestry Commission RSPB Scotland and the Peter de Haan Charitable Trust. The IUCN UK Peatland Programme exists to promote peatland restoration in the UK and advocates the multiple benefits of peatlands through partnerships, strong science, sound policy and effective practice. For more information see www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org and in particular <http://ow.ly/RMOM3004sZQ>. (Joanna Richards, IUCN)

World Bioenergy Week in Stockholm

International Wood Biorefining Week will be held during **24 - 26 May** in Stockholm. Several parallel conference tracks, including World Bioenergy and Advanced Biofuels, will focus on bioenergy and biobased products and innovations. The conference will host a large number of speakers on four parallel conference tracks, most of which are specialists from the forest industry as well as other manufacturing industries with an interest in biobased products. For instance, Timothy Ong will speak about Malaysia's Biomass Strategy, Jean Hamel will tell about the Canadian forestry and pulp & paper landscape, Nella Baerents, Netherlands, will talk about sustainable and intelligent bio-economy, and Harri Laurikka on Towards bioeconomy and 50% renewable energy in 2020s – Prospects in Finland. The conference is organised by Svebio, Nordisk Papperstidning & Biobusiness, Innventia and VTT. More info: www.iwbweek.com.