

Peatlands

International

issue 1.2014



Viewpoint: License to (co)operate

New faces for the IPS & Come to Riga!

Bogology: sharing the science of peatlands and past climate change

Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management - How can we use, promote and develop the SRPM?

Responsibly Produced Peat - A Dutch Initiative for European Certification of Growing Media

Global change experiments reveal response of temperate peatlands to global warming

Tropical Peat and Oil Palm Workshop 2013 well received

Executive Board Elections in Riga 2014



International
Peat
Technology
Symposium
2014



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Symposium 2014!**



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New faces for the IPS & Come to Riga!

This is the third issue of Peatlands International as electronic publication. It seems that our members are satisfied with the new format - or they are not reading it at all... what is your opinion? Remember to fill out our short survey at www.bit.ly/17VfJF2.

IPS is entering new spheres of activities right in this moment. Since 1st of May, the Secretariat is led by MSc Hannu Salo, who works as Secretary General on a part-time basis in addition to his tasks at the Finnish Bioenergy Association. Hannu's professional background is in forestry and education, but he is also familiar with horticulture, peat production, politics and even cultural matters - there is not much in our peat world Hannu does not know about. I am very happy that our Executive Board decided to strengthen our team in this way, and surely Hannu will bring some very good ideas with him!

We also lost a very important person. Allan Robertson, who has been one of the founders and the soul of the Society, passed away in February this year. This loss is huge, and I am sure that every



member of the Society has some memories of Allan, the Great Old Man from Scotland, who has been the true spirit of many of our events and projects. Some of these memories will be shared in the next issue of Peatlands International and you can still contribute. We will truly miss Allan.

Even although you may not have heard too much, IPS has been very active this spring. Close cooperation with our partners continued, we are

Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peat Society (IPS). It provides the more than 1,500 corporate and individual members of the Society with up-to-date information on peat and peatland matters, reports and photos of conferences and workshops, background reports and publication reviews.

To serve all of our members, we provide always a good balance between economic, social and environmental points of view. To receive Peatlands International in your email every three months, visit www.peatociety.org/join-us and sign up as a member.

activating our relationships with international conventions and related NGOs and have bundled our efforts to be present at the manifold peat and peatland conferences this year.

In addition, the IPS Secretariat has fully switched to electronic accounting. This will make your payments much safer and faster, and our invoicing more professional, thus leave time for other tasks.

We have also closed the 2013 accounts this spring. The result has been in some aspects disappointing, but other decisions have brought the desired relief on IPS finances. Due to unpaid invoices, mainly membership fees, bad debts of even 28,000 € had to be written off the balance of the IPS. This is way too much for an active professional association.

On the other hand, we were able to cover this loss via the € 44,000 income from the International Peat Congress in Sweden 2012. This means that for 2013 only, IPS reached an about zero result, which shows that we are going in the right direction. I warmly thank all members and conference participants who have made this possible!

The IPS has also been heavily involved in the preparations of the International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga in August. Have you registered already? If not, go to www.peat2014.lv and sign up immediately.

There will be activities, workshops and seminars for all IPS Commissions, from technology to peatland restoration, culture, balneology and pristine peatlands. Much to discover in the Baltics!

In Riga, the IPS Annual Assembly will also elect a new Executive Board for the next four years. These are the key persons who determine the strategy and actions of our Society for a long period of time. Use this chance and pick your candidate via your National Committee - so that we can move forward in promoting the Wise Use of peat and peatlands worldwide.

Susann Warnecke

IPS Communications Manager
susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org

www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com

For the online versions of our articles and more background information, go to Peatlands International's own website and blog at www.peatlandsinternational.wordpress.com and type ->

password: **ipsmember13**

This will give all IPS members reading access during May - July 2014.

Peatlands International
ISSN: 1455-8491

Publisher: International Peat Society
Kauppakatu 19 D 31, 40100 Jyväskylä
phone: +358 40 418 4075, email: ips@peatsociety.org

Editor-in-Chief
Hannu Salo, IPS Secretary General
Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief & Layout
Susann Warnecke, IPS Communications Manager

Editorial Board
Paul Short, Canada
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Michael Trepel, Germany
Catherine Farrell, Ireland
Lech Szajdak, Poland
Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden
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Cover: Peatland forestry, Sweden. Photo: Björn Hånell
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Viewpoint



Members of the IPS Dutch National Committee with the IPS Executive Board and staff in Groningen, the Netherlands: Samu Valpola, Anne Jelle Schilstra, Sandra Lubinaite, Björn Hånell, Guus van Berckel, Jack Rieley, Donal Clarke, Erki Niitlaan, Paul Short and Susann Warnecke (left to right). Photo: Hannu Salo

Licence to (co)operate

After careful consideration and a solid Environmental Impact Assessment, a licence for harvesting extracting peat might be granted – but the licence is not the only condition required. The participation of all the stakeholders will be absolutely necessary for obtaining future licences. The entire peat industry will have to deal with that sooner or later, and the Licence to Operate will become the main issue all over the world.

The use of peat is being debated in several countries: its effects on climate change, biodiversity and the economy are often the central focus in these discussions. The harvesting and use of peat is already on the political agenda in countries such as the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. Each of these countries has its own approach which depends on the available peat resources, population density and its economic significance.

In the Netherlands, for example, horticulture is one of the most important economic sectors. Peat is seen as a strategic commodity for this sector – just like steel is for the German car industry. The Netherlands must import all the peat it needs since it lacks domestic resources. The Dutch government stimulates the transparency and the enhancement of the sustainability of the peat supply chain.

In Germany the emission of CO₂ from drained peatlands is now at the centre of the political discussion. Most of these peatlands are currently in use for agriculture. The Minister for Agriculture of Lower Saxony has announced that he is going to take measures to reduce these emissions.

Attention from government and politics often has a stimulating effect. In the Netherlands, this has resulted in the project “Responsibly Produced

Peat", aiming at developing a certifying system. Wetlands International, the industry (VPN, EPAGMA and RHP) and other stakeholders are closely involved in this project.

In Germany the governmental interest has yielded a co-operation between the Industry (IVG) and NABU (Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union). NABU is one of the oldest and largest environmental associations in Germany. The association encompasses more than 520,000 members and sponsors, who commit themselves to the conservation of threatened habitats, flora and fauna, climate protection and energy policy. IVG and NABU recently jointly presented in Wagenfeld, Germany: "Concepts for Mire Rehabilitation, Development and Safeguarding of Carbon Sinks and Use of Resources" (Konzepte zur Moorsanierung, Entwicklung und Sicherung von Kohlenstoffsinken und Nutzung der Rohstoffe).

Evidently, all stakeholders do realise that only co-operation will lead to positive societal end results; that is, cooperation between NGOs, governments and industry, based on mutual respect and trust, and taking ecological, economic and social aspects into account for the responsible management of the peatland resource.

Guus van Berckel

First Vice President of the IPS
vanberckel@griendtsveen.de



Do you agree? Mail us at ips@peatociety.org or discuss at www.facebook.com/peatociety.



The IPS Executive Board at work in Groningen, Netherlands. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Welcome to Riga!



IPS Annual Meetings Peat Technology Symposium & Baltic Peat Producers' Forum '14

The IPS invites all peat and mire experts to come and enjoy the most important IPS event in 2014 – the International Peat and Technology Symposium, held in Riga, Latvia on 25 - 29 August 2014.

