



# Annual Report 2015



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Annual Report 2015

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# Secretary General's Review

## Strategic Year, 2015 – Shaping up the International Peatland Society

It is a pleasure to write this review after a challenging year of activities. Even an outsider may have recognized that four important letters have been added to the name of the Society. “Peatland”, rather than “peat”, emphasizes the increasing and more diversified role of peatlands. It also reflects better the distinctive tasks and manifold membership of the IPS. Accordingly, we changed the URL of the IPS’ Internet services to [peatlands.org](http://peatlands.org). The new name has also been welcomed by our members and other stakeholders.

This easily recognizable change is part of a profound reshaping of the IPS. The new Strategy for 2016 – 2020 was approved by the IPS Annual Assembly in Tullamore, Ireland, in June 2015. According to the new vision, the IPS will be the leading international organization promoting the responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat.

To achieve this vision and fulfil the demanding mission statement, the IPS needs to restructure its organization as well. Throughout the year, the Executive Board, together with the Scientific Advisory Board, worked on the strategy and started streamlining the IPS and its structure, improving communication and expanding the possibilities to represent our members at international conventions and meetings of global importance.

It was promising to notice the active discussion about future projects by the IPS towards the end of the year. This lively participation is likely

to improve the potential to obtain funding for the proposed project themes, such as updating the Global Peat Resources encyclopaedia and Sphagnum Farming, which is of increasing importance to horticulture.

During 2015, a solid basis was also laid for this year’s International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, which takes place from 15th to 19th August. A landmark in the global activity of the IPS was the first peat forum held in Beijing last July, organized by the new National Committee of China, which Gerald Schmilewski and I attended. On the other hand, many countries active in peatland and peat issues in the past seem to be undergoing a period of transition with implications for the activities of their National Committees.

I hope that the following pages of this Annual Report can give you an idea of the many events, projects and meetings around the world that the IPS has been involved in. We especially need to say “thanks a million” to the Irish National



Secretary General Hannu Salo. Photo: Aino Salo

Committee and the members in Ireland who organized the IPS Annual Convention, with the title A New Conversation on Peatlands, in Tullamore last June. It was a great event with around 200 participants from different backgrounds in peatlands and peat. You are welcome to meet each other again in Kuching this August.

Finally, I wish to thank all members for contributing to the IPS goals and objectives during 2015! All the best for 2016.

*Hannu Salo*

Secretary General

# Report of the Executive Board



IPS Executive Board and Secretary General at the meeting in Geeste, Germany.

## IPS Membership

### Membership Development

As of 31 December 2015, the IPS had 1,486 (2014: 1,462) members in 35 (43) countries. These comprised 1,089 individual, 244 corporate, 26 institutional, 43 honorary (partly local) and 53 student members. Most members of the IPS are still found in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands. The membership database on the IPS intranet is updated continuously by our National Committees and directly by our members.

All corporate and research institute members can nominate up to six contact persons to receive full membership benefits, including Peatlands International, Peat News and registration fee discounts at IPS conferences. Please ask your friends and colleagues to join the IPS at [www.peatlands.org/join-us](http://www.peatlands.org/join-us).

### National Committees

The IPS is represented by 17 National Committees with a total of 1,413 (1,412) members, of which 12 operate in Europe, two in North America and three in Asia. These comprise 1,070 individual, 230 corporate, 13 research institute, 12 governmental, 51 student and 38 honorary members (partly local).

### Other Countries

In 2015, the IPS had 19 individual, 14 corporate, two institutional, two student and five honorary members in 17 countries without National Committees.

## Commissions

At the end of the year, the IPS held 10 Commissions in order to organize meetings and conferences as well as publish scientific knowledge.

Commission membership is informal and open to all IPS members. All Commission Chairs are members of the IPS' Scientific Advisory Board. The reports of the Commissions and their contact details can be found in the appendices.

## Main activities

### New Name, Mission and Vision

The most significant change in 2015 was probably the change of the name of the Society to the "International Peatland Society". This reflects the distinctive tasks and manifold membership of the IPS better than its old description. Accordingly, we have also changed the URL of our Internet services to [peatlands.org](http://peatlands.org). This change, along with an adaptation of the mission and vision, was approved by the Annual Assembly in Tullamore last June and rolled out during late summer.

*Vision:*

To be the leading international organisation promoting the responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat.

*Mission:*

To serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration.

**IPS Strategy and Structure**

Following the Executive Board/ Scientific Advisory Board workshop, held in Geeste, Germany, in January, key persons in the IPS have actively worked on the new Strategy for 2016-2020 and its implementation. Major goals are focused upon streamlining the IPS and its structure, better internal and external communication, and active representation of its members at international conventions and other meetings of global importance. With regard to structure, it is planned, among others, to reduce the number of Commissions to three, which will deal respectively with social, environmental and economic fields of interest. The work of these will be supported by strong expert and project groups.

**Project plans**

During 2015, the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board discussed, among others, the following future projects for the IPS, provided that funding can be obtained:

- Update of Global Peat Resources
- Peat Dialogue
- Sphagnum Farming

**Public Consultations**

The IPS invited its members to participate in public consultations with regard to peat and peatlands



Consultant Helmut Bähr led the strategy process in Geeste.

organized, among others, by the European Commission, the European Energy Forum, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). IPS also followed up decisions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).

**Strategy for Responsible Peatland Management**

The IPS has continued to promote the Strategy for Responsible

Peatland Management, which was republished with a new cover and handed out at all IPS events. Further copies of the A4 and A5 versions are available for free from the IPS Secretariat or downloadable from [www.peatlands.org/peatlands-and-peat/strategy-responsible-peatland-management](http://www.peatlands.org/peatlands-and-peat/strategy-responsible-peatland-management).

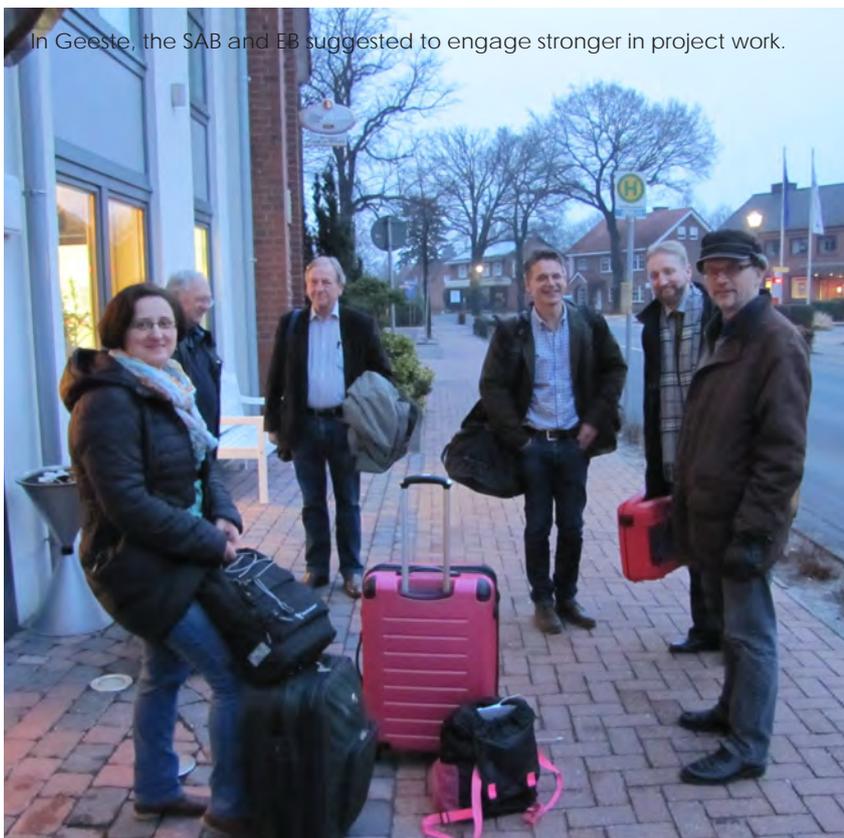
**Peatland Certification**

The IPS is actively following 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



Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board after the Geeste meeting.

In Geeste, the SAB and EB suggested to engage stronger in project work.



by other organizations at a regional, national and international level, to follow up international decision-making on peatland issues. A list of these can be found in the appendices, while more information is included in the reports of the Commissions and National Committees.

During the second half of the year, the IPS started heavy promotion of the International Peat Congress 2016, whose final abstract deadline was 31st December 2015.

## Publications

### Peatlands International

Four issues of the IPS magazine were published in 2015 and distributed to our members by email. The Chief Editor is Secretary General Hannu Salo, supported by the Communications Manager, Susann Warnecke. The financial situation of the magazine has improved after updating advertisement sizes and prices.

Members receive Peatlands International for free. The magazine is supported by an Editorial Board with the following members in 2015:

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

Previous issues of Peatlands International can be found via the IPS document database, while most of the printed issues (before 2013) can be ordered from the Secretariat. To publish in the magazine, please contact [susann.warnecke@peatlands.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatlands.org). Deadlines are the end of February, May, August and November.

### Peat News

Peat News, the monthly electronic newsletter of the IPS, is sent out

Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA). However, the IPS retains its neutral position in relation to different certification schemes.

### Conventions Report

The IPS Guidelines on International Conventions, Agencies, Agreements and Programmes, by Jack Rieley and Sandra Lubinaite, were distributed at all important events in print. They can also be downloaded from [www.peatlands.org/conventions2014](http://www.peatlands.org/conventions2014).

## Conferences and other Events

The main event of the IPS in 2015 was its Annual Convention, A New Conversation on Peatlands, which was held in Tullamore from 6th to 11th June. It was attended by 177 participants from science, nature conservation and industry.

On this occasion, in contrast to previous symposia, the same knowledge on peat use, peatland restoration, forestry and nature conservation was given to all

participants during a single tour through the Irish Peatland Experience, which included masterclasses, workshops, field trips and social networking events.

This new schedule was welcomed by most participants and offered a great opportunity for networking between those from different areas of interest, countries and backgrounds. Of special interest for many was the interactive poster session, giving additional insight into the topics presented.

The IPS also organized the “me&peat - my peatland workplace” photo competition. The best 11 pictures from five photographers were on display in Tullamore during the Annual Convention.

In the course of the year, the IPS National Committees and Commissions organized or attended a broad variety of peat- and peatland-related symposia and excursions.

IPS representatives also attended a number of important peatland workshops and meetings, delivered

by email to all IPS members. In 2015, 12 issues were distributed to approximately 1,200 persons per issue. All previous newsletters can be downloaded from our members intranet.

### Other Publications

The PS' printed publications can be ordered directly from the Secretariat; a list is available at [www.peatlands.org/publications](http://www.peatlands.org/publications). The most popular books remain the Convention Report, Peatlands and Climate Change, Finland-Fenland and the Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands, as well as proceedings of previous symposia.

## On the Internet

### IPS website

The IPS is planning to launch a new website soon. The current pages at [www.peatlands.org](http://www.peatlands.org) contain, in the public section, basic information on the IPS, an events calendar, contact details for the Executive Board, Commissions and National Committees, general information on peat and peatlands, a list of publications, and other information on the Society and its work. In addition, the site offers a news

section, a book store for printed material, a list of open positions and a number of self-updating information boxes.

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

### Mires and Peat Scientific Journal

In 2015, Mires and Peat published Volume 15, on the topic of mountain peatlands, with 14 papers; meanwhile, Volume 16 comprised 13 articles. It also started planning

a special volume on GHG fluxes in degraded and restored peatlands, along with announcing a special issue on Growing Sphagnum.

Launched in 2006, Mires and Peat is the peer-reviewed open access scientific journal of the IPS and the IMCG, which is freely available to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The Editor is Dr. Olivia Bragg, who is supported by an enlarged Editorial Board. The journal can be accessed free of charge from [www.mires-and-peat.net](http://www.mires-and-peat.net).

Mires and Peat is indexed by the Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA and the Directory of Open Access Journals. Since the end of 2015, new papers are DOI-numbered and safely



The second Executive Board meeting for 2015 was held in Berlin in March.

archived via Portico. High-quality papers are welcome to maintain this important publication. The IPS is supporting the journal with approximately €4,000 annually.

All printed issues of the former International Peat Journal, published until 2004, can still be ordered from the IPS website.

### Social Media

The IPS is actively sharing information about its own and related activities, press articles and conference announcements via its Facebook and LinkedIn pages on a daily basis. At the end of 2015, about 650 people were following IPS information on Facebook, most of whom were not yet members of the Society. Those aged between 25 and 34 years comprise the most common age group of these followers.

