

Peatlands

International

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16th Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Kaunas
Camera Traps Reveal Wonders in Ironwood Forests
National Kongres and Seminar of the Indonesian Peat Society
Creating A Legacy For Peatlands - Annual Conference of the IUCN UK Peatlands Programme
IPS Annual Convention 2017: "Responsible Management of Drained and Restored Peatlands" 28 - 31 May 2017
Participate in our new Commissions and Expert Groups!
In memoriam: Suwido H. Limin 1955 - 2016
Appeal for Funds Allan Robertson Grants



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Editorial

It's all about movement

It is better to run than to walk on an icy pavement. When your limbs are moving and gaining speed, it is easier to keep your balance and avoid falling over. Especially if your eyes are looking straight ahead, with your destination in sight. This has been true on my regular jogging routes in variable temperatures over the past few weeks.

Running stimulates the mind. Indeed, you can easily find new insights into the past and present while on a run, as well as contemplating what lies in store in the year ahead and beyond. Recently, I have been thinking a lot about the IPS, as I get ready to step aside from my duties as its part-time Secretary General and return to work full-time for the Bioenergy Association of Finland at the beginning of January. This change is a natural continuation of the IPS strategy's implementation, which reflects a more profound involvement by the Society in the identified key activities. I will be actively involved in the IPS networks, while continuing to asking what you can do for the Society, rather than what it can do for you.

I am pleased that the IPS has shown courage in initiating a strategic process and taken further steps towards renewal in the last two years. I am grateful to have been able to witness the devoted



An icy road in Finland. Photo: Susann Warnecke

work and results of the committed EB and SAB members. Sometimes, it felt like walking along a slippery path. Once I started to pick up speed, the slick surface did not bother me anymore. It is all about movement and keeping your eyes focused on the destination.

When running, I like to stay on the right track and not get lost. Sometimes, slowing down a little helps me to properly read the signs along the way or encourage others who know the route better to join me. Likewise, I am confident that the Society has the capability and the courage to read the signs along the different paths it will take, as well as maintain its social capital, which has been the essence of the IPS for almost 50 years!

Hannu Salo

IPS Secretary General
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Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peatland Society (IPS). It provides the more than 1,400 corporate and individual members of the Society with up-to-date information on peat and peatland matters, reports and photos of conferences and workshops, background reports and publication reviews.

To serve all of our members, we provide always a good balance between economic, social and environmental points of view. To receive Peatlands International in your email every three months, visit www.peatlands.org/join-us and sign up as a member.

IPS Annual Convention 2017

Aberdeen, Scotland
28 - 31 May 2017

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Contents



- 3 Editorial Hannu Salo: It's all about movement
- 14 Camera Traps Reveal Wonders in Ironwood Forests
- 16 National Kongres and Seminar of the Indonesian Peat Society
- 18 Creating A Legacy For Peatlands - Annual Conference of the IUCN UK Peatlands Programme
- 20 Participate in our new Commissions and Expert Groups!
- 20 Appeal for Funds Allan Robertson Grants
- 20 Secretary General Tasks to be carried out by Presidents
- 26 Peat and peatland events
- 27 New authors and advertisers are welcome!
- 27 Next issue...

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IPS Annual Convention 2017:
"Responsible Management of
Drained and Restored Peatlands"
28 - 31 May 2017
page 6

16th Baltic Peat Producers
Forum in Kaunas
page 10



In memoriam:
Suwido H. Limin 1955 - 2016
page 22

*United Kingdom Peat Society
welcomes you to Aberdeen, Scotland to the*

**International
Peatland Society
Annual Convention 2017**

*"Responsible Management
of Drained and Restored
Peatlands", 28 - 31 May 2017*



Peatlands are recognised as being of global significance, especially for biodiversity, carbon storage and climate change mitigation. Come to the peatland event of the year. Hear presentations from experts in important areas of peatland science, management and regulation.

Join in discussions and participate in workshops. Make your views known.

Join in an excursion with the choice to take in some of the most important, interesting and striking landscapes in the UK. Let this event be the starting point for exploring further the beauty and wonders of the North of Scotland. This meeting will also provide excellent opportunities for networking and renewing acquaintances.

Programme and Registration

The United Kingdom Peat Society extends a cordial invitation to attend and participate in the 2017 Convention of the International Peatland Society (IPS) that will be held in the Marriott Hotel, Aberdeen, Scotland from 28th to 31st May 2017.