The Symposium is dedicated to the most relevant issues and aspects of peat production and related technologies, and the use of peat products for various economic purposes, but it will also cover general peatland interests suitable for ALL members, such as peatland restoration, agriculture, tropical peatlands, education and balneology. The session topics so far are:

- ✓ Peatland survey, Chairman: Mr. Erki Niitlaan
- ✓ Peatland conservation and restoration in practice, Chairman: Prof. Lars Lundin

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- ✓ Peat harvesting technologies, Chairman: Mr. Giedrius Kavaliauskas
- ✓ Social, environmental and economical viewpoints in the production and use of energy peat, Chairman: Mr. Jaakko Silpola
- ✓ Horticultural peat and its effective use, Chairman: Mr. Gerald Schmilewski
- ✓ Planning and construction of peat production areas, Chairman: Mr. Donal Clarke
- ✓ Horticultural peat: equipment for its processing, Chairman: Mr. Renārs Skudra
- ✓ Responsible peat production and use, Chairman: Mr. Hein Boon
- ✓ IT solutions and communication in the peat industry (covering weather, stock pile measurement, GPS etc), Chairman: Mr. Artūrs Kažmers

The International Peat Technology Symposium 2014 welcomes the submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations for any of the sessions until

1 July 2014. All proposals for presentations must be submitted by e-mail: abstracts@peat2014.lv. More information on the abstract submission procedure can be found online at www.peat2014.lv/#!for-thesis-applicants/c1kf6.

The event will be enriched by the two-day **IPS Commissions workshops** on Tuesday and Wednesday and additional meetings on various topics, such as:

- ✓ Commission II - Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands for Horticulture, Energy and Other Economic Purposes: cooperation meeting (Gerald Schmilewski)
- ✓ Commission III - "Drained organic soils – responsible management" (Barbara Kalisz)
- ✓ Commission VI - "New results of research in balneology and international collaboration in healthcare" (Riitta Korhonen/Leena Larva)
- ✓ Commission VIII - "Value and use of peatlands for education" (Michiel Gerding)
- ✓ Commission IX - Tropical Peatlands: workshop about vision and details of the scientific programme for IPC15 in Kuching in 2016 (Lulie Melling)



These workshops are open for all interested in the subjects. Should you have any questions or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact the Commission Chairs! A full workshop schedule can be found at www.peat2014.lv/#!untitled/c1gwc.

On Thursday, 28 August, IPS will host the **Annual Assembly of National Representatives**. This year the spokespersons of each National Committee will have the extremely important task to vote and elect three new Executive Board members. Don't miss the opportunity to express your opinion and decide on the future of the IPS!

This Symposium is a great opportunity to network and meet fellow peat professionals. Besides that, the organisers offer not only a rich scientific and professional programme, but also a large variety of cultural, social and recreational activities as well as very interesting excursions.

The full program of the Symposium can be found at www.peat2014.lv/#!program2/ctps.

Sandra Lubinaite

IPS Office Assistant
sandra.lubinaite@peatsociety.org



Bogology: sharing the science of peatlands and past climate change!

Bogology.org is a new science outreach website and blog launched at the beginning of October 2013. Developed by Matt Amesbury and Tom Roland,

Research Fellows at the Universities of Exeter and Southampton respectively, the site takes an accessible look at the fields of peatland palaeoecology and palaeoclimate reconstruction.



Peat coring in action: How many scientists does it take to core a peat bog? The PATAGON project team hard at work in Patagonia. Photo: Tom Roland

Both Matt and Tom have backgrounds in these fields and through their PhDs and postdoctoral positions have experience working on projects investigating Holocene climate change from locations scattered widely around the globe.

The website is structured around the simple questions of who, what, where, how and why?

The who we have dealt with here already. 'What' seeks to explain the basic link between bogs and climate that facilitates this type of research and also includes a 'what we see' section with a range of fieldwork and microscopic photographs to bring the research alive. 'Where' gives an outline of the different locations that Matt and Tom's research has been based, including, perhaps surprisingly for peat-based research, the Antarctic Peninsula. 'How' gives an overview of the methods used, including among others testate amoebae and stable isotope analyses.

Perhaps most importantly of all for an outreach venture such as Bogology is the question of why? When the majority of our research is publicly funded we all have a responsibility to let a wide audience, especially outside the world of academia, know the answer to this question. In the case of peat-based past climate research, the ultimate justification comes back to climate change and with the recent publication of the IPCC's 5th assessment report, there is an ever



larger wealth of information available to show that climate change is real and is happening.

The question of why is addressed as past, present and future: what role does investigating the past have?, what is happening to climate and peatlands right now? and what might happen to both in the future?

Alongside these more static who, what, where, how and why pages, Bogology is at heart a blog and current posts include first hand fieldwork accounts and comments on interesting research publications framed into their wider relevance, as well as more specific and quirky posts on bog naming protocols and the wonders of Sphagnum moss! The blogs are all based firmly in the science and include relevant references and further reading where necessary, but also seek to bring the world of peatland past climate research alive.

As well as writing blogs themselves, a number of guest bloggers have begun to share their own perspectives and particular areas of expertise. If you would like to contribute yourself, please get





Peatlands in Patagonia: Vivid orange bog dominated by *Sphagnum magellanicum* sits in the shadow of the Southern Andes, South America. Photo: Tom Roland

in touch as Matt and Tom are keen to expand the range of articles on the site.

Whatever the topic, the website as a whole is written to be easily read and accessible to a wide audience. Over time it is hoped that, through the linked Twitter and Facebook accounts (with a current joint audience of over three hundred people), Bogology can become something of a

Hub for peat-based research.

Members of the Bogology community already include academics from a wide range of disciplines as well as geography teachers and others working in the broader climate change sphere.

While the tone of the website is often light-hearted and aimed squarely in the face of the non-expert, there is the hope that through bringing researchers from different fields of peatland science together, new academic collaborations can be facilitated and developed.

Being only a few months old, Bogology is still finding its feet, but Matt and Tom would very much welcome your input in terms of feedback on the site and on how it can develop over time to become something of a web-based hub for peatland science.

The intention in setting up Bogology was not to create a one-sided information service, but rather to establish a meeting and discussion place for peatland science, shaped and developed by the shifting needs and interests of both the academic community and anyone else who might be interested in the fascinating world of bogs!

Matt Amesbury & Tom Roland

Website: bogology.org
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/bogology
 Twitter: @bogology

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Receiving Peat News?

If you are an IPS member and would like to receive our Peat News newsletter every month, please email us at susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org. All members receive the newsletter automatically.

Corporate and other organisations members can sign up even six employees to receive full membership benefits. ---> peatsociety.org/join-us

Mýri Café

Enjoy a hot mug of coffee or tea and explore the IPS library, or exchange recent knowledge on peat and peatlands with the friendly staff of the IPS Secretariat!

Open on Fridays at 14:00 - 15:00 hrs,
Kauppakatu 19 D 31, 3rd floor
40100 Jyväskylä, Finland
Phone: 040 418 4075

IPS Document Database

Each IPS member has access to the document database of the IPS website. This contains a large collection of IPS publications, such as the proceedings of our 2012 Congress, Peat News, Peatlands International and much more. Your user name is usually firstname.lastname or the first part of your email address before the @. In case you need a new password, visit **www.peatsociety.org/user/password** and type the email address to which you receive Peat News. We are constantly uploading new items - come back regularly!



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Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management

How can we use, promote and develop the SRPM?

In summer 2013 IPS asked one of its interns, Henna Honkala of Jyväskylä University, to carry out a survey to investigate how the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management is being utilised and implemented so far and how its ideas could be further developed. The following report was given to the IPS Executive Board in October last year and is surely worth being read by all IPS members.

Background

From 2008 to 2010, the International Peat Society (IPS) worked together with stakeholders from all areas of peatland interests to develop a Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management

(SRPM). This process resulted in an extensive joint understanding report on how to approach different situations when deciding on options for peatlands, taking viewpoints of all interest groups and as many as possible priority issues into consideration.

The Strategy was inspired by the book “The Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands – Background and Principles including a Framework for Decision-making” that was authored by Hans Joosten and Donal Clarke and published in 2002 jointly by IMCG and IPS.