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

Members are also active on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Wikipedia, in English and their own languages.

### Public discussion

Climate change, biodiversity, peatland fires and bog restoration were the most important topics with respect to peatland management in the public eye in 2015. Other topics vary slightly from country to country. The IPS is regularly following Google News and different Google Scholar alerts on peat, mire and peatland topics, then sharing these via email, Peat News and its Facebook page.

## Finances and Funding

The IPS is fully funded by membership fees, mainly from its corporate members, of € 116,500 (2014: €113,000) and National Committee contributions of € 28,400 (2014: €29,000). In addition, the International Peat Congress, which is held every four years, and the Society's other symposia, such as in

Tullamore 2015, are an important financial resource for the IPS.

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a deficit of € 9,350 (2014: surplus of €15,600) for the 2015 financial year. This resulted mainly from unpaid membership fees and higher travelling costs than expected. Bad debts amounting to €6,800 (unpaid invoices in 2013-2014) had to be removed from the Income Statement. In the second half of 2015, the IPS was successful in saving costs, especially on travelling, while we keep searching for additional core and project funding from outside sources.

The total income of the IPS was €185,800 (2014: €166,618), with expenditure amounting to €194,000 (€149,618). The depreciation of equipment amounted to €1,070 (2014: €1,400; 25%). Assets and liabilities decreased to €168,800 (2014: €171,600). More details can be found in the financial appendices. The accounts and financial statements of the IPS were audited by the Authorized Public Accountant, Arto Saarinen, from DHS Audit.

## Administration

### Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held on 11 June at the Tullamore Court Hotel, attended by representatives of 11 National Committees. The Assembly voted to change the name of the Society, adopted a new mission and vision, and approved the Annual Report 2014, the Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership Fees 2015, as well as an interim budget and membership fees for 2016. The Assembly also elected the Auditor for IPS for 2015.

### Executive Board

According to the Statutes of the IPS, the Executive Board consists of the President, the First and Second Vice Presidents and between two and six Ordinary Members. The members of the Executive Board in 2015

IPS members and staff participated in numerous events and field trips in the course of the year, here at Leivonmäki National Park in Finland.



and their terms of office were as follows:

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 2015 were:

*EB+SAB Strategy Workshop  
Geeste, Germany, January 2015*

Commission Chairs and the Executive Board met in Geeste, Germany, for a two-day workshop on IPS strategy and structure, led by the consultant Helmut Bähr. The workshop especially highlighted the role of projects for future funding of the Society, underlined the role of a Project Manager and suggested streamlining the IPS Commissions.

*Spring meeting in Berlin, Germany  
16 - 17 March 2015*

The main task was to further develop the strategy and structure of the Society and to implement it. As one step, the Executive Board suggested changing the name of the IPS to the "International Peatland Society", along with adapting the mission and vision of the organization accordingly. The Executive Board also approved the Annual Report and Accounts for 2014, as well as the budget, membership fees and



plan of activities for 2015/2016, for submission to the Annual Assembly, accepted new members and decided to apply for a donation permission.

The Executive Board received progress reports on the upcoming IPS conferences in Tullamore 2015, Kuching 2016 and the Jubilee Symposium in 2018. The IPS will continue to work closely with its association and convention partners. In addition, the Executive Board discussed the EU No Net Loss and Soil Protection initiatives and the IPCC inventory guidelines, as well as cooperative strategies for the Wise Use of peatlands and a joint venture proposal from Ukraine. The Executive Board also evaluated the IPS' participation at SER 2015 in Manchester, along with approving a new Assistant Editor for Mires and Peat.

*Summer Meeting in Tullamore,  
Ireland on 7 June 2015*

At the meeting the Executive Board evaluated the IPS Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and decided on its further implementation, including structural changes and the appointment of a Project Manager and Project Leaders. The Scientific Advisory Board and the Executive Board followed up on progress on the 2016 Congress, with special regard to the programme, the review process, key notes, sponsors,

pre-registrations, the call for papers, a special issue of Mires and Peat and a pre-congress tour.

They also inaugurated the Cooperative Strategies for the Wise Use of Peatlands (Peat Dialogue) project, evaluated the financial status of the IPS as of April 2015 and decided upon an IPS contribution for invited peatland speakers at the SER 2015 conference in Manchester.

Finally, the Executive Board approved the use of the IPS logo for the Tomsk and Valkeakoski symposia, reopened the bidding process for the IPS Jubilee Symposium 2018 and decided upon IPS participation at other important peat and peatland events in 2015-2016, as well as a founding meeting of the Chinese National Committee in July. It also appointed two honorary members and one new individual member.

*Autumn Meeting in Düsseldorf/  
Ratingen, Germany  
23 - 24 November 2015*

The meeting at the office of the German Garden Industry Association (IVG) continued the development and implementation of the IPS Strategy, discussed finances and membership fees. It also made further preparations for the 2016 Congress and other peatland symposia, as well as developed the



The Annual Convention of the IPS was held in Tullamore, Ireland in June.

Global Peat Resources, the Peat Dialogue and the Sphagnum Farming projects. The Executive Board spoke about the IPS' support for the scientific journal *Mires and Peat*, the content and finances of *Peatlands International*, and plans for a new website for the Society. Furthermore, the Allan Robertson Grants for 2016 were prepared to enable travel support to the 2016 Congress, while the Executive Board decided which events of global importance to attend during the coming months.

The decisions of these meetings were disseminated through *Peat News* and *Peatlands International*.

### Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board held its 2015 meetings in Tullamore and by email. 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 Catherine Farrell as Secretary. Most of the decisions were communicated via *Peat News* and *Peatlands International*. The Scientific Advisory Board consists of the 10 IPS Commission Chairs and the Second Vice President of the Society. It provides the IPS with advice and information on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance,

drawing upon the pool of knowledge available from the Commissions and elsewhere, along with promoting and disseminating research results. The Scientific Advisory Board normally meets twice a year in conjunction with other IPS meetings. The Society provides funding for travel of up to €500 per member. Members of the Scientific Advisory Board at the end of 2015 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

### New IPS office

In May 2015, the IPS Secretariat moved to a new office at the StartUp Leipomo Centre for Young

Enterprises to improve the synergy between the Society and other organizations. The new address is Nisulankatu 78, 40520 Jyväskylä, Finland. The telephone number and email addresses remain the same: mobile +358 40 418 4075; emails ips@peatlands.org and firstname.lastname@peatlands.org.

### Staff and Interns

Mr Hannu Salo has been working as Secretary General of the IPS since May 2014 for one to two days per week, in addition to his duties at the Finnish Bioenergy Association. IPS Communications Manager Susann Warnecke takes care of the administration, communications, event management and finance of the IPS, supported by the accounting office TietoAkseli and other service providers. In addition, the IPS Secretariat was assisted by interns Fiona Mwacharo (until February) and Draga Atanasova from Bulgaria (from April to December 2015).

## Honours

### Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

In 2015, the IPS sponsored the Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

for the first time, amounting to €500 each.

Funding was made available by the IPS budget for the old Awards of Excellence and contributions from IPS members. By the deadline of 30th April, grant applications have been received from 33 people based in Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, Ireland, Canada, Indonesia, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom, China and Lesotho. The winners were:

- Joss Ratcliffe (Scotland), University of the Highlands and Islands, Thurso: ecosystem functioning in two bogs in New Zealand; specialized scanning equipment
- Anne-Helena Purre (Estonia), University of Tallinn: carbon dioxide flux in forestry drained and restored peatlands; travel costs for field work
- Nisa Novita (Indonesia), Oregon State University, USA: greenhouse gas fluxes associated with land use changes in Indonesia; purchase of a replacement probe for a field meter and conference travel
- Sara Anne Thornton (England), University of Leicester: benefits and values provided by tropical peat swamp forests in Borneo; field work.
- Tadhg Ó Corcora (Ireland), Irish Peatland Conservation

Council: equipment to undertake Sphagnum moss transfer for bog restoration; train volunteers.

All winners will report on their projects at future IPS events and in Peatlands International. The 2016 Allan Robertson Grants will be given out as travel support in order to attend the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia.

### Honorary Members

In 2015, the IPS had 24 honorary members. 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. These are currently:

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

In June 2015, Neil Godsman and Richard Clymo from the United Kingdom became new honorary members.

It was with great sadness that we heard about the passing of Henk van de Griendt, who was a very active and well-known member of the “peat family”. We will surely miss him.

## Cooperation

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

Locally, the IPS cooperated with Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Ltd, the University of Applied Sciences, the University of Jyväskylä, the Finnish Peatland Society, the Finnish Bioenergy Association and, of course, our National Committees and industrial member associations worldwide.

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions. On the next page you can find a list of our events.



Visiting a peat production site of Bord na Móna in Ireland during the IPS Convention. Photo: Hannu Salo

# Conferences and other events

## Events of the IPS and its National Committees

Executive Board & Scientific Advisory Board Strategy Days  
Twist/Geeste, Germany  
18 - 20 January 2015

Executive Board Meeting  
Berlin, Germany  
16 - 17 March 2015

Finnish Peatland Society (Suoseura)  
Spring seminar "Do we have enough peatlands - mid evaluation of the Finnish peatland strategy"  
Helsinki, Finland  
18 March 2015  
[www.suoseura.fi](http://www.suoseura.fi)

IPS Annual Meetings  
"A new conversation on peatlands"  
Tullamore, Ireland  
7 - 12 June 2015  
[www.irishpeatsociety.ie](http://www.irishpeatsociety.ie)

Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics Round Table Conference  
Valkeakoski, Finland  
3 - 4 July 2015  
email: [info@ainoklinikat.fi](mailto:info@ainoklinikat.fi)

Commission III Agriculture International Workshop:  
Fen peatlands after drainage - landscape and soil  
Olsztyn, Poland, 6 - 10 July 2015  
[barbara.kalisz@uwm.edu.pl](mailto:barbara.kalisz@uwm.edu.pl)

Finnish Peatland Society  
Excursion to Central Finland  
17 - 18 August 2015  
[www.suoseura.fi](http://www.suoseura.fi)

Baltic Peat Producers Forum  
Peat Industry in Turbulence of Politics and Economy  
Kuressaare, Estonia  
15 - 18 September 2015  
[www.bppf2015.eu](http://www.bppf2015.eu)

UK Peat Society Annual Meeting  
September 2015  
[jack.rieley@btinternet.com](mailto:jack.rieley@btinternet.com)

German Peat Society  
Annual Meeting  
Berlin, Germany  
23 - 26 September 2015  
[www.dgmtev.de](http://www.dgmtev.de)

Irish Peat Society  
Annual Seminar Best Practice in Raised Bog Management  
in association with RPS Group  
22 October 2015

IPS Executive Board Meeting  
Düsseldorf, Germany  
23 - 24 November 2015

Finnish Peatland Society  
Peatlands in land use planning  
Helsinki, Finland  
25 November 2015  
[www.suoseura.fi](http://www.suoseura.fi)

## Cooperation events

World Wetlands Day  
2 February 2015  
[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)

SER 2015 World Conference on Ecological Restoration  
Towards Resilient Ecosystems:  
Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild  
Manchester, UK  
23 - 27 August 2015  
[www.ser2015.org](http://www.ser2015.org)

IPS-ISHS Peat in Horticulture  
Vienna, Austria  
7 - 11 September 2015  
[www.ages.at/susgro2015](http://www.ages.at/susgro2015)

Third International Scientific and Practical Conference  
"Study and use of Siberian peat resources"  
Tomsk, Russia

27 September - 2 October 2015  
<http://ips2015tomsk.ru>

## Events of related organisations

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

Peatlands Ecology Research Group  
21st Symposium  
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada  
17 - 18 February 2015  
[wetlandshydrology.com/perg.html](http://wetlandshydrology.com/perg.html)

IEA's World Energy Outlook 2014:  
What are the implications for the EU's 2030 Climate and Energy Framework?  
Brussels, Belgium  
24 February 2015  
[www.europeanenergyforum.eu](http://www.europeanenergyforum.eu)

European Biomass Association (AEBIOM) Bioenergy Conference  
Brussels, Belgium  
4 - 6 May 2015  
[www.aebiom.org/conference](http://www.aebiom.org/conference)

SWS European Chapter Meeting  
Bled, Slovenia  
10 - 13 May 2015  
[www.sws.org/europe-chapter](http://www.sws.org/europe-chapter)

Wise Use of Peatlands Conference  
Ballybay, Ireland  
21 May 2015  
[www.irishwetlands.ie](http://www.irishwetlands.ie)

17th IBFRA Conference: Towards a New Era of Forest Science in Boreal Region  
Rovaniemi, Finland  
24 - 29 May 2015  
[www.ibfra2015.org](http://www.ibfra2015.org)

Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) Annual Meeting: Changing Climate. Changing Wetlands  
Providence, Rhode Island, USA  
31 May - 4 June 2015  
[www.swsannualmeeting.org](http://www.swsannualmeeting.org)

Ramsar COP12 Punta, del Este, Uruguay 1 - 9 June 2015 <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>	Molinia management on upland peat in the UK Huddersfield, UK 14 - 16 September 2015 <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor">www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ marsdenmoor</a>	Convention on Biological Diversity Montreal, Canada 2 - 5 November 2015 <a href="http://www.cbd.int">www.cbd.int</a>
Biotalous 2015 Helsinki, Finland 9 June 2015 <a href="http://www.biotalousuomessa.fi">www.biotalousuomessa.fi</a>	9th All-Russian Scientific School of Young Scientists with International Participation "Mires and Biosphere" Vladimir, Russia 14 - 18 September 2015 <a href="http://ltorf.tspu.ru/school/about-school.html">http://ltorf.tspu.ru/school/about- school.html</a>	Peatland Restoration Seminar Värnamo, Sweden 3-5 November 2015 <a href="http://www.lifetoaddmire.se">www.lifetoaddmire.se</a>
UNFCCC Climate Change Conference Bonn, Germany 1 - 11 June 2015 <a href="http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_calendar/items/2655.php">http://unfccc.int/meetings/unfccc_ calendar/items/2655.php</a>	Ramsar STRP Gland, Switzerland 5 - 9 October 2015 <a href="http://www.ramsar.org">www.ramsar.org</a>	International Floriculture & Horticulture Trade Fair Vijfhuisen, Netherlands 4 - 6 November 2015 <a href="http://www.hppexhibitions.com">www.hppexhibitions.com</a>
China Peat Industry Forum Beijing, China 16 July 2015	42nd Session of the IPCC Dubrovnik, Croatia 5 - 8 October 2015 <a href="http://climate-l.iisd.org/events/42nd-session-of-the-ipcc/">climate-l.iisd.org/events/42nd- session-of-the-ipcc/</a>	FloraHolland Trade Fair Aalsmeer Aalsmeer, Netherlands 4 - 6 November 2015 <a href="http://www.floraholland.com/tradefair">www.floraholland.com/tradefair</a>
International Seminar on Toward a Sustainable and Resilient Community Co-existence of Oil Palm Plantation, Biodiversity and Peat Fire Prevention University of Riau Riau, Indonesia 30 July 2015 e-mail: <a href="mailto:haris1901@gmail.com">haris1901@gmail.com</a>	C-Peat Workshop Columbia University, New York, USA 11 - 13 October 2015 <a href="http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu">www.ldeo.columbia.edu</a>	International Exhibition and Conference on Landscape, Leisure, Greenery Design, Construction and Technology Singapore 5 - 7 November 2015
Mires of Northern Europe: Biodiversity, Dynamics, Management Petrozavodsk, Republic of Karelia, Russia 2 - 5 September 2015 email: <a href="mailto:mire2015@krc.karelia.ru">mire2015@krc.karelia.ru</a>	PERG 13th Technology Transfer Workshop Québec City, Canada 14 - 15 October 2015 <a href="http://www.gret-perg.ca">www.gret-perg.ca</a>	American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting San Francisco, USA 14 - 18 December 2015 <a href="http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015">http://fallmeeting.agu.org/2015</a>
Bioenergy and Wood 2015 Jyväskylä, Finland 2 - 4 September 2015 <a href="http://www.bioenergyevents.fi">www.bioenergyevents.fi</a>	Deutscher Torf- und Humustag Bad Zwischenahn, Germany 15 October 2015 <a href="http://www.ivg.org/de">www.ivg.org/de</a>	2nd International Conference Local and Global Arctic In the Spirit of the Rovaniemi Process Rovaniemi, Finland 24 - 26 November 2015 <a href="http://www.rovaniemiprocess.fi/en/invitation">www.rovaniemiprocess.fi/en/ invitation</a>
XIV World Forest Congress "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future" Durban, South Africa 7 - 11 September 2015 <a href="http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/87584/en">www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/87584/en</a>	Remote Sensing of Wetlands Symposium Seville, Spain 23 October 2015 <a href="http://ocs.ebd.csic.es/index.php/RSW/RSCW2015/schedConf/overview">http://ocs.ebd.csic.es/index.php/ RSW/RSCW2015/schedConf/ overview</a>	UNFCCC COP 21 Paris, France 30 November - 11 December 2015 <a href="http://www.unfccc.int">www.unfccc.int</a>
Wilder by Design 2 Sheffield, UK 9 - 11 September 2015 <a href="http://www.ukeconet.org/event/wilder-by-design-wild-thing">www.ukeconet.org/event/wilder-by- design-wild-thing</a>	Flow Country Conference Thurso, UK 27 - 30 October 2015 <a href="http://www.eri.ac.uk/eri/eri_aca/projectdetails.aspx?ind=24">www.eri.ac.uk/eri/eri_aca/ projectdetails.aspx?ind=24</a>	COP13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity Cancún, Mexico 4 - 17 December 2015 <a href="http://www.cbd.int">www.cbd.int</a>
BIOECON Conference" Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability 13 - 15 September 2015 Cambridge, United Kingdom <a href="http://www.bioecon-network.org/pages/17th_2015/17th_2015.html">www.bioecon-network.org/ pages/17th_2015/17th_2015.html</a>	Geological Society Of America (GSA) Annual Meeting Baltimore, Maryland, USA 1 - 4 November 2015 <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings">www.geosociety.org/meetings</a>	"Planning for Climate Change" Conference London, UK 21 December 2015 <a href="http://www.planforclimatechange.co.uk">www.planforclimatechange.co.uk</a>

# Members of the IPS

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Governmental Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Canada	8	31	0	0	2	1	42
China	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Estonia	0	28	0	1	0	0	29
Finland	313	3	1	1	9	0	327
Germany	273	54	4	5	12	38	386
Indonesia	104	0	1	0	0	0	105
Ireland	32	5	0	1	2	0	40
Japan	46	2	0	0	0	2	50
Latvia	2	29	0	0	6	0	37
Lithuania	1	22	0	0	0	0	23
Malaysia	42	4	0	0	0	0	46
The Netherlands	52	14	2	1	2	2	73
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	21	5	1	1	1	7	36
USA	18	3	1	1	2	1	26
<b>31 December 2015</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1413</b>
31 December 2014	1057	236	13	12	39	55	1412
31 December 2013	1089	245	14	12	41	53	1454

Table 1: Members of IPS National Committees.

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	Research Institutes, Universities	TOTAL
Argentina	0	1	0	0	0	1
Australia	0	0	1	0	0	1
Belarus	0	0	0	1	0	1
Belgium	1	1	0	0	0	2
Burundi	0	1	0	0	0	1
Denmark	2	1	0	0	0	3
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
Peru	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Russia	3	1	0	2	2	8
Rwanda	1	0	0	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Spain	2	1	0	0	0	3
Ukraine	1	3	0	0	0	4
<b>31 December 2015</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>
31 December 2014	24	16	3	5	2	50
31 December 2013	32	20	2	3		57

Table 2: IPS members in countries without National Committees.

<b>2015</b>	
1185	persons
270	organisations
<b>1455</b>	

31 temporary members  
**1486** TOTAL

Table 3: Development of the IPS membership from 2010 to 2015.

	December 2015	December 2014	December 2013	December 2012	December 2011	December 2010	Balance
NC members	1413	1412	1454	1354	1372	1413	1
Non-NC members	42	50	57	58	46	37	-8
	<b>1455</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>1511</b>	<b>1412</b>	<b>1418</b>	<b>1450</b>	<b>-7</b>

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

# Expenses and revenue of the IPS

	Realised 2015	%	Budget 2015	Realised 2014	Realised 2013
<b>STAFF AND EXTERNAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>Ordinary operations, expenses</b>					
<b>Staff and external services</b>					
3100 Salaries	-79 366,87 €	103 %	-77 100,00 €	-70 990,47 €	-71 692,37 €
3101 Auditing	-1 599,60 €	94 %	-1 700,00 €	-1 562,40 €	-1 562,40 €
3102 Debited salaries	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	3 343,83 €
3103 Accounting	-7 321,59 €	113 %	-6 500,00 €	-6 133,97 €	-2 045,99 €
3104 Social security	-1 646,33 €	103 %	-1 600,00 €	-1 525,04 €	-1 460,13 €
3105 Pension funds (readjusted at the end of the year)	-14 213,72 €	95 %	-15 000,00 €	-11 410,94 €	-13 243,20 €
3106 Insurances required by law	-1 042,66 €	95 %	-1 100,00 €	-1 925,93 €	-827,13 €
3107 Healthcare	-781,44 €	92 %	-850,00 €	-705,07 €	-717,82 €
3108 Other social costs	-254,40 €	254 %	-100,00 €	-202,80 €	-26,00 €
3109 Health insurance refund from Kela	390,72 €				
3110 Training	-250,00 €	83 %	-300,00 €	-185,00 €	-207,00 €
	<b>-106 085,89 €</b>	<b>102 %</b>	<b>-104 250,00 €</b>	<b>-94 641,62 €</b>	<b>-88 438,21 €</b>
<b>Facilities</b>					
3115 Rent	-7 838,25 €	91 %	-8 639,00 €	-6 637,00 €	-8 270,00 €
3116 Cleaning	-198,40 €	73 %	-272,00 €	-566,68 €	-158,88 €
	<b>-8 036,65 €</b>	<b>90 %</b>	<b>-8 911,00 €</b>	<b>-7 203,68 €</b>	<b>-8 428,88 €</b>
<b>Administration</b>					
3119 Office equipment	-406,20 €				
3120 Office materials	-134,57 €	19 %	-700,00 €	-643,36 €	-443,93 €
3121 Printing and copying	-2 618,20 €	114 %	-2 300,00 €	-2 259,14 €	-2 242,03 €
3122 Books and magazines	0,00 €	0 %	-50,00 €	-33,00 €	-25,00 €
3123 Mailing	-1 289,09 €	129 %	-1 000,00 €	-571,88 €	-1 956,35 €
3124 Phone and internet (joined)	-1 212,58 €	121 %	-1 000,00 €	-567,95 €	-2 357,99 €
3125 IT and maintenance	-1 341,70 €	54 %	-2 500,00 €	-1 957,08 €	-2 093,24 €
3126 Office catering and staff occasions	-383,29 €				
3127 Other insurances	-1 112,13 €	74 %	-1 500,00 €	-1 438,96 €	-861,83 €
3128 Other costs (recruiting, move, consultant)	-1 775,92 €	178 %	-1 000,00 €	-189,49 €	-1 699,27 €
3129 TTL Administration	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
	<b>-10 273,68 €</b>	<b>102 %</b>	<b>-10 050,00 €</b>	<b>-7 660,86 €</b>	<b>-11 679,64 €</b>
<b>Other costs</b>					
3133 Membership fees	-83,00 €	75 %	-110,00 €	-88,93 €	-40,00 €
3134 Banking fees	-682,94 €	137 %	-500,00 €	-514,17 €	-455,86 €
3135 Webshop/credit card fees	-405,40 €	41 %	-1 000,00 €	-611,22 €	-810,92 €
3136 Award of Excellence, Allan Robertson Grants	-2 500,00 €	100 %	-2 500,00 €	-1 000,00 €	-1 007,50 €
3137 Marketing	-113,84 €	23 %	-500,00 €	-176,12 €	-272,80 €
3138 Other costs (consulting)	-6 021,06 €	67 %	-9 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
	<b>-9 806,24 €</b>	<b>72 %</b>	<b>-13 610,00 €</b>	<b>-2 390,44 €</b>	<b>-2 587,08 €</b>
<b>Other income</b>					
3030 Grant contributions (2015)	1 500,00 €	100 %	1 500,00 €		
2016 moved to 2016 accounts					
<b>total ordinary operations</b>	<b>-132 702,46 €</b>	<b>97 %</b>	<b>-136 821,00 €</b>	<b>-111 896,60 €</b>	<b>-111 133,81 €</b>
<b>TRAVELLING AND ORGANISATION</b>					
<b>Travelling income</b>					
3142 Travelling + meeting income (Manchester, UK + CSPMA)	3 043,70 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	1 680,00 €
	<b>3 043,70 €</b>		<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>1 680,00 €</b>
<b>Travelling costs</b>					
3150 Domestic travelling and accommodation (joined)	-655,40 €	82 %	-800,00 €	-1 569,33 €	-1 037,91 €
3152 Domestic allowances	-120,00 €	40 %	-300,00 €	-661,50 €	-416,00 €
3153 Mileage allowances	-603,40 €	121 %	-500,00 €	-853,36 €	-407,40 €
3154 Secretariat foreign travel and accommodation (joined)	-5 861,29 €	87 %	-6 766,00 €	-8 895,82 €	-6 283,32 €
3156 EB travelling and accommodation (joined)	-6 644,35 €	111 %	-6 000,00 €	-6 153,35 €	-4 120,73 €
3158 SAB travelling and accommodation	-5 284,01 €	132 %	-4 000,00 €	-2 736,59 €	-3 168,96 €
3159 Secretariat foreign allowances	-1 810,50 €	121 %	-1 500,00 €	-1 277,50 €	-1 366,00 €
3160 Meeting costs / room rents	0,00 €	0 %	-2 000,00 €	-1 248,78 €	-4 753,38 €
3161 Representation costs / catering	-3 100,30 €	155 %	-2 000,00 €	-649,72 €	-5 384,93 €
3162 Registration fees	-1 000,00 €	50 %	-2 000,00 €	-2 140,01 €	-721,40 €
3164 Other travelling costs (conventions, manchester, kuching)	-7 416,33 €	297 %	-2 500,00 €	-1 483,34 €	0,00 €
	<b>-32 495,58 €</b>	<b>115 %</b>	<b>-28 366,00 €</b>	<b>-27 669,30 €</b>	<b>-27 660,03 €</b>
<b>total travelling + organisation</b>	<b>-29 451,88 €</b>	<b>104 %</b>	<b>-28 366,00 €</b>	<b>-27 669,30 €</b>	<b>-25 980,03 €</b>

