



Annual Report 2014



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Annual Report 2014

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Secretary General's Review

Year 2014 – Starting a new era

“It is good to start when IPS is breathing in between the International Peat Congresses”. These were the first words that I was greeted with when I started my position last May. I want to share these spontaneous and encouraging but also, challenging words for many reasons.

The year 2014 was, indeed, halfway between the two congresses - IPC Stockholm 2012 and the next IPC in Kuching. It is delightful that IPS has become known due to the events that take place every four years. However, the words I was greeted with were rather astonishing to me - IPS was only recognized from those congresses. Important activities and day-to-day operations carry on during the intermediate years, like 2014, laying solid ground for bigger events. They are not at all idle.

As you can see from the following pages of this Annual Report, the Society has been involved in many

events, projects and meetings around the world.

We are happy with the successful International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga last August. Hundreds of professionals, scientists and stakeholders met to extend their networks and learn about the latest developments. The IPS National Committees (the newest one in China) have been active and are dealing effectively with peat and peatland-related issues on a national level. The IPS Commissions have worked well, covering all aspects - from peatland conservation, restoration and climate change to peat use in horticulture and energy.

One of the major tasks of 2014 was to increase our membership. As the year has come to an end, we can conclude that this task remains very challenging. The total membership figure has stayed practically the same as in 2013, although fluctuations within some of the National Committees are remarkable. There are pleasing exceptions and increases in a few countries, especially in Asia. However, some “old peat countries” have decreased in membership. Perhaps the most important task of

every single member of the Society remains to boost membership.

The major projects for IPS and its members, which were identified in 2013, have been progressed. One achievement that is worth mentioning is the compilation of “International Conventions, Agencies, Agreements and Programmes – Implications for Peat and Peatlands Management” by Jack Rieley, the Chair of IPS Scientific Advisory Board. This continuously updateable report not only answers to the needs of our corporate members but also, forms a sound basis for future interaction between IPS and the bodies that are included in the report.

The tasks and goals of the Society have been continuously discussed throughout the year. To me, as the new Secretary General, this reflects the openness and capability of the Society to make further improvements and the need to better adapt to a changing environment.

In order to maintain and strengthen IPS as a forum that can be used to expand the knowledge and understanding of peat-related science and practical applications, there is an ongoing challenge to



The participants of the Annual Assembly 2014 in Riga. Photo: Ernests Dinka

develop the practices, structures and economy of the Society. At the end of the year, we decided to further examine the strategy and make revisions to improve IPS' visibility and benefits for its current and potential members.

The last IPS Award of Excellence 2014 was presented to Professor Richard "Dicky" Clymo from the United Kingdom for his lifetime achievements in research and fostering international cooperation. This was awarded during the dinner at the IPS Annual Meetings in Riga. The award has now come to an end and will be replaced by "Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management". These grants commemorate the long-term honorary member, Allan Robertson, who passed away in February.

The electronic magazine, Peatlands International, has proved to be a success. In particular, the electronic version has received positive feedback for its increased publishing rate, easier sharing and better accessibility. However, some members would still prefer to read a printed version. Substantial savings in printing and distribution costs speak for themselves, while some effort

still needs to be made to improve the advertising income. We continue to develop the electronic format of PI, according to the readers' expectations.

The Income Statement of IPS shows a surplus of €15,600 (2013: surplus of €44,800) for the 2014 financial year. This is mainly because of the smaller expenditure on costs, as well as the welcomed 15% commission payment from the Riga Peat Technology Conference. In past years, with full staff, regular physical meetings and a printed magazine, IPS produced an operating deficit of approximately €20,000 annually. This was mainly due to unpaid membership fees, which needed to be covered by additional income. Funding remains a permanent challenge for the Society.

The total income of the IPS was €166,600 (€205,200), with expenditure amounting to €149,600 (€158,600). Bad debts amounted to €3,000 (€28,900), which were mainly due to unpaid membership fees. Adapting to this situation and adjusting our costs accordingly was continued from the previous year. This also led us to search for new external core funding and look more seriously into project funding, provided that it can bring in sufficient

resources for expanding project administration.

It is my great honour to thank all of the members for contributing to the IPS goals and objectives in many ways. I am very grateful for our devoted EB and the wonderful experts in various IPS Commissions who I have come across during the year. Special thanks are also owed to the National Committee Chairs and Secretaries. Your voluntary work carries IPS. Of course, with warm gratitude, I thank my colleague, Susann; Office Assistant, Sandra and Intern, Fiona at the IPS Secretariat.

We are anxiously waiting for Tullamore – a new conversation on peatlands with exciting new approaches in June. It will be great to not only meet inside but also, "by the fire and outdoors". This will not only be a special experience but also, most interesting in the sense of professional interaction between the participants. Please see more at www.irishpeatsociety.ie and register!

All the best for 2015.

Hannu Salo

Secretary General
since May 2014



The Executive Board with the IPS staff in Riga, Lithuania. Photo: Sandra Lubinaite

Report of the Executive Board

IPS Membership

Membership development

As of 31 December 2014, the IPS membership comprised a total of 1,462 (2013: 1,511) members in 43 (41) countries. These were 1,081 individual, 252 corporate, 27 institutional, 44 honorary (partly local) and 58 student members (appendix). IPS has most members now via its National Committees in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands.

Our membership database is updated continuously by combining information from the National Committees and directly by our members. The names of new members are regularly published in Peatlands International and all IPS members are encouraged to ask their friends and colleagues to join the IPS.

All corporate and research institute members that pay full membership fees can nominate up to six contact persons who receive full membership benefits, including Peatlands International, Peat News and registration fee discounts at IPS conferences.

The online database for members on the IPS website was and continues to be actively used, allowing all members to see and edit their contact information in real-time and see the details of other members (those who have made their information available by checking a special box).

Members can also download publications and share other information, such as job and research announcements.

It is possible to join the IPS online in countries without a National Committee, and to purchase six-month reading rights instantly while membership applications in our main

member countries are being handled by the National Committees.

All National Committees are encouraged to further promote the student membership category within their country and networks, and to promptly provide membership updates to the IPS Secretariat.

National Committees

The IPS is represented by 17 National Committees with a total of 1,412 (1,454) members, of which 12 operate in Europe, two in North America and three in Asia. These comprise 1,057 individual, 236 corporate, 13 research institute, 12 governmental, 55 student and 39 honorary members (partly local).

The Chinese National Committee was successfully established in 2014, led by Professor Meng Xianmin from Northeast Normal University. The National Committee of Hungary was suspended due to a lack of membership fee payment. The membership of the National Committees of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia remains suspended until membership fees are paid.

Members in countries without a National Committee

As of 31 December 2014, the IPS had 24 individual, 16 corporate, 2 institutional, 3 student and 2 honorary members in 22 countries without National Committees. Countries with the largest numbers of members are Russia, Italy and France. More details can be found in a special list in the appendices.

Commissions

IPS holds 10 Commissions which organize meetings and conferences and publish scientific knowledge. Commission membership is informal and open to all IPS members. All Commission Chairs are members of

the IPS Scientific Advisory Board. Commission X on Peatlands and Climate Change now has a new chair, David Wilson. The reports of the Commissions can be found in the appendices and their contact details can be seen in a special section of this report.

Main activities

Updated strategy and mission statement

The new mandate/charter for the IPS, which replaces the old mission and vision, was approved by the National Assembly during the annual meeting on 28 August 2014 and is now incorporated in the IPS statutes. The new mandate/charter states:

"The International Peat Society is an organization of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat.

It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience.

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

It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource."

Conventions Report

In August 2014, the IPS launched its guidelines on "International Conventions, Agencies, Agreements and Programmes" by Jack Rieley and Sandra Lubinaite. These contain information on global organizations dealing with peat and peatland matters, for instance Ramsar, FAO, IPCC and UNESCO. The brochure was distributed at the IPS Annual

Convention in Riga in print and can be downloaded at www.peatsociety.org/conventions2014.

Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management

IPS continued to promote the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management in 2014. The SRPM was handed out at all IPS events internationally and nationally and was made known via numerous presentations by IPS members at peatland-related conferences. Further copies are available for free from the IPS Secretariat.

It is recommended that the IPS National Committees translate the Strategy into their own language. Much work was done in writing and implementing similar national strategies for peatland management, such as in Finland, Canada and Ireland. The Strategy can also be found at www.peatsociety.org/peatlands-and-peat/strategy-responsible-peatland-management.

Peatland certification

IPS is actively following the project on Enhancing the Sustainability of the Peat Supply Chain for Dutch Horticulture, the Responsibly Produced Peat (RPP) scheme and the Canadian Veriflora sustainability certification and eco-labelling programme as well as the code of conduct of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA). However, IPS retains its neutral position towards different certification schemes.

Project plans

During 2014, the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board of the Society discussed, among others, the following future projects for the IPS, provided that funding can be obtained:

- Update of Global Peat Resources
- Peat Academy: produce educational materials and provide seminars and courses for all affecting peat and peatland matters

- Practical guidelines to supplement the Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management (SRPM)

These will be challenging tasks for the next few years, to be carried out in addition to the general activities of the IPS. Any financial contributions are very welcome.

Conferences and other events

IPS National Committees and Commissions organized or attended a broad variety of peat- and peatland-related symposia and excursions. A list of these can be found in the appendices and some more information is included in the reports of the Commissions and National Committees.

IPS representatives also attended the IUCN conference in Inverness, the SER symposium on peatland restoration in Oulu in August and Ramsar meetings in Bad Kufstein in October 2014 to follow up international decision-making on peatland issues.

The main event of the IPS in 2014 was the IPS Annual Convention in Riga, which was attended by 280 participants, and helped to share knowledge between industry and science, especially with regard to horticulture and restoration, and also created some income for the Society.

Publications

Peatlands International

The Peatlands International magazine was digitized in 2013, and in the year 2014 four issues of the magazine were published as PDF files, on a blog and as an e-mag. A survey was conducted regarding the readers' views of the magazine. The survey revealed that many IPS members are mostly satisfied with

the magazine in digital format. A report of the survey can be found in Peatlands International 4.2014.

Peatlands International is supported by an Editorial Board with the following members in 2014:

Paul Short, Canada
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Michael Trepel, Germany
Catherine Farrell, Ireland
Lech Szajdak, Poland
Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands
Marie-Kofod Hansen, Sweden
Allan Robertson, United Kingdom
Tom Malterer, USA

Previous issues of Peatlands International can be found at the new IPS online database, and most of the printed issues can be ordered from www.peatsociety.org/publications. Further information on the magazine and a media kit are available at the IPS website or can be ordered from the IPS Secretariat. Peatlands International is included in the membership fee.

Peat News

Peat News, the electronic newsletter of the IPS, is sent out monthly by email to all members of the Society. In 2014, 12 issues were distributed, each to approximately 1,200 members. All previous newsletters can be downloaded from our member intranet. Please sign up as an IPS member to receive the newsletter automatically. Peat News has been published since 2002, and all advertisers in Peatlands International have been listed as official supporters of Peat News.

On the Internet

IPS website

IPS has continued developing its new website. Special member benefits include an online document database for proceedings, brochures and other publications, a searchable member database, a news list, book store, open positions and a number of self-updating information boxes. Further resources have to

be found to enable the uploading of all previous IPS proceedings to the document database in the near future. A complete renewal of the website shall be carried out within the next two years.

In autumn 2014, the IPS Secretariat successfully uploaded issues 1-12 of the International Peat Journal and the Proceedings of the International Peat Congress 2008 to the document database at the IPS website.

Scientific journal Mires and Peat

The joint scientific journal of IPS and IMCG, Mires and Peat, has received official status in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science in 2014. Nevertheless, high quality papers are needed continuously to maintain this important publication.

Mires and Peat was launched online in 2006, and is freely accessible to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The Editor is Dr Olivia Bragg, supported by an enlarged Editorial Board. The journal can be accessed free of charge at www.mires-and-peat.net.

All issues of the former International Peat Journal (IPJ), the last issue of which was published in 2004, can still be ordered from the IPS website.

IPS is supporting the journal with approx. €3,500 annually.

Online shop & Merchandise

In 2014 IPS moved from its online shop to email ordering, due to high costs, complicated processing and administration work. Instead, printed publications can be ordered directly from the Secretariat. More information may be found online, www.peatsociety.org/publications.

The most popular books remain Peatlands and Climate Change, Finland-Fenland, Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands and proceedings of previous symposia.

IPS has also made efforts to promote the IPS and its logo and to raise awareness. Therefore, the IPS Secretariat created a merchandise shop at <http://peatsociety.spreadshirt.fi> that offers t-shirts, hoodies, hats, umbrellas, mugs and other useful items (for field trips!) featuring the IPS logo. One euro from each purchase is used to support the IPS's activities.

In addition, new transparent IPS pens and metal pins can be ordered from the IPS Secretariat.

Social media

IPS has actively shared information about its own and related activities, press articles and conference announcements via its Facebook and LinkedIn pages.

