

Peatlands

International

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IPS Annual Report 2018 - Report of the Executive Board
Welcome to Bremen! Future Use of Peat and Substitutes in Horticulture
Editorial: IPC 2020: "Peatlands and Peat - Source of Ecosystems Services"
Growing need for growing media in China - Results of an IPS survey project
Peatland-tailored User Guide on Methods to Value Benefits from Restoration
New Supplement to the IPS Conventions Guide
New IPS Members

Midsummer 2020 in Estonia?

Be there.

16th International Peatland Congress

*Peatlands and Peat - Source of
Ecosystem Services*

Tallinn, Estonia

14 - 20 June 2020

www.ipc2020.com

Editorial

Delicate Peatlands: Let's Open the Door to a Changed View on Benefits of Peatlands!

*The 16th International Peatland Congress, Tallinn, Estonia
"Peatlands and Peat - Source of Ecosystems Services"*

A little more than 20 years ago, IPS President J.D. Becker-Platen pointed out that during the last 10 years the IPS community "had quite emotional discussions about the fundamental values of mankind and nature" (Becker-Platen, 1998). He added that only a small part of the "spectrum of the natural environment" and "mankind who live and work in this environment" has been engaged in the IPS community. Moreover, a necessary shift in the IPS policy was foreseen in connection "with the term sustainable use". Also, fruitful discussions were predicted for many decades ahead with the purpose of "contributing to the prosperity not only of our own future but also to that of the coming generation."

The First International Peat Congress in 1954 (Dublin, Ireland) and the IPS 30 Year Symposium in 1998 (Jyväskylä, Finland) differ greatly by their content that reflected the change in the general attitude to peat and peatland utilisation:

In 1954, only one presentation in the whole conference was devoted to "Peatlands and Biodiversity" - which 44 years later turned to be one of the main topics. This change indicates not only the growing attention on the new principles in general, but also to a changed focus of IPS in which ecological topics became more and more important. "Carbon balance and peatlands" and "Restoration and Reclamation of Cut-over Peatlands" were among the most popular topics in 1998 (Sopo, 1998; Robertson, 1998).



Full package of emotional services from Paraspõllu calcareous spring fen in Northern Estonia. Photo: Martin Küttim

The Great Millennium Wetland Event in 2000 (Quebec, Canada) was the first such large scale collaboration between IPS, the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), the International Association of Ecology, and the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG). By that time, the vision of IPS on the use of peat and peatlands had progressed towards a greater diversification of peat products and wiser management together with stronger attention on after-use of peatlands (Rocheford & Daigle, 2000). The title of the Congress – "Sustaining Our Peatlands" – at that time reflected the concerns of the Society, sharing the responsibility for the world's peatlands, appreciating the ways in which peatlands contribute essential ecological services to the human population, seeking the ways to sustainably manage the human interaction with peatland ecosystems (Ibid).

"Wise Use of Peatlands" in 2004 (Tampere, Finland) offered for the first time special sessions for the carbon balance in peatlands, for tropical peat and peatlands, and even for the cultural and socio-economical aspects connected to peat and peatlands (Päivänen, 2004). The following Congress of "Peatlands in Balance" (2012, Stockholm, Sweden) concentrated on the discussions about the wide-scale equilibrium of peatland hydrological or ecological status, their processes and functions, the conflicts between peatland utilization within human cultures, and ecosystems services of pristine peatlands (Magnusson, 2012). And finally the latest 15th International Peat Congress of "Peatlands in Harmony - Agriculture, Industry, Nature" (2016, Kuching, Malaysia) highlighted close links between the environment, industry and socio-economic factors in relation to peat, to find balance in social and economic progress with the conservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity of peatland towards ensuring the development of peatlands in harmony with the environment and ecosystem (The Scientific Secretariat, 2016). A special topic "Peat Forest-Wildfire – Impact on Environment & Society" was for the first time in the history of the Congress with a major input from the representatives from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Ecosystems Services – How can we interpret that?

In the last decades, environmental policy has deepened the perception that the deterioration of different ecosystems and the loss of biodiversity can be better explained to households and the public sector by describing different ecosystems as deterministic units having the ability to deliver goods in economic terms, and services that meet people's



Impressum

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Are you interested? Contact ips@peatlands.org.

Cover: Hands protecting a vegetable seedling growing in peat. Photo: Canva.com

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needs directly or indirectly. Such goods are now called ecosystem services (Kosk, 2016).

Currently, there are three main documents used for determination and valuation of ecosystems services:

- 1) The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA, 2005) is a major assessment tool of the human impact on the environment. It popularised the term of ecosystem services and the benefits gained by humans from ecosystems.
- 2) The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB, 2008) is a global initiative focused on “making nature’s values visible”. The objective of this initiative is to “mainstream the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. It aims to achieve this goal by following a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognise the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and, where appropriate, capture those values in decision-making” (Ibid).



Restoration of ecosystems services of the Viru bog. Photo: Raimo Pajula

3) Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES, 2013) as a flexible structure or tool for classification of different ecosystem services (Kosk, 2016).

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment identifies four broad categories of ecosystem services: i.e. provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting services, sometimes also called direct ecosystem services or services ready to be directly used by society to increase its well-being. In addition to direct services, MEA and TEEB observe indirect services, classifying them accordingly as supporting services or habitat services (Kosk, 2016). Peatlands offer a rich variety of all of them.

However, based on “Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands” (Clarke & Joosten, 2002) benefits gained from the peatlands could be seen also as products or functions of those ecosystems that are divided into production, carrier and regulation functions or into informational and transformational and option functions (www.peatlands.org/peatlands-and-peat/functions-peatlands).

All those above mentioned keywords or principles for analyses, classification or evaluation of peatlands as valuable ecosystems, are welcome to be presented and discussed during IPC2020 in Tallinn both in inside and field conditions. Visit www.ipc2020.com and come with us. And enjoy reading this issue of Peatlands International.

Elve Lode & Martin Küttim

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Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peatland Society (IPS). It provides the more than 1,400 individual, institute and corporate 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 by email every three months, visit www.peatlands.org/join-us to sign up as a member or subscribe for € 60/a.

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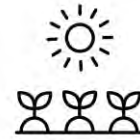
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Welcome to Bremen!



Bremen 2019

peat.lands – economy meets environment & society

IPS Annual Meetings

About the Convention

In 2019 the Annual Convention of the International Peatland Society (IPS) will be held in Bremen, Germany on the topic “Economy meets Environment & Society: Future Use of Peat and Substitutes in Horticulture” from 13 - 15 May.

It is our pleasure to host this event in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Moor- und Torfkunde e.V. (DGMT), the German National Committee of the IPS.

On 13 May the IPS has arranged a set of internal meetings to which members of the IPS Executive Board and representatives of IPS National Committees are invited. In the evening an Ice Breaker will give all participants the opportunity to get to know each other, meet friends, colleagues and others interested in peatlands and peat.

On 14 May we have organized a symposium with the focus on growing media – all speakers are invited speakers! See the symposium program below for the names of speakers and presentation topics. Presentation will be in English (most) or German. All slides will be in English. The presentations will be followed by a discussion session (in English). Abstracts are available at www.ips2019.com.

In the evening of 14 May the DGMT and IPS warmly invite you to board the ‚Alexander von Humboldt‘ in the harbor

of Bremen for a traditional German BBQ (vegetarians and vegans will not be forgotten).

On 15 May you will have the opportunity to choose from two excursions focusing on growing media and horticulture.

Programme

For the latest programme refer to www.ips2019.com.

Monday 13th May

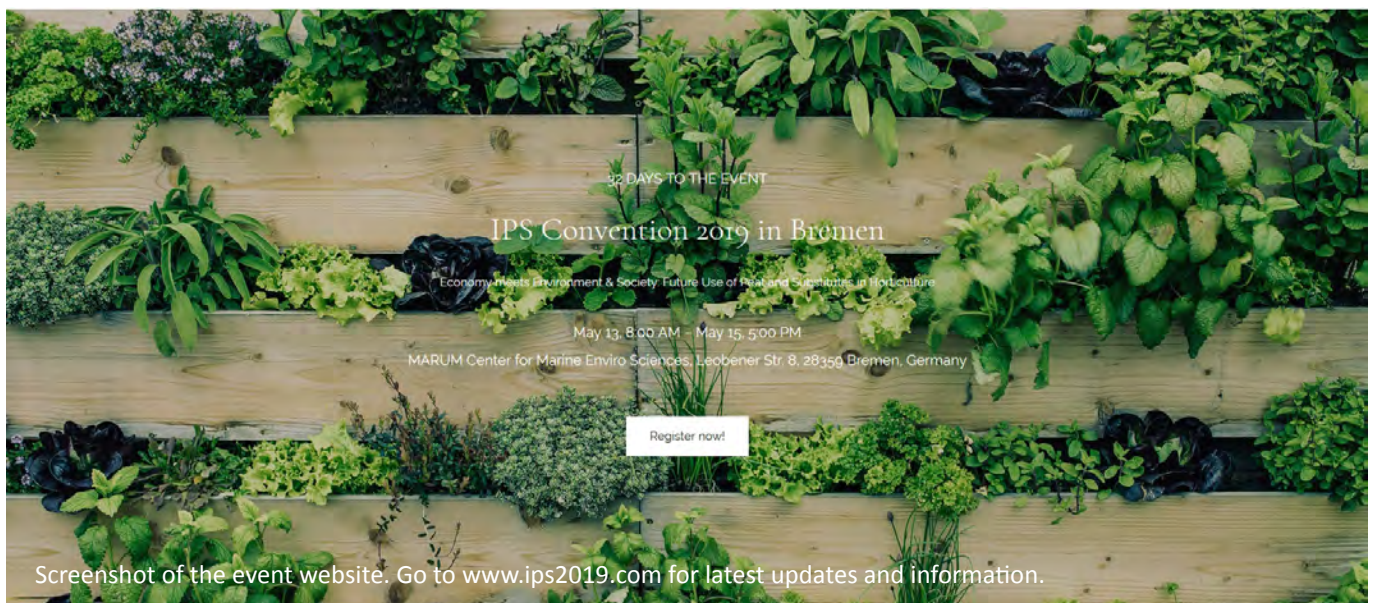
9:00 - 12:00 IPS Executive Board meeting (members only)
12:00 - 13:00 Lunch (Mensa)
13:00 - 13:50 National Committee Roundtable
14:00 - 15:20 Revision of the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management
15:30 - 17:00 IPS Annual Assembly (open to all)
18:00 - 21:00 Ice Breaker

Tuesday 14th May

7:30 - 8:50 Registration
9:00 - 9:30 Symposium Opening

Welcome speeches by

- Dr. Andreas Bauerochse, Chair DGMT



Screenshot of the event website. Go to www.ips2019.com for latest updates and information.