<b>PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Income from publishing</b>					
3200 Sales of magazines	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	637,00 €
3201 Advertisement income	9 895,00 €	177 %	5 600,00 €	5 200,00 €	11 210,00 €
3202 Reading rights online	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	50,00 €
3203 Sales of publications	488,00 €	163 %	300,00 €	288,00 €	1 078,00 €
3204 Other publication income	10,00 €	10 %	100,00 €	65,00 €	64,54 €
	<b>10 393,00 €</b>	<b>173 %</b>	<b>6 000,00 €</b>	<b>5 553,00 €</b>	<b>13 039,54 €</b>
<b>Publishing expenses</b>					
3211 Online journal Mires and Peat	-4 030,98 €	101 %	-4 000,00 €	-4 085,47 €	-6 500,00 €
3212 Proofreading PI + PN	-393,78 €	39 %	-1 000,00 €	-681,49 €	-655,75 €
3213 Printing PI	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	-6 515,78 €
3214 Mailing PI	0,00 €		0,00 €	0,00 €	-5 427,79 €
3215 Other publication costs	-55,19 €	18 %	-300,00 €	-235,36 €	-14,96 €
3216 Website and e-mail	-605,12 €	121 %	-500,00 €	-491,04 €	-644,60 €
3217 Book scanning	0,00 €	0 %	-200,00 €	-267,76 €	0,00 €
	<b>-5 085,07 €</b>	<b>85 %</b>	<b>-6 000,00 €</b>	<b>-5 761,12 €</b>	<b>-19 758,88 €</b>
<b>total publishing</b>	<b>5 307,93 €</b>		<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>-208,12 €</b>	<b>-6 719,34 €</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b>					
3300 Project income (peat dialogue)	14 000,00 €	140 %	10 000,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
3355 Project expenses (peat dialogue)	-15 395,76 €	205 %	-7 500,00 €	0,00 €	0,00 €
	<b>-1 395,76 €</b>	<b>-56 %</b>	<b>2 500,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>0,00 €</b>
<b>CONFERENCES</b>					
3400 Conference income (IPC 2012, Riga 2014, Tullamore 2015)	6 260,00 €		0,00 €	12 213,00 €	44 241,10 €
3455 Conference expenses (Riga 2014)	0,00 €		0,00 €	-1 204,92 €	0,00 €
	<b>6 260,00 €</b>		<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>11 008,08 €</b>	<b>44 241,10 €</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-151 982,17 €</b>	<b>93 %</b>	<b>-162 687,00 €</b>	<b>-128 765,94 €</b>	<b>-99 592,08 €</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
3510 National Committee fees	28 397,00 €	100 %	28 397,00 €	28 807,00 €	26 059,00 €
3511 Corporate and industrial fees	116 552,00 €	100 %	116 554,00 €	113 159,00 €	110 941,00 €
3512 Individual members	920,00 €	75 %	1 224,00 €	1 448,00 €	2 240,00 €
3513 Company fees	4 650,00 €	83 %	5 580,00 €	5 175,00 €	6 475,00 €
3514 Student members	50,00 €	67 %	75,00 €	24,00 €	48,00 €
3515 Late payments	0,00 €	0 %	457,00 €	239,00 €	469,50 €
	<b>150 569,00 €</b>	<b>99 %</b>	<b>152 287,00 €</b>	<b>148 852,00 €</b>	<b>146 232,50 €</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
3610 Credit losses (sure bad debts and 2014)	-6 801,00 €	227 %	-3 000,00 €	-3 084,00 €	via balance
Old bad debts to be removed from balance starting from 2013!					
<b>membership fees total</b>	<b>143 768,00 €</b>	<b>96 %</b>	<b>149 287,00 €</b>	<b>145 768,00 €</b>	<b>146 232,50 €</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-8 214,17 €</b>	<b>61 %</b>	<b>-13 400,00 €</b>	<b>17 002,06 €</b>	<b>46 640,42 €</b>
<b>SAVINGS AND FINANCING</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
4000 Interest income	1,77 €				
4090 Other income	0,00 €				
<b>Expenses</b>					
4100 Interest expenses	-67,64 €		0,00 €	-1,80 €	-3,36 €
4190 Other expenses	0,02 €		0,00 €	0,03 €	0,00 €
	<b>-65,85 €</b>		<b>0,00 €</b>	<b>-1,77 €</b>	<b>-3,36 €</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-8 280,02 €</b>	<b>62 %</b>	<b>-13 400,00 €</b>	<b>17 000,29 €</b>	<b>46 637,06 €</b>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>					
6000 Depreciation (25%)	-1 070,95 €	97 %	-1 100,00 €	-1 388,60 €	-1 851,46 €
	<b>-1 070,95 €</b>	<b>97 %</b>	<b>-1 100,00 €</b>	<b>-1 388,60 €</b>	<b>-1 851,46 €</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>-9 350,97 €</b>	<b>64 %</b>	<b>-14 500,00 €</b>	<b>15 611,69 €</b>	<b>44 785,60 €</b>
<b>Bad debts estimation</b>					
Bad debts 2011					-13 640,10 €
Bad debts 2012					-15 283,00 €
<b>TOTAL OLD BAD DEBTS</b>					<b>-28 923,10 €</b>
<b>REAL FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>-9 350,97 €</b>	<b>64 %</b>	<b>-14 500,00 €</b>	<b>15 611,69 €</b>	<b>15 862,50 €</b>

# Balance sheet

	2015	2014	%
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets in total	0,00	0,00	
Tangible assets			
116, Machinery and equipment	3 212,84	4 165,79	-22,88
Investments			
144, Other shares and similar rights of ownership	84,09	0,00	
<b>Non-current assets in total</b>	<b>3 296,93</b>	<b>4 165,79</b>	<b>-20,86</b>
Current assets			
Stocks in total	0,00	0,00	
Receivables			
Long term receivables	0,00	0,00	
Short term receivables			
170, Trade debtors	33 056,70	27 393,90	20,67
176, Other receivables	576,29	5 662,00	-89,82
1760, Other debtors	0,00	4 937,00	-100,00
1762, Tax account receivables	1,77	0,00	
1767, Rent deposits	574,52	725,00	-20,76
Prepayments and accrued income	390,72	816,95	-52,17
1800, Accrued credit and deferred charges	390,72	732,86	-46,69
1810, Participating interests	0,00	84,09	-100,00
Short-term debtors in total	34 023,71	33 872,85	0,45
Investments in total	0,00	0,00	
Cash in hand and at banks	131 457,00	133 595,66	-1,60
<b>Current assets in total</b>	<b>165 480,71</b>	<b>167 468,51</b>	<b>-1,19</b>
<b>ASSETS IN TOTAL</b>	<b>168 777,64</b>	<b>171 634,30</b>	<b>-1,66</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Capital and reserves			
Other reserves in total	0,00	0,00	
Retained earnings gain or (loss)	156 969,62	141 357,93	11,04
Profit (loss) for the fiscal year	-9 350,97	15 611,69	-159,90
<b>Capital and reserves in total</b>	<b>147 618,65</b>	<b>156 969,62</b>	<b>-5,96</b>
Appropriations in total	0,00	0,00	
Provisions in total	0,00	0,00	
Creditors			
Long-term liabilities	0,00	0,00	
Creditors, Short term			
286, Advances received, Grant Contributions, transitory	3 553,39	0,00	
287, Accounts Payables, Trade creditors	1 771,51	2 804,20	-36,83
292, Other creditors, Pay as you earn- and social security li	2 287,56	2 580,90	-11,37
295, Accruals and deferred income, Accrued liabilities from	13 546,53	9 279,58	45,98
<b>Creditors, total</b>	<b>21 158,99</b>	<b>14 664,68</b>	<b>44,29</b>
<b>LIABILITIES IN TOTAL</b>	<b>168 777,64</b>	<b>171 634,30</b>	<b>-1,66</b>

List of accounting books used

The following accounting books have been used during the financial year:  
Balance book, general ledger, journal and financial statement. Fixed assets book

# Notes to the accounts

## The valuations, matching and translation principles and applied methods

Assets are valued at acquisition cost from which planned depreciations are decreased.

Receivables are valued at their nominal value or at lower market values.

Liabilities are valued at their nominal value or at higher benchmark values.

## Basis and changes for planned depreciations

The acquisition costs of non-current assets are decreased according to the planned depreciations. Machinery and equipment which have estimated utilization time of maximum of three years, and small-scale acquisitions intended in the Trade Legislation, are entered as debit on the year they were acquired.

The planned depreciations have been calculated based on their estimated utilization time as follows:

Machinery and equipment 25 % reducing balance method

## Notes to the assets

### Changes in the non-current assets

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Non-current assets 01.01	4 165,79	5 554,39
Increases during the financial year	598,00	0,00
Reductions during the financial year	-480,00	0,00
Planned depreciations during the financial year	-1 070,95	-1 388,60
Non-current assets 31.12	3 212,84	4 165,79

## Liabilities

### Short-term debtors

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Trade debtors	33 056,70	27 393,90
Prepayments and accrued income	390,72	816,95
Other receivables	576,29	5 662,00

### Capital and reserves

#### Changes in the capital and reserves

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Capital 01.01	156 969,62	141 357,93
Surplus of the financial year	-9 350,97	15 611,69
Capital 31.12	147 618,95	156 969,62

## Total income

The total income of the IPS was € 185 767,47 (€ 166 618,00) with the expenditure amounting to 194 047,49 (€ 149 617,71).

	31.12.2015	31.12.2014
Total income	185 767,47	166 618,00
Total expenditure	-194 047,49	-149 617,71
Depreciation	-1 070,95	-1 388,60
<b>Suprlus (-deficit) for the financial year</b>	<b>-9 350,97</b>	<b>15 611,69</b>

# Date and signatures

Jyväskylä, 18 May 2016

Björn Hänel  
President

Guus van Berckel  
First Vice President

Jack Rieley  
Second Vice President

Moritz Böcking

Donal Clarke

Erki Niitlaan

Claes Rülcker

Paul Short

Samu Valpola

The Annual Report was approved by the Executive Board in May 2016 and will be signed in original on 14 August 2016 in Kuching.



## AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation)

### To the members of International Peatland Society

I have audited the accounting records, the financial statements, the report of the Board of Directors and the administration of International Peatland Society for the year ended 31 December, 2015. 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 my 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, 13th June, 2016

Arto Saarinen

Authorized Public Accountant, KHT

# IPS Commissions and Working Groups

In 2015, the International Peatland Society had 10 Commissions and several Working Groups. The contact information of the Chairs and Coordinators can also be found at [www.peatlands.org/about-us](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us).