At the end of 2014, about 500 people were following IPS information on Facebook, most of whom are not yet members of the Society. The most common age group of these followers is 25-34 years old, which clearly shows that social media is the most appropriate channel to reach a younger audience.

The IPS LinkedIn group allows networking between about 200 peat and peatland professionals, and has also proved a great tool for quickly sharing and collecting information, and for keeping new contacts in mind.

Public discussion

Climate change, biodiversity, peatland restoration, carbon issues and inland water cleanliness were the most important issues with respect to peatland management in the public eye. Additionally, there are debates on responsible peat use and peatland conservation in many



Field excursion in Latvia, on our way to Kemerī mīre.

countries, such as Ireland, Finland and Canada. IPS is regularly following Google News and different Google Scholar alerts on peat, mire and peatland topics and sharing these via Peat News and its FB site.

Finances and Funding

The IPS is fully funded by membership fees, mainly from its corporate members, of €113,000 (2013: €117,000) and National Committee contributions, €29,000 (€26,000). In addition, the International Peat Congress, which is held every fourth year, and the Society's other symposia are an important financial resource for the IPS.

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a surplus of €15,600 (2013: surplus of €44,800) for the financial year 2014. This resulted mainly from the 15% share of the registration fees of the Riga Baltic Peat Forum & Annual IPS Convention, which will be used to cover costs during the next three years.

Bad debts amounting to €3000 (unpaid invoices 2012) were required by the auditors to be removed from the income statement of the IPS. IPS has been able to balance its income situation with regard to bad debts due to unpaid membership fees, but still these expenditures have to be compensated by others.

IPS has brought a cost-saving programme into use, and we are searching for additional core and project funding from outside sources.

The total income of the IPS was €166,618.00 (€205,200), with expenditure amounting to €149,618 (€158,600). The depreciation of equipment amounted to €1,400 (€1,800; 25%). Assets and liabilities increased to €171,600 (€154,000). More details can be seen in the financial appendices.

The accounts and financial statements of the International Peat Society were audited by the Authorized Public Accountant Arto Saarinen from DHS Audit, an Authorized Public Accounting Firm.

Administration

Annual Assembly in Riga, Latvia, August 2014

The IPS held its 2014 Annual Convention together with a range of lectures and business meetings in Riga, Latvia, during the week of 25-29 August.

The Convention was organized together with the International Peat Technology Symposium 2014 and the annual Baltic Peat Forum which attracted some 280 participants from 28 countries. Among these were IPS members from Burundi, Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. In addition to the main conference, the IPS Executive Board held two meetings at the Radisson Blue Latvija Hotel (12 attendees).

The formal Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held on 28 August 2014 at the Radisson Blu Hotel Riga, Latvia. The Assembly was attended by representatives of 13 National Committees. The Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership Fees 2014 were accepted, as well as an interim budget and membership fees for 2015. The Assembly also elected the Auditor for IPS for 2014 and introduced the new Mission and Vision to the IPS Statutes.

Three new Executive Board Members were elected in place of retiring members, for the period 2014-2018. The new EB members are Moritz Böcking (Germany), Erki Niitlaan (Estonia) and Claes Rülcker (Sweden). Furthermore, the Assembly approved the Estonian National Committee to hold the International Peat Congress 2020 in Tallinn.

Executive Board

According to the Statutes of the IPS, the Executive Board consists of the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents and from two to six ordinary members. The members



The 2014 Award of Excellence went to Professor RS Clymo.
Photo: Sandra Lubinaite

of the Executive Board in 2014 and their terms of office were:

President
Björn Hånell, Sweden
2012-2016

1st Vice President
Guus van Berckel, the Netherlands/
Germany
2012-2016

2nd Vice President
Jack Rieley, United Kingdom
2012-2016

Ordinary members:

Donal Clarke, Ireland, 2012-2016
Paul Short, Canada, 2012-2016
Samu Valpola, Finland, 2012-2016
Moritz Böcking, Germany, 2014-2018
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia, 2014-2018
Claes Rülcker, Sweden, 2014-2018

In addition, the Executive Board has given observer status to Lulie Melling from Malaysia as Director General of the 2016 International Peat Congress.

The main administrative meetings of the IPS in 2014 were:

IPS Annual Meetings and
International Peat Technology
Conference:
25 - 29 August 2014, Riga, Latvia

Executive Board meetings:
27 - 28 March 2014
Groningen, the Netherlands
21 May 2014, phone conference
15 August 2014, internet and phone
conference
25 & 28 August 2014, Riga, Latvia
11 - 13 November 2014
Brussels, Belgium

The decisions of these meetings were communicated in Peat News and Peatlands International.

Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board had its meetings by email during 10-14 March and face-to-face on 25 August in Riga. Its decisions and questions were regularly communicated to and considered by the Executive

Board. Professor Jack Rieley from the United Kingdom continued as Chair with Dr Roxane Andersen and, since September, Catherine Farrell as Secretary.

Issues discussed included IPS's strategic plan and projects, the Conventions Report, the situation of Commission X: Peatlands and Climate Change, SAB participation in related organizations and their events, etc. Most of the decisions were communicated via Peat News.

The SAB consists of the 10 IPS Commission Chairs and the Second Vice President of IPS. It provides the Society with advice and information on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance, drawing upon the pool of knowledge available in the Commissions and elsewhere and promoting and disseminating research results.

The SAB normally meets twice a year in association with other IPS meetings. IPS provides funding for travel of up to €500/member.

David Wilson joined the SAB in 2014 as Chair of Commission X on Peatlands and Climate Change, supported by Vice Chair Maria Strack.

Members of the Scientific Advisory Board at the end of 2014 were:

Chairman:
Jack Rieley, United Kingdom

Secretary:
Catherine Farrell, Ireland

Members: Chairs of Comm. I-X:

I Lars Lundin, Sweden
II Gerald Schmilewski, Germany
III Barbara Kalisz, Poland
IV Jürgen Schoenherr, Germany
V Catherine Farrell, Ireland
VI Leena Larva, Finland
VII Sakari Sarkkola, Finland
VIII Michiel Gerding, the Netherlands
IX Jack Rieley, United Kingdom
X David Wilson, Ireland

Secretariat

Organisational changes

The new Secretary General of the IPS, Mr Hannu Salo, was appointed as of May 2014, in addition to his tasks at the Finnish Bioenergy Association. IPS Communications Manager Susann Warnecke worked as Acting Secretary General with limited responsibilities in addition to her administrative, communications, accounting and event management tasks from October 2013 to April 2014.

In April 2014, the IPS Secretariat changed its accounting services successfully from Pirki Oy (Aaltonen) to electronic + paperless accounting at TietoAkseli Oy, which meant great improvement in services and reliability.

The IPS Secretariat was supported by Sandra Lubinaite from Lithuania as part-time Office Assistant until the arrival of the new Secretary General, and for some projects afterwards. In addition, part-time intern Ms Aline Prantl from Switzerland helped to organize the IPS library and upload our publications to the Intranet during January to July. Ms Fiona Mwacharo from Kenya took care of some of the administrative duties from September to December.

The Secretariat of the IPS has been located in Jyväskylä, Finland since January 1992. Since June 2012, the postal address of the Secretariat has been Kauppakatu 19 D 31, 40100 Jyväskylä, Finland. At the end of this year, changing the location of the IPS Secretariat to a more suitable location for our business was discussed.

Honours

IPS Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence of the International Peat Society was handed to Professor Richard "Dicky" Clymo from the United Kingdom during the Gala Dinner in Riga on

28 August. He was nominated for his tremendous work as a scientist in the field of peatlands. Professor Clymo has published widely on many aspects of peat and peatlands, and also wetlands, in many peer reviewed scientific journals; he has published several books and contributed to numerous others.

The IPS Award of Excellence was launched in 2005 and is annually conferred on a person, group or project for a distinguished contribution in any sector of peatland activities. The Award comprises a framed scroll and a cash prize of €1,000.

In autumn 2014, the Executive Board decided to discontinue the Award and to offer grants for students and young professionals instead.

Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

In 2014, the IPS decided to launch at least two Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals, named after Honorary President Allan Robertson. The €500 grants will be given for the first time in 2015, and additional funding is being sought from National Committees and private sponsors. The application deadline is 30 March.

Honorary Members

It was with great sadness that we heard about the passing of IPS Honorary President Allan Robertson in February 2014. He was a beloved and respected member of the IPS and will be missed by many.

Warm congratulations to Jaakko Silpola, Secretary General of the IPS during 2004-2013, who was granted Honorary Membership in 2014.

Honorary Membership is conferred by the Executive Board on persons nominated by National Committees who have made outstanding contributions to the IPS and to international cooperation on peatlands and peat. At the end of the year, the IPS had the following Honorary Members:

F. Baranyai, Hungary
David Bellamy, United Kingdom
Jean-Yves Daigle, Canada
A.K. Dergunov, Russia
Hartmut Falkenberg, Germany
Henk van de Griendt, the Netherlands
Don N. Grubich, USA
Matti Hilli, Finland
Gerry Hood, Canada
Paddy Hughes, Ireland
Piotr Ilnicki, Poland
Ivan I. Lishtvan, Belarus

Markku Mäkelä, Finland
Thomas Malterer, USA
P. McEvilly, Ireland
Yrjö Pessi, Finland
Reidar Pettersson, Sweden
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Jaakko Silpola, Finland
Ansis Snore, Latvia
B.N. Sokolov, Russia
Raimo Sopo, Finland
András Toth, Hungary

Cooperation

The IPS cooperated internationally with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG), the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Locally, the IPS cooperated with the University of Applied Sciences and the University of Jyväskylä, the Finnish Peatland Society and Finnish Bioenergy Association - and of course with our National Committees and industrial member associations.



Also the SER Conference on Ecological Restoration in Oulu was one of the major partner events for the IPS this year.

Conferences and other events

Events of the IPS and its National Committees

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Groningen, the Netherlands
26 - 28 March 2014

German Peat Society (DGMT)
International Symposium
New clinical and scientific data -
Peloid therapy and spa research
Bayersoien, Germany,
21 - 22 March 2014
More info:
andre.beer@klinik-blankenstein.de
www.dgmtev.de

Finnish Peatland Society
After-use of unproductive peatlands
drained for forestry
Vantaa, Finland, 1 April 2014
www.suoseura.fi

German Peat Society (DGMT)
Workshop on restoration of
groundwater fed peatlands
Blossin, Germany, 23 - 25 May 2014
www.dgmtev.de

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

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

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

German Peat Society (DGMT)
Substrate 2030 – Anforderungen,

Verfügbarkeit und Eigenschaften
Hanover, Germany
17 September 2014
www.dgmtev.de

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

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Brussels, Belgium
11 - 13 November 2014

Finnish National Committee
Autumn meeting and seminar
Helsinki, 26 November 2014
www.suoseura.fi

Cooperation events

World Wetlands Day
worldwide, 2 February
www.ramsar.org

Responsible management of
peatlands: implications of the
industrial sector
Québec, Canada
19 - 20 February 2014
www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca

2nd Flow Country Research
Conference
Thurso, Scotland, 4 - 6 March 2014
www.nhconline.net/nhconline/flow/
programme.htm

9th European Conference on
Ecological Restoration
University of Oulu, Finland
3 - 8 August 2014
www.ser2014.org

Peatland Action: Learning from
Success - Annual IUCN Conference
20 - 22 October 2014
Inverness, Scotland
iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

Events of related organisations

The following events were of interest
and/or attended by IPS members:

European Geosciences Union
General Assembly 2014
Vienna, Austria
27 April - 2 May 2014
Peatland Hydrology Session
<http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2014/session/14356>

Ancient Woodland Talk In the Bog
- Managing Landscape Change and
Future Ecologies
Sheffield, United Kingdom
15 - 16 May 2014
www.ukeconet.org/event/wilder-by-design

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

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

Sphagnum Reintroduction in Practice
Manchester Metropolitan University
11 June 2014
www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-seminar

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

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

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

ICOS Sweden Annual Workshop 2014
SLU, Umeå, Sweden
2 - 3 September 2014
www.icos-sweden.se

NRB BESS Conference 2014
Southampton, United Kingdom
8 - 9 September 2014
www.nrbess.net/conference2014

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

Bioenergy from Forest Conference
Helsinki, Finland
15 - 18 September 2014
www.bioenergyevents.fi

Earth Living Skin: Soil, Life and
Climate Changes
Bari, Italy
22 - 25 September 2014
www.els2014.eu

8th European Ramsar Meeting
Austria, Kufstein
20 - 24 October 2014
www.ramsar.org

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

The Arctic Biodiversity Congress
Trondheim, Norway
2 - 4 December 2014
www.arcticbiodiversity.is/congress



Castle and horticultural peat production tour in Latvia. Photo: Hannu Salo

Members of the IPS

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Canada	9	34	0	0	2	1	46
China	12	0	0	0	0	0	12
Estonia	1	28	0	1	0	0	30
Finland	309	3	1	1	10	0	324
Germany	278	55	4	5	12	38	392
Indonesia	104	0	1	0	0	0	105
Ireland	30	5	0	1	2	0	38
Japan	46	2	0	0	0	2	50
Latvia	2	28	0	0	6	0	36
Lithuania	1	22	0	0	0	0	23
Malaysia	51	6	0	0	0	0	57
The Netherlands	51	14	2	1	3	6	77
Norway	3	4	1	0	0	0	8
Poland	94	3	0	0	1	0	98
Sweden	24	23	2	0	1	0	50
United Kingdom	22	6	1	2	0	7	38
USA	20	3	1	1	2	1	28
31 December 2014	1057	236	13	12	39	55	1412
31 December 2013	1089	245	14	12	41	53	1454
31 December 2012	971	237	43	16	41	46	1354
31 December 2011	1003	233	38	16	43	39	1372
31 December 2010	1000	276	44	16	45	32	1413

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	Research Institutes, Universities	TOTAL
Argentina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Australia	2	0	1	0	0	3
Belarus	0	1	0	1	0	2
Belgium	1	2	0	0	0	3
Burundi	0	1	0	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	2	1	0	0	0	3
Falkland Islands	1	0	0	0	0	1
France	0	5	0	0	0	5
Hungary	0	0	0	2	0	2
India	1	0	0	0	0	1
Italy	5	0	0	0	0	5
Pakistan	1	0	0	0	0	1
Peru	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Russia	4	2	0	2	2	10
Rwanda	1	0	0	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Singapore	0	0	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	2	1	0	0	0	3
Ukraine	1	1	0	0	0	2
31 December 2014	24	16	3	5	2	50
31 December 2013	32	20	2	3		57
31 December 2012	41	15	2			58
31 December 2011	31	14	1			46
31 December 2010	29	7	1			37

Table 1: Members of IPS National Committees.