It will commence with meetings of the Society on Sunday 28th May and end with the Annual Assembly of National Representatives and observers after lunch on Wednesday 31st May.

The morning of Sunday 28th May is taken up with meetings of the Scientific Advisory Board



Starfish Studio in the fishing village of Johnshaven, Aberdeenshire. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

and Executive Board but after lunch everyone is invited to participate in the meetings of the new IPS Commissions on **environmental, economic and social aspects of peatlands and peat**. Choose which one you prefer to attend and make your views on the future of peatlands, peat and the IPS known.

The main event of the Convention will be an international symposium and workshops on "Responsible Management of Drained and Restored Peatlands" at which best practices for the management of agriculture, forestry and peat extraction on peatlands will be presented and discussed together with problems and successes of peatland restoration using a variety of approaches and techniques. Prominent keynote speakers will start these sessions but offers of presentations within these themes are invited.



A national tourist routes "brown" sign for the highland tourist route to Aberdeen (indicated from Inverness). Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

Looking over Aberdeen, Scotland's third largest city, known as the granite city due to the local stone being used for many of the buildings, to the harbour and docks from an elevated position. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland



by numerous international conventions, agencies and programmes.

The objective of the Seminar and Workshops in Aberdeen is to review progress towards responsible management of drained peatlands used for various purposes and consider how to work together to ensure their future. This is a major opportunity to share information on the status and importance of drained peatlands, discuss their impacts on climate change processes and consider

future actions for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

The social programme includes an 'Ice-Breaking' event on the evening of Monday 29th May, excursions to sites of interest and importance for peatlands and peat followed by the Gala Dinner on Tuesday 30th May. The dinner will be held in a historical building of distinction outside of Aberdeen and excursion locations will include peat extraction and restoration sites, nature reserve, whisky distillery, historic buildings and landscapes.

Depending upon numbers a separate programme will be arranged for 'accompanying persons' to examine local arts and crafts, meet local people and travel along Royal Deeside with views of Balmoral Castle that is the holiday home of the British Royal Family.

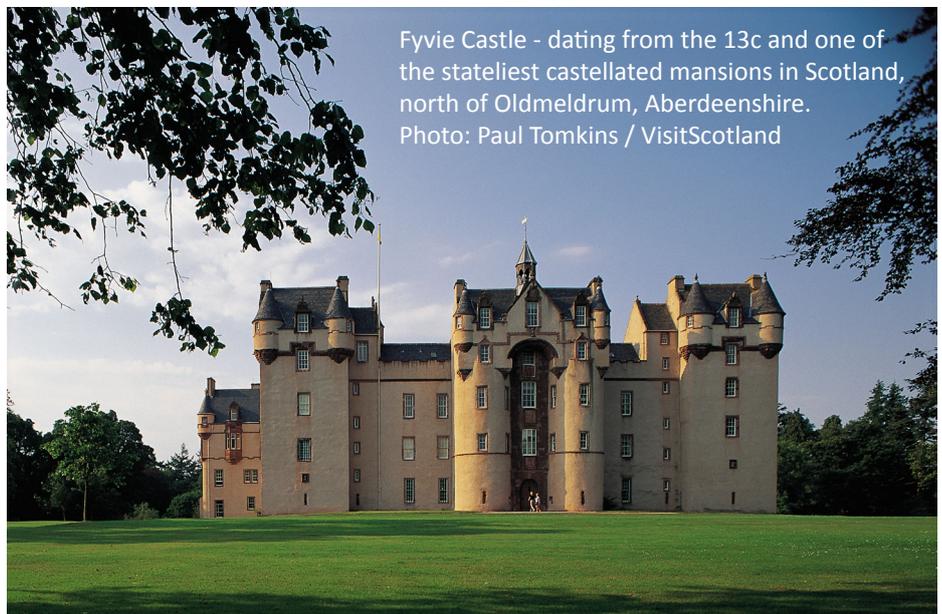
Important Themes

These are many and complex. We suggest the following for consideration and discussion at this Convention:

- Agriculture on peatland in the Northern Hemisphere
- Agriculture on peatland in the tropics
- Forestry on peatland in the Northern Hemisphere
- Forestry on peatland in the tropics

Seminar and Workshop

The last time the IPS Annual Convention was hosted in the UK was in 2009 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The topic of the Seminar then was Peatland Restoration. Much has happened in the field of peatlands and peat with increased awareness of their role in the carbon cycle, mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and the realisation of their global importance



Fyvie Castle - dating from the 13c and one of the stateliest castellated mansions in Scotland, north of Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

- Peat extraction for energy
- Peat extraction for horticulture
- Responsible peat production
- Peatland restoration in the Northern Hemisphere
- Peatland restoration in the tropics

Suggestions of other themes are welcomed.