- Gerald Schmilewski, President IPS
- Dr. Joachim Blankenburg, Vice Chair DGMT
- Professor Dr. Michael Schulz, CEO MARUM

9:30 - 9:50 Growing media yesterday and today, Dipl.-Ing. agr. Silke Kumar, Chair DGMT Section II and Quality manager MoKuRa, Scharrel, Germany

9:50 - 10:10 Present situation and development of the peat industry in China, Professor Dr. Meng Xianmin, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China and Chair of the IPS National Committee of China

10:10 - 10:30 Canadian peatlands: Horticulture use in growing media and responsible management of ecosystem services, Paul Short, President of the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association

10:30 - 10:50 Long-term responsibility in managing Baltic peatlands, MSc. Erki Niitlaan, Chair of the Estonian Peat Association

10:50 - 11:20 Coffee Break

11:20 - 11:40 Growing media volumetric potentials for meeting developments in the period 2020-2050, Ir. Chris Blok, Greenhouse Horticulture, Wageningen University and Research, Bleiswijk, the Netherlands

11:40 - 12:00 International, regional and national peat policies – challenges for peat industry? Professor Dr. Jack Rieley, IPS Executive Board member and Coordinator of the IPS Expert Group Conventions and International Affairs, UK

12:00 - 12:20 Kekkilä-BvB – sustainable growing solutions for international markets, Juha Mäkinen, CEO Kekkilä-BvB Oy, Finland

12:20 - 12:40 Peat uses in Europe – results of an IPS survey, MSc. Hannu Salo, Coordinator of the IPS Expert Group Growing Media and Energy Peat, Finland

12:40 - 14:00 Lunch (Mensa)

14:00 - 14:20 Growing media – a challenge towards a sustainable future, Msc. Stefaan Vandaele, Chair of Growing Media Europe AISL, Brussels, Belgium



Dinner venue: Alexander von Humboldt. Photo: WikiCommons

14:20 - 14:40 Alternativen zu Torf in Kultursubstrate im Kontext internationaler Märkte (Alternatives to peat in growing media in the context of international markets), Dr. Jan Köbbing, Head of Sustainability Management, Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH, Geeste, Germany

14:40 - 15:00 Die Torfminderungsstrategie des BMEL (The Peat Reduction Strategy of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture), Dr. Thomas Schmidt, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (BMEL), Berlin

15:00 - 15:20 Substrate in Deutschland - eine Branche mit Zukunft? (Growing media in Germany – an industry with a future?), Dr. Arne Hückstädt, Coordinator of the Department Growing media, potting soils, constituents in the Industrieverband Garten, Düsseldorf, Germany



Flower Market near Unser Lieben Frauen Church. Photo: BTZ Bremer Touristik-Zentrale www.bremen-tourismus.de

15:20 - 15:50 Coffee Break

15:50 - 16:10 Ansätze für Substratausgangsstoffe aus nachhaltigen Rohstoffen (Approaches using sustainable raw materials for growing media), Professor Dr. Elke Meinken, University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf, Germany

16:10 - 16:30 Nationale und globale Herausforderungen für die Torfwirtschaft (National and global regulatory challenges for the peat industry - with a particular focus on growing media), Dipl.-Geograph Bernd Hofer, Chair of IPS Commission Peatlands and Environment and Business Manager Hofer & Pautz GbR, Altenberge, Germany

16:30 - 17:20 Discussion Session: Economy Meets Environment and Society

Topics:

- Peat Certification
- Availability and Quality of Growing Media Constituents
- Do we still need Peat?
- Symposium Wrap Up

17:20 - 17:30 Introduction to the International Symposium on Growing Media and Quality of Life in Qingdao, China, September 16-21, 2019, Professor Dr. Xianmin Meng, Institute for peat and mire research, Northeast Normal University, Changchun, China



17:30 - 17:40 Introduction to the 16th International Peatland Congress: Peat and Peatlands - Source of Ecosystem Services, Tallinn, Estonia, 14 - 20 June 2020, Erki Niitlaan

17:40 - 17:50 Introduction to the Excursions on May 15
Silke Kumar and Gabriele Gramann

19:00 - 24:00 On-board-Dinner (BBQ) on the ‚Alexander von Humboldt‘ (extra price)

Excursions

Wednesday 15th May

Excursion 1:

Teaching and Experimental Institute Bad Zwischenahn
Commercial grower LÜSKE

Excursion 2:

Gramoflor (growing media production/rewetting after extraction)
Commercial grower MELLE

Departure to MARUM and possible drop off at Bremen Airport at 17:00 hrs.

Posters

The following posters will be on display in Bremen (status 16 April)

- Local Public Infrastructure – the wooden trackway “Pr 6” in the Duemmer Geest Lowland, Andreas Bauerochse & Marion Heumueller
- Climate impacts of peat use in Europe, Olivier Hirschler & Bernhard Osterburg
- Utilization of peat substitutes derived from paludiculture or landscape conservation – Results of a newly developed test procedure, Katharina Leiber-Sauheitl, Heike Bohne, Jürgen Böttcher
- The relevance of clay as a highly effective buffer material for nutrients and salts in coir pith-based growing media, Matthias Schellhorn, René Grove, Ralf Diedel, Claus-Peter Witte
- Geological Survey of Finland – peat and peatland investigations in Finland, Tuija Vähäkuopus, Matti Laatikainen, Janne Kivilompolo & Jukka Turunen
- Anthropogenic and climatic signals and Holocene environmental history of the Bottomless Lake (Tăul Fără Fund) Sphagnum peat bog, Băgău, Romania, Tamás Zsolt Vári, Dávid Molnár, Pál Sümegi, Balázs Pál Sümegi, Tünde Törőcsik
- The ‘Just Transition’ for Irish Peat Workers, Clare Profous

Additional poster presentations (in German or English) can be registered by sending an abstract to gerald.schmilewski@peatlands.org or bauerochse@dgmtev.de

www.ips2019.com

Venue and location

MARUM Center for Marine Environmental Sciences
I building, room 2070 (will be sign-posted)
University Bremen
Leobener Strasse 8
Bremen, Germany

The MARUM (Zentrum für Marine Umweltwissenschaften) has developed into an internationally re-cognized center for marine research anchored at the University of Bremen.

It hosts the Cluster of Excellence ›The Ocean Floor – Earth’s Uncharted Interface‹ (as of 1.1.2019) as well as many additional national and international research projects.

Furthermore, MARUM operates one of the three IODP core repositories in the world and, together with the AWI, the World Data Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (PANGAEA).

How to get there

Public transport in Bremen is efficient and highly recommended. Unless you arrive late evening at Airport Bremen, it is recommended to take the tram (“Straßenbahn”) line no. 6 with direction “Universität” to the city center (Central Station = “Hauptbahnhof”), this trip takes 16 min.

The trip with the same tram line no. 6 from “Hauptbahnhof” to the final station “Universität-Nord” takes 14 minutes. From there, it is a 200 m walk to the MARUM building, Leobener Str. 8 (see Campus Map). Further instructions can be found at www.ips2019.com. Take cash with you!

Registration

Registration was open until 10 April. For last minute registrations, please fill in the registration form at www.ips2019.com/registration and send it immediately to the German National Committee of the IPS (DGMT), kasch@dgmtev.de or by post. Payments should be made right after by bank transfer. Credit card payments are unfortunately not possible.

Registration fees amount to:
Symposium & Meetings, 13 - 14 May: €55/80
Dinner, 14 May: €65
Excursions, 15 May: €35/40

The first, lower price is available to members of the DGMT and/or IPS.

Accommodation options can be seen at www.ips2019.com/accommodation. All participants cover travelling, visa, health, registrations or similar costs themselves, if not otherwise agreed beforehand. We warmly welcome you to join us in Bremen!

A Peatland-tailored User Guide on Methods to Value Benefits from Restoration

A tool to inform the selection of methods for valuing the socio-economic benefits generated by peatland restoration is now ready to use.

The University of Leeds, the Moors For the Future Partnership (MFFP), and the Yorkshire Peat Partnership (YPP) have been active in developing a guide to help peatland restoration practitioners and anyone interested in peatlands value the benefits of their restoration.

The 'User Guide' was developed as part of the Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP).