Table 2: IPS members in countries without National Committees.

Table 3: Development of the IPS membership from 2007 to 2014.

	December 2014	December 2013	December 2012	December 2011	December 2010	December 2009	December 2008
NC members	1412	1454	1354	1372	1413	1384	1238
Non-NC members	50	57	58	46	37	28	34
	1462	1511	1412	1418	1450	1412	1272

Expenses and revenue of the IPS

	Realised 2014	%	Budget 2014	Realised 2013
STAFF AND EXTERNAL SERVICES				
3100 Salaries	-70 990,47	97 %	-72 999,96	-71 692,37
3101 Auditing	-1 562,40	98 %	-1 599,96	-1 562,40
3102 Debited salaries	0,00		0,00	3 343,83
3103 Accounting	-6 133,97	136 %	-4 500,00	-2 045,99
3104 Social security	-1 525,04	102 %	-1 500,00	-1 460,13
3105 Pension funds	-11 410,94	82 %	-14 000,04	-13 243,20
3106 Insurances required by law	-1 925,93	193 %	-999,96	-827,13
3107 Healthcare	-705,07	88 %	-800,04	-717,82
3108 Other social costs	-202,80	203 %	-99,96	-26,00
3110 Training	-185,00	62 %	-300,00	-207,00
Staff and external services	-94 641,62	98 %	-96 799,92	-88 438,21
Facilities				
3115 Rent	-6 637,00	99 %	-6 699,96	-8 270,00
3116 Cleaning	-566,68	63 %	-900,00	-158,88
Facilities	-7 203,68	95 %	-7 599,96	-8 428,88
Management				
3120 Office materials	-643,36	129 %	-500,04	-2 685,96
3121 Printing and copying	-2 259,14	103 %	-2 199,96	0,00
3122 Books and magazines	-33,00	66 %	-50,04	-25,00
3123 Mailing	-571,88	29 %	-2 000,04	-1 956,35
3124 Phone and internet	-567,95	27 %	-2 100,00	-2 357,99
3125 IT and maintenance	-1 957,08	78 %	-2 499,96	-2 093,24
3127 Other insurances	-1 438,96	160 %	-900,00	-861,83
3128 Other costs (recruiting)	-189,49	379 %	-50,04	-1 699,27
Management	-7 660,86	74 %	-10 300,08	-11 679,64
Other costs				
3133 Membership fees	-88,93	89 %	-99,96	-40,00
3134 Banking fees	-514,17	103 %	-500,04	-455,86
3135 Webshop/credit card fees	-611,22	61 %	-999,96	-810,92
3136 Award of Excellence	-1 000,00	100 %	-999,96	-1 007,50
3137 Marketing	-176,12	176 %	-99,96	-272,80
3138 Other costs	0,00		0,00	0,00
Other costs	-2 390,44	89 %	-2 699,88	-2 587,08
SECRETARIAT TOTAL	-111 896,60	95 %	-117 399,84	-111 133,81
TRAVELLING AND ORGANISATION				
Income				
3142 Travelling + meeting income	0,00		0,00	1 680,00
Expenses				
3150 Domestic travelling (incl. accomr	-1 569,33	98 %	-1 599,96	-1 037,91
3152 Domestic allowances	-661,50	165 %	-399,96	-416,00
3153 Mileage allowances	-853,36	171 %	-500,04	-407,40
3154 Foreign allowances	-1 277,50	98 %	-1 299,96	-5 626,26
3155 Secretariat foreign travelling and	-8 895,82	148 %	-6 000,00	-2 023,06

3156 EB foreign travelling and accomo	-6 153,35	137 %	-4 500,00	-4 120,73
3158 SAB foreign travelling and accomi	-2 736,59	68 %	-3 999,96	-3 168,96
3160 Meeting costs / room rents	-1 248,78	28 %	-4 500,00	-4 753,38
3161 Representation costs / catering	-649,72	14 %	-4 500,00	-5 384,93
3162 Registration fees	-2 140,01	267 %	-800,04	-721,40
3164 Other travelling costs	-1 483,34		0,00	0,00
Travelling expenses	-27 669,30	98 %	-28 099,92	-27 660,03
TRAVELLING AND ORGANISATION TOTAL	-27 669,30	98 %	-28 099,92	-25 980,03
PUBLISHING ACTIVITY				
Income				
3200 Sales of magazines	0,00		0,00	637,00
3201 Advertisement income	5 200,00	52 %	9 999,96	11 210,00
3202 Reading rights online	0,00	0 %	99,96	50,00
3203 Sales of publications	288,00	24 %	1 200,00	1 078,00
3204 Other publication income	65,00	65 %	99,96	64,54
Income total	5 553,00	49 %	11 399,88	13 039,54
Expenses				
3211 Online Journal Mires and Peat	-4 085,47	117 %	-3 500,04	-6 500,00
3212 Proofreading PI + PN	-681,49	85 %	-800,04	-655,75
3213 Printing PI	0,00		0,00	-6 515,78
3214 Mailing PI	0,00		0,00	-5 427,79
3215 Other publication costs	-235,36	94 %	-249,96	-14,96
3216 Website and e-mail	-491,04	49 %	-999,96	-644,60
3217 Book scanning	-267,76	134 %	-200,04	0,00
Expenses total	-5 761,12	100 %	-5 750,04	-19 758,88
PUBLISHING TOTAL	-208,12	-4 %	5 649,84	-6 719,34
PROJECTS				
Income				
3300 Project income	0,00		0,00	0,00
Expenses				
3355 Project expenses	0,00		0,00	0,00
PROJECTS TOTAL	0,00		0,00	0,00
CONFERENCES				
Income				
3400 Conference income (IPC 2012, to	12 213,00		0,00	44 241,10
Expenses				
3455 Conference expenses	-1 204,92		0,00	0,00
CONFERENCES TOTAL	11 008,08		0,00	44 241,10

MEMBERSHIP FEES				
Income total	148 852,00	100 %	149 000,04	146 232,50
Expenses				
3610 Credit losses	-3 084,00		0,00	0,00
Expenses total	-3 084,00		0,00	0,00
MEMBERSHIP FEES TOTAL	145 768,00	98 %	149 000,04	146 232,50
SAVINGS AND FINANCING				
Income				
4000 Interest yield	0,00		0,00	0,00
4010 Dividend yield	0,00		0,00	0,00
4090 Other yield	0,00		0,00	0,00
Income total	0,00		0,00	0,00
Expenses				
4100 Interest charges	-1,80		0,00	-3,36
4190 Other expenses	0,03		0,00	0,00
Expenses total	-1,80		0,00	-3,36
SAVINGS AND FINANCING TOTAL	-1,80		0,00	-3,36
DEPRECIATION				
6000 Depreciation (25%)	-1 388,60	99 %	-1 400,04	-1 851,46
DEPRECIATION TOTAL	-1 388,60	99 %	-1 400,04	-1 851,46
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	<u>15 611,69</u>	201 %	<u>7 750,08</u>	<u>44 785,60</u>

List of accounting books used

The following accounting books have been used during the financial year:
Balance sheet book, Normal ledger, General journal and Fixed assets book

Balance sheet

	31.12.2014	31.12.2013	Difference (%)
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Tangible assets			
116, Machinery and equipment	4 165,79	5 554,39	-25 %
1160, Machinery and Equipment	4 165,79	5 554,39	-25 %
Tangible assets in total	4 165,79	5 554,39	-25 %
Investments in total	0	0	
Non-current assets in total	4 165,79	5 554,39	-25 %
Current assets			
Receivables			
Short term			
170, Trade debtors	27 393,90	4 435,00	518 %
1700, Trade debtors	27 393,90	0	
1727, Trade debtors, until 31st of March	0	4 435,00	-100 %
176, Other receivables	5 662,00	45 607,00	-88 %
1760, Other debtors	4 937,00	44 882,00	-89 %
1767, Rent deposits	725	725	0 %
Prepayments and accrued income	816,95	934,82	-13 %
180, Prepayments and accrued income	816,95	934,82	-13 %
1800, Accrued credit and deferred charge	732,86	850,73	-14 %
1810, Participating interests	84,09	84,09	0 %
Short-term debtors in total	33 872,85	50 976,82	-34 %
Total receivables	33 872,85	50 976,82	-34 %
Cash in hand and at banks	133 595,66	97 473,75	37 %
1910, Danske bank account	133 595,66	97 473,75	37 %
Current assets in total	167 468,51	148 450,57	13 %
ASSETS IN TOTAL	171 634,30	154 004,96	11 %
LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves			
Retained earnings gain or (loss)	141 357,93	96 572,33	46 %
225, Retained earnings gain or (loss)	141 357,93	96 572,33	46 %
2250, Retained surplus/deficit	141 357,93	96 572,33	46 %
Suprlus (deficit) for the financial year	15 611,69	44 785,60	-65 %
Capital and reserves in total	156 969,62	141 357,93	11 %
Creditors			
Creditors, Short term			
287, Accounts Payables	2 804,20	3 370,50	-17 %
2870, Trade creditors until 31st of March	0	3 370,50	-100 %
2880, Trade creditors	2 804,20	0	
292, Other creditors	2 580,90	0	
2920, Pay as you earn- and social security	2 580,90	0	
295, Accruals and deferred income	9 279,58	8 087,92	15 %
2950, Accrued liabilities from salaries	9 279,58	8 087,92	15 %
298, Deferred tax liabilities	0	1 188,61	-100 %
2980, Income tax accruals	0	1 188,61	-100 %
Creditors, Short term in total	14 664,68	12 647,03	16 %
Creditors in total	14 664,68	12 647,03	16 %
LIABILITIES IN TOTAL	171 634,30	154 004,96	11 %

IPS Commissions and Working Groups

In 2014, the International Peat Society had the following Commissions and Working Groups:

Commission I - Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands

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Vice Chair :

Ass. Professor Maria Strack
Department of Geography
University of Calgary, Canada
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Working Groups: Peatland Geology,
Peatland Ecology, Peatland Hydrology

Commission II - Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes

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Secretary:

Pat Fitzgerald
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Working Groups: Energy Peat,
Horticultural Peat (HOPE WG)

Commission III - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat

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Associate Professor
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Commission IV - Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

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Commission V - Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands

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Working Groups: Forest Plantation
on Cutover Peatlands, Cloudberry
Production in Peatlands

Commission VI - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics

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Commission VII - Ecology and management of forested peatlands

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Commission VIII - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands

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Commission IX - Tropical peatlands

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Commission X - Peatlands and Climate Change

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for updates see
www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups

Reports of Commissions

Commission I –
Stratigraphy, inventory
and conservation of
peatlands
Chair: Lars Lundin

Scope

IPS Commission I embraces inventory, stratigraphy and conservation of peatlands. Included in this context are ecology, geology, hydrology, biology and terminology. Peat formation is also an issue, as are ecosystem services related to mires and peatlands. Each of these subjects could constitute a working group. The general view is to achieve new activities within the working groups, while keeping in mind collaboration with other Commissions.