Gardenstown, Aberdeenshire. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

Activities

Sunday 28th May

- IPS Business Meetings
- Commissions
- Leisure

Monday, 29th May

- Opening Ceremony
- Plenary 1
- Seminar and Workshops on drained peatlands
- Ice-Breaker

Tuesday, 30th May

- Excursions:
- Peat Bogs
- Nature Reserve
- Whisky Distillery
- Other
- Gala Dinner

Wednesday, 31st May

- Plenaries 2 and 3
- Seminar and Workshops on drained peatlands
- Discussions and Convention Statement
- Closing Ceremony
- IPS Annual Assembly

Register your interest now!

Please register your interest in attending this Convention now to ensure you receive the circulars that will provide more detailed information on the programme, accommodation, travel to Aberdeen and descriptions of the excursion venues plus much more.

Send an Email to jack.rieley@btinternet.com. More information and a pre-registration form will be posted at peatlands2017.net in January 2017.

Jack Rieley



A Highland cow in a snowy field near Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. Photo: Paul Tomkins / VisitScotland

16th Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Kaunas

This annual event is a highlight in the calendar for all the peat industry companies in the Baltic Region. It is also becoming more and more popular with representatives from other countries. This year, the Baltic Peat Producers Forum welcomed participants from 15 countries and over 100 organizations to the city of Kaunas in Lithuania during 15 - 16 September.

Due to the great input of our sponsors, speakers and attendees, the three-day event was considered to be a success. It started with an “ice-breaking” party on Wednesday night at Kaunas Town Hall, referred to as the “White Swan”. After visiting the historical museum and the basements of this 16th century building, guests were invited to enjoy the food and music, as well as to network.

At the heart of the 2016 Baltic Peat Producers Forum was a two-day conference. Throughout, there was a particular focus on specific regional challenges and opportunities, with thematic sessions exploring energy peat within the energy sector, as well as innovations across the industry. Company representatives, professionals, delegates, experts and scientists gathered to share their experience in the peat industry and their knowledge of economics, the investment climate, politics and lobbying. All the presentations generated much interest among the participants and added significant value to the event. Thanks to our great speakers.

A high point of the 2016 Baltic Peat Producers Forum in Kaunas was the gala dinner on Thursday at the Renaissance-era Raudondvaris Manor. This 17th century architectural landmark was brought to life for the evening, with the premises illuminated and the guests enjoying a theatrical presentation while tasting delicious food. At the end, Lithuania handed over the baton to Latvia, where the next forum will be held.

The next day, bird enthusiasts gathered for an excursion to the Novaraistis Ornithological Reserve, which is located on former peatland.

Heading towards the “White Swan” - Kaunas Town Hall - for the “Ice breaking” party. All photos: BPPF 2016





Opening of the "Ice breaking" party.

Presentations

- Welcoming speech by the President of Lithuanian Peat Producers Association „Lietuviškos durpės“ Mr. Giedrius Kavaliauskas
- Success stories in policy-making and creating business environment in Kaunas region, Kaunas district Mayor Mr. V. Makūnas
- Best ideas for business, Director at National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center of Kaunas University Technology Mr. E. Šalna
- Industry news, economic outlook, the situation on the labour market, Advisor to the President of SEB Bank Dr. G. Nausėda
- Golden Sponsor: ICL Group, Mr. J. Verhoeven
- Trends in peat extraction in Lithuania, Head of Subsurface Resource Division of Lithuanian Geological Survey Mr. V. Januška
- Growing Media Europe – our industries' advocacy in Brussels, Member of Executive Board of EPAGMA Mr. G. Schmilewski
- Energy Peat Europe – association supporting Your industry!, Chairman of the Board of Energy Peat Association Mr. J. Silpola
- Golden Sponsor: Premier Tech Chronos, presented by Mr. E. Kleymenov



Excursion to the historical museum and the basements of the sixteenth century Kaunas Town Hall.



Gala dinner decorated with flower bouquets in peat blocks.