With this tool, peatland practitioners will be able to better understand methods for valuing peatland's

ecosystem services, get an idea of the existing evidence on values, and make the case for investment in restoration.

The User Guide is completely interactive and allows you to navigate according to your main interest.

How can this User Guide help you?

For example, you might want to know which method to apply and how to use it, how costly/difficult it is to implement, and the kind of skills needed to carry it out. The guide provides a very simple explanation of the available valuation methods, what they entail and how they can be used to value different types of ecosystem services. You might be interested in finding out how values of ecosystem services can be used to inform decisions on



Peatland landscape. Photo: Joseph Holden



Peatland restoration work. Photo: Mark Reed

your argument when writing business cases, making investment plans, or simply communicating the social value of peatland to the public and policy makers. The guide highlights relevant evidence from existing valuation studies.

Furthermore, the User Guide gives you plenty of tips for applying each method, highlights what you should be particularly careful about, and provides access to a large amount of additional resources.

The User Guide can be downloaded for free here. For more insights, you can watch the PeatLife webinar video

restoration plans. The guide shows how the values obtained with these methods can be used to inform decision making in peatland restoration, through the use of cost/benefit analysis, for example.

You might be interested in finding out how values can be used to inform the design of incentive mechanisms to finance peatland restoration, such as payments for ecosystem services. The user guide illustrates this as well.

Or, you might just want to get a picture of the existing evidence on the value of benefits in order to strengthen

here. We appreciate any feedback on how you use or intend to use the guide. Also, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

*Marie Ferré,
Julia Martin-Ortega*

University of Leeds, UK
icasp@leeds.ac.uk



**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS,
AGENCIES, AGREEMENTS AND
PROGRAMMES
SUPPLEMENT**

New Supplement to the IPS Conventions Guide

IPS has published a brand-new supplement to its Guide to International Conventions and other international organisations on 18 February 2019. This includes the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF). For more information and to download the 2014 and 2019 documents, visit www.peatlands.org/conventions2014.

International Conventions are some of today's most important decision-making bodies for peat and peatland management. They deal with biodiversity, climate and ecosystem services, as well as health, water, agriculture and forestry issues on a global level and thereby influence also national and local peatland legislation and guidelines.

Often it is difficult to understand their background and relationships with each other. To better explain these mechanisms, IPS has collected basic information on the most important Conventions and other international organisations with interest in peatlands and peat in a 54-page booklet, trying to describe how they work and why it is important to be involved.

Jack Rieley, jack.rieley@peatlands.org

New Members of the IPS and Invoicing

New members (or new contact persons for corporate and institute members) are mainly approved by our National Committees. In other countries, the approval is made by the Executive Board of the IPS. Each National Committee is asked to compare their membership list to that of the IPS at least once a year. (status below as of 30 March)

To join us, simply fill in our online membership form at www.peatlands.org/join-us or contact the National Committee in your country.

Individual members:

Finland (Suoseura): Gilbert Ludwig
Germany (DGMT): Uwe Ballhorn, Jenny Hammerich, Katharina Leiber-Sauheitl, Wiebke Münchberger, Angela Pannek, Nora Rychen (CH)
Japan: Hiroyuki Hasegawa, Mikinori Kuwata, Kayo Matsui, Yukinori Nara, Ayako Oide, Masayuki Takada, Hikotada Tsuboi, Kayo Ueda, Shinobu Yamamoto
Lithuania: Jurate Sendzikaite, Nerijus Zableckis

Panama: Arturo Ramirez
USA: Neha Singhania

Student members:

Denmark: Claudia Windeck
Ethiopia: Haymanot Tesfaye
Germany (DGMT): Ann Christin Sieber
Japan: Satoka Tamaki, Minoru Yokochi

Corporate members:

Canada (CSPMA): Jennifer Burwell (Farm Credit Canada), Sanyam Verma (John Deere Limited)
Germany (DGMT): Niels Gepp (Landkreis Emsland), Carina Luft (Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH), Alexandra Scherer (Zweckverbands Reicher Moos)
The Netherlands: Arthur Neher (Wetlands International)
Sweden: Pia Holmberg (Hasselfors Garden)

Membership fees are collected by each of our National Committees on their own conditions and timetables.

For members in other countries, invoices are sent directly by the IPS Secretariat in May/June, after the Annual Assembly in Bremen. Check your email!

You can view, change or delete your membership information anytime at www.peatlands.org/user.

Thank you very much for supporting us. Any network is only as strong as its parts.



 **2019 International Symposium on Peat for Food Production and Quality of Life**
1th China International Peat Product and Technology Expo
Qingdao, China: September 16-21, 2019

WWW.IPS-CNC.COM

Growing need for growing media in China

Results of an IPS survey project

In November 2017, we had the opportunity to give our “young”, student perspective on an interesting research question dealing with the peat industry in China. To start, allow us to introduce ourselves so you have a better idea of who we are.

First, **Wim Yang Schoemaker**, a master’s student of econometrics at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He possesses a bachelor’s degree in physics and, as well as having excellent beta knowledge, can also speak Chinese.

Then, **Jetse Derk** who is also a student at the University of Groningen but of industrial engineering. Our task was to investigate the peat market in China and to explore the potential this vast country has to offer to the rest of the world. The project took shape after Professor Xianmin Meng of the Northeast Normal University, China, announced a huge increase in peat demand for the country in the coming years. Our assignment, acting upon instruction from Guus van Berckel, was to explore this growth.

After a quick introductory course about the agricultural markets of the Netherlands and Germany, we arrived in Beijing, China on Saturday the 11th November, filled with



The China Greenhouse Industry Conference in Shanghai.

freshly obtained knowledge about the peat-use practices of Western Europe. Upon arrival, we set out to get a Chinese sim card, which proved more troublesome than we had expected. With a little improvisation, however, we finally gained access to the internet, which turned out to be an absolute necessity.



Interview with a local news broadcaster.

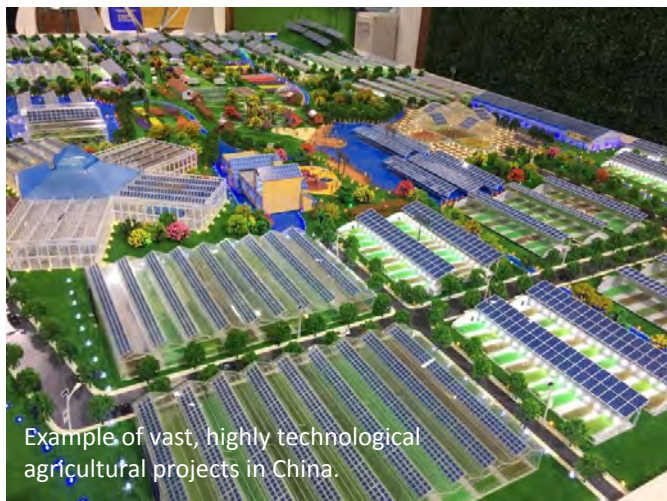
Beijing

After that, we encountered our next obstacle; finding our way around Beijing with Baidu, Baidu Maps and WeChat, the Chinese versions of Google, Google Maps and WhatsApp.

However, with the kind help of



Example of an innovation that allows vertical agriculture in urban areas.



Example of vast, highly technological agricultural projects in China.

Professor Meng, we managed to visit the Mutianyu part of the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City all in one day!

On the third day, we visited Mrs Xu Jian Wei, an officer of the Beijing Municipality Agricultural Department. She gave us a great deal of information regarding the current use of peat in growing vegetables. She also provided advice on which areas to focus on to better understand the demand for peat in China. We used this newly obtained information to formulate more specific questions to take to Shandong, where the Third National Chinese Peat Congress was taking place later that week. We travelled from Beijing to Shouguang, a city in Shandong Province before going to Shanghai and then Guangzhou, ending our journey in Kunming in the south.

Shouguang

We were welcomed in Shouguang by Professor Meng and his colleagues, who despite being busy with preparations for the congress, found time to show us around the area. Shouguang is located two hours by train from the port city of Qingdao and is known for producing vegetables. This was, therefore, the ideal chance for us to experience first-hand how vegetables are produced in China and the role of peat therein.

The reception we received at the National Peat Congress itself, was overwhelming. Many people were very curious about the project and were very willing to provide information. Through these conversations, we also got a better idea of current developments in the Chinese peat market and potential focus areas. The interest was mutual too. Not only were we interested in Chinese peat developments but Wim was interviewed by a local news broadcaster



Dinner with Professor Meng.

who was fascinated by our perspective and opinions about the future for the peat industry. To cut a long story short, it was a very helpful experience and we would like to thank the organizers once again for inviting us!

Shanghai

After Shouguang, we travelled to Shanghai with Professor Meng to attend two other conferences; The 16th China Greenhouse Industry Conference and Horti China 2017, both organized as part of China Green Week. We saw how rapidly the Chinese horticulture market is developing as well as the extent to which technology and growing media are going to play a role. Scale models show the desire of investors to create a modern China where the level of innovation in agriculture increases. We also managed to meet with the Secretary of the Consulate of the Netherlands in China and brought his attention to the use of peat in China – specifically related to the project of the IPS.

On the last evening in Shanghai, we were able to reflect and discuss the interesting, expanding peat industry in China over a satisfying dinner. This was the last time we saw Professor Meng since he needed to get home after three such bustling conferences.

Guangzhou

We departed Shanghai, having spent three days there, and headed to Guangzhou, a port city in the south. At that point, we were travelling with the vice-chairman of the Peat Society of China and we would visit importers and distributors of imported peat in China for the rest of the trip. Almost every day, we were invited to visit companies that distribute growing media or use peat as a core ingredient in their production processes.