State

Commission I addresses all IPS members interested in Commission I activities. Traditionally there have

been members from 13 countries: Belarus, Canada, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Ireland, Russia, Sweden, the UK and the US. An invitation was sent out from the IPS Secretariat to all IPS members to sign up to Commissions.

Replies showed that 69 names from 18 countries have interest in Commission I. Further countries involved are now Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia and Poland. There has also been the start of Working Groups (WG) in Geology, Ecology and Hydrology. However, activities in the groups have been limited during 2014.

At the quadrennial meeting 2012 in Stockholm, the Chair and Vice Chair were elected, and remain as Lars Lundin, Sweden, as Chair and Ass. Professor Maria Strack, Department of Geography, University of Calgary, Canada, as Vice Chair - mstrack@ucalgary.ca, <http://geog.ucalgary.ca/profiles/maria-strack>.

Activities and plans

The priorities of Commission I remain with Inventory, Stratigraphy and Conservation of mires and peatlands with special relation to the working groups. Two Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meetings have been held with the participation of Commission I:

1. E-mail meeting over 10 - 14 March 2014 with follow-up on strategic projects. A strategy plan was discussed and suggested the projects presented below. The cross-commission standing committee was changed to Commission X on Climate Change and chairs were discussed. Publication of Peatlands International was evaluated and is to remain web-based. In addition, participation in various convention activities was brought up, with encouragement to participate.
2. SAB meeting in Riga on 25 August 2014. This was held in conjunction with the International



Peat Technology Symposium in Riga, Latvia. The IPS strategic plan was further discussed. Another item was related to IPC 2016 in Sarawak.

Noted were the new Secretary General Hannu Salo and the report on Conventions and Related International Organizations. Also mentioned was the 50th anniversary of the IPS in 2018.

Initiatives in the 'Secretariat Follow-up Paper on Strategic Plan Projects' included primarily:

1. An updated inventory of global peat resources
2. Supplement SRPM with practical guidelines
3. Provide a databank of national peatland policies
4. Restoration guidelines
5. Peatlands and indigenous people
6. Policy and action plan on climate change, including interface with IPCC and the REDD process

In the International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga, Latvia, one joint session between Commissions I and V was carried out on "Peatland Conservation and Restoration in Practice" and one excursion was jointly organized by Commissions I and V: the peatland tour, "Peatland Renaturalization and Recultivation" on 26 August 2014.

At national level in Sweden, the Swedish Peat Research Foundation and IPS Commission I organized a two-day seminar on water issues in relation to peat extraction, with one day of indoor presentations and a second day for an excursion to an ongoing peat cut-over area. A short presentation on this event is presented in Peatlands International 4, 2014 pages 40-41.

Plans

Planning for the IPC15 Sarawak 2016 in Kuching with input from the Scientific Advisory Board and Commissions will be ongoing for the next two years.

A review of the Wetlands Supplement to the 2006 IPCC

Guidelines was carried out with input also from Commission I.

Commission I contributes in IPS's common activities such as suggested projects and outreach to convention activities.

Commission I also follows activities in the International Mire Conservation Group, IMCG.

Commission I initiatives for the geology working group include activities for renewing the work on geological methods and techniques with involvement from Laimdota Kalnina, Latvia. It has also been suggested to enhance work within the theme "Mire Conservation and Wetlands for Landscape Functionality". Here Elve Lode, Estonia, and Tatiana Minayeva, Russia, showed interest in future development.

IPS Commission II – Utilization of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes
Chair: Gerald Schmilewski

Peat production and peat use for horticultural and energy purposes and other economic applications comprise the main subjects of activity of Commission II. The International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga was surely a highlight for Commission II delegates in 2014. Discussions at the Commission II meeting in Riga on peat production, environmental issues, and the RPP and DEFRA peat certification schemes were among the topics that were of highest interest.

The work conducted by the Commission and other achievements during 2014 are summarized below.

Commission II at the 2014 International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga, Latvia

At the meeting with over 60 Commission II delegates, Hein Boon

(NL) updated participants on the European scheme "Responsibly Produced Peat" (RPP). Gerald Schmilewski (DE) reported on the UK scheme on "Responsible Sourcing and Manufacture of Growing Media". Paul Short (CAN) gave an overview of the "VERIFLORA Certification requirements for responsible horticultural peat moss production and handling". While the Veriflora certification scheme was adopted by Canadian companies starting in 2010, the first RPP certificates are expected to be granted this year. The UK government expects the DEFRA scheme to be finalized this year. The pros and cons of the schemes, in particular the parallel development of the RPP and DEFRA schemes, were discussed in Riga.

Commission II discussions revealed that the regulatory and social environment in peat- and growing media-producing countries has become increasingly challenging and permitting is very difficult. This is reflected in governmental attempts (UK, Lower Saxony/Germany) or other initiatives (i.e., in Austria and Switzerland) to phase out peat use in horticulture.

The Chair informed the meeting about the new €4 million "European Competence Centre for Peatlands and Climate" (Europäisches Fachzentrum Moor und Klima) which opened in October 2014 in Wagenfeld, Germany. It was proposed that IPS and Commission II in particular cooperate with this institution. (A meeting between IPS Gen. Sec. and Commission II Chair G. Schmilewski and representatives of the Centre in Wagenfeld was recently organized. A report is given in Peatlands International.)

Nick van de Griendt was elected Second Vice Chair of Commission II.

Claes Rülcker and Erki Niitlaan were appointed additional members of the Commission II Steering Group.

Sixth ISHS/IPS Symposium in Vienna

The fruitful cooperation between the International Society for Horticultural

Science (ISHS) and IPS is continuing. Five joint symposia on growing media have been successfully conducted since 2005.

The organization of the sixth biannual ISHS/IPS symposium started early 2014. The "International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis - SusGro2015" will be held in Vienna from 7-11 September 2015. Peat and peat replacement will be a major item on the agenda. The nomenclature for substrates and growing media will also be an issue. More information can be found at www.susgro2015.at.

Survey on materials used for growing media production

In 2014 Commission II conducted for the third time (after 2002 and 2007) a survey on the amounts of constituents used for the manufacture of growing media in Europe. We know that these IPS reports and data are often quoted in publications by authors worldwide, by organizations and by institutions like the EU Commission. In particular, these data are most important for the industry itself to demonstrate the importance of peat and other growing media constituents that are used. The results will be presented at the Vienna symposium (see above).

15th International Peat Congress "Peatlands in Harmony - Agriculture, Industry, Nature", Kuching, Malaysia, 15-19 August 2016

Commission II has been asked by the congress organizers to contribute to the event. Since this is the first IPS Congress in Asia, Commission II would like to focus on the use of horticultural substrates in Asia and Oceania.

Next Commission II meeting

The next meeting will be held on 7 June 2015 in conjunction with the IPS Tullamore (Ireland) "A new Conversation on Peatlands" event (see www.peatsociety.org/tullamore2015 and www.irishpeatsociety.ie).

Commission III - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat Chair: Barbara Kalisz

In 2014 Commission III representatives took part in several events, continued their cooperation with peat scientists and stakeholders, and published several papers concerning the use of peat and peatlands.

Events

27 April - 2 May 2014, Vienna, Austria – European Geosciences Union, General Assembly 2014
T. Tonutare, R. Kölli, Köstert, K. Rannik, L. Szajdak and M. Shanskiy gave a presentation on the effect of land use change on soil properties and functions.

9-13 June 2014, Lviv, Ukraine International Conference, Current Problems of Soil Science, Agriculture and Agrochemicals
Professor Lech Wojciech Szajdak and his team gave several presentations which were published in the proceedings (see publications below).

26-27 June 2014, Pulawy, Poland Scientific Conference Assessment of Soils Used in Agriculture
Barbara Kalisz and Andrzej Lachacz presented a poster on changes in organic matter of drained and rewetted peatlands.

4-17 August 2014, Novosibirsk, Russia – Fourth International Field Symposium
Professor Lech Wojciech Szajdak and his team gave presentations which were published in the proceedings (see publications below).

25-29 August 2014, Riga, Latvia – International Peat Technology Symposium
Barbara Kalisz ran a workshop, "Drained Organic Soils – Responsible Management".

25-26 September 2014, Dobczyce, Poland – XIX International Scientific Conference Enviro
Ryszard Oleszczuk, Monika Gąsowska,

Janusz Urbański and Edyta Hewelke presented a poster on the analysis of longitudinal sub-irrigation ditch profile changes in peat-moorsh soils, and Monika Gąsowska, Ryszard Oleszczuk, Janusz Urbański and Anna Baryła presented a poster on the dynamics of groundwater level on the plot of a subirrigation system in the Solec site.

International cooperation

Lech Szajdak has been cooperating with the Russian Academy of Agriculture (Siberian Branch, Tomsk State Pedagogical University, Agroecology Laboratory) and Tallinn University of Technology (Institute of Chemistry) as head of several scientific projects.

Publications

TRUBA M., OLESZCZUK R. 2014. An analysis of some basic chemical and physical properties of drained fen peat and moorsh soil layers. *Ann. Warsaw Univ. Life Sci. – SGGW, Land Reclam.* 46 (1): 69-78.

OLESZCZUK R., URBAŃSKI J., GAŚOWSKA M. 2014. The influence of morphological changes of small lowland river on discharge rate. *Ann. Warsaw Univ. Life Sci. – SGGW, Land Reclam.* 46 (4): 279-290.

GAŚOWSKA M., OLESZCZUK R. 2014. Saturated hydraulic conductivity measurements of drained peat soil, *PhD Interdisciplinary Journal* 1/2014: 147-155.

HEWELKE E., SZATYŁOWICZ J., GNATOWSKI T., OLESZCZUK R. 2014. Effects of soil water repellency on moisture patterns in a degraded Sapric Histosol. *Land Degradation & Development*, doi: 10.1002/ldr.2305.

HEWELKE E., SZATYŁOWICZ J., GNATOWSKI T., OLESZCZUK R. 2014. Spatial variability of hydrophobic organic soil moisture under conditions of preferential flow. *Annual Set The Environment Protection* 16: 580-607.

SZAJDAK L.W. 2014. Vasyugan Mire – Natural conditions, structure and functioning, by L.I. Inisheva, A.A. Zemtsov & S.M. Novikov, 2011. Tomsk State Pedagogical University

- Press. 160 pages. ISBN 978-5-89428-532-0. *Geologos*. 20(1): 58-59.
- TURBIAK J. 2014. The effect of the intensity of meadow use on peat-muck soil on CO₂ fluxes and balance in lysimetric experiment. *Woda-Środowisko-Obszary Wiejskie* 14, 2(46): 127–140.
- SZAJDAK L.W., INISHEVA L.I. 2014. Processes in meliorated peat soils. [In:] *Ecology. Peat – Water Ecosystems*. Konishczuk V.V. (Ed.). Ministry of Ecology and Life Resources. Institute of Ecology and Life Science Utilization. Polesie National Park. Ukrainian Academy of Ecology. Kiev.: 15-20.
- SZAJDAK L.W., SZCZEPAŃSKI M. 2014. Impact of peatland biogeochemical barrier on the processes of ground water purification. [In:] *Ecology. Peat – Water Ecosystems*. Konishczuk V.V. (Ed.). Ministry of Ecology and Life Resources. Institute of Ecology and Life Science Utilization. Polesie National Park. Ukrainian Academy of Ecology. Kiev.: 20-25.
- SZAJDAK L.W., MEYSNER T., STYŁA K., GACA W., SZCZEPAŃSKI M. 2014. The biochemical properties of IAA contents of selected peatlands in northern Poland. *International Conference Current Problems of soil science, agriculture and agrochemicals, Lviv National Agrarian University, Ukraine*: 354-363.
- SZAJDAK L.W., INISHEVA L.I., LAPSHINA E.D., GACA W., STYŁA K., MEYSNER T., MAREK SZCZEPAŃSKI M. 2014. The urease activity and nitrogen forms of Sphagnum and Carex dominated peat. [In:] *West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present Proceedings of the Fourth International Field Symposium*. Novosibirsk, August 4 - 17, 2014. Titlyanova A.A., Dergacheva M.I (Eds). Publishing House of Tomsk University: 27-29.
- SZAJDAK L.W., INISHEVA L.I., LAPSHINA E.D., STYŁA K., GACA W., MEYSNER T., SZCZEPAŃSKI M. 2014. The xanthine oxidase and phenol oxidase activity of natural peat and peat-moorsh soils. [In:] *West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present Proceedings of the Fourth International Field Symposium*. Novosibirsk, August 4 - 17, 2014. Titlyanova A.A., Dergacheva M.I (Eds). Publishing House of Tomsk University: 30-32.
- SZAJDAK L.W., STYŁA K., GACA W., MEYSNER T., SZCZEPAŃSKI M. 2014. Phenol oxidase activity in spring and autumn of peat-moorsh soils. [In:] *West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present. Proceedings of the Fourth International Field Symposium*. Novosibirsk, August 4 - 17, 2014. Titlyanova A.A., Dergacheva M.I (Eds). Publishing House of Tomsk University: 36-38.
- KÖLLI R.; ASI E.; TÖNUTARE T.; ASTOVER A.; SZAJDAK L.W. 2014. Morphology and properties of mineral soils covered by shallow peat mantle. [In:] *Abstracts of XIIIth International Symposium and Field Workshop on Paleopedology: "Paleopedological record of postglacial soil and landscape evolution"*. 1-6 September 2014, Toruń, Poland, Nicolaus Copernicus University. (Eds) Jankowski M., Markiewicz M. (Eds). Toruń, Poland: 17.
- GLINA B., BOGACZ A., MALKIEWICZ M., MENDYK Ł, WOŹNICZKA P. Genesis and evolution of the shallow organic soils in the central part of Sudetes mountains (SW Poland). 2014. In:] *West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: Past and Present. Proceedings of the Fourth International Field Symposium*. Novosibirsk, August 4 - 17, 2014. Titlyanova A.A., Dergacheva M.I (Eds). Publishing House of Tomsk University: 235-236.