## Commission 1 - Stratigraphy, inventory and conservation of peatlands

Professor Dr. Lars Lundin  
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### Vice Chair :

Ass. Professor Maria Strack  
Department of Geography  
University of Calgary, Canada  
Email: [mstrack@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mstrack@ucalgary.ca)

Working Groups: Peatland Geology,  
Peatland Ecology, Peatland Hydrology

## Commission 2 - Utilisation of peat and peatlands for horticulture, energy and other economic purposes

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### Secretary:

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Main Street  
Newbridge, Co. Kildare, Ireland  
Mobile: +353 86 256 5825  
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Working Groups: Energy Peat,  
Horticultural Peat (HOPE WG)

## Commission 3 - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat

Barbara Kalisz  
University of Warmia and Mazury in  
Olsztyn  
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Protection  
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### Secretary:

Associate Professor  
Ryszard Oleszczuk  
Warsaw University of Life Sciences  
Faculty of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering, Department of  
Environmental Improvement  
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## Commission 4 - Chemical, physical and biological characteristics of peat

Prof. Jürgen Schoenherr  
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Torf- und Naturstoff-Forschung (iTN)  
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### Vice Chair:

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Commission Chairs 2015 (Scientific Advisory Board) in Geeste.

### **Commission 5 - Restoration, rehabilitation and after-use of peatlands**

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United Kingdom  
roxane.andersen@thurso.uhi.ac.uk

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

### **Commission 6 - Peat balneology, medicine and therapeutics**

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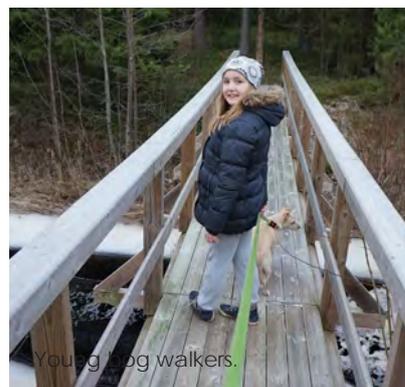
### **Commission 7 - Ecology and management of forested peatlands**

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### **Commission 8 - Cultural aspects of peat and peatlands**

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### **Commission 9 - Tropical peatlands**

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### **Commission 10 - Peatlands and Climate Change**

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# Reports of Commissions

Commission 1 –  
Stratigraphy, inventory  
and conservation of  
peatlands  
Chair: Lars Lundin

## Scope

The IPS Commission I embraces the inventory, stratigraphy and conservation of peatlands. This includes ecology, geology, hydrology, biology and terminology. Peat formation is also an issue, as well as ecosystem services that are related to mires and peatlands. Each of these subjects constitutes a working group. The aim is to achieve new activities within the working groups, while keeping in mind collaboration with other Commissions.

## State

Commission I addresses all of the IPS members who are 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 U.K. and the U.S. An invitation was sent out from the IPS Secretariat for all IPS members to sign up in Commissions. For Commission I, 69 names from 18 countries were interested. Further countries that are now involved include Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia and Poland. Working groups (WG) have also been established: geology, ecology and hydrology. However, few activities took place in the groups during 2015.

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

For most visitors it was extremely interesting to see the traditional Irish peat cutting techniques.



## 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. Collaboration between Commissions

IPS special strategy meetings and activities, as well as three Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meetings, have been held with the participation of Commission I.

*1. Participation in the IPS Strategy meeting in Geeste 18-20 January 2015.* This was considered as a start-up meeting for developing the new IPS strategy with continued work throughout 2015. This will be finalized at IPC 2016 in Kuching. In Geeste, both separate EB and SAB meetings and joint meetings were carried out. The strategy was further dealt with in later meetings, as well as e-mail and telephone activity during August-September 2015.

*2. E-mail meeting in January-February 2015, SAB 25, with follow-up on strategic projects and the IPS Strategy.* The agenda also included IPC 2016, the 50-year anniversary of

IPS, Web of Science acceptance of Mires and Peat, and a follow-up of the Geeste meeting.

*3. SAB meeting in Tullamore, June 2015.* This was held in conjunction with the A New Conversation on Peatlands - IPS Annual Meeting 2015. The IPS strategic plan was further discussed. This meeting established four IPS strategic goals. Commission I chaired the first goal on acquisition, assessment, exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge. One main task was establishing the theme for 2016: Biodiversity on peatlands.

Another item on the agenda was related to IPC 15 in 2016 in Sarawak. Furthermore, the cross-cutting expert group on climate change established Commission X on climate change and peatlands with the Chair David Wilson, Ireland. The decision was also made to change the name of the Society to International Peatland Society.

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

- An updated inventory of global peat resources

- Supplement SRPM with practical guidelines
- Provide a databank of national peatland policies
- Restoration guidelines
- Peatlands and indigenous people
- Policy and action plan on climate change, including interface with IPCC and the REDD process.

*Work within the IPS Strategic Goals Working Group (SGWP) started in June and went into an active phase in August-September. This ended in suggestions for the EB. Here, it was decided to go on the suggestion of a new structure with three Commissions, i.e., environment, social and economic. Within these Commissions, there could be further expert groups. Furthermore, it was decided that more active National Committees should be encouraged. These issues will be brought forward to the Quadrennial IPS Assembly in Kuching in August 2016.*

An SAB e-meeting, No. 27, was carried out in November 2015. The items discussed include:

- Updated inventory of global peat resources
- Global peatland rehabilitation/restoration guidelines
- Further projects mentioned above
- Policy and action plan on 'Peatlands and Climate Change'
- Draft IPS strategic plan 2016-2020, after the SGWP has finished

- IPC15 Kuching August 2016 Scientific and Technical Programme and Related Matters
- Issues related to international conventions, etc.

An interesting conference with considerable discussion of wetland restoration was held in Manchester in August 2016, SER2015, the Sixth World Conference on Ecological Restoration; Society of Ecological Restoration. The Chair of IPS Commission I chaired one session and made a presentation on the prospects for new mire wetland restoration in Sweden, following the termination of peatland excavation. A number of other IPS members also participated.

#### Plans

Planning for the IPC15 Sarawak 2016 in Kuching with input from the Scientific Advisory Board and Commissions will continue in future months. Commission I contributes to IPS with 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. Further suggestions include enhancing work within

the theme, "Mire Conservation and Wetlands for Landscape Functionality". Here, Elve Lode, Estonia and Tatiana Minayeva, Russia have shown an interest in a future development.

#### IPS Commission 2 – 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 (C II). The work conducted by the Commission and their attendance at several relevant events during 2015 is summarized below.

#### Survey on materials used for growing media production in the EU

In 2014/2015, for the third time after 2002 and 2007, Commission II conducted a survey on the amount of constituents used for the manufacturing of growing media in the EU. These IPS reports and data are often quoted references in other publications by organizations and institutions like the EU Commission. In particular, these data are most important for the industry itself to show the importance of peat and other growing media constituents for growing media production. The results were presented at the Vienna symposium in September (see below).

#### Commission II meeting in Tullamore

In conjunction with the Tullamore event, 'A New Conversation on Peatlands 2015' in June, Commission II organized its latest meeting.

Thirty delegates from 11 countries participated and engaged in a number of invited short talks that were given by Moritz Böcking on the new IPS strategy, Paul Short on the Baltic states' international research programme and a joint presentation



Gerald Schmilewski received the ISHS Medal from Prof. Michael Raviv (left).



First China Peat Industry Forum in Beijing. Photo: Hannu Salo

by Bernd Hofer and Reinier de Man on the IPS Peat Dialogue.

During the colloquy, the Chair of C II chaired a masterclass on certification. Presentations on the certification schemes of RPP, the UK scheme supported by Defra and the MPS initiative, were well presented and discussed by more than 50 participants – topics of great interest to the peat industry.

**Invitation to China**

In July, IPS Secretary General Hannu Salo, and the Chair of Commission II were invited to attend and give presentations at the opening ceremony of the first China Peat Industry Forum in Beijing and to participate and interact in the first meeting of the newly founded Chinese National Committee of the IPS. Both IPS representatives were overwhelmed with the hospitality of the Chinese hosts, Prof. Meng Xianmin (Chair of the National Committee of China) and Mr. Zeng Xiancheng (Chair of the China Humic Acids Industry Association). Furthermore, the keenness and enthusiasm of the Chinese peat industry representatives to further develop their businesses was observed by both guests with great respect. We are sure that the Chinese

National Committee will play in an important role in the future of IPS.

**Sixth ISHS/IPS Symposium in September in Vienna**

The fruitful cooperation between the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) and IPS is ongoing. Five joint symposia on growing media have been successfully conducted since 2005. The organization of the sixth biannual ISHS/IPS symposium started in early 2014.

The “International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis - SusGro2015” was

held in Vienna from 7-11 September 2015. Peat, peat replacement, materials other than peat and the horticultural properties of these materials were major topics for discussions. A number of IPS Commission II delegates attended the symposium and engaged in discussions supporting the use of growing media, their environmental footprints and the future of growing media.

The chair of Commission II was invited to give an introductory speech on what IPS is and what it stands for. In a second talk, the Chair presented the results of the survey



Paul Short speaking on behalf of the CSPMA in Tullamore.



The IPS Executive Board met the German Garden Industry Association in Ratingen, Germany in autumn 2015, here with Arne Hückstädt (middle). Photo: IVG

on materials used for growing media production in the EU (see above). The survey was conducted by a number of long standing Commission II delegates and a few other experts within the EU. The results of the survey will be published in *Acta Horticulturae*, an ISHS publication. In a third talk, the Chair of Commission II had the opportunity to reflect on the future of horticultural peat and future alternatives.

The importance of the mutually appreciated cooperation between the ISHS and IPS was emphasized by awarding the Chair of Commission II with the ISHS Medal and Certificate, which noted that “This certificate and medal are presented to Gerald Schmilewski in recognition of the collaboration between the International Peatland Society and the International Society for Horticultural Science, and reflect his personal support and many scientific contributions given at symposia of the Commission Plant Substrates and Soilless Culture.”

#### **Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Estonia**

Over 200 delegates from the international peat and growing media industry and representatives from the industry providing energy from peat and peatlands, as well as government officials, attended the 15th Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Kuressaare, Estonia. The Chair of

Commission II was invited to give a keynote talk on ‘P.E.A.T. – Peat, Europe, Alternatives, Trends’. A number of expert presentations given by Hein Boon, Erki Niitlaan, Magnus Brandel, Giedrius Kavaliauskas, Ingrida Krigere and other industry representatives followed. These discussions were very productive.

#### **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 intends to focus on the use of horticultural growing media in Asia and Oceania. Commission II wants to motivate growing media experts to come to Kuching and share their expertise on peat and growing media.

#### **Preparing for Portland, USA 2017**

As at the past joint biannual ISHS/IPS symposia on growing media in 2005 in Angers (F), Nottingham (UK), Charlotte (USA), Barcelona (E), Leiden (NL) and Vienna (A), IPS Commission II will once again collaborate with the ISHS Commission Plant Substrates as a co-partner in the organization of the next symposium on growing media in Portland, Oregon from 20-25 August 2017. In Portland, IPS representatives have the opportunity

to reflect on peat related issues to help educate delegates from around the world on what peat in growing media is all about.

#### **Commission 3 - Agricultural use of peatlands and peat Chair: Barbara Kalisz**

In 2015, Commission III representatives took part in several events and continued their cooperation with peat scientists and stakeholders. Chair of Commission III, Barbara Kalisz, took part in the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board Strategy Days in Twist/Geeste, Germany on 18-20 January 2015. The representative of Commission III, Marek Szczepański, attended IPS Annual Meetings: A New Conversation on Peatlands, which were held on 7-12 June 2015 in Tullamore, Ireland.

On 17-20 June 2015, a scientific seminar, Humic Substances in Ecosystems 10, was organized in Toruń, Poland. Members of Commission III actively participated in this event.

The International workshop, Fen Peatlands After Drainage – Landscape and Soil, was organized by Commission III of IPS and other contributors. This took place in Olsztyn, Poland on 6-10 July 2015.

The workshop focused on the classifications of peat and gyttja formations and their location in the landscape (especially young glacial landscape). The attendants represented University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poznan University of Life Sciences, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Jagiellonian University, Wroclaw University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation – State Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Hollas sp. z o.o. The last day of the workshop was related to the 2015 International Year of Soils, during which poster presentations were made, focusing on the discussion of organic soils.

During the 29th Congress of the Polish Society of Soil Science Soil Resources and Sustainable Development, which was organized from 31 August - 5 September 2015 in Wroclaw, IPS members, mainly from Poland, actively participated.

Commission III has created its own website at [www.uwm.edu.pl/peat](http://www.uwm.edu.pl/peat).