Accordingly, the Strategy applies commonly agreed principles for the ‘Wise Use of Peatlands’ to the management of all peatlands and uses of peat and provides objectives and actions for implementation.

The SRPM is directed towards everyone responsible for or involved in the management



IPS members at a restoration site in Germany. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Sphagnum mosses. Photo: Susann Warnecke



of peatlands, or in the peat supply chain, and is applicable to all types of peatland under every use. It should be applied in every country in which this biological, hydrological, ecological and landscape resource occurs or in which peat products are processed and/or used. 'Use' is employed in a wide sense and includes both conservation and non-use.

The SRPM is a global document and provides an overall context within which to deal with specific local, national or regional issues.

The aims of the SRPM are to:

- Undertake peatland management according to the principles and within the framework of Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands by safeguarding their environmental, social and economic functions and respecting their local, regional and global values.
- Ensure that high conservation value peatlands are identified and conserved, utilised peatlands are managed responsibly; and drained, degraded or otherwise irreversibly changed peatlands are rehabilitated to restore as many ecological and landscape functions as possible.
- Provide those involved in or responsible for peatland management with strategic objectives and actions for implementation.

This is done via the following priority issues:

- Biodiversity
- Hydrology and water regulation
- Peatlands and climate change

- Economic activities on peatlands
- After-use, rehabilitation and restoration
- Human and institutional capacity and information dissemination
- Engagement of local people
- Good governance

The Strategy was published in 2010 and has since been used in the development of national peatland and similar strategies in many countries.

Why and how?

In this report, the results are presented of the questionnaire that was circulated to gather members' views on the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM). The purpose is to present:

- The research data,
- Possible areas for improvement of the SRPM as well as related communication and collaboration,
- Solutions for how the SRPM could be further utilised inside the International Peat Society (IPS) and among its stakeholders.

The SRPM evaluation project was launched in May 2013. It was initiated to gather ideas and opinions of how the document could be updated and further utilised and to find solutions for how it could better serve its purpose and serve as the basis for national peatland strategies in IPS member countries.

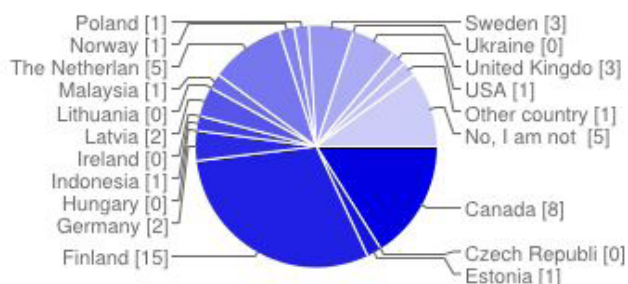
The project was carried out in two major stages: an initial questionnaire sent out to the IPS National Committees during summer 2013 to receive preliminary feedback and provide direction to the actual questionnaire that was sent to all IPS members and stakeholders in September 2013. This report consists mainly of the responses to the latter questionnaire.

The results of the survey show that there is still a great demand for further promotion of the SRPM although the document has been available since October 2010. In addition, evidence shows that additional resources including translation and increased collaboration are required in order to add value to the Strategy and increase its availability and usefulness.



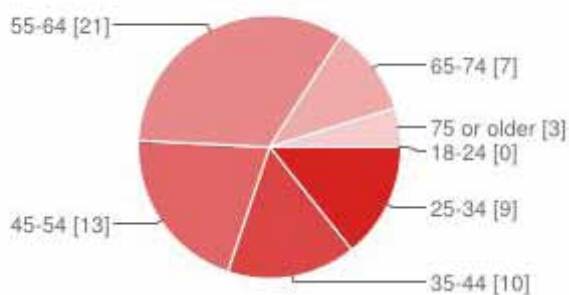
During the IPC 2012 excursions. Photo: Yvonne Felber

1.2 To which IPS National Committee you belong

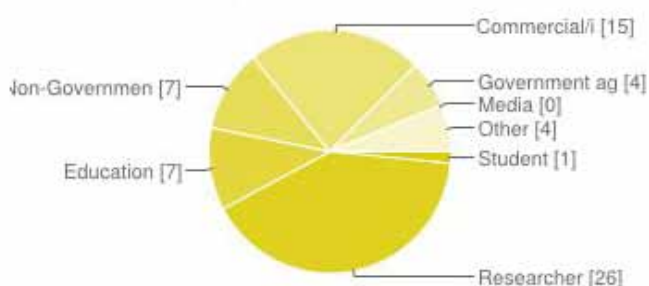


Unfortunately, the number of questionnaires returned was quite small. Some member countries were totally underrepresented, whereas a few were more responsive and thus the answers to some questions may be somewhat skewed. On the positive side, through this questionnaire the IPS and the SRPM gained exposure and new contacts willing to be involved in updating the document and its recommendations

1.3 What is your age?



1.4 What is your professional background?



Who replied?

The questionnaire received in total 64 responses from around the world. The country mostly represented among the respondents was Finland (30%). Other than that, answers were received from Canada (16%), The Netherlands (10%), Sweden (6%), the UK (6%), Germany (4%), Latvia (4%), Estonia (2%), Indonesia (2%), Malaysia (2%), Norway (2%), Poland (2%), the USA (2%) and from other countries (2%). In addition, a few non-members of the IPS responded (10%).

It was surprising that a few countries with quite many IPS members were severely underrepresented in the response, for example, Estonia, Germany and Malaysia. Even more unfortunate was that no responses at all were received from Ireland, Czech Republic, Hungary,

Lithuania and Ukraine, which would have been beneficial for further development of the Strategy.

The majority of the respondents were members of the IPS (75%) and represented the average composition of the organisation namely researchers (41%), members of commercial or industrial companies (23%), educational professionals (11%) or members of other NGOs (11%). The participants consisted mostly of people aged 45 to 54 (21%) and 55 to 64 years (33%).



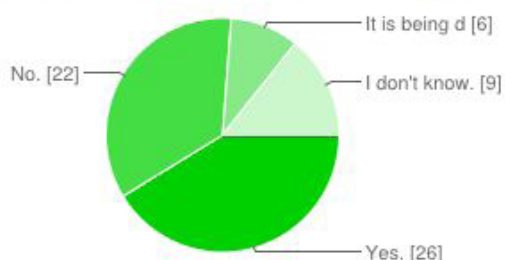
Local involvement in Indonesia. Photo: Jack Rieley

National Strategies

When it comes to national peatland strategies it is noteworthy that 51% of the respondents mentioned that either their country has a national peatland strategy (41%) or it is currently being developed (10%).

However, it has to be kept in mind that 30% of the respondents were from Finland, which has a proposal for a National Peatland Strategy and thus the overall outlook of national strategies is skewed. A databank of national peatland strategies with links to them will be placed on the IPS

2.1 Do you have a national / regional responsible peatland management strategy or policy?

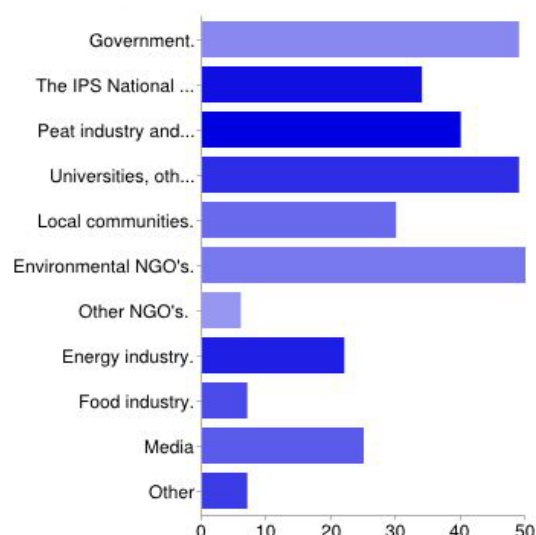


Yes.	26	41%
No.	22	35%
It is being developed.	6	10%
I don't know.	9	14%



Energy peat harvesting in Western Finland. Photo: Susann Warnecke

2.4 Which groups are involved in peat and peatland discussion in your country / region?



was also stressed (18%); however, use of peat is expected to diminish in future years (18%). Thus the future use of peat seems to be controversial and uncertain.