PhD thesis

Marek Szczepański defended his PhD thesis on the Influence of peat organic soils as a biogeochemical barrier for spatial contamination under the supervision of Professor Lech Wojciech Szajdak.

Future

Commission III has started building a peat website www.uwm.edu.pl/peat, which should be available in February/March 2015.

SER Excursion to Lapland in August.



IPS Commission III is a main organizer of an international workshop, Fen Peatlands after Drainage – Landscape and Soil, which will take place on 6-10 July 2015 in Olsztyn, Poland.

Commission IV -
Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

Chair: Jürgen Schoenherr

not received yet

Commission V -
Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands

Chair: Catherine Farrell

**Acting Commission V Chair,
Dr Roxane Andersen returns to
Vice Chair**

Many thanks to Dr. Roxane Andersen for stepping in to manage the Chair activities from August 2013-April 2014 while Catherine Farrell was on temporary leave from work. Catherine is back in action now and Roxane is still very active in her role co-ordinating activities in the UK and wider afield (when she isn't busy

studying peatlands in Siberia!).

February 2014 Peatland Restoration meeting in Quebec

Roxane attended the 20th Annual PERG annual symposium in Québec, where she held a meeting for the Commission V. At the meeting, it was noted that the Industry preferred the paper version of PI to the online one, but understood that the annual financial reports could be presented online to save on cost. The view was that a facebook presence (e.g. on Peat Researchers) was good. Stephanie Boudreau and Martha Graf were added as editors to the Global Restoration Map. Line Rochefort indicated that a series of articles on restoration success were in press and would be available during the year.

March 2014 Flow Country Research Conference II: Looking forward
Roxane organised and hosted the second research conference dedicated to the Flow Country science. It was sponsored by the UK peat society and was attended by 63 people. A workshop mapping future challenges ahead for peatland restoration in the North of Scotland identified the need for developing good measures of evaluation and proxies for GHG emissions and condition.

September 2014 In the Bog Conference, Sheffield

Roxane attended the conference organised by the BES special interest group on peatlands and supported by the UK peat society, which also held the AGM at the same time. Roxane gave a presentation on restoration of afforested peatlands in the Flow Country of Caithness and Sutherland.

October 2014 IUCN UK Peatland Programme Annual Meeting, Inverness

Both Catherine and Roxane attended and presented at this meeting – Roxane delivered a very informative presentation on the work she is co-ordinating in the Flow Country in Scotland and Catherine presented a poster on the Bord na Mona Bog Restoration project. The conference was well attended, albeit with a very UK focus and on matters relating to blanket bog management and getting the business community involved in restoration projects.

August 2014 IPS EB and SAB meetings in Riga, Latvia

The IPS Annual Assembly was held in Riga in 2014 in conjunction with the Baltic Peat Producers Annual meeting. This was attended by Catherine. As well as the routine business of the SAB we also held a very successful restoration seminar and field trip in with Commission I. There were very informative presentations from peatland conservation and restoration managers in Latvia itself and the situation mirrors the challenges from Estonia and Lithuania in terms of production areas abandoned post Soviet Union.

We also heard about exciting work on Sphagnum farming in Germany and Canada where they are trying to make the process sustainable from an economic perspective. Other presentations on restoration in Canada and Ireland, and some of the massive challenges on the Tropical peatlands were also discussed.



Ilze Ozola and Sandra Lubinate after the Riga symposium.

Peatland Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects map

We are working with IPS Secretariat to update the information and web interface about peatland restoration on the IPS website. The map can be viewed online at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c5-restoration. If you would like to add in any sites please contact Susann at IPS.susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org

Upcoming events

21st PERG meeting - February 2015
Roxane will attend the 21st annual PERG meeting and a meeting on future work in the Oil Sands region of Alberta (fen restoration).

IPS Annual Assembly 2015 - Tullamore

Catherine Farrell is busy working with her colleagues in the Irish Peat Society to finalise the programme and website for the IPS Annual Assembly meetings. The theme of this year's meeting is Peatlands – a new conversation and will break the mould of the traditional conference format. There will be focused field trips and masterclasses covering all aspects of responsible peatland management and a lively social and arts programme to add to the mix. The programme and registration details are available at www.irishpeatsociety.ie

Society of Ecological Restoration World meeting, Manchester, August 2015

Roxane Andersen and Line Rochefort are preparing a session on Global Peatland Restoration: where are we in this mossy world? The contributors to the session will be invited to participate in a special edition of the journal *Restoration Ecology* updating current restoration efforts and challenges around the world. Two more sessions on peatlands will be of interest to the IPS members (blanket bog restoration and peatlands and climate change) and a field trip will

be organised to see some of the large scale restoration on eroded blanket bogs.

Commission VI - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics Chair: Leena Larva

The strategy of the Commission is and will be to find people to work together, along with organizations practicing and interested in Peat Balneology, Pharmacology and Medicine, in order to organize meetings and to support research and work between Commissions (IV).

The main goal is to find evidences for the efficacy of peat or its chemicals in medicine. The problem is that individuals, scientists and doctors are very busy and do not have the time or the funding for research, or to travel to participate in meetings outside their own countries.

Activities 2014

Peloid Congress 21-22 March 2014, Bad Bayersoien, Germany (Prof. André-Michael Beer)

Leena Larva participated in and sent greetings from Commission VI of IPS. There are plans to work more closely with the German Commission VI.

The Second International Congress on Study and Use of Siberian Peat Resources, 18 August-21 August 2014, Siberian Scientific-Research Institute of Agriculture and Peat, Tomsk, Russia.

Leena Larva participated and sent greetings from Commission VI. This Institute is planning to become a member of IPS and work more closely with it. There were discussions with representatives from the Institute of Physical Therapy and Balneology in Tomsk about peat therapy.

Meeting and excursion, 26 August 2014, Riga, Latvia

These were held at the International Peat Technology Symposium in Riga



Study and Use of Siberian Peat Resources 2014 in Tomsk. Photo: Leena Larva

in cooperation with IPS Commission IV.

Plans in 2015

- Participating in strategy meeting in Geeste, Germany, January
- Participating in the IPS Annual Meetings in Tullamore, Ireland, 7 - 11 June
- Organize roundtable meeting in Valkeakoski, Finland, 3-4 July, on the topic: "Peat for Balneology". How should we get it, how should we keep it, and how can we tell? Do we need rules? There will be the possibility to visit a peat sauna and participate in an excursion to Torronsuo National Park.
- Co-organize the third international conference "Problems of Study and Use of Siberian Peat Resources" at the Siberian Scientific-Research Institute of Agriculture and Peat, Tomsk, Russia, 27 September - 2 October 2015. There will be the possibility to visit the Institute of Physiotherapy and Balneology in Tomsk. Two excursions to Siberian peatlands will take place.

Commission VII - Ecology and management of forested peatlands Chair: Sakari Sarkkola

During 2014, the Commission members received two information letters from the Chairman by email.

Members of the Commission undertook active collaborations in research of the ecology of peatland forests with members of other IPS Commissions such as Tropical Peatlands.

As for past meetings, at the Annual Assembly of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) was held in Vienna on 27 April - 2 May 2014, several members of the Commission participated in the session on "Peatland Hydrology". Several members also participated as organizers and as speakers in the 9th



European Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2014) held on 3 - 8 August in Oulu, Finland.

In addition, collaboration in the arrangements for a forthcoming conference continues: The 17th IBFRA (International Boreal Forest Research Association) Conference, called "Towards a New Era of Forest Science in the Boreal Region", will be held on 24 - 29 May 2015 in Rovaniemi, situated at the Arctic Circle in Finnish Lapland.

Commission VIII - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands Chair: Michiel Gerding

At Riga 2014, a session was staged with contributions on:

- Peat as a tool in art and education
- Unsustainability versus Wise Use of peat in the Netherlands
- Archaeological finds in the bogs of Latvia
- Peatland and people
- Themes for Commission VIII

A.J. Schilstra put a lot of effort into staging an exhibition by six art students from the Academy of Latvia who had been involved in a six-day course working with peat as a base

material. The results were shown in a special exhibition during the course of the forum. Many participants visited the venue, as well as the Dutch Ambassador to Latvia. A report on the project is published in Peatlands International.

Vice Chair Marie Kofod-Hansen put her efforts into updating the Commission VIII website, which is incorporated in the IPS website.

On behalf of IPS, the Chair made contact with the European Hercules initiative. "The topic is sustainable landscape futures. The numerous initiatives that work toward the provision of a broad range of landscape services are of the utmost importance.

In order to gain an overview of the existing approaches as well as their functioning and effects, we are currently working on a pan-European review of landscape initiatives. This is intended to foster mutual learning from experience among such initiatives and to enhance their integration in landscape policy and management." Our SRPM appears to fit these aims to a great extent.

Commission IX - Tropical peatlands Chair: Jack Rieley

The interest in and publications on different aspects of tropical peatlands continues to increase with a large number of publications in 2014. New information is coming to light on tropical peatland in different parts of the world including Africa, South America and south Asia. The amount of information coming from Southeast Asia, Indonesia in particular is at an all-time high.

The latter is probably because this is the country with the largest area of tropical peatland and the largest carbon store. It is also where massive land conversion has occurred over the last 20 years reducing the area considerably in the conversion of peatland to plantations of oil palm and paper pulp trees.

In recognition of this increasing importance and knowledge of tropical peatlands it is appropriate that the 15th International Peat Congress (IPC15) will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia in August 2016. This important meeting is sure to attract a very large number of participants from all over the world but especially from tropical countries with peat resources. It will be a major focus of peatland and peat activities in the host country but also from adjacent countries where research on peatlands is a major priority and where the number of peatland scientists is at the highest level ever.

IPC15 should be a major draw for peatland experts from Indonesia, Malaysia, Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand owing to the proximity of these countries to the venue. In addition, there is likely to be a large attendance of scientists and practitioners from Europe and North America.

The first announcement of IPC15 has been published on the website www.ipc2016.com and you are

invited to register your interest in attending. Suggestions for special whole or part sessions are welcomed and these can be discussed with the organisers or by sending them to me at jack.rieley@btinternet.com as soon as possible.

15th International Peat Congress: Peatlands in Harmony – Agriculture, Industry & Nature

The 15th Congress of the International Peat Society will be held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia on 15-19 August 2016. This is the first time a Congress has been held in Southeast Asia and it presents a marvellous opportunity to showcase peatlands, science, industry and this region to the world. It will provide a platform to bring together East and West and North and South to provide a unique mixture of cultures and a vast experience of research on peatlands and peat.

The organisers are preparing a varied and inspiring programme of events, demonstrations and field visits that will be unparalleled in the history of International Peat Congresses, bringing together information and discussions on land use, land use change and economic development while emphasising the importance of biodiversity and the dangers of climate change.

There will be sessions on ALL aspects of peatlands and peat based on the ten IPS Commissions but with opportunities to propose additional sessions on specialist and emerging topics to suit every preference and requirement.

The Congress venue may seem a long way to travel for some but it will be well worth the effort and time to get to Kuching. There will be a varied selection of cultural and social events and field excursions to provide an excellent introduction to Sarawak, Malaysia and the wider Southeast Asian region. The cost of food and accommodation are very reasonable and for those coming from afar it is an excellent opportunity to combine the Congress with a holiday. It is the chance of a lifetime.

If you would like to have further information or suggest a possible topic for a session at this Congress please contact Peter Nissom, Scientific Programme Co-ordinator (Peter Morin Nissom pmorin@swinburne.edu.my). If you wish to discuss possible ideas before submitting them formally please contact jack.rieley@btinternet.com or jack.rieley@nottingham.ac.uk. The Congress website is www.ipc2016.com.

Selection of information that has been published on tropical peatland in 2014:

Pineapples Against Fires and Haze in Riau

A new task force has been established to prevent peatland fires from spreading in the Riau Province, Sumatra, Indonesia. In early spring Riau with its 4 million ha of peatlands experienced heavy wildfires on 21,000 ha, with 1,234 hot spots on a single day. Drainage is mainly done by digging canals, e.g. for palm oil plantations, and as a result fires can spread quickly and under the surface, releasing great amounts of CO₂ and causing haze.