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- The RHP quality mark requires full control of production processes, Technical Advisor at RHP – knowledge center and quality mark for substrates Mr. M. Zevenhoven
- The role of the IPS and its recent activities of interest to Industry, International Peatland Society President Mr. G. Schmilewski
- Peat production in Estonia 2016, Member of the Board of Estonian Peat Association Mr. E. Niitlaan
- Peat production in Latvia 2016, Member of the Board of Latvian Peat Producers Association Mrs. I. Krigere
- Peat production in Lithuania 2016, President of Lithuanian Peat Producers Association “Lietuviškos durpės” Mr. G. Kavaliauskas

Parallel Session A (Energy)

- Peat for energy production, Director of Enerstena Research and Development Center, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kęstutis Buinevičius
- Comparison of wood and peat fuels, Member of Executive Board of Estonian Peat Association Mr. E. Niitlaan
- Technical and economic aspects of Lithuanian fuel peat utilization for energy production, President of Lithuanian Energy Consultants Association Mr. Š. Prieskienis

- Discussion on subject of the EPE and Brussels lobbying challenges, moderated by Chairman of the Board of Energy Peat Association Mr. J. Silpola

Parallel Session B (Industry and innovations)

- Manufacturing Footprint. Let’s Talk Lithuania, Manufacturing Team Lead at Invest Lithuania Mr. G. Koryzna
- Developing the Future Farming, Dojus agro Ltd. Product manager Mr. E. Navickas
- Industry 4.0, Director General of Elinta Ltd. Dr. V. Jokužis
- Lithuanian Railways’ freight forwarding department presentation by Ms. L. Galminaitė

The excursion also included a visit to the Forest Museum of Lekeciai. Thanks to all the participants, the atmosphere was fantastic. All presentations and photos from the forum are available at <http://bppf2016.eu/presentations>.

Ugnė Radžiūnaitė

Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists
ugne.radziunaite@lpk.lt



The conference gathered nearly 200 guests.

Camera Traps Reveal Wonders in Ironwood Forests

The Rungan River flows slowly through peat-swamp forests of Central Kalimantan province in Indonesian Borneo. It isn't one of the longest or widest rivers, it doesn't drain the high mountains nor empty into the sea, but meanders slowly and unassumingly across Borneo's central plains and peatlands before merging with the Kahayan River just upstream of Palangka Raya city. Yet this backwater of Borneo holds a secret. Here are some of the last great Vulnerable ulin/ironwood forests left on the island, protected by a curse that local villagers have respected for centuries.

The Borneo Nature Foundation's newest programme takes a landscape approach to conservation of the Rungan River watershed, with the aim to protect this rich forest and its

resident Bornean orangutan population. The landscape includes over 1,440km² of peat-swamp, freshwater-swamp and dry lowland rainforest, including substantial patches of tall ulin-dominated forest, and large populations of endangered species are thought to occur here.

Despite this, the region is under-studied, highly-threatened and until recently was a conservation afterthought even though this is probably the largest relatively-intact lowland forest in Borneo that has no formal conservation project or legal protected status. The Borneo Nature Foundation first became involved in this region in 2010, when we undertook a short biodiversity study in the Mungku Baru ulin forest. This was done at the request of the people of Mungku Baru, who want to safeguard their community forest which holds

great cultural significance for them, but is at risk from oil palm and acacia plantation companies. Mungku Baru and other villages in the region wish to protect areas of forest as Hutan Adat (cultural forest), because of the cultural significance of this region.

A 50km² research forest (KHDTK) has been created for Muhammadiyah University Palangka Raya to conduct research and training activities, and the Borneo Nature Foundation has partnered with UMP to achieve these aims. This included running the first





of community groups, NGO's, academic and government bodies, to understand, promote and ultimately preserve this threatened forest.

In order to fully realise the conservation potential of the Rungan River landscape, the entire region must be mapped and described, including the distribution and abundance of Borneo's flagship species, the orangutan.

In our experience, forests in Kalimantan that are successfully protected are those which were clearly mapped and named, have

international scientific expedition to the KHDTK in 2016. As part of this, in order to determine the diversity of wildlife in this forest, camera traps were deployed across 4km² of forest as a first step. Working with Mungku Baru village, Muhammadiyah University Palangka Raya and the University of Exeter UK, Borneo Nature Foundation initiated these surveys in July 2016. Despite covering a very small area of forest with the cameras, the results are astonishing.