The parties mostly collaborating in peat and peatlands decision-making are environmental NGOs (16%), governments (15%) and universities, schools and researchers (15%). The role of the IPS National Committees was underrepresented (11%) and their involvement should be strengthened in the future.

website in the near future for members to access and benchmark (for examples from the survey see the table below).

Public opinion of peat and peatlands in different member countries varied. Overall, peat and peatlands are considered to be very important issues (31%). Peat has a great value to the economies of some countries (23%), and peat and peatlands are also appreciated as natural resources (20%). Local communities' involvement

Are you familiar with the SRPM?

Concerning the SRPM itself, 68% of respondents had read the booklet whereas 31% said that they had not read it at all. Most of those who had not read the Strategy were non-members of the IPS; however, a significant number of non-readers were also members. The professional group most ignorant of the SRPM was the educational sector from which none of the respondents had read the document.

Examples for Peatland Strategies in IPS member countries

- Canada: Alberta Wetland Policy, similar in New Brunswick, Québec
- Finland: Proposal for a Finnish Peatland Management Strategy - Ehdotus soiden ja turvemaiden kestävän ja vastuullisen käytön ja suojelun kansalliseksi strategiaksi
- Germany: Mire Protection Programme of Lower Saxony - Niedersächsisches Moorschutzprogramm; Nature Conservation Law (Naturschutzgesetz) of Baden-Württemberg
- Ireland: Draft National Peatlands Strategy
- Malaysia: National Action Plan for Peatlands
- Poland: Strategy for the Protection of Wetlands
- Sweden: Peatland Policy: Hjortonboken 1 and 2; Swedish Mire Protection Plan: Myrskyddplan



Jack Rieley presenting the future of the SRPM at the 2012 International Peat Congress. Photo: Yvonne Felber



To receive a printed copy of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management for free email us at info@peatsociety.org.

Researchers, Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies were those most aware of the SRPM. Based on this, it seems that the greatest need for promotional effort is related to universities, schools and other educational facilities. In addition, the SRPM is better known in Europe compared to countries elsewhere in the world; hence more international promotion should also be carried out. However, encouragement for further familiarisation inside the IPS is also needed.

Nevertheless, the respondents indicated that they were very to quite familiar with the SRPM (90%). This means, that even though the document has not been read by all, the information it contains still feels quite familiar to everyone. Perhaps some respondents believed that the responsibility issues are so well discussed in the media or in

stakeholder meetings, for instance, that the issues dealt with in the document seem familiar.

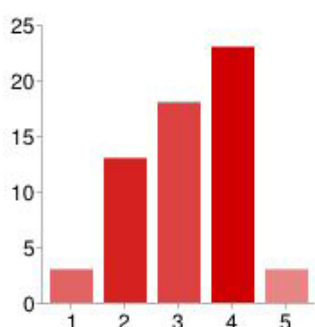
Use in your work

Most of the respondents either have not used the SRPM in their work at all (29%) or used it only sometimes (37%). The reason why the document has not been used extensively in respondents' daily work could perhaps be attributed to their lack of knowledge or understanding of it (48%). 52% of the respondents said that they did not have a hard copy of the SRPM and this could also explain why the document was less familiar as well as less used in their daily work.

One of the original purposes of the SRPM seems not to have been fulfilled as only 5% of the respondents' stated that it has aided in formulating a national peatland management strategy in their country (although very few countries have prepared one).

Furthermore, 17% of the respondents believed that the SRPM did not have a visible role in their country but, what is encouraging is that, the SRPM has been used to create more responsible actions in the industry sector (17%) and thus the SRPM's certification purposes have been executed in some

3.2 How familiar are you with the SRPM document





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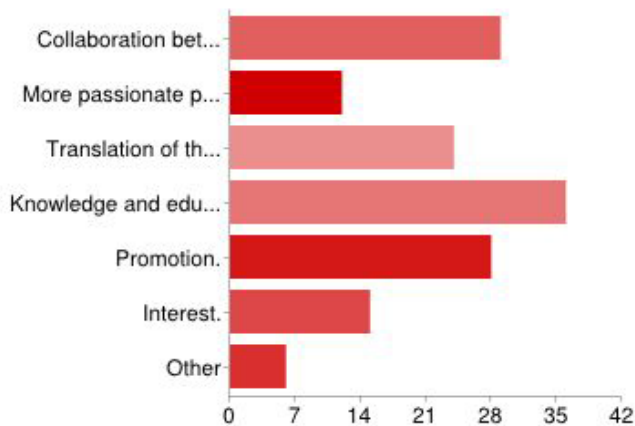
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5.1 What resources are needed to improve the role of the SRPM in your country?



scale. In the future, the emphasis of the SRPM should be channelled towards ensuring sustainable use of peatland and peat natural resources (18%) and in land-use planning (18%). 14%, however, believe that the SRPM could be used to create more national peatland management strategies.

by IPS collaborating with other stakeholders. The most valued aspects identified were knowledge and education (24%) and interaction between stakeholders (19%).

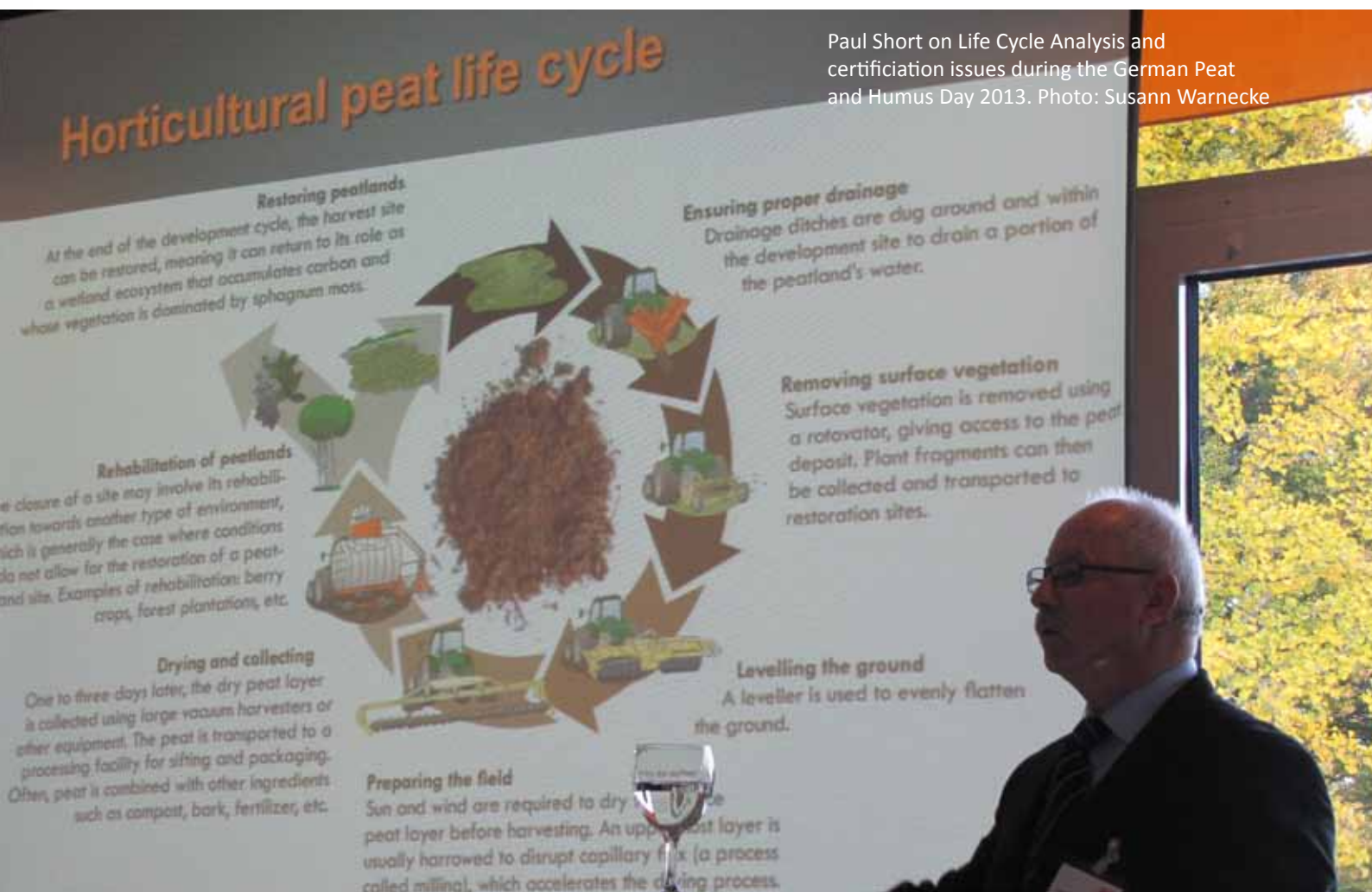
Respondents also perceived that websites (18%), local workshops (10%), teaching materials to schools and universities (10%) and translations into local languages (9%) are important tools to promote the SRPM better at national and international levels. The role of the IPS National Committees (19%) was identified also as a means to promote the SRPM further. In addition, the role of governments (16%) and universities and other educational facilities (15%) were acknowledged to have a major role in promoting the Strategy. However, industry and environmental NGOs (15%) could also play a significant role.