In early March, Riau University (Unri) set up its Total Solution on the Haze Hazard Task Force (STBA), which seeks to apply academic approaches to prevent wildfires from recurring. One approach in haze mitigation is to restore the functions of the peat, for instance by encouraging residents to plant pineapples. According to the report, the fruits are marketable, easy to grow and can be harvested frequently. At the same time the thick leaves of the crops can resist fires. However, pineapples should be replaced by forest plants on long term. For more info: <http://bit.ly/1rXf7sb>.

New Guidelines for Integrated Management in SE Asia

The Global Environment Centre announced the publication of "Guidelines on Integrated Management Planning for Peatland Forests in Southeast Asia". The 91-

page document can be downloaded from www.aseanpeat.net. The guide is a result of the ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) and SEApeat Project and was prepared by Rebecca D’Cruz, Aonyx Consultancy, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia. “The document is aimed at practitioners and planners, providing practical, relevant and user-friendly guidelines for the integrated management planning for peatland forests in Southeast Asia (SEA) and provides guidance on dealing with the key drivers of change that underpin peatland degradation and loss in Southeast Asia. It is intended primarily for use by local, regional and national planning authorities, and managers of peatland reserves and sites in the ASEAN States.”

Subsidence of Peat Soils – Flooding Risk in South-East Asia

Wetlands International has produced a factsheet explaining the causes and risks of subsidence of tropical peat soils following drainage and conversion to agriculture or plantations. Subsidence is the lowering of the peat surface that results from decomposition of the surface peat following drainage. Subsidence can occur more quickly in the tropics than in boreal and

temperate zones owing to the much higher temperatures throughout the year. Subsidence increases the risk of fires and floods. In Indonesia and Malaysia peat subsidence can be 1-2 metres in the first 5 years after which it continues at a lower rate of 3-5 cm per year, resulting in overall subsidence of 2-3 metres after 25 years and 4-5 metres in 100 years. www.wetlands.org/WatchRead/Currentpublications/tabid/56/mod/1570/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/3650/Default.aspx.

Volunteer for the Orang Utan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop)

OuTrop is looking for volunteers to help with their conservation and research projects in Borneo in 2015. Volunteers will join for 6 weeks to gain first-hand experience of a tropical forest environment, working alongside enthusiastic researchers, and receiving practical training in field survey skills and biodiversity monitoring. “Volunteering is challenging, exciting and a rewarding experience. You will have the chance to see some of the incredible wildlife that inhabits this special part of the world, from sun bears to flying lizards and of course the charismatic orang utan.”

There will be three volunteer groups in 2015: Group 1: 23 June - 3 August, Group 2: 7 August - 17 September, Group 3: 24 September - 4 November. The cost to volunteer for six weeks is £1675. Please note that this does not cover all travel expenses. OuTrop will allocate volunteer places on a first-come first-served basis. For more information and to apply, visit www.outrop.com/volunteer.html.

Peat to Power in Rwanda

A peat master plan indicates that Rwanda has an estimated reserve of 156 million tonnes of dry peat spread over an area of about 50,000 hectares. About 77% of these peat reserves are near the Akanyaru and Nyabarongo Rivers and the Rwabusoro plains. The theoretical potential for electricity energy generation from peat is estimated to be about 1,200 MW. Rwanda plans to develop its peat resources to generate about 200 MW of power by 2017.

APP struggles to meet commitment on peat-friendly pulpwood

Asia Pulp and Paper (APP), the biggest pulp and paper company in Indonesia, celebrates the 2-year anniversary of its Forest Conservation Plan. APP has eliminated the use of natural forest fibre in its entire supply chain and halted new activities on peatlands. However, analysis shows that the company struggles with its commitment to adopt Best Management Practices in its existing plantations and in peat swamp forests to avoid GHG emissions.

APP has for many years been responsible for rapid deforestation and drainage of tropical peat swamp forests, particularly on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Rainforest Alliance released its evaluation of progress of APP’s Forest Conservation Policy in its first 18 months with input from Wetlands International and others concluding that APP made limited progress towards achieving its ‘Forest Conservation Policy’. www.wetlands.org/News/tabid/66/ID/4058/NEWS-APP-struggles-to



Degraded peatlands in Indonesia. Photo: Jaakko Sipilä

meet-commitment-on-peat-friendly-pulpwood.aspx.

Some recent scientific publications on tropical peatland:

Kelly, T.J., Baird, A.J., Roucoux, K.H., Baker, T.R., Honorio Coronado, E.N., Rios, M. & Lawson, I.T. (2013) The high hydraulic conductivity of three wooded tropical peat swamps in northeast Peru: measurements and implications for hydrological function. *Hydrological Processes*, DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9884.

Graham, L.B., Turjaman, M. & Page, S.E. (2013) *Shorea balangeran* and *Dyera Polyphylla* (syn. *Dyera Lowii*) as tropical peat swamp forest restoration transplant species: effects of mycorrhizae and level of disturbance. *Wetlands Ecology and Management*, 21: 307-321.

Lampela, M., Jauhianen, J. & Vasander, H. (2014) Surface peat structure and chemistry in a tropical peat swamp forest. *Plant Soil*, 382: 329-347.

Turetsky, M.R., Benscoter, B., Page, S.E., Guillermo, R., van der Werf, G.R. & Watts, A. (2014) Global vulnerability of peatlands to fire and carbon loss. *Nature Geoscience*, DOI: 10.1038/NGEO2325.

Draper, F.C., Roucoux, K.H., Lawson, I.T., Mitchard, E.T.A., Honorio Coronado, E.N., Lähteenoja, O., Montenegro, L.T., Sandoval, E.V., Zarate, R. & Baker, T.R. (2014) The distribution and amount of carbon in the largest peatland complex in Amazonia. *Environmental Research Letters*, DOI: 10.1088/1748-9326/9/12/124017

Blackham, G.V., Webb, E.L. & Corlett, R.T. (2014) Natural regeneration in a degraded tropical peatland, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia: implications for forest restoration. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 324: 8-15.

Comment

Tropical peatlands occupy over 44 million hectares of the earth's land surface in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, the Caribbean and Pacific. They are of many different types from sea level to several thousands of metres above in mountains. More information is coming to light constantly of the extent and nature of tropical peatlands and all are of interest to Commission IX of the International Peat Society.

There is a pressing need for scientists and other stakeholders in all of these regions to join the IPS Commission IX network so that information and experiences can be shared. There is already a small network of specialists in existence but more contacts are needed especially in Africa and the Americas. If you have knowledge that would be useful or time to build up local contacts please contact Jack Rieley, Chair of Commission IX: Tropical Peatlands at jack.rieley@btinternet.com

Commission X - Peatlands and Climate Change Chair: David Wilson

Commission X has been in somewhat of a limbo for the past year following the stepping down of Mats Nilsson as Chair, with little or no activity taking place within the Commission. At the end of 2014, David Wilson, Maria Strack and Florence Renou-Wilson were appointed as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary respectively.

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) 6th World Congress takes place in Manchester, England on 23-27 August 2015. Commission X successfully submitted a proposal to the Scientific committee of SER for a symposium titled "Greenhouse gas dynamics in restored peatlands: Global perspectives". The symposium will focus on research that has been carried out on both degraded/draind and restored peatlands, and in climatically different regions. The talks in this symposium, from some of the leading peatland GHG researchers, are likely to be of major interest to decision makers, land managers and national GHG inventory compilers. It is envisaged that the speakers will subsequently submit their talks for peer review prior to publication in *Mires and Peat*.

Planning for the IPS Congress in Kuching, Sarawak in August 2016 is ongoing and it is expected that a large number of abstracts detailing research into Greenhouse gas dynamics and climate change will be submitted. At the last IPS Congress in Stockholm, Sweden over 60 such abstracts were submitted. Commission X are actively involved in the Scientific Committee of the Congress and are working to ensure that the standard of abstracts remains high and will seek to attract high profile keynote speakers for the Peatlands and Climate change sessions.

IPS National Committees

In 2014, the International Peat Society had 17 National Committees in the following countries. The contact information of the Chairs and Secretaries can also be found at www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees.

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for updates see
www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees/

Reports of National Committees

Canada

Governance

The Province of Alberta has continued to implement the Wetland Policy in the White or private land area of the province. Work continues on the preparation of policies and programs that are needed to implement the Policy in the public lands or Green area. Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) introduced a new Management Framework for peatlands that will require engagement of the industry with a completion expected in 2015.

Manitoba approved Bill 61: The Peatlands Stewardship and Related Amendments Act. The Act will not be proclaimed until the Regulations are finalized which is expected in the summer of 2015. Within the Conservation and Water Stewardship Department a new unit, The Peat Practices Committee, has been established to help implement the Act and guide the management of peatlands. When the proclamation of the Act occurs the moratorium on new approvals for peat development will be lifted.

Quebec's government has continued with the amendments to the legislation that regulates the management and development of the peat industry. The Quebec Peat Producers Association has been engaged in the legislative and planning changes.

The Province of Ontario has indicated that it will begin the process of developing a Wetland/ Water Policy in the coming year.

Environment Canada, through a joint research initiative with the University of Montreal and the industry identified CO₂ emissions values from horticultural peat. The findings are being applied in developing the Government's Annual National Reporting and Accounting of Emissions. Preliminary efforts have begun on developing a peat carbon value for the Canadian Forest Carbon Budget model.

Research

The second year of the NSERC Chair and CRD program continued investigations of the biodiversity, hydrology and greenhouse gas functions of the natural and restored

peatlands in Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and New Brunswick. In Alberta, a joint Northern Alberta Institute of Alberta (NAIT) /PERG Seminar and Workshop was held 3-4 September 2014. This involved peatland research on restoration of in-situ well sites in Peace River and a field tour at the Seba Beach site.

The 20th PERG Symposium, Responsible Management of peatlands: Involvement of the industrial Sector was held in Quebec City on 19-20 February 2014. Discussions on research programing needs in Manitoba were initiated with the Manitoba government with the announcement of a two-year program by the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship, Honourable Gord Macintosh at the Annual General Meeting of the CSPMA in November 2014.

Within Alberta initial discussions were held with a representative of Finland. Much of the new research discussion focused on climate change implications, particularly carbon emissions and sequestration. There has also been a significant increase in the engagement of industries other than the horticultural peat industry.

Industry

The peat industry's 2014 harvest In Eastern Canada (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island), was considerably below average due to a late and interrupted start to the harvest season combined with a wet late summer. Production was at or slightly above expectations In Québec's North Shore. However, due to weather related harvest challenges the harvest on Québec's South Shore was below average.

For most of the harvest season Alberta experienced a below average to well-below average harvest level primarily due to adverse weather.



Peatland restoration in Canada.

However, was adjusted slightly due to favorable weather conditions in September and part of October. Manitoba and Saskatchewan experienced varied harvest weather conditions, with an average level of production being achieved in these provinces.

The CSPMA finalized its initial Industry Social Responsibility Report which was the culmination of work on their eLCA, SocioEconomicLCA, and certification process. The report was prepared by Group AGECO and based on the FAO Sustainable Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems (SAFA).

China

Ongoing registration of China national committee of IPS

Since the IPS EB approved China to establish a National Committee on 10 September last year, the Institute for Peat and Mire Research at Northeast Normal University has been dealing with issues relevant to the establishment of China's National Committee in the IPS.

Under the control of the temperate-climatic regime, fen peat dominates the peat resource in China with a total deposit of 4.6 billion tons (oven dry). But due to rapid global warming and extensive human activities, more than 80 % peatlands have been reclaimed as farmlands in the eastern part of China. Although those reclaimed peatlands have lost all the functions and benefits of wetlands, they can be gradually used without any environmental problems.

However, many conservationists in China misunderstand the concept of peatlands and wetlands, and insist that all peatlands must be protected. Accordingly, the governmental agencies have tightened the certification of peat use. As the result of this, the only way for IPS to launch its activities in China is to work with a new institution called the Peat Industry Association Branch, under the China Humic Acid Industry

Association (CHAIA), and share a bank account with CHAIA.

On 24 December 24 2014, Mr Zeng Xiancheng, President of China Humic Acid Industry Association, specially visited Northeast Normal University (NENU) and signed a cooperation contract with NENU. Both sides consent that the Institute for Peat and Mire Research and NENU should run the two Secretariats of the Peat Industry Association Branch of CHAIA and the China National Committee of IPS. All the financial issues will be managed by the Secretariat of CHAIA. Now all establishment documents of the two agencies have been submitted to the relevant governmental agency, and a call for membership will be distributed all over China through a website.

We hope to call on all institutions and specialists who are interested in peat use, peat research, peat engineering design, peat application, and peat sale including representatives of foreign peat companies. After completing collection of application forms, we would like to organize an opening ceremony for the two peat institutions.