In China, it is worth mentioning that the medicinal industry is on the rise and it is generally accepted that peat has a healing effect on the human body.

Although peat did not pass official clinical trials to become a registered medicine, the industry wherein peat is used as active ingredient is



New production plant where peat will be used as an active ingredient for medicinal purposes.



Example of an end-product which has peat as core ingredient.



Women working with young plants



Modern greenhouse.

productivity and sustainable development in the various sectors of agriculture and horticulture, in particular.

Ordering large quantities of peat as a growing media constituent to

a multi-billion renminbi (yuan) business. We were invited to view a new production plant where medicines will soon be produced.

foster the modernization of the agriculture market will not be not enough. First, the way the peat industry is managed needs to reach new levels of efficiency (which would also include better monitoring of processes).

Although the building was still under construction, it was already possible to notice those impressive proportions that are typical of Chinese buildings. Despite this large investment, however, agriculture and land soil improvement are still predicted to be the main consumers of peat in the future. European peat is of good quality and many Chinese seedling companies prefer European to domestic peat, so experts predict ever increasing demand for European peat.

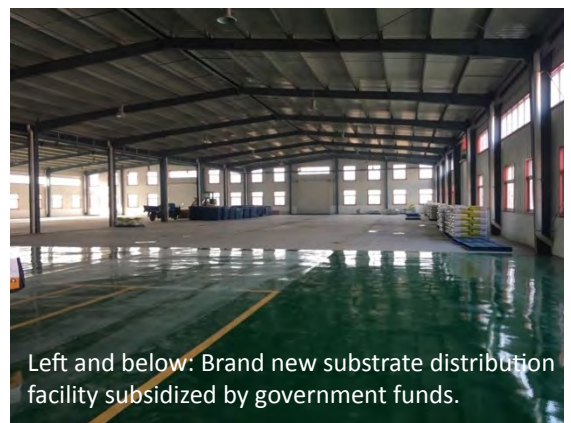
China admires the Dutch way of handling the business of agriculture, yet simply copying procedures would not suffice, as circumstances differ too much. Chinese companies should leverage their benefits; one of which is, without question, the size, the sheer abundance of land. This, combined with relatively cheap labour costs, could make the Chinese horticulture industry very competitive.

Growth ahead

Usually, after each visit, our host would invite us to a luxurious lunch or dinner to discuss their vision for and ideas about China's future peat industry. The optimism expressed by our Chinese interlocutors was remarkable; almost every expert we spoke to predicted an immense growth in the Chinese peat industry. As we received only positive forecasts concerning the future of peat, we doubted, at times, the sheer levels of growth being predicted; according to some interlocutors, peat demand in China will double every year. Then again, however, we are not the experts.

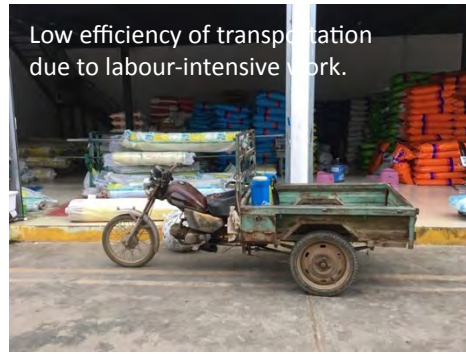
For these possibilities to come to fruition, huge steps would need to be taken to enhance

Another crucial factor is state aid. Stimulated by the government, large projects are launched to encourage farmers in reaching the goal of making a modern China (as presented during the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China). Corporate companies can receive a subsidy or a low-interest loan from the government to build facilities that are needed. We were able to visit such a warehouse that was just finished and ready to produce



Left and below: Brand new substrate distribution facility subsidized by government funds.



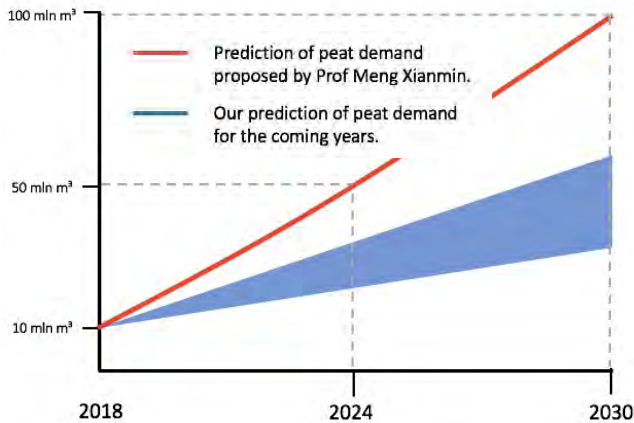


to cooperate with our Chinese partners, the sustainable development of all stakeholders could benefit.

Professor Meng foresees an increase in the demand for peat that will grow to reach around 100 million cubic metres by 2030 though it is difficult to validate this figure because of an overall lack of reliable data and predictions. Based on the observations made during this research project, however, responsible use of peatlands and peat in China will only be achieved when there is further:

- governmental support provided in terms of subsidies on the one hand and shielding policies to foster the responsible use of peatlands on the other hand
- improvement in the education system to develop knowledge about the responsible use of agricultural land
- development in technology to allow horticulturists to produce more efficiently (which is only possible when using professional growing media) and on a larger scale.

The project was commissioned by the IPS, and the authors thank the IPS for sponsoring this survey.



large volumes of growing media. Furthermore, we observed a great difference between infrastructure in coastal and more rural inland areas. It was evident that coastal areas, which are also the most crowded, are far more developed than those inland.

By improving infrastructure, such as by building a comprehensive rail network, modernization could spread across the whole of China. This development is already underway; we observed a lot of construction work while travelling. In addition to this, the Chinese government have also announced the construction of a new railway to connect China with Europe. The Chinese government can further stimulate this sector, by either funding more infrastructure or providing additional incentives; and this support will be necessary to not only make the transition faster and more effective but to ensure that it even happens at all.

Conclusions

In conclusion, achieving a successful sustainable and responsible growth of the peat industry in China, depends largely on several crucial variables. Optimistic predictions, while not entirely unrealistic, will require skills, effort and discipline to be realized fully. Ultimately, the three-week journey was an unforgettable experience for the two of us, though not always easy, especially with the huge language barrier that at times impeded our progress.

The lessons we learned during this three-week adventure, will hopefully contribute to the better understanding of the ambitious goals of the Chinese peat and growing media industry. The Chinese peat industry is not just a threat to the European peat industry, it also offers it opportunities. European companies have the expertise and if we manage

*Wim Yang Schoemaker,
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Join the IPS Commissions & Expert Groups!

Peatlands and Economy

Chair: Ingrida Krigere, + 371 2910 6008, ingrida@peat.lv
Peatlands for agriculture: Dace Silina, dace.silina@llu.lv
Peatlands for forestry: Sakari Sarkkola, sakari.sarkkola@luke.fi
Peat for growing media and energy: Hannu Salo, hannu.salo@bioenergia.fi

Peatlands and Environment

Chair: Bernd Hofer, +49 2505 937784 11, hofer@hofer-pautz.de
Peatlands and Climate Change: Gerald Jurasinski, gerald.jurasinski@uni-rostock.de
Peatlands and Biodiversity, (Ecology, Hydrology and Geology): Lydia Cole, lydcole@googlemail.com
Peatland Restoration: Pete Whittington, whittingtonp@brandonu.ca
Tropical Peatland Round Table: Jack Rieley, jack.rieley@peatlands.org

Peatlands and Society

Chair: Marie Kofod-Hansen, + 46 708 931 861, marie.kofodhansen@gmail.com
Peatlands Education, Communication and Publicity: Catherine O'Connell, bogs@ipcc.ie
Peatland Conventions and International Affairs: Jack Rieley, jack.rieley@peatlands.org
Peatlands and Culture: Anne-Jelle Schilstra, a.j.schilstra@rug.nl
Peatlands and people, health and local livelihoods: Dian Novarina, dian_novarina@aprilasia.com

ROTTERDAM
ROTTERDAM

Annual Report 2018



Secretary General's Review

Mission Accomplished!

In mid-2018, the Executive Board (EB) nominated four of its members to set up a team to recruit a full-time IPS Secretary General. I headed the recruitment team, which included other EB members Donal Clarke, Samu Valpola and Erki Niitlaan. Believe it or not, I received 81 applications from around the world. Of these applicants, five were invited to interviews with our recruitment team.

To our own astonishment, the applicant who matched the requirement profile best was Dr Gilbert Ludwig, who lives just four kilometres from the IPS headquarters! WELL DONE team! You will have read more about Gilbert in edition 4.2018 of Peatlands International, and I am sure that you will hear and read much more about him in his position as Secretary General. Gilbert, we are happy to have you on board!

2017/2018 was also a period of staffing our Expert Groups with knowledgeable people. This is still an ongoing process. Considering that these experts devote a great deal of time for the benefit of IPS, it is worth saying "THANK YOU!"

Two special highlights in 2018 were the "Global Peatland and Peat Summit" and the "IPS 50th Jubilee and 2018

Convention", both held in September in Rotterdam. Reports on both events were given in Peatlands International and briefly in this Annual Report.

The main objective of the Summit was to inform industry companies on how their businesses are affected by international processes and engagements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and policies that originate from various international, national and regional bodies. The presentations were all excellent, but I must add that industry attendance was below the level expected. That is a pity, or should I say, "Wake up industry!"