The 54 camera traps have been in constant operation since July 2016. At time of writing we have obtained 1553 unique images and videos of 40 species. These species include the Bornean orangutan (Critically Endangered), white-bearded gibbon (Endangered), Otter civet (Endangered), Black partridge (Vulnerable), red langur (Vulnerable), sun bear (Vulnerable), bearded pig (Vulnerable) and the crestless fireback (Vulnerable), to name but a few. From our camera trap work in 2010 we also know this landscape is home to the largest predator on Borneo, the Sunda clouded leopard (Vulnerable).

This forest are now threatened with development, for conversion to oil palm and acacia plantations, and the local community has reached out for help to protect their sacred forest. The Borneo Nature Foundation is taking a leading role in a consortium

credible scientific data on their importance for flagship species, have sizeable community support at the outset and a permanent field-station base.

We will let IPS know of more exciting updates from our research in Rungan in the near future.

*Dr Susan Cheyne,
Siti Maimunah &
Frank van Veen*

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National Kongres And Seminar Of The Indonesian Peat Society

This meeting took place in Bogor, Indonesia on 26-28 October 2016 in the conference hall of the Agricultural University.

More than 200 participants attended from National and Provincial Governments, universities, research institutes, consultancies, companies, NGOs and international aid and donor organisations.

On 26th October, most of the participants arrived. The main business was the Kongres of Himpanun Gambut Indonesia (HGI), the Indonesian Peat Society, to report on developments in peatland and peat since the previous Kongres in 2013 and to elect the office bearers and Executive Committee for the next period. Professor Supiandi Sabiham was re-elected Chairman of HGI.

On the second day, the formal programme was introduced by the Chairman of the Kongres and Seminar Dr Dedi Nursyamsi, M. Agr who wished the participants an enjoyable and successful meeting. This was followed by a welcome from the Mayor of Bogor, Dr Bima Arya Sugiarto and Professor Supiandi Sabiham. The Minister of Agriculture Dr Andi Amran Sulaiman formally opened the meeting.

The remainder of the morning was taken up by three keynote speeches. The first was given by Dr Muhammad Syakir, MS, Head of the Agency for Agricultural Development; the second was by Ir Nazir Foad, Head of the Agency for Peatland Restoration and the third Zumi Zola, SP, M.Sc., Governor of the Province of Jambi.



Jack Rieley (right) with Nazir Foad (centre).

After lunch were panel presentations and a 'talk show' on the topic "Peatland for Human Life". The Panel members were Professor Dr Mitsuru Osaki (Hokkaido University, Japan), Dr Meine van Noordwijk (ICRAF/Wageningen University, Netherlands), Dr Dedi Nursyamsi, Professor Supiandi Sabiham, Ir Joko Supriyono (Head of the Indonesian Palm Oil Association) and Dr Irsal Yasman (Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires APhi).

This was followed by a plenary session addressed by speakers from the oil palm and timber industries. The afternoon ended with a poster session.

Evening meal was sponsored by the Mayor of Bogor with entertainment provided by traditional dancers from West Java.



View of HGI participants. Photo: Jack Rieley



Ethnic dancers. Photo: Jack Rieley

The morning session on Friday commenced with a plenary session with a speaker from the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (Radinal Salim) on the contribution of palm oil to the national economy and a Board member of APHI on the same subject (Firman Subagyo).

The rest of the morning was taken up by breakout sessions of four HGI Commissions and a poster session:

- Peatland conservation and restoration
- Sustainable peatland management technology
- Innovation in agricultural swamp land
- Wasteland reclamation and conservation.

The meeting closed at 17.00

Jack Rieley

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Nottingham University
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HGI Bogor Talk Show. Photo: Jack Rieley



Advertisement

Creating A Legacy For Peatlands

Annual Conference of the IUCN UK Peatlands Programme

This 6th IUCN UK Peatlands Programme Conference was held on 29th November to 1st December 2016 in the Shropshire Conference Centre, Shrewsbury, England.

Conference Themes

There were five key themes that ran throughout the conference that were investigated to determine knowledge gaps and to assist with the review process of the draft UK Peatland Strategy.

Theme 1: Quantifying Peatland Benefits

Highlighting the latest developments in science and policy relating to peatland natural capital.