Future tasks

China is rich in fen peat and one of the biggest peat markets in the world. China will not only use its home fen peat, but also import a lot of Sphagnum peat and wooded peat, which are rare resources in China. Recently, China has launched a campaign of agricultural modernization, and with the assessment of new technology and environmental safety, the market needs for peat, growing medium cultivation and soil conditioner will rapidly grow.

China's National Committee will push forward a national programme to organize nine institutions concerning research, production, service and equipment for the growing medium and soil conditioner industry, and upgrade the industry of growing medium and soil conditioner in China through combining the industry technology for growing medium with

information technology, to build a new intelligent industry. At the same time, China's National Committee will promote public awareness of peat and peatlands, and introduce the concept of responsible management of peatlands into China.

Finland

The Society's activities were quite numerous once again in 2014. This year was the Society's 65th year of operation, and thus an anniversary. Current research topics and the latest research results concerning peatlands were presented in two seminars arranged by Suoseura. Traditionally the meetings and seminars were open to anyone interested, without any attendance fees. A two-day autumn excursion, "The 65th Anniversary Excursion", headed to the peatlands of south-West Finland at the beginning of September. The Society published the 65th volume of the scientific journal SUO - Mires and Peat.

Meetings and seminars

In connection with the annual spring meeting on 1 April 2014, a half-day seminar on "Use of Economically Unprofitable Forestry-Drained Peatlands" was held at the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) in Vantaa. The seminar gathered together 40 participants. Senior Inspector Niina Rissanen from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry presented the changes in the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry; Prof. Anne Tolvanen (Metla) gave a presentation on the research projects on "LIFE Peat Land Use"; Dr Soili Kojola from Metla introduced the National Forest Inventory's results on poorly productive sites of the forestry-drained peatlands; and Juha Ovaskainen MSC from Vapo Oy asked, from the peat producer's point of view, whether it is possible to use those sites in peat production. During and after the presentations there was time for discussion (see also: www.suoseura.fi).

In connection with the Society's annual autumn meeting, on

26 November 2014 at the House of Estates in Helsinki, the 65th anniversary seminar was held. The seminar was devoted to giving newly graduated or PhD students or post-doctoral students in peatland research the chance to present their latest research topics. The seminar gathered together 70 participants.

The presentations concerned the following topics: Dr Tuula Larmola discussed how methanotrophy induces nitrogen fixation during peatland development; PhD student Antti Sallinen presented on the local peatlands and climate project in north-east Finland; and Dr Tuomas Haapalehto presented the results of restoring ecosystem structure and functions to peatlands degraded by forestry drainage.

PhD student Markku Koskinen described how organic carbon leaches from the peat as a result of restoration and logging; Dr Paavo Ojanen presented results on the greenhouse gas balance in forestry-drained peatlands; PhD student Maija Lampela had studied peatlands in the tropics and demonstrated how challenging the reforestation of the drained and burned tropical peat swamp forests is; and Dr Anna Laine presented results on land use impact on the vegetation and GHG fluxes of young coastal mires. A poster session was also included in the seminar (see

all the seminars and presentations at www.suoseura.fi/toiminta 2014).

Excursions

The traditional autumn excursion was arranged this year to the peatlands in south-west Finland. Twenty-two members of Suoseura took part in this two-day excursion. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the upcoming new Teijo National Park and its peatlands. The diverse content of the excursion was planned by geologist and Senior Researcher Emeritus Riitta Korhonen and Senior Researcher Kimmo Virtanen (GTK, Kuopio). Riitta Korhonen also served as tour leader and Kimmo Virtanen as a tour guide.

The peatland sites like the Punassuo mire close to the coast of the Baltic Sea (which will be a part of the upcoming Teijo National Park), the paludified rock hollow mire called Stormossen, the Kurjenrahka National Park and Kekkilä's peat production area at Linturahka mire were all included in the excursion. The evening programme took place in the very unique holiday village "Herrankukkaro". The programme included a peat bath in a smoke sauna, a warm outdoor pool, sea swimming, and a ceremonial meal with more than 10 different fish courses. A travelogue of this excursion by Antti Sallinen was

published in SUO 65 (2):63-69 (see also pictures from the excursion at www.suoseura.fi/toiminta 2014).

Publications

The quarterly journal of SUO (see also www.suoseura.fi/suo/), the Finnish Peatland Society, SUO – Mires and Peat, published two numbers (1 and 2) of the 65th volume, with a total of 96 pages. The number of reprints was 420.

Activities in IPS

Dr Samu Valpola, as a member of Executive Board, participated in EB meetings and other events held in Gröningen on 26-28 March, in Oulu on 4-8 August, in Riga on 25-28 August, and in Brussels on 11-13 November. Dr Sakari Sarkkola and Dr Leena Larva participated in the SAB (Scientific Advisory Board) meeting and Dr Leena Larva participated in the SAB meeting as well as in the Annual Meeting of IPS on 28 August 2014. Jenni Simkin, Secretary of Suoseura, also participated on behalf of the IPS in the 8th European Ramsar meeting in Kufstein on 20-24 September. Members of the Finnish Peatland Society also actively attended the IPS Commission meetings and the annual meeting of IPS in 2014.

Ireland

The main event of the Irish Peat Society in 2014 was the organisation of the Annual Meeting, Study Tour and Seminar to the Slieve Bloom Mountains in Co. Offaly. This two day event took place in October and was based in the Tullamore Court Hotel in Tullamore town.

Over 50 members took part in the field meeting, seminars and workshops over the two days. On the first day the group visited a variety of peatland sites in the Slieve Bloom Mountains where we met with experts from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and Coillte to see the work being done on blanket bog afforestation, habitat management, visitor control and the



Participants of the Suoseura autumn excursion at Teijo National Park. Photo: Riitta Korhonen

monitoring of birds of conservation concern including Red Grouse and Hen Harrier. Site visited included the Ridge of Cappard, Monicknew, The Cut and the Glenlahan LIFE restoration site. In the evening the group had a tour of the Tullamore Dew Distillery with dinner and music.

On the second day following the AGM, members heard talks from Dr John Feehan on the relationship between People and Peatlands and Conor O'Raghallaigh gave an update on the National Peatland Strategy. These were followed by two workshops on Managing Upland Peatlands given by Dermot Tiernan and Community Conservation Education by Catherine O'Connell.

Throughout the year the Committee met on seven occasions to work on the upcoming meeting in Tullamore 2015 which involved developing a conference theme, master classes, poster sessions, fireside sessions, field trips, web site, social programme and schools competitions.

The Irish Peat Society also continued to update our Facebook site during the year with relevant news: www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Peat-Society/190659956823.

Latvia

The last year (2014) has been very busy for the IPS Latvian National Committee. From the very beginning of the year, preparations took place for the major event of the year – the International Peat Technology Symposium. In March, the new Board of the Latvian Peat Producers' Association took office, with Ivans Cuprunas as the Chairman.

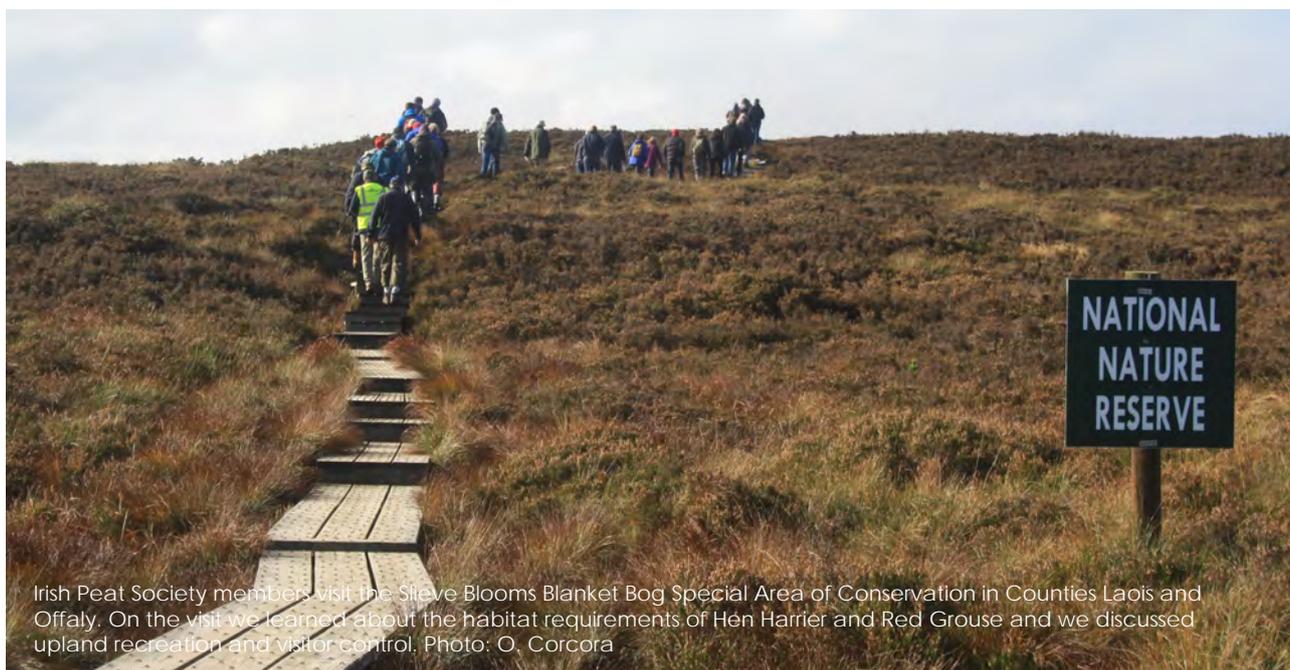
The peat extraction season in 2014 was not as fortunate as in 2013, when weather conditions were benign for extracting 1.2 million tonnes of peat. We can estimate from the Association members' data that the peat production in 2014 has been about 0.8 million tonnes. It was not just the rainy summer that hindered the peat producers' work last year, but also the Russian embargo-related transport problems at the end of the year.

In general, the Association has carried on its good work just as before. We have a new member, Silu Kūdra, SIA, and a new honorary member, Zdeneks Buholcs. We also continued environmental improvement work. While the Association members sponsored the construction of a boardwalk in Cenas Bog in 2013, the scenic viewing platform destroyed by vandals

in Sigulda was restored in 2014. Likewise, the Association organized a roundtable discussion with state institutions and other organizations involved in environmental protection with the aim of seeking solutions to the problem of the peat sector's survival under increasingly stringent environmental requirements. The participants were taken on a field trip to a peat company, showing them the extraction process – explaining its gains – and the production of peat substrates. The next discussion will be followed by an excursion to a natural mire guided by nature protection specialists.

We also continued work on reintroducing the use of peat in the energy sector. This work has drawn the attention of state institutions to other problems in the peat sector. The work will go on, and we expect growth in the yield of fuel peat this summer.

Several peat companies worked on the renaturalization of peat extraction sites last year, utilizing the experience of Canada and Germany and the knowledge gained at IPS conferences. The results will be seen in the coming and the next spring. To conclude this retrospective on the last year, I would like to thank all participants, sponsors, supporters and organizers of the International



Irish Peat Society members visit the Slieve Blooms Blanket Bog Special Area of Conservation in Counties Laois and Offaly. On the visit we learned about the habitat requirements of Hen Harrier and Red Grouse and we discussed upland recreation and visitor control. Photo: O. Corcora



Kids summer camp on fire platform in Puikule bog lake, Latvia.
Photo: Ilze Ozola

Peat Technology Symposium and the 14th Baltic Peat Producers Forum. The event was attended by about 350 participants from 26 countries. We hope that you had a well-spent time here in Riga, not only acquiring new information and exchange of experience on peat extraction, processing and technologies, but also enjoying tasty food, beautiful nature and great music!

Lithuania

Organizational changes

Mr Giedrius Kavaliauskas was re-elected President of the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association for a second term. Mr Giedrius Giparas was elected new Director of the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association. He can be contacted at giedrius.giparas@asocdurpes.lt.

Season

The season of 2014 was successful even though the amount of peat extracted was slightly less (2.598 million m³) than in the previous year (2.7 million m³).

New life for old peatlands

The country has launched an inventory of damaged lands, which will determine the number of

degrading drained peatlands and those no longer used. It will declare what area of the total land they occupy and what their condition is. The Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania expects to collect these data until the end of 2015. According to the information gathered, it will be decided which of those no longer used peatlands can be used for peat extraction, and which of them need recultivation for wetland ecosystems to recover.

Peat industry specialties presented to school students

The Klasmann-Deilmann group of companies in Lithuania is actively involved with students' professional orientation projects. The programme is dedicated to senior students in general education schools and presents them with different areas of employment, professions and career prospects. This policy of companies' social responsibility contributes to processes of education and the motivation of young professionals, as well as to their career planning.