Commission 5 -  
Restoration, rehabilitation  
and after-use of  
peatlands  
Chair: Catherine Farrell

#### **21st PERG meeting – February 2015**

Roxane Andersen attended the 21st annual PERG meeting and a meeting on future work in the Oil Sands region of Alberta (fen restoration). The meeting was held in the University of Waterloo and was attended by over 60 people, mostly from Canada. The presentations covered a wide range of topics including fen restoration, oil pad restoration and fen creation. Following the main event, the team led by Prof. Jonathan Price (U. Waterloo) had a separate workshop where the future direction of research was discussed. For the first time, Roxane and Line Rochefort (Laval) discussed the idea of a global

review on peatland restoration at the PERG meeting. This idea was followed up at the SER meeting in August 2015.

#### **IPS Annual Assembly 2015 – Tullamore**

The highlight of this year's calendar was the IPS Annual Assembly meeting in Ireland. This was organized by the Irish Peat Society. Catherine Farrell led the programme and website development for the meeting. The theme of the event was Peatlands – A New Conversation and succeeded in its aim to break the mould of the traditional conference format. There were focused field trips and masterclasses covering all aspects of responsible peatland management and a lively social and arts programme to add to the mix. Site visits included trips to a number of rehabilitated and restored peatlands, both State managed and Bord na Móna managed.

#### **Society of Ecological Restoration World Meeting, Manchester, August**

Roxane Andersen and Line Rochefort prepared a session on Global Peatland Restoration: Where Are We in This Mossy World? The session was well attended with representatives from North America, Australia, Nordic, East and NW European regions. The contributors to the session were invited to participate in a special edition of the journal, Restoration Ecology, updating current restoration efforts and challenges around the world. A number of other sessions on peatlands were of interest to the IPS members (blanket bog restoration, peatlands and climate change, led by Dr David Wilson of Commission X).

#### **Flow Country Research Conference 2015 – Thurso**

Roxane organized and hosted the Third Flow Country Research



Conference, attracting an international keynote speaker (Prof. Hans Joosten) for the first time. The three-day event included a field trip, which took participants to a restoration site (drain blocking and gully reprofiling) in the North of Scotland. As a whole, the event and peatland restoration were supported by a motion and a question in the Scottish Parliament. The IPS was well represented at this meeting and a summary of the conference has been written up for Peatlands International.

### Peatland Restoration and Rehabilitation Projects Map

We are still working with IPS Secretariat to update the information and web interface about peatland restoration on the IPS website. The map can be viewed online and we



Gerald Schmilewski and Geerd Smidt discussing at the European Competence Centre for Moor and Climate (ECCMC) in Lower Saxony, Germany. Photo: Hannu Salo

still welcome additional projects to add: [www.peatlands.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c5-restoration](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c5-restoration). If you would like to add to any sites, please contact [susann.warnecke@peatlands.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatlands.org)

### Upcoming events

- IPC 2016 Kuching, Malaysia
- EMEC 2016, Inverness (Scotland). A special session of the EMEC conference will be dedicated to peatland chemistry

### Commission 7 - Ecology and management of forested peatlands Chair: Sakari Sarkkola

During 2015, the members of our Commission received two

information letters from the Chair by email.

The collaboration of the members of our Commission between the other IPS Commissions, such as Commissions IX and X, has been active, particularly in the research of environmental and climate impacts of forest management on drained peatlands.

For the past scientific meetings, the Annual Assembly of European Geosciences Union (EGU) was held in April in Vienna, where several members of our Commission participated in the session of "Peatland

Hydrology". Several members also participated in the arrangement and as speakers in the 17th IBFRA (International Boreal Forest Research Association) Conference, "Towards a New Era of Forest Science in Boreal Region". This was held on 24-29 May in Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland.

The Commission also participated in the symposium of "A New Conversation of Peatlands", which was held in Tullamore in 7-12 June. The members have also been encouraged to take part in the next 15th International Peat Congress, Malaysia 2016, and several members have submitted their presentation abstracts. The Chair has also participated as a member in the Organizing Committee of this Congress.

### Commission 9 - Tropical peatlands Chair: Jack Rieley

This is the last Annual Report of Commission IX activities during 2015/6 because under proposed restructuring of the IPS this Commission will be disbanded at the 15th International Peat Congress that will be held in Kuching in August 2016. Commission IX was established by Executive Board in 2004 in response to the greatly increasing interest in and importance of tropical peatlands, especially in Southeast Asia. It was responsible for attracting many tropical peatland scientists and other experts to IPC13 in Tullamore in 2008, Stockholm in 2012 and now Kuching in 2016.

From August 2016 the number of IPS Commissions will be reduced from 10 to three, namely economic, environmental and social that together with the Second Vice President of the Society will constitute the Scientific Advisory Board. The SAB and the three new Commissions will be advised by a number of 'Expert Groups' formed as required to address particular issues of importance and interest. Initially, at least, it is expected that the Expert Groups will mirror the interests of

most of the current Commissions and therefore will consist of most of the current experts and their networks.

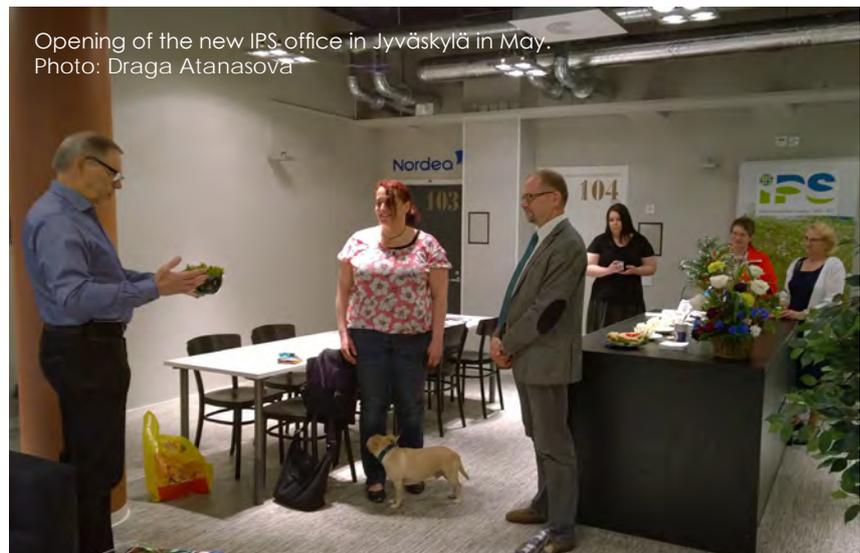
The new scientific advisory structure is being put in place to meet the needs of the new IPS Strategic Plan (2016-2020) that will also be implemented from August 2016 and it is essential that everyone continues to play a part and also to encourage new participants in the work of the IPS.

### Review of Tropical Peatlands Globally

According to Page et al (2011) tropical peatlands make up about 11% of the area of all peatlands globally and this stores more than 15% of the world's peat carbon. Most of this (56% of the tropical peatland area and 77% of its carbon) is in Southeast Asia, mostly in Indonesia.

However, since these data were calculated new, previously unknown, peatlands have been discovered in other parts of the tropical zone including Congo (Democratic and Republic), Peru and other parts of Amazonia requiring the inventory to be updated constantly. It is also significant that although tropical peatland may be a relatively small part of the global resource it is where most peatland development and degradation is currently taking place, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. In the former country this change of (peat) land use is accompanied by devastating fires that are used as a land clearance tool, contributing vast amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and climate change processes.

The interest in and publications on different aspects of tropical peatlands continues to increase with an increase in the number of publications. 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.

### The largest peatland complex in Amazonia

Peatlands in Amazonian Peru are known to store large quantities of carbon, but there is high uncertainty in the spatial extent and total carbon stocks of these ecosystems. Using a multi-sensor (Landsat, ALOS PALSAR and SRTM) remote sensing approach, together with field data including 24 forest census plots and 218 peat thickness measurements it was found that these peatlands cover  $35\,600 \pm 2133 \text{ km}^2$  and contain  $3.14 (0.44-8.15) \text{ Pg C}$ . Variation in peat thickness and bulk density are the most important sources of uncertainty in these values.

One particular ecosystem type, peatland pole forest, is found to be the most carbon-dense ecosystem yet identified in Amazonia ( $1391 \pm 710 \text{ Mg C ha}^{-1}$ ). The novel approach of combining optical and radar remote sensing with above- and below-ground carbon inventories is recommended for developing regional carbon estimates for tropical peatlands globally. Amazonian peatlands should be a priority for research and conservation before the

developing regional infrastructure causes an acceleration in the exploitation and degradation of these ecosystems.

### Colossal peat bog discovered in Congo

A vast peatland has been discovered in a remote part of Congo-Brazzaville covering an area the size of England and is thought to contain billions of tonnes of peat. This carbon-rich deposit could shed light on 10,000 years of environmental change in this little-studied region. Satellite images initially hinted at the presence of the enormous tropical peatland, but an expedition, starting from Itanga village in April, confirmed it was there. The discovery team, from the University of Leeds, the Wildlife Conservation Society-Congo and Congo-Brazzaville's Marien Ngouabi University, had to contend with dwarf crocodiles, gorillas and elephants as they explored the area. But they said the biggest challenge was soggy feet.

### International Peatland Experts Roundtable Discussion on Peat and Forest Fires in Indonesia

"Defining a Pathway towards a Long-Term Solution to Indonesia's Fire and Haze Crisis with a Focus on Sustainable Peat Management and Utilization".

This important meeting was held in the Shangri-La Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia on 13-14 November



Bord walk at Clara Bog, Ireland. Photo: Nick van de Griendt

2015. Professor Jack Rieley, Vice President 2 of the IPS was invited to participate in the round table, address the meeting and participate in a panel discussion on “Linking Science, Policy and Actions: How can degraded tropical peatlands and swamps best be managed and utilized?”. The objective was to identify a pathway for a long-term solution to Indonesia’s fire and haze crisis and to shift toward sustainable management and utilization of Indonesia’s peatlands and swamps through actions consistent with science and policies.

To achieve this objective it is essential to identify a feasible scenario for sustainable management of peatlands as part of a long-term solution to Indonesia’s fire and

haze problem under the REDD+ programme in order to drive down emissions and to prepare a roadmap for its implementation. The meeting was opened by Jusuf Kalla, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia and attended throughout by Dr Ir. Siti Nurbaya Bakar, MSc, Minister of Environment and Forestry.

The Round Table began with a summary of Indonesian policies on managing peatland ecosystems, with experience of peat fires and haze given by key Ministers and international representatives from the United Nations and Norway.

This was followed by three Discussion Sessions addressing key aspects of solving this problem. The Round Table was brought to a close by Johann Kieft of UNDP who addressed the important question “Towards Sustainable Peatland Management and a Haze free Indonesia: What to do next?”

He summarised key points raised in the discussion sessions, outlined the next steps for a roadmap towards solving the fires and haze problem and announced formation of a taskforce to follow-up on policies and programmes to implement

sustainable peatland management and utilization.

While the current proposals from this round table may appear to be sensible, similar ones have been made before. The difference this time, however, is the tough stance being taken by President Jokowi’s Government through issuing advice, instructions, orders and, hopefully, soon a full Presidential Decree for all levels of government, national, provincial and regional, to prevent and stop the fires and implement responsible peatland management, restoration and conservation.

A major outcome of this round table of peatland and peat experts is to prepare a ‘Roadmap’ to provide a solution to the problem. This is a five year plan that might be too late to save the remaining peatland or to improve the health of the 43 million people who have the misfortune to breath in the toxic chemical contained in the haze. Once more time will tell!

One positive sign, however, is the establishment of a Peatland Restoration Agency with an overarching remit that report directly to the President. Only time will tell if things will be different this time.

**International Peat Congress 2016: Peatlands in Harmony – Agriculture, Industry & Nature**

The 15th International PEAT CONGRESS will take place in Kuching, Sarawak on 15-19th August 2016. This is a lifetime opportunity to be at the global platform to attend and benefit from scientific, industrial and governmental discussions and at the same time to establish research partnerships and co-operations with international experts and institutions.

This Congress brings along all the leading professionals from all corners of the world to take stock of the present state of knowledge and experiences, bring forward future challenges and shape the agenda to advance understanding and responsible management of global peatlands.



At the opening session of the IPS Convention in Tullamore.

# Mires and Peat

## Report by the Editor, shortened

### Material published

During 2015, Mires and Peat published 22 peer reviewed articles (357 pages) by authors from 15 countries. New countries represented amongst this year's author list are China, Ethiopia and Iran.

Standard Volume 16 (2015) contains 13 peer reviewed articles (206 pages) by authors from 12 countries. The other nine published articles were added to Special Volume 15 (2014/15) Mountain Peatlands, which now contains a Foreword and 14 peer reviewed articles (235 pages, 12 countries). As there is no 2015/16 Special Volume, all volumes are now closed.

