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Statutes of the International Peatland Society

Article 1

Name and registered office of the Society

The Name of the registered association is the International Peatland Society (IPS), a scientific and technical organization for the study of peat and peatlands, hereinafter referred to as “the Society”. The Society is a judicial entity registered in Finland and is subject to Finnish Law. The administrative office and Secretariat of the Society is located in the city of Jyväskylä, Finland.

Article 2

Mandate of the Society

2.1 The International Peatland Society (IPS) is a not-for-profit organisation of individual, corporate and institutional members that promotes the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat globally.

2.2 The Society encourages the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience.

2.3 The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the cultural, scientific, industrial, commercial and regulatory communities.

2.4 The Society respects the cultural, economic, environmental and socio-economic values of the peatland resource.

Article 3

Members

3.1 Membership of the Society is open to individuals and to organizations with the status of a legal entity interested in the study, conservation and wise use of peatlands and peat

3.2. In countries with a National Committee, admission to individual, corporate and institutional membership is subject to approval by the National Committee concerned. Persons in a country without an IPS National Committee may seek membership in the National Committee of another country or join IPS directly through the Secretariat, subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

3.3 Any member shall be free to withdraw from the Society upon informing the Executive Board or the Society's President.

3.4 Any member failing to abide the rules of the Society, or who damages the interests of the Society, may be expelled by means of a resolution of the Executive Board. In such a case membership will cease immediately.

Article 4

National Committees

4.1. National Committees are established in countries with sufficient members. They are open to all individual, corporate and institutional members of the IPS in that country. There shall be only one National Committee of the IPS in any one country.

4.2 The authority to confer the status of National Committee rests with the Executive Board. A decision is made upon application by a suitable body in the country concerned.

4.3. National Committees supervise the activities of the IPS in their respective countries, collect membership fees, pay an annual fee to the IPS and, in co-operation with the IPS Secretariat, organise Congresses, Symposia, Workshops and other meetings.

Article 5

Executive Board

5.1 The Society is managed by the Executive Board which shall consist of the chairman, who is called the President of the Society, of the First and Second Vice Presidents and of 2 to 10 ordinary members.

5.2 The Managing Director of the IPS attends Executive Board meetings in a non-voting capacity and is also the secretary of the Executive Board.

5.3 Executive Board members are elected by the Annual Assembly. The term of office of the ordinary members of the Executive Board is four years. The terms are arranged so that 50% of the ordinary members will change every two years. If a member is replaced during his or her term of office, the new member will be elected for the balance of the term. Executive Board members are eligible for re-election, subject to the provisions on the re-election of the President contained in Article 5.5.

President and Vice Presidents

5.4 The President and the Vice Presidents of the Society are elected by the Annual Assembly of national representatives which is held in the year of the quadrennial International Peatland Congress.

5.5 The term of office of the President and of the Vice Presidents shall be four (4) years. With the unanimous approval of the Annual Assembly of national representatives, the term of office of the President may be extended by one more quadrennial period.

5.6 In the event that the President is unable to remain in office during the term of his/her appointment, the First Vice President will preside over the Society until the next regular meeting of the Annual Assembly, at which a new President will be appointed for the balance of the term of office.

Article 6

Managing Director

6.1 The position of Managing Director is permanent, part-time or full-time, and subject to the law of the country in which it is located.

6.2 The President shall appoint the Society's Managing Director with the approval of the Executive Board and

shall define and supervise his/her activities.

6.3 The Managing Director runs the Secretariat and appoints such staff as he/she considers necessary to maintain the efficiency of the Secretariat. The appointment of staff is subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

6.4 The Managing Director is responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the Society in accordance with these Statutes and Internal Regulations made under the Statutes and for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Annual Assembly of national representatives and the Executive Board.

6.5 The Managing Director shall attend each Annual Assembly and the meetings of the Executive Board. The salary and other benefits of the Managing Director shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Article 7

Commissions

7.1 The Executive Board may establish such and so many Commissions as it thinks fit and define the scope of their activities. It may change, rename or discontinue Commissions.

7.2 The functions of Commissions are to carry out the objectives of the IPS on an international level, including international collaboration, undertaking of joint projects, organization of symposia and workshops.

7.3 Participation in Commission activities is open to all interested members of the IPS.

7.4 The Executive Board appoints the Chair and Vice Chair of each Commission either on the proposal of the Commission concerned or on its own initiative, in the year of a quadrennial International Peat Congress. If a Chairperson resigns earlier, a new Chairperson is appointed by the Executive Board for the remainder of the term of office either by the proposal of the Commission concerned or on its own initiative.