Which tools?

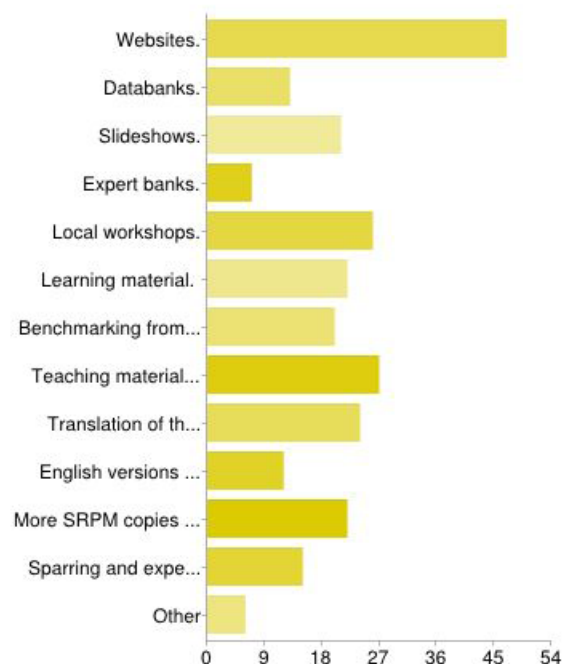
Interestingly, what the sample proved is that the points which should be emphasised in order to improve the role of the SRPM can be addressed

Updating the SRPM?

When it comes to updating the SRPM, there were some ideas and opinions on how to change



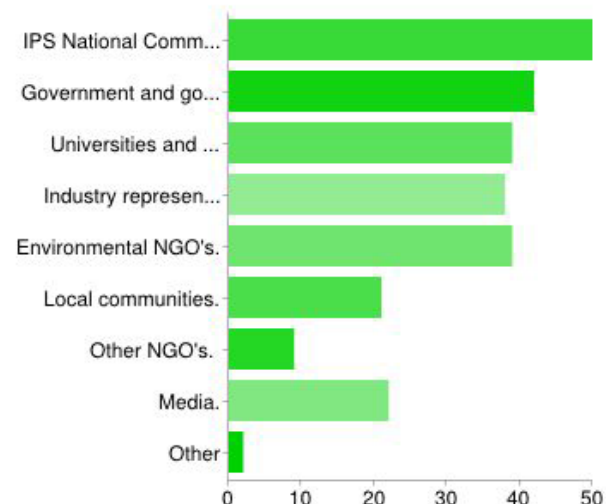
5.2 Which methods or tools would be useful in utilising



the document to make it more up-to-date. One suggestion was to include case studies of or references to real-life situations from different countries. This would help to benchmark current practises from around the world. References to stakeholders such as industry and others actively dealing with peatland management were also identified as important.

Interestingly, regarding the layout of the document, the chapter mostly needing updating is chapter 4.5 that deals with Peatland After-Use, Rehabilitation and Restoration (12%). One respondent pointed out that the SRPM only promotes re-wetting as an after-use option

5.3 Which parties should collaborate in promoting



whereas other realistic and economically valid options such as agriculture, forestry and leisure are available.

14% of the respondents believed that the entire SRPM should be updated as soon as possible. 18%, on the other hand, pointed out that no updating is currently needed. Thus, it could be concluded that the SRPM first needs more promotion and publicity and afterwards some updating is in order.

Cooperation with specific stakeholders (23%) and active roundtable meetings (24%) are also important ways to improve the contents of the SRPM. Most effectively, respondents see that the SRPM could be updated online for instance on the IPS website (36%).



Interested in peat and responsible management - horticulture experts at the ISHS-IPS symposium in Leiden in June 2013. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Conclusions

The study revealed many interesting aspects regarding the SRPM,

- There is quite large ignorance in many IPS countries and among IPS members and stakeholders towards the SRPM and the issues it promotes.
- The IPS still needs to further communicate and promote the SRPM in conventional ways such as directly mailed hard copies. However, web-based tools should also be implemented.
- The educational sector should be targeted with promotional efforts. Teaching materials as well as seminars and workshops are important methods to increase the knowledge of the SRPM.
- There is a high demand for the SRPM to be updated as well as collaboration in the process. Currently, however, there seems to be little effort being put into organising collaborative round-table-meetings, stakeholder interaction or other activities to satisfy these demands.
- The questionnaire results could be used as an effective marketing tool for both the IPS and the SRPM.
- Many of the respondents were new contacts for the IPS. The study thus gave the IPS a larger database of people who may be interested to participate in developing the SRPM further and become involved in other IPS activities.

What next?

- In the near future the IPS should organise a project, working group or other action in order to promote collaboration to update the SRPM and promote its objectives and actions.
- Preparation of National Peatland Management Strategies as well as certification procedures for peatlands and peat as recommended in the SRPM should be promoted.
- The SRPM website should be updated to be more informative, up-to-date, interactive and with links to other relevant information.

Breathing life into SRPM: Sandra Lubinaite, Henna Honkala and Gerald Schmilewski in Tallinn, October 2013. Photo: Susann Warnecke



A Wikipedia-type of publication was also suggested and should be considered.

- A databank of the national peatland management strategies of each member country currently having one should be included in the SRPM webpages as a benchmarking tool.
- Information packages containing background information on peatlands and peat and the themes, objectives and actions of the SRPM should be prepared for schools and universities.
- An idea bank should be set up on the SRPM website with some basic information and more specific tasks that everyone inside the IPS and in the stakeholder network could consider in their daily work.
- Translation of the SRPM into national languages is crucial. The role of the IPS, the National Committees and other stakeholders as well as funding bodies in finding solutions for the translations should be discussed.
- The SRPM should be reassessed at regular intervals (e.g. every 4 years to coincide with IPS Congresses).

Sincere thanks to all who participated in the questionnaire and contributed to the evaluation!