Theme 2: Peatland Restoration

Advancing techniques and technologies are revolutionising peatland restoration. These sessions will help to discover more about these advances and provide an opportunity to review them.

Theme 3: Monitoring of Peatlands

There is a need for efficient and effective monitoring of even basic peatland environmental variables to produce a robust and evidenced peatland policy. In addition, long term monitoring is needed to support future reporting requirements.



Wybunbury Moss site visit. Photo: Jack Rieley



Wybunbury Moss Reserve Manager Rupert Randall describes site. Photo: Jack Rieley

Theme 4: Sustainable Land Management

Post-Brexit UK faces many questions surrounding land management and associated payment schemes. These sessions focus on land management practices that conserve peatlands in a healthy condition, whilst maintaining a working landscape with associated economic, social, and environmental values.

Theme 5: Communications

Providing an oversight into the range of tools available for communicating peatland science. These sessions will help to develop a strategy that ensures network communication is more effective and has more impact.

Tuesday 29th November

The conference commenced at 1.30 pm with a welcome to participants by Jonathan Hughes, Chairman of IUCN UK Peatland Programme and a Ministerial address (by video) by Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The other opening keynotes were given by:

- Alan Law, Chief Strategy and Reform Officer for Natural England (A Natural England

Perspective);

- Clifton Bain, Director of IUCN UK Peatland Programme (UK Peatland Strategy)
- Marcel Silviu, Head of Programme and Strategy at Wetlands International (UK Peatlands in a Global Context – our International Obligations)
- Martin Harper, Conservation Director Royal Society for Protection of Birds (The Future of Peatlands in a Post-Brexit Landscape)

The second half of the afternoon was taken up with presentations and discussion on the ‘evidence base’ for the importance and responsible management of peatlands. This session was chaired by Rob Stoneman, Vice Chair of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and a range of speakers dealt with monitoring, quantifying peatland benefits and sustainable land management. This was followed by a poster session and buffet dinner.

Wednesday 30th November

This day commenced with a short session on Peatland Restoration presented by Roxane Andersen, University of the Highlands and Islands, Tom Thom, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Richard Lindsay, University of East London.

The rest of the day was devoted to excursions to sites of peatland importance of which there were four choices: Cholmondley Estate, Fenn's, Whixall and Bettisfield Mosses, Lake Vyrnwy and Wybunbury Moss. I chose the last of these since it was where I began field research on peatlands in the 1970s up until 1990s. The conference dinner was held in the evening in the Buttermarket events centre in Shrewsbury town centre.

Thursday 1st December

Most of this last day was taken up with breakout workshops on the five Themes listed at the beginning. Before arriving at the conference participants had been asked to select their preferences. Each of the Themes was sub-divided into specific issues as follows:

Theme 1: Peatland Benefits

Climate change and carbon; managing water; biodiversity; delivering the funding

Theme 2: Monitoring

Biodiversity; land use; carbon; water

Theme 3: Sustainable land management

A working landscape; sustainable land management; valuing peatland services; looking after our natural resources

Theme 4: Restoration

A solution to clean water; innovative methodology; a sustainable landscape; locking up carbon in the fens

Theme 5: Communication

Public perception; making an impact; community engagement; engaging with the Commission of Inquiry and identified audiences

The conference moved towards closure by considering a 'Vision for the Future; how to progress forward; having a brief panel discussion. It ended at 4pm.

Jack Rieley

IPS Executive Board
Nottingham University, UK



News in Brief

Participate in our new Commissions and Expert Groups!

All IPS members are encouraged to propose Vice Chairs for the Commissions, and leaders for the new Expert Groups of the IPS. Please contact samu.valpola@gtk.fi or the Commission Chairs (full contact details at www.peatlands.org/about-us/commissions-and-scientific-advisory-board) to be nominated or obtain more information.

Appeal for Funds Allan Robertson Grants

The Executive Board of the IPS will open the application process for the Allan Robertson Grants 2017 in January. If you want to be one of the contributors to this great opportunity to support young scientists and young professionals, please contact Professor Jack Rieley or the IPS Secretariat for more information and indicate the amount you are ready to provide. For more information see www.peatlands.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

Secretary General Tasks to be carried out by Presidents

IPS part-time Secretary General Hannu Salo will fully return to his tasks as Regional Manager of the Finnish Bioenergy Association as of 1 January 2017. His tasks will be taken over by the IPS President Gerald Schmilewski from Germany, gerald.schmilewski@klasmann-deilmann.com and 2nd Vice President Samu Valpola in Finland, samu.valpola@gtk.fi. The IPS is considering to recruit a full-time SG to fully implement its Strategy if funding can be obtained in 2017.