The Summit Communique - a release that was agreed upon by the invited Convention speakers and the IPS - states the following: "It was concluded that there is already a large amount of evidence and many recommendations giving a framework for truly sustainable peatland management. To be able to adapt to this rapidly changing world there is also a need for further high-quality research and better understanding of the importance of peatlands and the role they play in maintaining and improving environmental quality."

One of the Rotterdam invited talks was entitled "The World's Need for Growing Media, 2020 to 2050". It was emphasized that there will be an enormous increase in the demand



Participants of the Annual Assembly 2018 in Rotterdam. Photo: Susann Warnecke

for growing media worldwide and that demand cannot be satisfied by using only growing media constituents other than peat. That fact must also be accepted by decision-takers and policymakers.

Looking Ahead

In 2019, the focus will be on peat, growing media and constituents other than peat. The organization of three international events started in 2018 and will be completed in good time.

- Bremen, Germany, 13-15 May: Symposium on Economy meets Environment and Society - Future Use of Peat and Substitutes in Horticulture (jointly organized by the IPS National Committee of Germany and the IPS)
- Milano, Italy, 24-28 June: International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis (jointly organized by the International Society for Horticultural Science and the IPS)

- Qingdao, China, 16-21 September: "Symposium on Growing Media for Food and Quality of Life: International Peat-based Products and Technology Expo" (jointly organized by the IPS National Committee of China and the IPS).

For me, this statement given at the Rio UN Conference is the basis for what IPS stands for, and is a principal IPS guideline:

"Protection of the environment is only feasible if politics considers economic and social aspects at the same time. If any pillar is weak then the whole system of Sustainable Development is not sustainable."

I encourage all NGOs to follow these words of wisdom.

Gerald Schmilewski

Acting Secretary General
(until the end of 2018)

Report of the Executive Board

Main Activities

New Secretary General

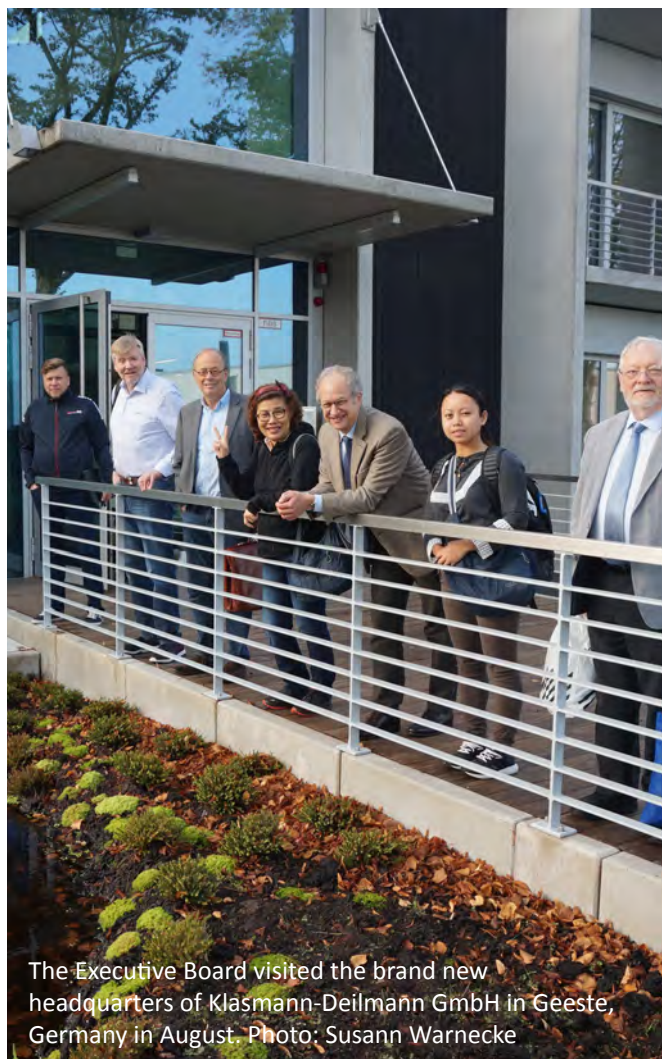
The Executive Board has put much time and effort in 2018 into recruiting the first full-time Secretary General for the IPS. Success was achieved in the autumn, and Dr Gilbert Ludwig started work on 1 January 2019.

Conferences and Other Events

The 2018 Annual Convention was held as a 50th Jubilee Symposium in Rotterdam on 11-13 September 2018, hosted by the Dutch National Committee of the IPS. About 180 persons participated in the conference and its excursions to trade, horticultural, agricultural and historical sites. This was an open symposium with 48 presentations, a jubilee reception and other networking events.

In addition, the Executive Board organized a special "Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit" for management representatives of corporate IPS members on 10 September, where invited speakers presented information on the work of international conventions and the state of global perception of peat and peatlands. That day there were 75 participants and the summit closed with an interesting panel discussion. The IPS 2018 Summit Communique summarizes the outcome of this important event.

The Second Tropical Peatland Round Table was held in Batam, Indonesia, on 12-13 November, organized by the Indonesian and Japanese National Committees. Many of



The Executive Board visited the brand new headquarters of Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH in Geeste, Germany in August. Photo: Susann Warnecke



A very successful Expert Group kick-off meeting was held in Amsterdam on 6-7 February. Photo: Susann Warnecke

the 100 participants also joined the subsequent excursion to Meranti Island, which has smallholder agriculture and tropical peat swamp forest as well as restoration destinations.

Much efforts were directed to the Expert Group kick-off meeting that was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with 19 participants from all around the world on 6-7 February.

A smaller but very important meeting took place on 31 January 2018 in Espoo, where 10 representatives of the IPS' industry associations discussed the further funding of the IPS over the next three years.

Other conferences, workshops and field trips were organized by our National Committees, for instance, in Finland, Germany and Estonia.

The 2019 Annual Convention will be held in in Bremen, on 13-15 May 2019, while the next International Peatland Congress will be held in 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia. IPS national representatives also voted that the 2024 Congress would be hosted by the Chinese National Committee.

A list of IPS and related events can be found in this report, and more information is included in the reports of the Commissions and National Committees on the IPS website.

IPS Strategy and Structure

The Executive Board (EB) and the SAB of the IPS continued to implement the "IPS Strategy 2016-2020". Work continued on

staffing the expert groups with volunteers who are eager to carry out practical activities for the IPS. Furthermore, the IPS was present at international conventions and other meetings of global importance. The most important of these in 2018 was the Ramsar meeting in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The Society is also strengthening its efforts to achieve true professional, geographical, gender and age balances across all of its bodies and activities. This was partly achieved by electing three women, including two Asian representatives, to the Executive Board.

Commissions

The work of the IPS is carried out by three Commissions and their expert groups.

Peatlands and Economy, Chair: Ingrida Krigere (since February 2018)

- Peatlands for Agriculture
- Peatlands for Forestry
- Peat Harvesting Techniques and Technology
- Peat for Growing Media and Energy

Peatlands and Environment, Chair: Bernd Hofer

- Peatlands and Climate Change
- Peatlands and Biodiversity
- Peatland Restoration
- Tropical Peatland Round Table

Peatlands and Society, Chair: Marie Kofod-Hansen

- Peatlands Education, Communication and Publicity
- Peatland Conventions and International Affairs

- Peatlands and Culture
- Peatlands and People

The IPS Commissions and their expert groups foster information exchange, suggest projects and initiate international conferences and other events. Commission membership is informal and open to all IPS members - just contact the chairs. All Commission chairs are members of the IPS' Scientific Advisory Board.

The reports of the Commissions and their Expert Groups, together with all contact details, will be posted on the IPS website: www.peatlands.org/about-us.

Conventions

As in previous years, members of the Executive Board, Commission chairs and other experts participated in meetings and in the work of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), to name but a few. It is one of the tasks of the IPS to present science-based facts to decision-makers. This can best be done in a face-to-face and balanced manner.

Among others, Professor Jack Rieley participated in the Ramsar "Regional Pre-COP Meeting for Europe" in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on 19-23 March. IPS President Gerald Schmilewski attended the "Third Meeting of the Partners of the Global Peatlands Initiative", and the GPI's Steering Committee Meeting, in Brazzaville, Congo, on 21-23 March, as well as numerous seminars, conferences and face-to-

face meetings in Germany and the Netherlands, and other countries.

IPS Projects

IPS has worked on a number of projects in 2018.

- Peat for food and quality of life projects:
 - 1) Peat demand in China: report published in Peatlands International
 - 2) Worldwide peat demand (Chris Blok): presentation in Rotterdam
 - 3) Future peat supply (Bernd Hofer): ongoing.
- Sphagnum farming: unfortunately, our COST funding application was not successful.
- Peat production and peatland areas: Hannu Salo continued with data collection.

IPS Membership

As of 31 December 2018, the IPS had 1,407 members in 39 countries, comprising 1,044 individual members, 226 corporations, 68 students and 45 honorary members (NCs and IPS), as well as 12 research institutes and 12 governmental institutes. Most members of the IPS live in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands. The membership database on the IPS intranet is updated in collaboration with our National Committees and directly by our members, at least once a year.

The IPS is represented locally by 16 National Committees with a total of 1,363 members. Of these, 11 operate in Europe, two in North America and three in Asia. There are currently 25 men and 11 women serving as chairpersons and secretaries of these NCs. National Committees operate on behalf of the IPS in countries with significant peatland resources and/or an active peatland or peat industry, where



Representatives of IPS 10 industrial members met IPS' Presidents in Espoo, Finland on 31 January to discuss services, funding and future cooperation.