Henna Honkala

IPS project intern for SRPM
henna.honkala@peatsociety.org

Responsibly Produced Peat

A Dutch Initiative for European Certification of Growing Media

Sustainability of a Strategic Raw Material

Dutch public policy was the trigger for the European Initiative 'Responsibly Produced Peat'. Dutch industry is highly dependent on the import of huge quantities of raw materials from agriculture and mining. Supply in the future can only be secured if the supply chains are made sustainable.



In the context of the Biodiversity Policy Plan 2008-2011, the Dutch government had identified a number of strategically important supply chains, including soya, fish meal, biomass and peat. To secure the future of the Dutch horticulture sector, the availability of sustainably produced growing media, and peat as a major constituent, was identified as a key condition.

At the time, doubts in society about the acceptability of peat as a raw material were growing. Expectations about replacing peat by alternative media were rising. But there were more questions than answers both about the acceptability of peat extraction and about the potential of replacing peat by alternative materials.

Getting the Facts Right

In 2010, the Dutch Government asked University of Wageningen to give answers to three questions:

1. What are the impacts of peat extraction and peat trade on biodiversity (including climate/

CO2 related issues) in Europe (with a focus on the role of the Dutch private sector in the international context)?

2. What options are there for more sustainable extraction methods?
3. What characteristics make peat important to (Dutch) horticulture and to what extent can peat be replaced with other materials than peat?

Not surprisingly, the study concluded that for Dutch horticulture peat is a material with excellent properties that cannot easily be replaced by any other material in most applications.

It was recognised (See Bos, Diemont, Verhagen, 2011) that future supply of peat can only be secured if

- peat extraction from areas with high natural value can be effectively excluded and
 - extraction is restricted to areas where these natural values have deteriorated already.
- It was concluded that, for the foreseeable future, there is ample availability of peat to be produced from such areas.



Second Stakeholder Workshop of the Wageningen Study, November 18, 2010.

The main recommendation of the Wageningen study was supported by the participants in two multi-stakeholder workshops: develop a standard and a certification system for 'responsibly produced peat'.

Setting a European Standard through Cooperation

Fact-Based Cooperation

Following up on the Wageningen study, Dutch industry (represented by VPN and RHP) started in 2011 the first phase of the 'Responsibly Produced Peat' project with support from the Dutch government. After developing general principles in the first phase, more detailed criteria were developed in the second phase (2012-2013).

Participants in the project were representatives from the European peat supply chain (from peat extraction to the production of growing media) and environmental NGOs (including Wetlands International and IUCN Netherlands). The project was based on cooperation between the different interest groups and on a shared understanding in the ultimate objective.

Representatives from industry and from environmental NGOs agreed on a common goal: to create a standard and a certification system

- that makes it possible to categorically exclude high conservation areas from peat extraction and
- to promote responsible extraction from degraded peat areas.

For the industry this was the only feasible scenario to secure the legitimacy of continued peat use. For the NGOs, this was not only an instrument to protect high-value peatlands, but also to increase the value of peat extraction sites after extraction. It was agreed that the system should not produce a green niche market, but be applicable to the mainstream business.

The Double Focus: Site Selection and After-Use

The project was based on the agreement between industry and environmental NGOs that continued extraction from degraded areas is acceptable if guarantees about creating natural values – generally through some form of re-wetting – can be given for the after-use phase.

Therefore, the resulting RPP standard has a double focus: excluding biologically valuable peatlands and securing optimal after-use. The application

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of the standard is explicitly restricted to peat for horticulture. Peat use for energy production will not be supported by NGOs participating in the initiative.

The Principles and Criteria document (See RPP Principles, Version 1.0) contains five chapters. The first two chapters (Legality, Good Governance) contain general requirements for companies. Chapter 4 is on the site preparation and peat extraction process. Chapters 3 (Site Selection) and 5 (After-Use) express the focus of the standard.

Site Selection

The RPP standard guarantees that certified peat will not come from extraction sites developed in peatland areas with high natural values. To that purpose, the standard distinguishes between four Classes.

Class 1 contains natural peatlands that are categorically excluded from extraction. Class 4 contains severely degraded peatlands, such as former peatlands that have intensively been used

for agriculture. Class 3 contains strongly degraded peatlands that are generally open to certification under this system, whereas Class 2 contains lightly degraded peatlands, which may generally not be certified.

The standard contains a number of special conditions for Class 3 ('Yes, unless...') and Class 2 ('No, unless...'):

- Class 3: 'Yes, unless ...'
If certain natural values, as specified in the standard, are present in a Class 3 area, certification will not be allowed;
- Class 2: 'No, unless ...'
In a country/region with many natural peatlands available, Class 2 areas (typically areas bordering existing peat extraction sites) can be eligible for certification. However, in countries/regions where natural peatlands are scarce, class 2 remains categorically excluded.

The site selection criteria only apply to extraction sites developed after the first officially approved version of the certification standard (2013).



Existing national classification systems may be used instead of the RPP system if they can be proven to be equivalent to the RPP classification.

After-Use

By applying the RPP standard, optimal after-use will be guaranteed. Therefore, Chapter 5 of the Principles and Criteria contains the general requirement that, for any peat extraction site, an after-use plan should be available from the start of developing the site and during the entire extraction period.

The after-use plan shall give sufficient guarantees that the after-use phase will result in positive value creation, either by regenerating the original peatland or by creating an attractive alternative destination.

A more stringent requirement has been set for all sites developed in Class 2 areas: extraction sites developed in lightly degraded peatlands. Rewetting is the only allowable after-use

destination in such areas. In Class 3 and Class 4 areas, after-use can be, apart from re-wetting, forestry, agriculture or tourism, for example.

Learning by Doing

The Foundation for Responsibly Produced Peat was established on August 19, 2013. The Foundation is responsible for implementing the certification system and developing the standard further.

On the RPP Board are representatives from industry (peat producers, growing media, horticulture, retailers) and environmental NGOs. The multi-stakeholder character of the Board guarantees that decisions on developing the standard and certification system further will be balanced, taking into account the different interests at stake.

The first version of the RPP standard has been approved by the Board. A certification system has been designed. A number of technical problems

and interpretation issues will certainly arise during certification. The RPP system has not been designed in every detail but is based on a process of learning by doing, guided by a clear common understanding of the underlying objectives. Test certifications will be carried out in 2014 to identify such issues and to adapt the certification system and the associated documents.

The challenge in the months to come will be to take the realities of the different peat production countries into account whilst maintaining a coherent set of criteria. In parallel, the demand for certified Responsibly Produced Peat, will take off.

The availability of a relatively simple certification system without high costs involved that guarantees that peat is from responsible sources only is a welcome element for implementing sustainable sourcing strategies in horticulture, food industry and different retail sectors. The market for non-certified peat will then rapidly decline.

Dr Reinier de Man

Sustainable Business Development
reinier.de.man@rdeman.nl

Reinier de Man was involved as a facilitator and consultant during formulating the standard and setting up the certification system from 2010 until early 2014. The RPP Foundation does not bear any responsibility for this text.

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IPS Executive Board Elections in Riga 2014

28 August 2014 is the next day of elections for the IPS Executive Board.

Three of the six ordinary members' seats will be vacant and it will be up to the National Committees' representatives to decide on those successors that offer the most benefit and valuable work input for the IPS and its members. By the submission deadline, the IPS Secretariat has received nominations for the following persons:

- Moritz Böcking, Germany (German Peat Society, DGMT); Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH)
- Erki Niitlaan, Estonia (Estonian Peat Association; Steiger Engineering LLC)
- Claes Rülcker, Sweden (Swedish Peat Producers Association; Swedish Peat Research Foundation)
- Liliya Stepchenko, Ukraine (Dnepropetrovsk Agricultural University) (valid if membership fees 2012-2013 are paid before the commencement of the Annual Assembly on 28 August 2014)
- Lech Szajdak, Poland (Polish Academy of Sciences)

The invitations for the Annual Assembly will be sent out in June by post to the Chairs and Secretaries of our National Committees, who appoint their national representatives to the Assembly. Each of our 18 National Committees that has paid its full membership fees and is present in Riga is allowed to vote.