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In memoriam: Suwido H. Limin May 24th 1955 – June 6th 2016

It is with great regret we record the passing of our colleague and dear friend Suwido Hester Limin after a battle with cancer. He leaves behind his wife and three sons who are in our thoughts at this sad time and to whom we send the condolences of the entire peatland family across the world. Suwido was a strong man in his religious beliefs, his dedication to his Dayak heritage and culture and his fervent passion for the conservation of peatland, especially in Central Kalimantan against the greed and destruction of inappropriate development.



Suwido Limin on the right. Photo: Viktor Böhm, 1997.

Early Years

Suwido Limin was born on May 24, 1955, in the village of Bawan, Kapuas District (now included in Pulang Pisau District), Central Kalimantan, a child of poor parents in a community of humble families. He attended elementary School in Goha village in 1968, and junior high school in Bawan Village in 1971 then, in common with most young people in Central Kalimantan, he had to leave his village to receive higher education in a big city. In Suwido's case this was senior high school in Palangka Raya in 1974 followed by continuing education at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Lambung Mangkurat in South Kalimantan.

Few people know that Suwido had exceptional ability in mathematics and statistics, and this made him a highly respected teaching assistant at the University of Lambung Mangkurat where he also became a leader of the students from Central Kalimantan living in South Kalimantan. He had strong leadership qualities that he expressed throughout his life. He graduated as a Bachelor

of Agriculture of the University of Mangkurat in 1982. Back in Palangka Raya Suwido first worked at the Provincial Plantation Agency of Central Kalimantan. His career at the University of Palangka Raya started in 1983 as a lecturer in the Faculty of Non-Degree Technology. He married in 1984 and was blessed with three sons, two of whom have completed their Ph.D. in Japan.

Perhaps his love of peatland and peat arose from his research project for his Master's degree in the Department of Agronomy at Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) on "The Residual Effect of Lime, Phosphate and Manure on Commodity Crops Growing on Inland Peat" that he completed in 1992. Since then Suwido devoted much of his effort and time to the management of peatland in Central Kalimantan about which he published many reports and scientific papers. In recognition of this expertise he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by the University of Hokkaido, Japan in 2007.

The devotion of Suwido to the Dayak community was very strong. He took the lead to improve the various aspects of the Dayak people, especially education, social and cultural matters. In a community that is characterized by regionalism, he was actively involved in the National Dayak Customary Council (MADN), Dayak Customary Council (DAD) and gave birth to Batamad, a defence organization to safeguard the Dayak community from oppression during the time of President Suharto.

He also had a stubborn character that may have come from his Dayak heritage but also the hard life in his early years in progressing from school to work. This often led to friction with those in authority holding different opinions from his.

University Lecturer and Peatland Researcher

Suwido Limin played a key role in our decision to carry out research on biodiversity and ecology of natural peat swamp forest in Central Kalimantan. Thanks to Gaston Sieffermann who worked for the French Overseas Aid Agency (ORSTOM) we had selected a logging concession in the upper catchment of Sungai Sabangau in which to gain access by logging railway to a 20km transect through the peat swamp forest from the river to the watershed. To do this we needed local facilitation and support and this was provided by Suwido.

Bambang Setiadi whom we had met earlier in our quest to carry out research on tropical peat swamp forest and who steered us through the vagaries of the Indonesian Government permissions, planning and research systems, introduced Jack to Suwido Limin at the Congress and Seminar of the Indonesian Peat Society in Jakarta in 1992. The four of us went on to form a partnership for action to promote sustainable development of tropical peatland that continued until Suwido's death. As a result of Suwido's support we started field research in the Setia Alam Jaya logging concession in July 1993 with help staff and students of the University of Palangka Raya.

Thanks to Suwido we produced the first detailed inventory of tropical peat swamp forest biodiversity and ecological characteristics, and formulated plans for habitat conservation.

Field research activities continued in 1994 and 1995, culminating in the first international symposium on "Biodiversity and Sustainability of Tropical Peatlands" that was held in Palangka Raya in September 1995. Suwido persuaded Pak Tandiono, CEO of PT. Kayu Mas Integrated Timber Company, to contribute funding from his company's charitable Ambarwati Foundation to pay for both the symposium and its proceedings that were published in 1997 as a hard back book containing 42 papers and statements on many aspects of tropical peatland.