The spring meeting of the IPS Executive Board was held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Photo: Susann Warnecke

they promote the environmental, societal and economic values of peatland and peat and provide a forum for information exchange.

In other countries, the IPS has 23 individual, 10 corporate, six student, four honorary and one institutional member. For full member statistics see the appendices.

In 2018, the IPS gained 152 new members or contact persons for corporate/institute members, but 182 members took up other challenges, resulting in an overall loss of 30 members compared to last year. Anyone interested can join the IPS at www.peatlands.org/join-us.

Publications

Peatlands International

Four issues of the IPS magazine were published in 2018 and distributed to our members by email. Due to GDPR data protection rules in the EU, the number of members who receive the magazine dropped in May from approximately 1,200 to 600. Reminders to opt in were sent twice. The Chief Editor was Acting Secretary General Gerald Schmilewski and editing and layout tasks were carried out by Communications Manager Susann Warnecke.

A few of our corporate members support the IPS by placing advertisements in the magazine. Members receive Peatlands International for free. The magazine is supported by an Editorial Board, which consisted of the following members at the end of 2018:

- Rachel Carmenta, UK
- Lydia Cole, UK
- Catherine Farrell, Ireland
- Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden
- Juhani Päivänen, Finland
- Jack Rieley, UK
- Anne Jelle Schilstra, The Netherlands
- Paul Short, Canada
- Lech Szajdak, Poland
- Michael Trepel, Germany
- David Wilson, Ireland

Previous issues of Peatlands International can be found via the IPS document database, while most of the printed issues (before 2013) can be ordered from the IPS online store.

To publish in the magazine, please contact Susann Warnecke at susann.warnecke@peatlands.org. Deadlines are at the end of February, May, August and November.

Peatland Snippets

Eleven issues of the IPS newsletter Peatland Snippets were published in 2018. The monthly electronic newsletter of the IPS is sent out by email to all members, with numbers also dropping from 1,200 to 600 due to GDPR rules as of May 2018.

All newsletters from 2020-2016 can be downloaded from the members' intranet. Members and friends of the IPS are very welcome to contribute to the newsletter – just contact the IPS Secretariat.

Briefing Notes

In 2018, the IPS distributed three Briefing Notes (7-9) to all corporate members, to inform them about current developments at an international level and other issues.

Mires and Peat Scientific Journal

During 2018, the scientific online journal Mires and Peat, owned jointly by IPS and IMCG, published its regular Volume 21 (2018) as well as special volumes 20: Growing Sphagnum (2017/2018), 22: Tropical Peatland Biodiversity and Conservation in Southeast Asia, and 23: The Flow Country Peatlands of Scotland. The latest (2017) impact factors are 1.326 (two-year impact factor) and 1.638 (five-year impact factor).

A very successful first editor's meeting was held in Leeds, England, in October. IPS supported the meeting with €1,000, and the UK National Committee with a similar amount.

Dr Olivia Bragg continued as Editor-in-chief and Professor Jack Rieley as Deputy Editor-in-chief, with a team of 12 Editors making up the Editorial Board. There are 28 Associate Editors who review the manuscripts submitted. Michael Trepel is the Website Administrator.

Mires and Peat is the peer-reviewed open-access scientific journal of the IPS and the IMCG, which is freely available (www.mires-and-peat.net) to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The IPS supports the journal with €5,000 annually.

The journal is indexed by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA and the Directory of Open Access Journals. Papers are given a DOI and safely archived via Portico. High-quality papers are welcome, to maintain this important publication.

Other Publications

IPS opened a new online shop in November 2018 on the popular Holvi platform, which allows easy purchase of about 60 publications, including proceedings, Peatlands International, the International Peat Journal and printed peat(land) books. Sales have increased during the first weeks of use. Visit www.holvi.com/shop/peatlands.

IPS Website

A new IPS website is planned for the summer of 2019. The current pages at www.peatlands.org contain, in the public section, basic information on the IPS, an events calendar, contact details for the EB, the Commissions and National Committees, general information on peat and peatlands, a list of publications, open positions and other information on the society and its work.

For members, we offer an online document database for conference proceedings, brochures and other publications, a searchable member database and the option to post open positions. Additional resources are still needed to enable the uploading of all previous IPS proceedings to the document database.

Our Irish National Committee visited the Cuilcagh Mountains, Co. Fermanagh for their 2018 field trip and seminar. Photo: R. Casey



Social Media

The IPS shares information about its own and related activities, press articles and conference announcements, via its Facebook and LinkedIn pages. In addition, the Secretariat posts on Instagram, mostly during IPS events.

At the end of 2018, 920 people, mostly aged between 25 and 34, were following IPS information on Facebook, most of whom were not members of the society. The discussion group on the same page had 49 members in early 2019.

The IPS LinkedIn group, which allows networking between around 400 peat and peatland professionals, has also proved to be a great tool for sharing and collecting information quickly and making new contacts. In 2018, we also established a “company page”, which has 99 followers and allows easier sharing of official information than via the group.

Public Discussion

Resilience, climate change and biodiversity, as well as phasing out energy peat, were important topics with respect to peatland management in the media in 2018. Other topics varied slightly from country to country.

The IPS regularly follows Google News and various Google Scholar alerts on peat, mire and peatland topics, and shares these via email with the EB, SAB, experts and National

Committees, as well as in Peatland Snippets and on its Facebook page, whenever possible.

Peat and Peatland Events

The following conferences, convention meetings and other international events were of relevance to the IPS and its members in 2018:

Ramsar STRP21
Gland, Switzerland, 15 - 19 January 2018
www.ramsar.org

Industry Member Meeting (invited persons)
Espoo, Finland, 31 January 2018
www.peatlands.org

2nd Finnish Peatland Day
Helsinki, Finland, 2 February 2018
www.suoseura.fi

IPS Expert Kick-off Meeting
Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6 - 7 February 2018
www.peatlands.org

24th GRET PERG
Peatland Restoration Symposium
Université Laval
Québec City, Canada, 15 February 2018
www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca



Jurate Sendzikaite, a researcher at the Lithuanian Institute of Botany of Nature Research Centre, joined IPS as a new member in 2018. Photo: Laima Sveistyte

The last meeting of the Executive Board in 2018 was held in Tallinn, where we visited the venue of the 2020 International Peatland Congress. As you can see, there is much space for all of us! Photo: Alexela guide



9th European Ramsar Meeting (ERM9)
Olomouc, Czech Republic, 19 - 23 March 2018
www.ramsar.org

Global Peatlands Initiative
Third Partners meeting
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 21 - 23 March 2018
www.globalpeatlands.org

Indonesian National Committee
Annual Meeting + International Seminar
Jakarta/Bogor/Denpasar, April 2018

German National Committee
17th Seminar „Moor und Torf“
Zeven, Germany, April 2018
www.dgmtv.de

German National Committee
Mire Conservation in Lower Saxony
Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz
in cooperation with DGMT
Schneverdingen, Germany, 18 - 19 June 2018
www.dgmtv.de

Finnish Peatland Society
Summer Excursion
Lauhanvuori Geopark, 14 - 15 August 2018
www.suoseura.fi/2018/05/21/kesaretki-2018

IPS Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 10 September 2018
www.ips50summit.nl

50th IPS Anniversary Jubilee Symposium
“Peatlands: past, present and future”
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 11 - 13 September 2018
www.ipsjubileesymposium.nl

European Wood Pastures: past, present, & future
Sheffield, UK, 5 - 7 September 2018
www.ukeconet.org/events.html

Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2018
Tartu, Estonia
10 - 12 October 2018
<https://balticpeatproducersforum.eu>

Editor Meeting of Mires and Peat
Leeds, UK, 11 - 12 October
More info: jack.rieley@btinternet.com

Irish & UK Peatland Societies
Annual Meeting and Study Tour
Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, 16 - 17 October 2018
More info: tony.mckenna@bnm.ie

German Peat and Humus Day
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, 18 October 2018
www.ivg.org

Finnish Peatland Society, Luke & SNS-120 Project:
Soil greenhouse gas balance in drained organic
forest soils seminar
Helsinki, Finland, 31 October 2018
www.lyyti.fi/reg/31_10_SNS_120_final_seminar

For all related events attended by IPS members, please visit
www.peatlands.org/past-event.

Cooperation

The IPS cooperates internationally with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, FAO, UNFCCC, CBD, the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), as well as Energy Peat Europe (EPE), Growing Media Europe (GME) and the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA).

Finances and Funding

The IPS is fully funded by membership fees, amounting to €145,000 in total. In addition, IPS still benefits from the Commission payments of the International Peat Congress in Kuching and the Annual Convention in Aberdeen (2017), which will be used in the period 2018-2020.

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a deficit of €22,200 for the 2018 financial year. This is according to budget, due to using the surplus of €81,000 of 2017 gradually to fulfil the IPS Strategy.

Bad debts amounting to €1,200 (unpaid invoices) had to be removed from the Income Statement. Receivables, mainly membership fees, amounted to €41,000 at the end of the year.

The IPS continues searching for additional core and project funding from outside sources. This has been successful

already in securing funding for a full-time Secretary General for 2019-2021. The total income of the IPS was €159,400, with expenditure amounting to €181,600. The depreciation in the value of equipment amounted to €600 (25%). Assets and liabilities were €228,800 on 31 December. More details can be found in the financial appendices on the IPS website.

The accounts and financial statements of the IPS were audited by Authorized Public Accountant Jenni Kovanen, of Inkeröinen & Himanen Oy.