Be sure to have your voice heard when deciding on the future of the IPS! More info: www.peatociety.org/about-us.



Global change experiments reveal response of temperate peatlands to global warming

Global change experiment in peatland in Northern Poland – Open Top Chambers. Photo: J. Barabach



Northern peatlands are important sinks of carbon. However, ongoing climate change and human impact (e.g. drainage and nutrient deposition) has triggered emission of stored carbon into the atmosphere. Decrease of biodiversity is also connected with these disturbances. There is an urgent need to understand these processes in space and time (Dise, 2010).

Most of the experiments carried out on peatlands have concentrated on carbon balance and nitrogen. However, it is also important to test how microbes influence carbon emission. It was recently proven that the peatland microbial food web is exceptionally important for C cycling (Jassey et al., 2013). Consequently, data from continental peatlands are important to fill the gap in the global view of this problem.

Global change experiments are very often applied to better understand a potential response of various ecosystems to global warming and drought. Our experiment (CLIMPEAT, www.climpeat.pl) is an exceptional integration

of experts aiming to study temperate peatland responses to global change.

We hypothesize that peatlands located in transitional climates are remarkably sensitive to changing climate. The underlying idea is to determine to what extent climate change modifies peatland functioning in Central-East Europe which fits in an oceanic-continental climate gradient with similar studies underway in other climate settings, such as in France (project PEATWARM - oceanic) and in Russia (project CliMireSiber - continental).

Extracting the peat core at Linje experimental site to reconstruct last 2000 years' environmental change and palaeohydrology. Photo: K. Marcisz



In particular we want to see how these climate changes can degrade the C sink function of peatland ecosystems. Furthermore, the patterns of the identified proxies will be used to reconstruct climate changes during the last 2000 years.

It is still not clear how fast peatlands respond to changes in temperature and drought in the continental climate setting and indeed this is an important issue, since continental regions account for a significant proportion of all northern hemisphere peatlands.

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*Mariusz Lamentowicz,
Alexandre Buttler &
Vincent E. J. Jassey*

Laboratory of Wetland Ecology and Management
& Department of Biogeography and Palaeoecology,
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Poland
Email: mariuszl@amu.edu.pl

Swiss Federal Research Institute-WSL
Community Ecology Research Unit, station 2
CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL),
School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental

Université de Franche-Comté – CNRS
UMR 6249 Chrono-environnement
16 route de Gray
25030 Besançon cedex
France



Vegetation survey at the CLIMPEAT site. Photo: Mariusz Lamentowicz



Constructing the global change experiment in Western Siberia. Photo: Mariusz Lamentowicz

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Tropical Peat and Oil Palm Workshop 2013 well received

The Malaysian Peat Society organised a one day workshop in September 2013 with the prime objective of gathering key players and stakeholders sharing a common vested interest on the cultivation of oil palms on peatlands and exposing them to the most recent and up to-date scientific developments pertaining to peatland cultivation.

The event was well attended with most of the participants comprising of fellow planters, policy makers, researcher's from various plantation

companies and universities, hence reflecting the recent, yet growing interest in peatland cultivation amongst the agricultural community. This interest has recently been driven by an emerging realization within the rural community and stakeholders that better scientific knowledge and understanding of peatlands are closely associated to proper utilization of this natural resource.

Acting as a platform, the workshop covered topics which included an overview of tropical peat soil properties and characteristics, land preparation for

The participants during the Tropical Peat Workshop. Photos: Wong Tze Jie





Children's choir dressed in traditional costumes singing "We Are The World."

oil palm cultivation, water management, fertilizer properties and management, challenges in Integrated Pest Management (IPM), management and operations of harvesting and also selection of good planting materials.

Topics were presented by leading fellow researchers which included Dr. Lulie Melling (Tropical Peat Research Laboratory Unit), Chua Kian Hong (Sarawak Oil Palm Berhad), Dr. Liew Yew Ann (Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn. Bhd), Dr. Ho Cheng Tuck (Agriculture consultant), Shahrudin Abdul Rashid (Tradewinds Sdn. Bhd.), and Wong Choo Kien (Applied Agricultural Resources Sdn. Bhd).

At the workshop the latest scientific findings concerning tropical peatland and proper oil palm cultivation, including practices and their

implementation were discussed, thus benefiting those less informed on the correct cultivation techniques.

Through the topics presented and discussed, participants were exposed to various issues concerning peat soil cultivation techniques and their respective benefits and detriments towards oil palm growth and yields. Effects of drainage and water management, peat soil compaction, ground vegetation management were presented and discussed but more importantly on how some of these techniques or good agricultural techniques would have to be adjusted taking into account the peat biophysical properties. Thus, the key to sustainable development in tropical peatland is through implementing good agricultural practices from the very beginning.

The speakers of the Tropical Peat Workshop in Sibul, Sarawak, September 2013: Shahrudin Abdul Rashid, Wong Choo Kien, Chua Kian Hong, Dr Lulie Melling, Dr Liew Yew Ann and Dr Ho Cheng Tuck (left to right).



With no exception, harvesting operations and estate management also plays an equal role in maximizing crop yields and likewise nutrient management. Understanding the fate of nutrients on peat soils and the dynamics involved is crucial in reaping high yields.

Like with all the topics covered which deserves a platform of its own, key aspects pertaining to oil palm nutrient management ranging from the sources and types of fertilizers, placement and timing were discussed, thus enlightening our fellow planters further.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) of oil palm grown on peat was also presented with participants being informed on the effects of poor management practices on pests and disease outbreaks with further emphasis that the very nature of peat soils can contribute in exacerbating outbreaks due to the biological and biophysical nature of peat itself, hence reiterating the importance of good agricultural practices.

Similar to every crop, planting materials are also crucial, more so with oil palm cultivation, with a

single economic planting cycle spanning up to 25 years. Hence, the workshop provided a platform exposing our local planters not only to good agricultural practices but also to the variety of planting materials made available.

Apart from being informative, also the importance and need for more research to be carried out to gain a better footing and understanding on the sustainability issues concerning oil palm cultivation on tropical peatlands was touched upon during the workshop.

Though we are definitely gaining headway in our understanding on tropical peatland dynamics, it is still an area of research that requires further elucidation and investigation unlike its mineral soil counterpart, particularly in understanding the topo-hydrological characteristics and the biophysical and chemical properties of tropical peatland.

The workshop promoted interactive discussions to draw on the rich inputs from different viewpoints, giving a good coverage of the issues involved in oil palm plantation on tropical peatland and

hence, advocating the need to focus and prioritize in better peatland management practices for the sustainability of oil palm as Malaysia's prime economic crop.

With the positive feedback obtained, the Society is looking forward to conduct similar workshops to promote conservation, sustainable and wise utilization of peatland for oil palm industry in order to help propel the growth of the nation's economy through sustainable oil palm cultivation. Sincere appreciation goes towards The Sarawak Peat Institute, Ta Ann Holdings and Kingwood Hotel, Sibü.

Lulie Melling

Malaysian Peat Society
Director, Tropical Peat Research Laboratory Unit
Kuching, Malaysia
luliemelling@gmail.com

Welcome to the International Peat Congress in Kuching Malaysia in August 2016!



Tropical Peat Research Laboratory Unit (TPRL) staff conducting demonstration on peat structure and texture.