The minimum publication rate required for a Web of Science journal is 20 articles per. By April 2015 it was no longer possible to maintain the regular monthly posting of articles in a 2-2-1 sequence (i.e. a steady rate of five articles every three months) achieved during 2014, due to lack of material. However, the shortfall accumulated by the end of August was more than made up during the last four months of the year. No book reviews were published during 2015; the backlog remains.

### Throughput of manuscripts and editorial arrangements

At 31 December 2015, 217 manuscripts have been submitted to the journal, of which 189 have been fully processed (2014: 175 and 164). In other words, we received 42 manuscripts and completed processing of 25 during the year. These statistics reflect a remarkable and sustained upturn in the submission rate (it more than doubled) during the spring of 2015. The Editor-in-Chief's appeals

for material within IPS and may have been a contributory factor, but the main underlying reason was presumably that Mires and Peat (with Impact Factor) was by then becoming visible in Web of Science.

Turnaround times (from submission to publication) for the 22 peer reviewed articles published in 2015 ranged from 84 to 556 days. The long-term average turnaround time for fully processed articles is still around 230 days.

For articles published in 2015, the peer review and revision process was managed by Olivia Bragg (13 articles), Dicky Clymo (5 articles), Stephan Glatzel (2 articles), Peter Jones (1 article) and Jack Rieley (1 article). At the end of 2015, current responsibility for management of approximately two-thirds of manuscripts still being processed is assigned to Assistant and Associate Editors, the remainder being with the Editor-in-Chief.

During 2015, Jack Rieley continued as Deputy Editor-in-Chief; Dicky Clymo,

Stephan Glatzel and Peter Jones as Assistant Editors; and Michael Trepel as Website Administrator. Ab Grootjans started activity as Assistant Editor in the autumn.

All Associate Editors were contacted and invited to indicate their continuing ability/interest in contributing to production of the journal. As a result, three names of retired members (Groot, Nyrönen, Szajdak) were moved into the Roll of Honour. On the other hand, some new IPS Commission Chairs (Farrell, Kalisz, Sarkkola, Wilson) were appointed as Associate Editors in May 2015.

### Downloads and citations

There are now useful download counters on all Mires and Peat articles (credit: Michael Trepel). The first two articles published in January 2015 have been downloaded more than 400 times each. The first article published, along with the most popular articles in Volume 7, have been downloaded around



Members of the Kuching 2016 organising committee at Slieve Bloom Mountain Peatlands, Ireland. Photo: Nick van de Griendt

600 times since the counters were installed.

Presumably the 'official' Web of Science Impact Factor (IF) will be the most important index of Mires and Peat citations for the future. The current (2014) IF is 0.806. This is based on the citation of material we published during 2012 and 2013 by authors publishing in a restricted selection of journals during 2014.

## Impact Factor (IF/ISI) and DOAJ status

Inclusion in Web of Science has been a major target for Mires and Peat because the agreement between IMCG and IPS upon which the journal is founded. The 'scientific classification' (2014 Impact Factor) that was published during 2015 (0.806) is perhaps modest, but it is something to build upon.

The IPS/IMCG agreement also states that "the journal will be free to users (open access) without subscription or publication charges".

The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is the authoritative listing of open access publications, and has included Mires and Peat since 2009. IPS has agreed to provide funding to assign Digital Object Identifiers (DoIs) to Mires and Peat articles published from January 2016, and to deposit all Mires and Peat copy in the Portico (linked to JSTOR) permanent archive.



The poster session in Tullamore was organised as an interactive interview panel.

## Sustainability

The concerns about sustainability expressed in the 2014 Editor's Report have now somewhat receded. There was initially lively interest from authors invited to contribute to the 2015/16 Special Volume Peatland Management Strategies and Action Plans. However, only two of the promised manuscripts have been submitted so far, and it may be that the articles actually received will now be redirected to a standard volume. The development of two special volumes on Greenhouse Gas fluxes in Degraded and Restored Peatlands: Global Perspectives and Growing Sphagnum, is proceeding.

There are signs that the need for the journal always to be running at least one special volume alongside the

current standard volume may have lessened. However, special volumes are still worthy of consideration, probably for several more reasons than their citation potential, e.g. providing invaluable input for a new studies.

Certainly, the upturn in rate of manuscript submission during 2015 means that we are no longer in danger of running out of material to publish in the foreseeable future. However, it will still be important to maintain visibility of the journal. To this end, short notes listing recently published articles, current calls for contributions to special volumes and advertisements have been included in the IMCG and IPS publications.

The appointment of additional Assistant Editors and increased involvement of Associate Editors in article editing has been promising in terms of its effectiveness in addressing last year's concerns about editorial capacity. It would be worthwhile to develop more structured editorial procedures.

With a healthy submission rate and multiple voluntary editors working in parallel at their own individual paces, Mires and Peat is perhaps now approaching adolescence, if not maturity, and the objectives can be taken as substantially delivered.



Peatland "island" at Slieve Bloom Mountains.

*Olivia Bragg*  
Editor

# IPS National Committees

In 2015, the International Peatland Society had 17 National Committees in the following countries. The contact information of the Chairs and Secretaries can also be found at [www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees).

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# Reports of National Committees



## Canada

### Environmental Stewardship

Extensive support for research and development in areas of environmental interests particularly on peatland restoration, biodiversity, hydrology and greenhouse gas emissions have been maintained and strengthened. The national science coordinator, Stéphanie Boudreau provided overall leadership and guidance.

#### Key outcomes:

International cooperation: There was a presentation at the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) World Conference; Manchester, and initial efforts were made in support of a Canadian/Baltic research initiative on restoration. Peat research workshops were held in Alberta, Manitoba, Québec, and New Brunswick in association with the Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG). The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management and Collaborative Research & Development Grant

(CRD) continued to be implemented across the expanded national programs (Alberta, Manitoba, Québec, New Brunswick).

Information was provided to the participants from Environment Canada (Federal Government) who attended the COP12 of RAMSAR in Uruguay regarding concerns with the Resolutions proposed by the Scandinavian countries affecting peatlands.

Investigated efforts by the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) as it develops a carbon accounting protocol for inclusion of the peatlands carbon in the Forest Carbon Budget model for Canada.

### Social Stewardship

There were meetings of the Canadian industry Association, federally, provincially and internationally to promote the concerns and interests of the peatland and peat resources.

Meetings were held with Alberta Geological Surveys, Canadian Forest

Services, Northern Office, and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to discuss peatland inventory, peatland carbon accounting and mapping. Meetings involved the Finnish Geological Survey (Dr. Samu Valpola) who introduced their advanced inventory and carbon calculations. Further bilateral discussions are ongoing.

Industry support continued for the IPS engagement in further international conventions and European policy efforts affecting peatlands. An Industry Social Responsibility (ISR) Report was completed and a Case Study was prepared for the FAO SAFA website.

A Harvest report was completed in September and a press release distributed. "The harvest season was adequate but lacked a strong harvest overall. Western Canada experienced early favourable weather conditions and a strong start to the year. This helped to minimize periodic negative weather related conditions during the balance of the harvest season and the harvest numbers are close to achieving the expected amounts. In Québec the results are well below



Two very popular workshops were part of the Tullamore Annual Convention. Photo: Hannu Salo

expectations. This is primarily due to a later start and continuous, often heavy rain throughout the balance of the season. In the Maritime Provinces, the harvest achieved met expected volumes.”

### Communications

A new joint industry (CSPMA / APTHQ / NBPPA) web site was developed and launched in July.

Efforts continued on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) in joint research projects (Manitoba), operational trials and knowledge transfer related to wetlands and peatlands management in Canada.

A number of articles appeared in the DUC Conservator and IPS’ Peatlands International highlighting the joint work of the CSPMA and DUC.

The European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) / Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has increased the exchange of information and action on items such as no net loss, the European Union’s (EU) carbon management challenges and Baltic research.

The peat industry’s contributions in support of the research work at the Université through the Industrial Research Chair in Peatland Management was recognized at a ceremony held in Québec City by the Université Laval.

An Industry Social Responsibility (ISR) Report was finalized and distributed. A communications firm was hired to distribute and promote the ISR document with extensive coverage in the US.

### Resource Governance

*Federal Government*  
Links with Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), Canadian Forest Service regarding the management of peatlands and emissions accounting were maintained. The National Wetland Conservation Fund was promoted extensively as a means to support restoration and reclamation activities for wetlands.

Work continued with the development of a National Roundtable on Wetland Conservation in cooperation with a number of other associations, Federal agencies and Environmental Non-governmental Organizations (ENGO’s).

### Provincial Governments

At the Provincial level of government, extensive consultation and engagement continued throughout the year.

In Alberta the Wetland Policy continues to be implemented. The peat industry continued to meet with the Government of Alberta in the development of the Peat Management Framework. At present, efforts continue with the government agencies to determine criteria for restoration/reclamation of peatlands as well as applications for exploration and leasing.

In Manitoba, the Peatlands Stewardship and Related Amendments Act (Bill 61) was approved and regulations were partially proclaimed. The responsibility for implementation shifts to a newly created Forestry and Peat Management Branch. The establishment of the Peat Practices Committee is a current priority of Government.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) proposed A Strategic Plan for Ontario Wetlands 2015 - 2030 that will identify a provincial vision, goals and objectives for wetlands in Ontario. It proposes to set out a series of

actions that the government will undertake over the next 15 years to improve wetland conservation. The provinces Far North Plan has identified peatland management values and additional discussions are ongoing.

The Quebec Peat Producers Association, through the efforts of Genevieve Potvin has been engaged in the development of new management approaches to the development of peatlands throughout the province.

The New Brunswick Peat Producers Association (NBPPA) has strengthened its involvement with the provincial government and the Coastal Zone Research Institute. Jacques Thibault has taken on the responsibilities as General Manager of the Association.

## Estonia

In 2015, the NGO Estonian Peat Association had 32 members from peat extraction, processing and consulting companies from Estonia and abroad. There were no changes in the membership.

The main activities included legal cooperation, especially with the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications. Among other undertakings, EPA representatives worked in the Energy Council, belonging to the



Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, and in three commissions at the Ministry of the Environment - Commission of Estonian Mineral Resources, Peat Roundtable and the working group to create the list of peatlands that are suitable for production.

Similar to 2014, cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment mostly included the analysis of the new Earth Crust Act and preparation of a draft list of peatlands that are suitable for production. At the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, EPA dealt predominantly with the legal questions of energy peat use and district heating, which were included in the analysis of the draft for the new District Heating Act and District Heating Investment Funds Act.

In this regard, meetings with the Ministry of the Environment and the Environmental Investment Centre were held. EPA requested them to allow the use of peat fuel in boilers that are renovated with the financial aid of the state. The condition was that the peat is extracted from a peatland, which is included in the list of peatlands suitable for production.

In addition to the abovementioned activities, EPA representatives analysed the European Union Policy for 2015 - 2019. They also participated in the elaboration of the energy and resource efficiency grant system and took part in the exporter's competitiveness study. Legal opinion was asked regarding whether or not a peat production area is a plant/factory. This question affects EIA process and handling.



EPA members participated and presented at various conferences, both local and international. Additionally, several conferences, meetings and seminars were organized. In spring, two important events took place – the meeting with the Minister of the Environment Marko Pomerants and the field trip to Portugal on 8 - 14 April, including visits to horticultural companies.

Autumn was busy due to the most important event organized by EPA, XV Baltic Peat Producers Forum. The forum was held in Saaremaa, Kuressaare city on 15 - 18 September

and brought together 250 delegates. The subject of the forum was "Peat Industry in Turbulence of Politics and Economy".

In cooperation with EPAGMA and The Economic Affairs Committee, EPA organized an energy peat seminar in the Parliament of Estonia.

It has become customary to finish the event calendar with the general meeting and a seminar. This year, the event was organized in Viljandi city. The main subjects of the seminar were the changes in the legislation, activities of other professional associations, etc.

As usual, EPA advised its members, drew up statistical overviews and publicized the wall calendar and seventh Peat newspaper. The members participated in a survey regarding economic prognosis. In June 2015, the results of study, "Reducing the Hydrogeological Impact of Peat Production", were published. This study was launched in 2014 and co-financed by the Environmental Investment Centre.

Close cooperation with the International Peatland Society (IPS), European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA), Latvian and Lithuanian Peat Producers' Associations, scientists and other organizations continued.

## Lithuania

Cooperation: A declaration between the Association and the Lithuania Fund for Nature was signed on 14 September 2015 in order to cooperate in the project "Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by restoring degraded peatlands in Northern European Lowlands".