Administration

Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held on 13 September 2018 in Rotterdam, attended by representatives of 14 National Committees (Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and the USA) and many observers.

The Assembly confirmed the Annual Report of 2017, the Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership Fees for 2018 and the interim budget and membership fees for 2019. The Assembly also elected a new Executive Board and the Auditors for the IPS for 2018; and chose China to host the 2024 International Peatland Congress.

An Extraordinary Assembly to elect a new auditor (Jenni Kovanen) was held by email on 28 January - 2 February 2019, as the previously elected auditor (Arto Saarinen) became unqualified, due to a company merger.

National Committees

At the end of the year, IPS was represented locally by the following National Committee Chairs and Secretaries, in 16 countries:

Canada

Dr Jean-Yves Daigle,
jydaigle@nb.sympatico.ca
Paul Short,
cspma@peatmoss.com

China

Prof. Wang Shengzong,
szwang@nenu.edu.cn
Prof. Meng Xianmin,
mengxm3711@163.com

Estonia

Erki Niitlaan, erki@turbaliit.ee
Margit Pulk (2018)

Finland

Dr Tapio Lindholm (2018)
Dr Jaana Salomäki,
suoseura49@gmail.com



Dr Gilbert Ludwig (right) and IPS President Gerald Schmilewski signed the work contract of the new Secretary General in Tallinn in December. Photo: Susann Warnecke



Suoseura, the Finnish National Committee of the IPS, celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2018 with a multi-session seminar. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Germany

Dr Andreas Bauerochse, bauerochse@dgmtev.de
 Jörn Kasch, kasch@dgmtev.de
 Arne B. Hückstädt, hueckstaedt@ivg.org (industry)

Indonesia

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 Prof. Fahmuddin Agus, fahmuddin_agus@yahoo.com
 Prof. Budi Intra Setiawan, budindra@ipb.ac.id

Ireland

Dr Catherine O'Connell, bogs@ipcc.ie
 Pat Fitzgerald, pat.fitzgerald@bnm.ie

Japan

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 Giedrius Giparas, giedrius.giparas@peat.lt
 Ugne Radziunaite-Sutjeviene, ugne.radziunaite@lpk.lt

Malaysia

Dr Lulie Melling, luliemelling@gmail.com
 Frederick Haili Teck, fhteck@gmail.com
 Sharon Yu Ling Lau, lauyuling@gmail.com (treasurer)

The Netherlands

Drs Guus van Berckel, vanberckel@griendtsveen.de
 Dr Anne Jelle Schilstra (2018),
 secretaris@veengenootschap.nl

Poland

Prof. Dr Lech Wojciech Szajdak, szajlech@man.poznan.pl
 Dr Katarzyna Styla, styla.katarzyna@gmail.com

Sweden

Torbjörn Claesson, torbjorn.claesson@svensktorv.se
 Ingrid Kyllerstedt, ingrid.kyllerstedt@svensktorv.se
 Dr Sabine Jordan, sabine.jordan@slu.se

United Kingdom

Prof. Susan E. Page, sep5@le.ac.uk (acting chair)
 Prof. Jack Rieley, jack.rieley@btinternet.com

USA

Donald N. Grubich, dngrubich@gmail.com
 Dr Thomas J. Malterer, tmalter2@d.umn.edu

National Committee and Commission reports will be published, and full contact details are available at www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees.

Executive Board

A new Executive Board was elected on 13 September in Rotterdam, which includes, for the first time, three women. Of these, two are Asian representatives.

Six EB members have an industrial background, while five come from the science community. The members of the EB at the end of 2018 and their terms of office were/are as follows:

President
 Gerald Schmilewski, Germany
 2016-2020

1st Vice President
Guus van Berckel, the Netherlands
2016-2020

2nd Vice President
Samu Valpola, Finland
2016-2020

Ordinary Members:

Donal Clarke, Ireland	2016-2020
Paul Short, Canada	2016-2020
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	2018-2020
Zhengping Wang, China	2018-2020
Sabine Jordan, Sweden	2018-2022
Jack Rieley, United Kingdom	2018-2022
Lulie Melling, Malaysia	2018-2022
Frank Tamminga, Germany	2018-2022

Professor emeritus Juhani Päivänen, Honorary President of the IPS, also has the right to attend all EB meetings.

The main administrative meetings of the IPS EB in 2018 were held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 16 - 17 April; Geeste, Germany on 29 - 31 August; Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 9 and 13 September; and Tallinn, Estonia on 2 - 5 December. Additional EB meetings were held by telephone on 16 January, 21 February, 6 June and 24 October.

The decisions of these meetings were disseminated through Peatland Snippets and Peatlands International and by email to the National Committees and Commissions.

Scientific Advisory Board

The SAB held its first expert's kick-off meeting in Amsterdam on 6 - 7 February 2018, attended by 21 Commission chairs, vice chairs and expert group coordinators. The meeting was very productive. A second meeting is planned for February 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The SAB provides the IPS with advice and information on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance, drawing upon the pool of knowledge available from the Commissions and elsewhere, along with promoting and disseminating research results. It normally meets twice a year in conjunction with other IPS meetings. As in previous years, the IPS has provided funding for travel of up to €500 per member. The amount was increased to €12,000 in total in 2018, to make the first expert meeting possible.

Members of the SAB at the end of 2018 were as follows.

Chair:

Samu Valpola, Finland, 2nd Vice President

Members (Commission Chairs):

Ingrida Krigere, Peatlands and Economy, Latvia
Bernd Hofer, Peatlands and Environment, Germany
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Peatlands and Society, Sweden

Secretary:

Susann Warnecke, IPS Secretariat



The IPS Executive Board 2018-2020 at their meeting in Estonia in December. Left to right: Frank Tamminga, Gilbert Ludwig (Secretary General), Jack Rieley, Donal Clarke, Guus van Berckel, Lulie Melling, Sabine Jordan, Erki Niitlaan, Samu Valpola and Gerald Schmilewski, missing: Zhengping Wang. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Secretariat and Staff

The IPS Secretariat is situated at the StartUp Leipomo Centre for Young Enterprises at Nisulankatu 78 B, 40720 Jyväskylä, Finland; mobile: +358 40 418 4075; email: ips@peatlands.org or firstname.lastname@peatlands.org.

President Gerald Schmilewski and Second Vice President Samu Valpola continued to share the tasks of the Secretary General, with Mr. Schmilewski receiving a salary from IPS since his retirement from work in June 2018. Three business meetings were held in Jyväskylä and Helsinki, to increase networking and to hold recruiting interviews.

In the autumn, a full-time Secretary General, Dr Gilbert Ludwig, was recruited, with funding provided by a dozen IPS corporate members and other companies. Dr Ludwig started work on 1 January 2019.

The IPS Communications Manager, Susann Warnecke, took care of the administration, communications, event management and finance of the IPS, supported by the accounting office TietoAkseli, the Auditor and IT as well as other service providers.

Honours

Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

In 2018, the IPS sponsored the “Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals” (€500) with a budget of €4,000.

Funding was made available from the IPS, with generous contributions from IPS members and the National Committees of UK and Estonia. The winners were:

- Danielle Rupp, Michigan Technological University, USDA (Forest Service) Northern Research Station: Elucidating carbon cycle pathways in a boreal rich fen using a pulse-chase experiment
- Elisa Männistö, University of Eastern Finland: Travel and participation fee for EGU General Assembly 2018
- Henk Pieter Sterk, Environmental Research Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands, UK: PAR sensors funding for upscaling peatland condition research in Scotland
- Hui Zhang, University of Helsinki: To attend 5th European Conference on Permafrost
- Jasmijn E. Sybenga, University of the Highlands and Islands: Seeing the Wood for the Trees: A palaeoecological approach into the research of past natural woodland in the Scottish Highlands
- Jerome Blewett, University of Bristol: Biomarkers and genomics to constrain biogeochemistry in modern/ancient peatlands

In 2018, regular meetings of the Acting Secretary Generals and the Communications Manager were held at the IPS Secretariat in Jyväskylä.
Photo: Saira Aarnio



- Kirsten Lees, University of Reading: Measuring carbon sequestration in peatlands using remote sensing
- Martha Ledger, University of Nottingham: Determining regional-scale carbon losses from tropical peatlands using InSAR.

The deadline for the 2019 Allan Robertson Grants is 31 January. Funds of approximately €1,100 have been obtained through the Malaysian National Committee in Rotterdam, which is much appreciated. Reports will be published in Peatlands International.

Honorary Members

At the end of the year, the IPS had 22 honorary members. Honorary membership is conferred by the EB on persons nominated mostly by National Committees, who have made outstanding contributions to the IPS and to international cooperation on peatlands and peat.

Current honorary members are as follows.

Belarus:	Ivan I. Lishtvan
Canada:	Jean-Yves Daigle, Gerry Hood
Finland:	Matti Hilli, Markku Mäkelä, Yrjö Pessi, Juhani Päivänen, Jaakko Silpola, Raimo Sopo
Germany:	Hartmut Falkenberg
Hungary:	F. Baranyai
Ireland:	Paddy Hughes
Latvia:	Ansis Snore
Poland:	Piotr Ilnicki
Russia:	A.K. Dergunov, B.N. Sokolov
United Kingdom:	David Bellamy, Richard Clymo, Neil Godsman
USA:	Don N. Grubich, Tom Malterer, Nick van de Griendt

Sadly, Patrick McEvelly passed away in early 2018. In Tallinn in December, the Executive Board appointed Nick van de Griendt as a new honorary member, following the nomination of the US National Committee.

