

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 1486 individual, corporate, student and institutional members from 35 countries.

Contributions to Annual Report and Peatlands International

We kindly ask all IPS National Committee & Commissions Chairs and Secretaries to submit their Annual Reports 2016 and their updated membership lists to the IPS Secretariat as soon as possible, latest by **10 January**. In addition, all members of the IPS are encouraged to participate in making our report more interesting for instance by sending photographs (and captions) of this year's significant peatland events, findings and projects. We also welcome new articles for Peatlands International. Deadline for the next issue is **3 March 2017** (strict deadline). You can also easily contribute to Peatland Snippets by sending short news items to ips (at) peatlands.org by the **20th of each month** or help spreading the word by sharing IPS information on social media. We look forward to hearing from you!

Soil Organic Carbon Symposium in Rome in March

A Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon will take place in Rome, Italy from **21 to 23 of March**. The three main themes will be:

- Measuring, mapping, monitoring and reporting SOC
- Maintaining and/or increasing SOC stocks (fostering SOC sequestration) for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Land Degradation Neutrality
- Special focus: Managing SOC in soils with high SOC - **peatlands**, permafrost, and black soils (Mollisols, Chernozems/ Kastanozems/ Phaeozems)

More information and an online registration form is available at www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-organic-carbon-symposium/en. The Global Symposium on Soil Organic Carbon (GSOC17) will be a scientific meeting, held over three days at FAO headquarters in Rome with 300-500 participants representing all geographical regions and countries of the world. The symposium output will be a scientific document highlighting the role of soils and SOC management in meeting the climate change and sustainable development agendas that could be assessed by IPCC in its regular reports, starting with SR2, the refinement of the inventory guidelines, and AR6, as well as reporting to UNFCCC, UNCCD and the SDGs. The document will present an overview of the state-of-the-art in SOC monitoring, measures to maintain and enhance SOC, and recommended methods for monitoring and reporting SOC. Registration is open until **31 January 2017**. (*Armine Avagyan, FAO*)

UN Biodiversity Commitments and their Impact on Peatlands

The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP13) in Cancún, Mexico on **2 - 17 December 2016** resulted in significant commitments for action on biodiversity, with special focus on actions to integrate biodiversity in forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors and to achieve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Governments of 167 countries agreed on actions that will accelerate implementation of global biodiversity targets, and enhance the linkage of the biodiversity agenda with other global agendas - including the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and others.

The Parties agreed on an action plan (2017-2020) that will enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols based on the needs of Parties with a focus on strengthening the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Special attention was given to **protected areas** and Aichi target 11. In addition, COP 13 adopted a short term plan of

action on **ecosystem restoration**, as a contribution to reversing the loss of biodiversity, recovering connectivity, improving ecosystem resilience, enhancing the provision of ecosystem services, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, and improving human well-being while reducing environmental risks and scarcities. With regards to **biodiversity and climate change**, COP 13 adopted a decision that welcomes the Paris Agreement and encourages Parties and other Governments, when developing their Nationally Determined Contributions, to fully take into account the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems. It encourages Parties to take biodiversity into consideration when undertaking climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures. It also requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

The COP also reiterated the importance of the precautionary approach in relation to climate-related geoengineering, the importance of reducing **anthropogenic emissions** by sources and by increasing removals by sinks of greenhouse gases under the UNFCCC, and the need for more **research and knowledge-sharing** in order to better understand the impacts of climate-related geoengineering. In addition, COP 13 took considerable steps to ensure that **traditional knowledge** relevant for conservation and sustainable use is protected and its use is encouraged with the consent of **indigenous peoples and local communities**. The decisions, in the form they were presented to the Parties for adoption (L documents), are available on the website of the Convention at www.cbd.int/cop2016. You can also follow the Convention at www.twitter.com/CBDNews and at www.facebook.com/UNBiodiversity. (CBD Secretariat)

New Document for Economic Framework of Peatlands

The Peatland Ecology Research Group of Université Laval, Québec, Canada has, together with other researchers of the Agriculture Faculty of the university developed a “Process for evaluating the economic framework of a peatland in the context of development projects”, carried out for the Hydro-Québec Institute for Environment, Development and Society at Université Laval. This study presents a tool for assessing the economic value of a peatland depending on the environment in which it is located, a first in North America. The document responds to a growing need to compensate for the loss or degradation of peatlands or wetlands in general and might be of interest to IPS’ members. To obtain the document (in French), please visit <http://ow.ly/bYF7307wNIO>. (Marie-Claire LeBlanc, PERG)

European Mires Book in Press soon

The following European Mires Book will be printed on initiative of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) at the end of January: Mires and peatlands of Europe. Status, distribution and conservation. Edited by Hans Joosten, Franziska Tanneberger & Asbjørn Moen. With contributions of 132 authors. c. 730 pages, 205 figures, 218 tables, 112 colour photos, 21x28cm, c 2.5 kg, bound, English. Price: €94.00. All authors will receive a free copy. Shipping charges are: Germany €6.50, other EU-countries €12.20, other countries €14.40 until the end of January 2017. Order your copies directly at the publisher: mail (at) schweizerbart.de or later at your local bookstore. (submitted by Jack Rieley)

Sabbatical and Post-Doc Opportunities in Indonesia

Funded Sabbatical Opportunity in Indonesia. Michigan State University (MSU) is leading an initiative on university engagement for capacity building in low-carbon forest management and REDD+ in Indonesia. This is part of the large USAID LESTARI project focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving biodiversity in carbon rich and biologically significant forest systems in Indonesia. MSU is seeking applicants for a funded sabbatical in this project. The successful candidate will facilitate capacity building with Michigan State University, the University of Palangka Raya in Central Kalimantan and USAID LESTARI, and likely pursue ecological or social science research related to forestlands and/or peatlands. Bahasa Indonesian language is necessary; a 6-week immersion course is available at the beginning of the sabbatical in Jakarta, if needed. Funding support is available for 6 months of salary and benefits, 8 to 12 months of living expenses, airfare and other indirect costs. Full details: <http://ow.ly/2v5X307wOsK>.

Funded Post-doc or Short Term Assignment Opportunity in Indonesia. MSU is also seeking applicants for a funded 1-year post-doc or a 6 to 7-month short-term assignment position in this project. The successful candidate will facilitate capacity building with Michigan State University, the University of Palangka Raya in Central Kalimantan and USAID LESTARI. Bahasa Indonesian language is necessary; a 6-week immersion course is available at the beginning of the assignment in Jakarta, if needed. Full details: <http://ow.ly/SosF307wOCe>.