Fuel peats

Recently, in a climate of geopolitical tensions between East and West and a high dependence on external energy suppliers, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of

Lithuania has seen opportunities for the sustainable use of non-conventional hydrocarbons as well as for fuel peat, which Lithuania has been known for and has been using for centuries. The Vice Minister of the Ministry of Environment several times discussed the issue with the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association.

The International Biomass Energy Conference was held in November. Lithuanian and other countries' experts presented on international and national-level biomass energy technologies, trends, political decisions, problems and prospects. In addition, the conference had a focus on local energy resources - fuel peat - as a means to increase Lithuania's energy and economic security.

The Lithuanian Peat Producers Association is making efforts to ensure that the use of energy peat in the country reaches at least 1 TWh per year.

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania praises Klasmann-Deilmann group of companies

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania expressed his personal gratitude to the Klasmann-Deilmann group of companies in Lithuania for their active involvement and contribution to the development of the regions in the country. The acknowledgment of these merits was made during the 25th anniversary of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists - the biggest employers' organization in the country.

LIFE+

June 2014 was marked by the international seminar in Aukstumale bog (Silute region), which was the first Lithuanian bog described in a scientific monograph. An event was held under the EU financial instrument LIFE+.

Replanting of Sphagnum

The company Rekyva was the first enterprise in Lithuania that undertook to restore depleted

peatlands by employing a method involving the intensive artificial replanting of Sphagnum. Such Sphagnum planted areas are annually recovering a 5-7 cm layer of peat and ensuring a natural peat bog development process that utilizes the same vegetation that used to grow there before the harvesting of the peatland.

This kind of recultivation work was first launched in the peat bog of Rekyva in spring 2014. Peat moss (Sphagnum) was planted in an area of 0.5 ha. Employees of the company have made use of the Canadian experience - over 3,000 hectares of peat extraction fields in that country have already been successfully rehabilitated using this method. The initial results received by the Rekyva through its Sphagnum replanting operations also allow for an optimistic outlook.

It is important to note that the abovementioned approach that Rekyva is applying allows for a significant reduction in the greenhouse effect, and ensures that the process is safe and natural, and moreover that the natural environment with the specific flora and fauna that existed before the bog harvesting operations is restored and preserved for future generations.

The Netherlands

In the first part of 2014, most of the attention of the Dutch Board of the Nederlands Veengenootschap was spent on the important meeting of the Executive Board in Groningen, the Netherlands. The Dutch Board had proposed to organize the IPS Congress in 2020 in Groningen. Just like the EB had visited Tallinn, the competing city in Estonia, we wanted to receive the EB in Groningen and give a good impression of what we had to offer: venue, hotels and town. While we had positive reactions, Tallinn won the competition.

Together with the Nederlandse Bodemkundige Vereniging (Dutch Soil Science Society), we organized on 20 June a well-attended meeting in Geeste, Germany. Here, near the Klasmann-Deilmann premises, the Emsland Moormuseum (www.moormuseum.de) offered the facilities for the meeting, as well our annual Veengenootschap meeting. On the programme was a most interesting guided tour of the museum and in the afternoon a visit to the Klasmann-Deilmann peatlands, where projects on re-paludification and reuse of depleted peatland as agricultural lands were exhibited.

In November a trip to Flora Holland (www.floraholland.com/en), the centre of the flower-growing business in the Netherlands, was planned. In this important economic

sector, most of the imported peat is used. Unfortunately very few members were able to come so we had to cancel this trip.

The number of members of our Veengenootschap remained almost constant. A number of students were added to the list, while a few older members wanted to give up their membership. At the annual meeting, A.J. Schilstra was re-elected as a member of the Dutch Board. He will continue his function as Secretary and Treasurer.

Poland

Polish studies of peat and peatlands have a long-term tradition and substantial achievements. The researchers working in this field are members of the Polish National Committee of IPS, whose commissions have recently received considerable attention in terms of their goals and functions. Polish National Committee of IPS has 98 members.

The work of our Committee in 2014 focused on evidence of structural variation, richness and inventiveness of peatlands. However we are just beginning to understand their relevance to the functioning of peat ecosystems, which is related to their fate and behaviour in soil conditions. Understanding peat soil requires an interdisciplinary approach involving



IPS Executive Board and staff in Groningen in March 2014. Photo: Hannu Salo

several sciences such as chemistry, biochemistry, soil science, ecology and plant physiology, as in the development of the history of peat science, the histories of individual scientific peat disciplines (botany, biology, chemistry, biochemistry, balneology, energetic and agricultural utilization) have played an enormously significant role.

Activity

Two members of Polish National Committee defended doctoral thesis in 2014:

- "Impact of organic soils of peatland as biogeochemical barrier on the limitation of non-point pollution in ground water",
- "Carbon and nitrogen in organic matter fractions of Histosols located in upper valley of Liwiec river".

The members of the Polish National Committee are involved in several Polish and international projects:

- a) "Impact of the melioration on organic matter properties and the content of biologically active substances in peats".
- b) "Function of humus substances

and the transformation of nitrogen in peat caused by the drainage and undrainage of peatlands".

c) "Molecular composition of organic carbon in soil water systems".

d) "Impact of peat type and species of upland mires on the changes enzymatic, chemical and physical properties".

e) "Function of peatland on the limitation of non-point pollution in ground water".

f) "Relationship between chemical, biochemical and physical properties of organic and mineral growing media and the occurrence and significance of indole-3-acetic acid as ftohormone".

The results were presented during international conferences and congresses:

Peat - Water Ecosystems (Kiev, Ukraine), West Siberian peatlands and carbon cycle: past and present (Novosibirsk, Russia), Biogenic - abiogenic interactions in natural and anthropogenic systems (Sankt Petersburg, Russia), Paleopedological record of postglacial soil and landscape evolution (Toruń, Poland), European Geosciences Union, General Assembly (Vienna, Austria).

Conclusion

Prof. Lech Wojciech Szajdak, the chairman of the Polish National Committee of IPS would like to express gratitude towards the members who participated in the meetings and the people who have worked voluntary for the Polish National Committee of IPS.

United Kingdom

Another year reaches its end and it has been a very busy one for peatlands and peat with numerous meetings of various kinds. My year began when I was invited to contribute to a meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia organised by the Indonesian Committee on Climate Change and USAid on the role of tropical peatlands in greenhouse gas emissions. This focussed on the impact of land use change and fire since emissions as a result of these are a major problem in that country.

In April I attended the launch in Brussels of the IUCN Peatland Restoration Booklet that contains case studies some of which were carried out by IPS members in Canada, Ireland and UK. In October I attended, together with several other IPS members, the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Annual Meeting in Inverness, Scotland that was attended by some 150 participants discussing mostly about peatland restoration.

UK Membership of IPS has remained constant this year thanks to the continued faithful support of most members. Once again we lost only a few members, mostly students whose courses finished and they moved on but these were replaced by an almost equal number of new student members.

Whilst we have gained some individual members, corporate and institutional members have remained constant. Corporate and institutional members are entitled to name up to six of their employees to become members of IPS and receive information, Peat News, Peatlands



The 2020 International Peat Congress and the 2015 Baltic Peat Forum will be held in Tallinn, Erki Niitlaan (right) taking the baton for both. Photo: Ernest Dinka

International and obtain discounts to attend IPS conferences.

It was with great sadness that the UK Peat Society noted the passing of Allan Robertson at the beginning of the year. Allan was a founder member of the IPS in 1968, Honorary President since 1996 and Chairman of the UK Peat Society for many years. For the last few years he was resident in a care home in his native Helensburgh. His funeral in Cardross, north of Glasgow, in the middle of February was a very touching event with attendance of family, friends and former colleagues of the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen. I represented his many colleagues and friends the IPS.

In 2014 the UK Peat Society co-sponsored two conferences, contributing £250 towards each of them. The first was the Flow Country 'Looking Forward' meeting that was held in Thurso, Scotland at the beginning of March with an associated field visit. The second was the 'In the Bog' conference in Sheffield, England at the beginning of September organised by Ian Rotherham. This was a fascinating mixture of peatland science, culture, management and artefacts.

IPS Award of Excellence to Professor RS Clymo

The 2014 Award of Excellence of the International Peat Society (Scroll and €1000) was presented to Professor Richard "Dicky" Clymo at the IPS Symposium Gala Dinner in Riga on 28 August. Professor Jack Rieley, Chair of the IPS Scientific Advisory Board and Secretary of the UK Peat Society, stated in his nomination: "Professor Clymo is one of the best known and most prestigious peatland scientists of our time. His career spans some 50 years of which he has been a member of IPS for 40 years. He has published widely on many aspects of peatlands and peat in international scientific journals and contributed to numerous books and other publications. His scientific publications have received more citations (almost 7,000) than anyone else I know. His contribution

to peatland and peat ecology and science is inestimable and virtually every other peatland scientist has read his papers and cited them in their work."

Allan Robertson Grants

In Allan's memory, following discussion with his family and at the instigation of the UK Peat Society, IPS Executive Board at its meeting in Groningen in March 2014 decided to launch a new awards scheme in memory of Allan Robertson to be called the Allan Robertson Grants. These will focus on younger peatland and peat scientists, managers and practitioners in the early stages of their careers. The grants will consist of scrolls and monetary prizes. The first grants will be presented in 2015 and will replace the IPS Award of Excellence that has been offered for the last ten years. IPS Executive Board will initially make available the €1000 from the Award of Excellence and Allan's immediate family will contribute a matching €1000. At its annual meeting held in Sheffield in September 2014 the UK Peat Society decided to contribute €500 towards the Allan Robertson Grants in their first year. IPS will launch an appeal to its membership and stakeholders for continuation funding of these new awards.

UK Peat Society Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the UK Peat Society (IPS UK National Committee) was held at the Sheffield Showroom and Workstation on Thursday 4th September 2014 in association with the 'In the Bog Conference'. It was attended by six members with apologies received from 8 others. Neil Godsman stepped down as Chair of the Society and until he is replaced his duties will be carried out by the Vice Chair Professor Susan Page.

The accounts for 2013 that were audited by Roger Meade were accepted. Although the AGM had a small turnout we had a useful discussion about what the UKPS should be doing in the future. The minutes of the meeting have been distributed to members. The

following officers and ordinary members of the Executive Committee remain in office until 2016.

Volunteers for the position of chair are welcomed:

Chair: Vacant
Vice Chair: Susan Page
Secretary/treasurer: Jack Rieley
England: Chris Turner
Northern Ireland: James Hayes
Scotland: Steve Chapman
Wales: Fred Slater
Internal Auditor: Richard Meade

Events in 2015

This coming year looks to be another busy and exciting one with several conferences, workshops and other events already in the pipeline.

Notable is the IPS Convention and Annual Assembly 2015 that will be held in Tullamore, Ireland on 7-11 June with an exciting meeting entitled "A New Conversation on Peatlands". The Irish Peat Society invites members of the UK Peat Society to come across the Irish Sea and join in this event of significance to peatlands and peat.

The World Congress of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER2015) will be held in Manchester on 23-27 August, which many IPS members are expected to attend.

A workshop on 'Molinia Management' on upland peat in the UK will be held in Huddersfield on 14 - 16 September organised by the National Trust. The workshop is sponsored by the National Trust, Natural England and UK Peat Society (International Peat Society). Further information can be obtained from www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor.

The date and venue for this year's UK Peat Society Annual Meeting have not yet been decided but it should take place in September.

For more information on the IPS National Committees see: www.peatsociety.org/about-us/national-committees.

Date and signatures





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AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of International Peat Society

I have audited the accounting records, the financial statements, the report of the Board of Directors and the administration of International Peat Society for the year ended 31 December, 2014. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, the income statement and notes to the financial statements.

Responsibility of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and report of the Board of Directors that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors in Finland. The Board of Directors shall see to it that the accounts of the association are in compliance with the law and that its financial affairs have been arranged in a reliable manner.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements and on the report of the Board of Directors based on our audit. The Auditing Act requires that I comply with the requirements of professional ethics. I conducted my audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. Good auditing practice requires that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors are free from material misstatement, and whether the members of the Board of Directors are guilty of an act or negligence which may result in liability in damages towards the association or have violated the Associations Act or the rules of the association.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of financial statements and report of the Board of Directors that give a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of the association in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors in Finland. The information in the report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the information in the financial statements.

Jyväskylä, 20th April, 2015

Arto Saarinen
APA

PEATLANDS

International

Media Kit 2015

Media Description

Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peat Society. It is read at companies in the horticultural and energy sector, universities, research institutes, scientific organisations and other institutions as well as by private persons interested in peat and peatlands in more than 44 countries of the world.

Distribution

By email to all IPS members, as PDF, on a blog, e-paper and as online magazine:

2,000 - 3,000 readers
Pages: 32-40

**Frequency: 4 issues / year,
March / June / Sept / Dec**

All advertisers are also mentioned in every issue of Peat News, the IPS email newsletter, and on the IPS website.



International Peat Society | IMTG MTC

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