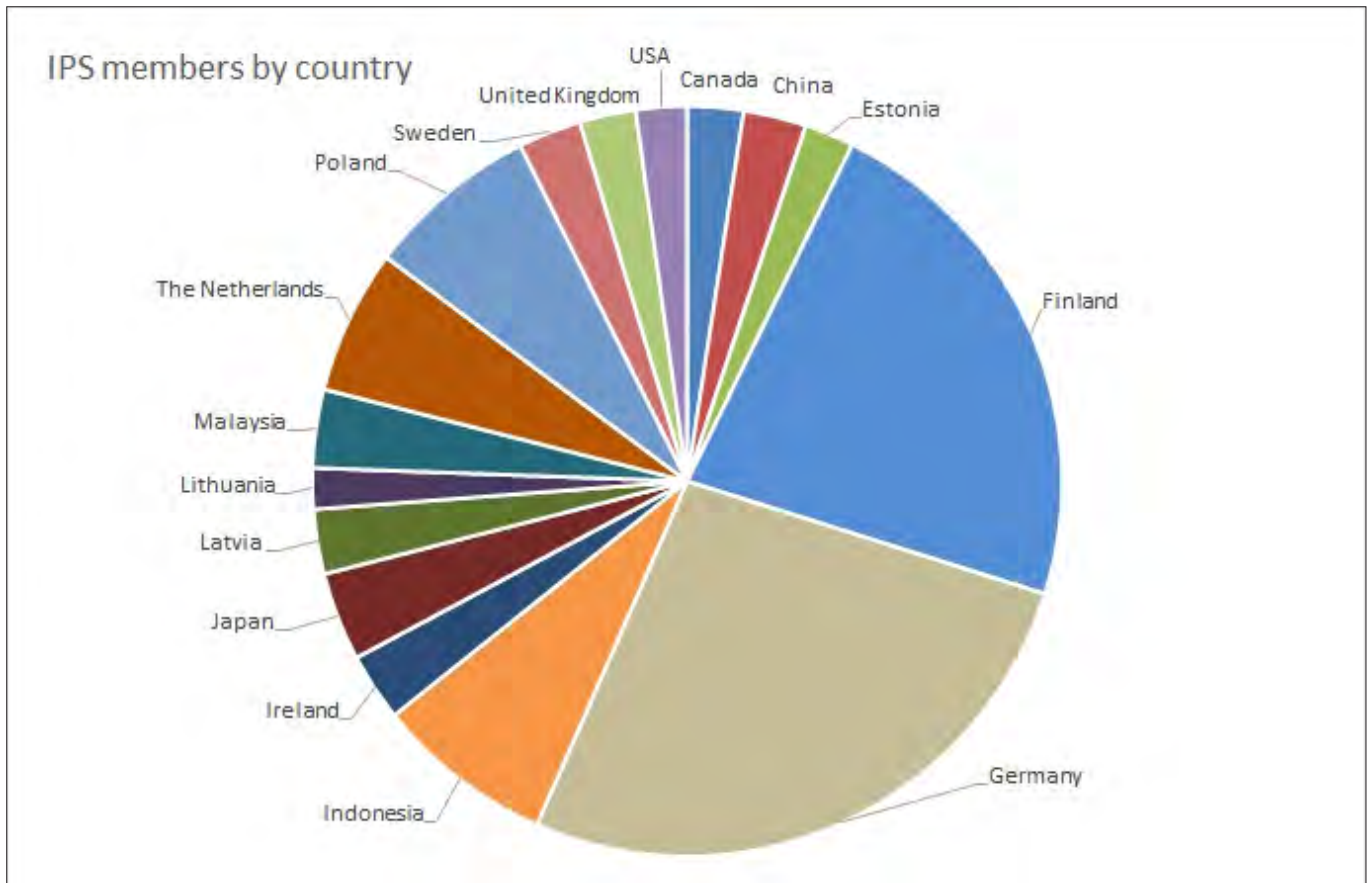
Membership Statistics

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Germany	247	57	5	6	12	37	364
Finland	285	2	1	1	10	9	308
Indonesia	104	0	1	0	0	0	105
Poland	98	3	0	0	1	0	102
The Netherlands	60	15	2	1	2	5	85
Japan	48	2	0	0	0	2	52
Malaysia	41	5	0	0	0	0	46
Ireland	32	5	0	1	1	1	40
Latvia	8	23	0	0	7	0	38
China	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Sweden	12	23	1	0	0	1	37
Canada	6	24	0	0	2	1	33
United Kingdom	20	4	1	1	3	4	33
USA	21	3	0	1	3	2	30
Estonia	0	28	0	1	0	0	29
Lithuania	2	22	0	0	0	0	24
31 December 2018	1021	216	11	12	41	62	1363
31 December 2017	1048	218	12	11	39	59	1387
31 December 2016	1067	230	13	11	38	59	1441
31 December 2015	1070	230	13	11	38	51	1413

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	Research Institutes, Universities	TOTAL
Hungary	5	0	0	1	0	6
Italy	4	0	0	0	0	4
Norway	1	2	0	0	1	4
Spain	3	1	0	0	0	4
Australia	1	0	2	0	0	3
Denmark	2	1	0	0	0	3
France	0	3	0	0	0	3
Russia	1	0	0	2	0	3
Belgium	1	1	0	0	0	2
Chile	1	0	1	0	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1	0	0	2
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	0	1
Belarus	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	0	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	0	0	1
Peru	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	0	0	1
31 December 2018	23	10	6	4	1	44
31 December 2017	23	12	9	4	2	50
31 December 2016	24	18	6	4	2	54
31 December 2015	19	14	2	5	2	42

	December 2017	December 2017	December 2016	December 2015	December 2014	December 2013	December 2012	Balance
NC members	1363	1387	1441	1413	1412	1454	1354	-24
Non-NC members	44	50	54	42	50	57	58	-6
	1407	1437	1495	1455	1462	1511	1412	-30

The National Committees of Belarus, Ukraine, CZ, and Russia are suspended until membership fees are paid.



This Annual Report will be presented to the Annual Assembly in Bremen on 13 May and published on the IPS website at www.peatlands.org together with the official Financial Statement and Auditors Report.



Mires and Peat - the Scientific Journal of IPS and IMCG.
www.mires-and-peat.net

Peat and Peatland Events

Open Science Meeting 2019 of the Global Land Programme
Transforming Land Systems for People and Nature
Bern, Switzerland
24 - 26 April 2019
<https://glp.earth/osm-2019>

Cumbria BogLIFE
Newton Rigg, Penrith, Cumbria, UK
7 - 8 May 2019
<https://cumbria-bogs-life-2019.eventbrite.co.uk>

IPS Symposium and Annual Assembly
Economy meets Environment & Society: Future Use of Peat
in Horticulture
Bremen, Germany
13 - 15 May 2019
www.ips2019.com

Global Landscapes Forum & 49th Session of the IPCC
Climate, Landscapes and Lifestyles: It is Not Too Late
Kyoto, Japan
13 May 2019
<https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/kyoto-2019>

27th European Biomass Conference EUBCE 2019
Lisbon, Portugal
27 - 30 May 2019
www.eubce.com

Society of Wetland Scientists
2019 Annual Meeting
The Role of Wetlands in Meeting Global Environmental
Challenges: Linking Wetland Science, Policy, and Society
Baltimore, Maryland
28 - 31 May 2019
www.swsannualmeeting.org

CSPMA Semi-Annual Meeting
Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, Canada
5 - 6 June 2019
www.peatmoss.com

Global Landscapes Forum Annual Conference
Bonn, Germany
22 - 23 June 2019
<https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/bonn-2019>

ISHS-IPS III International Symposium on Growing Media,
Composting and Substrate Analysis
Milan, Italy
24 - 28 June 2019
www.susgro2019.com

9th Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity
Trondheim, Norway
2 - 5 July 2019
<https://trondheimconference.org>

Baltic Peat Producers Forum
Palanga, Lithuania
4 - 6 September 2019
<https://balticpeatproducersforum.eu>

WETSCAPES Conference - Understanding the ecology of
restored fen peatlands for protection and sustainable use
Rostock, Germany
10 - 13 September 2019
www.wetscapes.uni-rostock.de/en

Finnish National Committee
Excursion to Northern German Paludiculture Sites
15 - 20 September 2019
www.suoseura.fi

IPS Symposium
Growing Media for Food and Quality of Life &
1st International Peat-based Products and Technology Expo
Qingdao, China
16 - 21 September 2019
www.ips-cnc.com

8th World Conference on Ecological Restoration
Cape Town, South Africa
24 - 28 September 2019
www.ser2019.org

Southern Hemisphere Regional Conference on Permafrost of
the International Permafrost Association (IPA)
Queenstown, New Zealand
4 - 14 December 2019
<https://southcop19.com>

Tenth International Symposium on Land Subsidence (TISOLS)
Delft-Gouda, the Netherlands
20 - 24 April 2020
www.tisols2020.org

16th International Peatland Congress
Tallinn, Estonia
14-20 June 2020
www.ipc2020.com

Convention on Biological Diversity COP 15
Kunming, Yunnan, China
October 2020

Visit the new IPS online store: holvi.com/shop/peatlands



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Submission deadline: PI 1/2019: **30 May 2019**



IPS Symposium “Peat for Food Production and Quality of Life” in Qingdao, China

Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management Review & Update 2019



IPS 2050 - Visions for the next three Decades of Peatland Management