Volume 15 (2014 / 2015) Special Volume: Mountain Peatlands

Guest editors Antoine Cleef, Piet-Louis Grundling and Hans Joosten

A collection of current research on mires and other peatlands in mountains around the world, stimulated by the 2012 IMCG Field Symposium in the Andes

Article 1: The effect of drainage on organic matter accumulation and plant communities of high-altitude peatlands in the Colombian tropical Andes. by J.C. Benavides 29.04.2014

Article 2: A geographical model for the altitudinal zonation of mire types in the uplands of western Europe: the example of Les Monts du Forez in eastern France. by H. Cubizolle and G. Thebaud 29.04.2014

Article 3: Peatlands of the Peruvian Puna ecoregion: types, characteristics and disturbance. by F. Salvador, J. Monerris and L. Rochefort 14.05.2014

Volume 14 (2014)

Article 1: Mires and mire types of Peninsula Mitre, Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. by A. Grootjans, R. Iturraspe, C. Fritz, A. Moen and H. Joosten 31.01.2014

Article 2: An evaluation of peat loss from an Everglades tree island, Florida, USA. by S. Aich, S.M.L. Ewe, B. Gu and T.W. Dreschel 18.03.2014

Article 3: Impact of the spatial resolution of soils data on climate reporting for organic soils using the example of Germany. by H. Fell, N. Roßkopf and J. Zeitz 18.05.2014

Mires and Peat...

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New IPS members

The following individual, corporate and research institute members (or their contact persons) have joined the IPS within the previous months. The IPS membership list is regularly updated by information from our National Committees or directly from our members (status 27 May 2014). To see an online list of members (those who have opened their contact information in their personal profiles), log in to the IPS website and go to www.peatociety.org/members. To join us, visit www.peatociety.org/join-us.

Students

Germany (DGMT): Torben Bertram, Colja Beyer, Caroline Greiser, Michaela Kluge, Arne Poyda, Peter Raabe, Stephan Reimann, Claudia Schröder, Hella Van Asperen, Nada Zantout

Japan: Yasuko Kamano

The Netherlands: H. Azis Karim, D. Friyanti, S. Gendrosari, T. Kurniasari

USA: Mitzy Schaney

United Kingdom: Donna Carless, Joshua Ratcliffe

Individual members

Canada (CSPP): Joan L. Brooks (USA)

Finland (Suoseura): Reijo Kela, Riikka Knuuti, Harri Koivusalo, Menna Rintamäki, Seppo Vaara

Estonia: Aivar Jõgiste

Germany (DGMT): Ekkehard Barchewitz, Stefan Johannes Fellner (Austria), Andrea Haverkamp-Bergholz, Kerstin Humrich, Thomas Kutter, Henriette Lachenit, Bernd Lennartz, Rainer Lindner, Christof Martin, Karl Meiners, Wiebe H. van der Molen, Hannes Oeverdieck, Hans-Jürgen Plöhn, Klaus Püschel, Mario Pöstinger (Austria), Paul Schulze, Thomas Sedlin, Carmen Sellmann, Ulrich M. Sorg, Ralf Uhlmann, Gijs Van Dijk (NL), Britta Vom Lehn

Ireland: Patrick Crushell, Killian Kelly, Caroline Lewis, Louise Overy, Jenni Roche, Ciaran Ryan

Japan: Yohei Hamada, Kazuyo Hirose, Toshihisa Honma, Mamoru Kanzaki, Shigeo Kobayashi, Takashi Kohyama, Osamu Kozan, Misao Okada, Sawahiko Shimada

Latvia: Juris Nusbaums (honorary)

The Netherlands: K. Eerde, M. Holmgren, J. Penninkhof, T. Reuzenaar, Th. Spek, B. Tinhout, J.B.G.M. Verhagen

Corporate & Institutes

Canada (CSPMA): Michael Evans (Sun Gro Horticulture, USA), Paul Kennedy (John Deere Limited), Jonathan Levesque (Groupe Savoie Inc.), Frédéric Simard (Fafard et Frères Ltée), John P. Smith (Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, USA)

Czech Republic: Martin Šimonek (B3 Holding s.r.o.)

Denmark: Jan Astrup (Pindstrup Mosebrug A/S)

Estonia: Allar Peek (AS Era Valduse), Tarmo Rattasep (AS Ramsi Turvas)

Finland (Suoseura): Aino Klinikat Oy, Miia Välikorpi (Bioenergia ry)

France: Constance Brement, Kirstin Hoffmann (Florentaise)

Germany: Franzi Baumeister (Stender AG), Hein Boon (Stichting RHP, NL), Gebrüder Brill Substrate GmbH & Co. KG, Gerd zur Brügge (Romantik-Hotel), Gabriela Gramann, Josef Gramann, Alfred Siemer, Rainer Welz (Gramoflor GmbH & Co. KG), Bernd Hofer (Hofer & Pautz GbR), Jörg Löser (Moorstore Swiss, Switzerland), Gebrüder Mayer Produktions- und Vertriebs-GmbH, Norbert Siebels, Bert Vonseggern (Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH)

Ireland: Kieran Connolly (National Parks and Wildlife Service)

Latvia: Dainis Aleksejevs (Saukas kudra Ltd), Janis Dute (Bertne Ltd.), Erki Niitlaan (Inzenieru birojs Steiger, Estonia), Ivars Zaharāns (Balvi Flora)

Lithuania: Giedrius Kavaliauskas (UAB Klasmann-Deilmann Ezerelis), Rimantas Kevalaitis (UAB Poraiste), Robertas Knyšius (UAB Klasmann-Deilmann Laukesa), Valdas Petkus (UAB Klasmann-Deilmann Gedrimai)

Norway: Herald Reiersen (Jiffy International AS), Cato Wangen (Andøytorv AS)

Sweden: Åsa Perlerius (Neova AB)

Peat and peatland events

June

20th World Congress of Soil Science (WCSS)
Jeju, Korea, 8 - 13 June 2014
www.20wcss.org

German Peat Society (DGMT)
Conservation and restoration of mires in Thuringia
Oberhof, Germany, 25 - 26 June 2014
www.dgmt-ev.de

German Peat Society (DGMT) and Alfred Toepfer
Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA)
Prospects for Mire Conservation in Lower Saxony
Camp Reinsehlen, Schneverdingen, 25 - 26 June
www.dgmt-ev.de

6th International Conference on Climate Change
Reykjavik, Iceland, 27 - 28 June 2014
<http://on-climate.com/the-conference>

July

International Mire Conservation Group
General Assembly and Field Symposium
Belarus, 14 - 26 July 2014
www.imcg.net/pages/events.php

August

9th SER Europe Conference and
Peatland Restoration Sessions
Oulu, Finland, 4 - 8 August 2014
www.ser2014.org

4th International field symposium "West Siberian
Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present"
Novosibirsk, Russia, 4 - 17 August 2014
More info: Natalia Koronatova, wspcc@mail.ru

International Conference "Problems of Studying
and Use of Siberian Peat Resources"
Tomsk, Russia, 18 - 21 August 2014
www.sibniit.tomsknet.ru

**IPS Annual Meetings and
International Symposium on
Peat and Technology
Riga, Latvia, 25 - 29 August, 2014
www.peat2014.lv**

September

UK National Committee
'In The Bog' - peatlands as ecological and cultural
landscapes
Sheffield, September 2014
www.ukeconet.co.uk/events/50-conferences/291-in-the-bog-conference.html

International Wetlands Conference 2014
Huesca, Spain, 14 - 18 September 2014
www.wetlands2014.eu

German Peat Society (DGMT)
Utilisation of Peatlands for Tourism and
Environmental Education
Bad Wurzach, Germany, 24 - 26 September 2014
www.dgmt-ev.de

October

Irish Peat Society
Mountain Blanket Bog Symposium
Wicklow, Ireland, October 2014

IUFRO 2014 World Congress
Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People.
The Role of Research
Salt Lake City, USA, 5 - 11 October, 2014
<http://iufro2014.com>

8th European Ramsar Meeting
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In memoriam:
Allan Robertson

Guardians of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forests



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