Energy peat study. An agreement between the Association and Lithuanian Energy Consultant Association was signed in September 2015 for an energy peat study to be prepared in order to encourage the use of energy peat. The study will give recommendations for Lithuanian energy facility planners, boiler manufacturers, designers, construction contractors and other stakeholders in technology solutions for local peat combustion in current and prospective energy facilities.

The "underground law" is currently being updated by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and is going to be released soon. The Association participated in discussions and stated its position on the issue.

Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2016. Preparations for the Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2016 have begun. It was decided that the event would take place in Kaunas on 14-16 September 2016.

In addition, the Lithuanian Peat Producers Association and Lithuania Quarries Association organized a one-day site visit for specialists of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and representatives of the Lithuanian Geological Survey in September 2015. During the excursion the Petrasiumai dolomite quarry in Pakruojis and the Aukstumala Moor in Silute were visited. Participants were introduced to peat and quarrying industry specifics, as well as the technologies of extraction and processing of raw materials and recultivation works. Additionally, an ongoing international project LIFE which aims at renaturalization of peat bogs was presented.

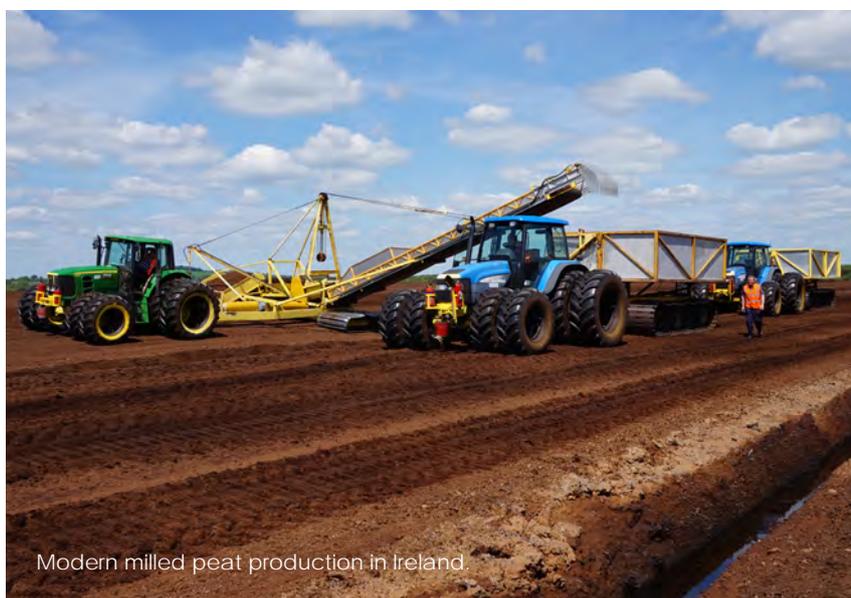
## The Netherlands

In 2015, three meetings for our members were programmed. In collaboration with the Royal Geological and Mining Society, a study tour to the peat harvesting company Griendtsveen AG in the Esterweger Dose area was organized. This area is the largest intact mires of Western Europe, see [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esterweger\\_Dose](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esterweger_Dose). Presentations, a narrow-gauge tour and a visit to an open clay mine were new and interesting to many of our guests.

Our annual meeting was combined with a visit to the Soil Museum in Wageningen ([www.isric.org/services/world-soil-museum](http://www.isric.org/services/world-soil-museum)), which was a unique experience.

This was followed in the autumn by a visit to the certification institute RHP near Rotterdam, the European knowledge centre for potting soil and substrates. See [www.rhp.nl/en/professional/](http://www.rhp.nl/en/professional/). Students attending a school for young agricultural professionals were also invited. About 15 of them attended. Reflecting on last year, the 2015 programme can be described as successful.

Our honorary member, as well as IPS honorary member, Henk van de Griendt, died this year. He was a distinctive and much-admired person



Modern milled peat production in Ireland.

who will be remembered by many in our national and international society.

The members of our Dutch society also contributed to the IPS response to the EU Fitness Check of the Birds and Habitats Directives, which was put together by the IPS' Second Vice President, Jack Rieley.

We are also very pleased to mention that two of our members, Intervema and Bol Peat, as well as Klasmann-Deilmann, supported the "Purvitis Project". Here, students of the Art Academy of Latvia, prior to the IPS' Peat Technology Conference in Riga (2014), created beautiful art objects from peat. See the article in *Peatlands International* 2014 (4), page 42. The three sponsors each received two of the art pieces of this year, symbolizing the happy end of the "Purvitis Project".

## United Kingdom

Last year was a very eventful one for peatlands and peat in the UK. The UK IPS membership remains constant at a solid 40. Only one member did not renew their subscription for 2015 while we gained several new members. We have 10 student members also a number that remains constant as new students join to replace those who leave membership when they complete their degrees and move on to other things outside of peatland.

In this last year IPS members have been very busy attending various meetings and conferences. I am sure this applies to all of us. My own activities revolved around meetings of the IPS Executive Board that met in Geeste, Germany in January, Berlin, Germany in March, Tullamore, Ireland in June and Dusseldorf, Germany in November.

A major item at all of these meetings has been preparation and refinement of the IPS Strategic Plan 2016-2020. I also represented the IPS at two meetings in Amsterdam and Bremen of the Expert Panel of the 'Responsibly Produced Peat'



Project (RPP). Several applications were validated and as a result three peat extraction sites were awarded certificates on the basis of their good practices that enhance biodiversity and minimise greenhouse gas emissions.

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.

In November the National Trust and IPS UK sponsored a workshop on 'Molinia' that was held at Huddersfield Town Hall. This was

very successful with about 100 participants. The meeting also provided the opportunity to hold the annual IPS UK (UK Peat Society) meeting which was attended by four members with apologies from another seven.

We now have three Honorary Members of the IPS in the UK. David Bellamy has been one for several years but this year he was joined by Dickie Clymo and Neil Godsman. Best wishes to them all.

Because the UK Peat Society membership remains consistent we were able once again to use our small financial surplus (after paying our affiliation fees to IPS centrally) to promote other IPS related activities. We gave £250 towards the National Trust Molinia Conference in Huddersfield and 1000€ towards the first year of the Allan Robertson Grants.

*Managing Molinia Conference in Huddersfield: 14-16 September 2015*  
This conference that was organised by the National Trust with additional sponsorship provided by Natural England and the UK Peat Society (International Peatland Society) was attended by over 100 participants from across the UK and Ireland. The

objective was to discuss the role of *Molinia* in this ecological niche and, where appropriate, suggest how the balance of plant cover might be shifted back to that favoured by conservation bodies. This conference focussed on uplands expected to have a cover of *Eriophorum* species, ericaceous shrubs and *Sphagnum* mosses.

A field excursion was held to part of the National Trust's Marsden Moor Estate, which has a very large area of *Molinia*-dominated moorland, included *Molinia* grassland experimentally cut back several years ago and another location where Moors for the Future has experimented with various cutting and tussock removal treatments in combination with the addition of *Sphagnum* moss species as either fragments in gel beads. A volume containing the proceedings of this conference is being prepared.

Minutes of the UK Peat Society (IPS UK National Committee) AGM held on Monday 14th September 2015 in the Huddersfield Town Hall at 5pm. The AGM was attended by four members with apologies from another seven.

The Meeting opened with an overview of the year's activities given by the Secretary, Jack Rieley. He drew attention to the following:

- The IPS annual convention was held in Tullamore, Ireland from 6-11 June.
- It was announced that Neil Godsman, former Chair of the UK Peat Society was made an Honorary Member of the IPS for his long service to the Society.
- A Colloquy on the Peatlands Experience was held. This consisted of Master-classes, sessions designed to impart relevant knowledge and skills from experts to participants; interactive poster sessions at which the authors of some 30+ posters each made a five-minute presentation followed by questions and discussion; and 'Fireside chats' which combined discussion of different perspectives on peatland issues with enjoyable social occasions.
- The first five successful applicants for the Allan Robertson Grants were announced two of whom are from the UK.

The members of the UK Peat Society Executive Committee remain the same with the exception of Neil Godsman who resigned as Chairman. Susan Page, Vice Chairman, is acting Chairman until a replacement is found. The current officers of the UK Peat Society and its Executive Committee are:

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

JR presented the UK Peat Society accounts for 2014 and these have been audited by Roger Meade. The next meeting of the IPS UK National Committee is to be decided at a later date.

#### *Allan Robertson Grants*

In its first year five awards of 500 Euros each were made to five young applicants out of 33 received. This was a tremendous success that can be attributed to the generosity of Allan Robertson's family and IPS members, especially those in the UK. Of the winner one was from each of England, Scotland, Ireland, Estonia and Indonesia. Please see [www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants](http://www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants) to read more on the winners of the 2015 grants and obtain some background information. The money for the 2016 grants has already been secured but more is being sought through the Allan Robertson Grants Appeal to provide as many additional grants as possible.



Thanks to all IPS members for their support during 2015. Photo: Hannu Salo

### *IPS Annual Assembly and Convention 2017 in Scotland*

The IPS Executive Board, at its meeting in Düsseldorf in November 2015 accepted the offer of the UK Peat Society to host the Annual Assembly and Convention in 2017 in Scotland with the likely location in or near to Aberdeen or Inverness. The tentative date is 28th May (Sunday) to 1st June (Thursday) and it is intended to follow the model for this event established by the Irish National Committee in the excellent event in Tullamore in June 2015. Formal IPS meetings of Executive Board, Scientific Advisory Board and Commissions/Expert Groups will be held on Sunday 28th May followed by three days of keynotes, panel discussion, poster presentation, site visits and enjoyment.

The Theme for this meeting has not yet been decided but possibilities are "Peatland Rewetting – How Mitigating is it?" or "Peatlands and Climate Change – Do they contribute or will they be affected?" Other suggestions are welcome at this stage. The Northern Peat Moss Company and the Hutton Institute have expressed interest in supporting the meeting and other partners and sponsors will be sought. For example

it is hoped that the Scottish Whisky industry will give its support and host a visit to a Malt Whisky distillery. It is also hoped that other organisations with interests in UK peatland will co-operate and attend, including IMCG, IUCN Peatland Programme, Scottish Wildlife Trust, John Muir Trust, RSPB and the Scottish Government. A steering committee will be formed to oversee arrangements leading to the establishment of an organising committee soon after. If you wish to offer your services to help make this event a major success please contact me at [jack.rieley@btinternet.com](mailto:jack.rieley@btinternet.com).

### United States of America

The National Committee was contacted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These federal (national) agencies have environmental regulatory responsibility for permitting and monitoring peat harvesting operations and other commercial uses of peatlands. Principally, the National Committee acted in an educational capacity providing the agencies with reference publications and discussions of peatlands during site visits.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has nationwide responsibility for collecting and publishing yearly data on peat production and use. They are dependent on a voluntary reporting system by peat producers. We have given the USGS contact information for companies and encouraged producers to report their production. We have also reviewed yearly estimates with local resource managers.

The National Committee met several times during 2015. A concern is the relatively low IPS membership of peatland experts and companies in the U.S. We increased our promotional efforts of the IPS by contacting current and past individual members. We emphasized the benefits of IPS membership in a local and world context. Results of our efforts are mixed. Some individuals and companies expressed interest in joining while others related that their interests were better served by other organizations.

*For more information see [www.peatlands.org](http://www.peatlands.org)*

**15<sup>th</sup> International  
PEAT Congress 2016**

Organized by the  
**MALAYSIAN PEAT SOCIETY**

In Partnership with the  
**INTERNATIONAL PEATLAND SOCIETY**

**15 - 19 August 2016  
Pullman Hotel, Kuching,  
Sarawak, Malaysia**

# PEATLANDS

## International

### Media Kit 2016

#### Media Description

Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peatland 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 43 countries of the world.

#### Distribution

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

1400 members ->  
2,000 - 3,000 readers  
Pages: 32-40

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

**Deadlines: 28 February, 30 May,  
30 August and 30 November**

#### Advertisement sizes and prices per issue

Size A, full page A4, colour  
portrait 210 x 297 mm  
500 €

Size B, half page A5, colour  
landscape 210 x 148 mm  
300 €

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#### Technical details

Format: A 4, 210 x 297 mm  
+ 5 mm bleed, 4-colour  
Rastering: 300 dpi

Please submit your  
advertisement as PDF,  
jpg or InDesign file to  
susann.warnecke@  
peatlands.org.

#### Publisher

International Peatland Society  
Nisulankatu 78  
40100 Jyväskylä, Finland  
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