Article 8

Scientific Advisory Board

8.1. The Scientific Advisory Board advises the Executive Board on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance.

8.2 The SAB consists of the Chairs of IPS Commissions and the Second Vice President of the IPS.

Article 9

Assemblies of the Society

9.1 The assemblies of the Society shall be convened by the Executive Board. Invitation to the assemblies shall be sent in writing to each National Committee. The agenda and invitation letter to National Committees shall be sent not later than 40 days and not earlier than 60 days before the assembly. The invitation shall be published in the Society's publications within the same time limits.

General Assembly of Members

9.2 There shall be every fourth year a General Assembly of Members in conjunction with the International Peatland Congress.

9.3 All members of the Society and representatives of the National Committees have the right to attend the General Assembly of Members.

9.4 The General Assembly of Members shall receive reports from the outgoing President on the activities of the previous four years and from the Managing Director an outline of the plans of the Society for the future.

Annual Assembly

9.5 The highest decision-making organ of the Society is the Annual Assembly of national representatives to which the Executive Board and the Managing Director are answerable.

9.6 The Annual Assembly of national representatives shall be held once a year but not later than 30th August, on a date and in a place determined by the Executive Board. This determination shall be made a year prior to the event.

9.7 Each National Committee has the right to send one official representative to the Annual Assembly, where he or she is obliged to present a written proxy. Each official representative has one vote at an Annual Assembly. Individual, corporate and institutional members, Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members may attend the meeting as observers, but they have no vote.

9.8 All decisions in the Annual Assembly are made by a simple majority of votes. In the event of votes being equal, the chairman of the assembly will be entitled to a casting vote except in the case of an election, where a tie will be decided by drawing lots. If any of the official National Committee representatives attending the Annual Assembly so demands, voting in an election shall be by secret ballot.

Extraordinary Assembly of national representatives

9.10 Members of the Society will be invited to an Extraordinary Assembly of national representatives if the Annual Assembly so decides, if the Executive Board of the Society considers that there is cause for an extraordinary assembly or if at least one tenth (1/10) of the National Committees of the Society demands an assembly from the Executive Board in writing, stating the reason for the extraordinary assembly.

Article 10 International Peatland Congresses

The IPS shall organize an International Peatland Congress every fourth year.

Article 11 Honorary Members

11.1 The Executive Board may confer the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member of the Society on a person who has rendered particular service to the Society or international co-operation in relation to peatlands and peat.

11.2 Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members have no membership fee obligations towards the Society.

Article 12 Fees

12.1 Affiliation fees and annual membership fees of the Society will be determined by the Annual Assembly of national representatives separately for each membership category. In addition, the Society may levy industrial or other fees to be established by the Annual Assembly on the basis of recommendations from the Executive Board.

12.2 In countries without a National Committee, individual, corporate and institutional members shall be charged an annual membership fee. These fees shall be set and revised by the Annual Assembly on the

recommendation of the Executive Board.

Article 13

Signing on behalf of the Society

The right to sign on behalf of the Society shall rest with the President together with the 1st Vice President, or 2nd Vice President, or Managing Director.

Article 14

Accounts

14.1 The Society's financial year shall extend from January 1st to December 31st of each year. The balance sheet for the past financial year with related documents and the annual report, prepared by the Executive Board, shall be given to the Auditor not later than the end of February.

14.2 The Auditor shall give an official audited statement in writing to the Executive Board not later than the end of March. The statement shall be submitted to the Annual Assembly of national representatives.

Article 15

Languages

The official language of the Society shall be Finnish and the working language English.

Article 16

Internal Regulations

The Executive Board shall adopt and may amend internal regulations compatible with these Statutes in order to ensure the smooth running and administration of the Society.

Article 17

Amendment of the Statutes

17.1 The amendment of the Statutes can only be decided by an Annual Assembly of national representatives. A resolution amending these Statutes shall be valid only if at least three fourths (3/4) of the votes cast at the Assembly are in favour of the amendment.

17.2 If a proposed amendment to the Statutes of the Society is to be discussed at the Annual Assembly of national representatives, the proposed amendment of the Statutes of the Society must be mentioned in the invitation.

Article 18

Dissolution of the Society

18.1 The dissolution of the Society can only be decided by an Annual Assembly of national representatives. A decision to dissolve requires at least three fourths (3/4) of the votes cast at the Assembly to be in favour of the dissolution.

18.2 If a dissolution of the Society is to be discussed at the Annual Assembly, the proposed dissolution must be mentioned in the invitation.

18.3 Upon dissolution of the Society, the Annual Assembly of the Society shall decide on the apportionment of the net balance of the Society's funds, which must be allocated in conformity with the Society's aims and in accordance with the law of the country in which it is registered.