The field research we had carried out in relative tranquillity and success from 1993 was disrupted by two events in 1996. One was the ending of the 20 year licence for the logging concession we used in the Sg. Sabangau catchment and the other was the Presidential Decree establishing the Mega Rice Project to convert a million hectares of wetland, mostly peatland, in Central Kalimantan to rice cultivation.

CIMTROP and the Natural Laboratory

To deal with the first of these problems Suwido Limin, Bambang Setiadi and Jack Rieley decided they had to establish the official status of the important Sabangau field research facility. They did this, in 1998, by persuading Nasution, then Indonesian Minister of Forestry to transfer management of a 500 square kilometre section of peat swamp forest to the BPPT Division of the Ministry of Research and Technology, under the direction of Dr Bambang Setiadi and designate it the "Natural Laboratory for Sustainable Management of Tropical Peat Swamp Forest".

This was the first research station for tropical peat swamp forest and its day to day management was vested in the "Centre for International Cooperation in Management of Tropical Peatland" (CIMTROP)

of the University of Palangka Raya, under the directorship of Suwido Limin.

Perhaps it was fate, or maybe our research had 'come of age', or more likely we happened to be in the right place at the right time because subsequent funding proposals to both the Darwin Initiative and the EU (EUTROP) were successful and tropical peat research collaboration went forward with the unstinting support of Suwido and his team.

Research and Training Increases

From 1998 we entered into a new era of field-based research and capacity development. Surveys of biodiversity and ecological functions of peat swamp forest were extended and comparisons made between pristine, logged, degraded and developed tropical peatland. The extent of and damage caused by the 1997 El Niño fires were determined and assessment made of the impact of this catastrophic event on the biodiversity and sustainability of this ecosystem and the implications for the global environment. In addition, the resource capacity of UNPAR was increased considerably in terms of both staff and support infrastructure while CIMTROP, under Suwido's direction, was placed on a more stable financial footing.

Several subsequent EU-funded projects enabled us to train a large number of young researchers. All European and other non-Indonesian students who went to Central Kalimantan to join these projects were sponsored, supported and looked after by Suwido and his CIMTROP team. He acted as father to them all!

Fire

Suwido was a critical thinker and innovator who devoted his mind and energy to solving practical problems facing the people of Central Kalimantan, especially those resulting from the disastrous Mega Rice Project and resultant fires. In 1997,

following extreme peatland and forest fires, Suwido set up a community based fire control and fighting team (TSA) to tackle peatland fires around Palangka Raya but especially to protect the field research facilities in the Natural Laboratory and another field station at Kalampangan.

This venture was never supported by local or National Government funding and Suwido instead established small business ventures to provide the money for equipment, wages and education of local people and training of volunteers to keep the operation sustainable. At their height these fire teams were composed of 150 people in 25 groups, stationed in the villages of Tangkiling, Kereng Bengkerai, Kalampangan and Bawan among others that were near areas most at risk from fire. In case of a fire, the firefighters worked alternately in 12 hour shifts during 24 hours.

Suwido developed techniques to obtain water from the aquifer underneath the peat and the means to deploy this to where it was needed. In addition, he used firebreaks and 'water bombs' buried in the peat in front of advancing fire. Suwido deployed his fire teams every year they were needed but they played an important part in fire control in the increasingly frequent El Niño years of 1997, 2002, 2009, 2012 and 2015.

Even up to a few months before his death Suwido was in the field in the midst of fire and smoke directing the operations of his fire teams. He realised early on that the only way to reduce the fire risk on peatland in Indonesia was to rewet the peat and plant trees on it to try to restore the former functions of the peat swamp forest ecosystem. He was one of the first scientists to develop dams to block the different sized channels that were excavated for the Mega Rice Project.

Suwido believed strongly in empowering local communities to learn about, prevent and extinguish forest and peat fires. His concept was highly efficient, effective, and inexpensive because actions could be carried out in a quick, precise and successful manner as early as possible before fire spread.

Tribute

Suwido was our friend for almost 25 years. He worked constantly to understand and protect some of the best remaining tropical swamp forest in the world and its biodiversity in the Sungai Sabangau catchment in Central Kalimantan.



EU Project Team outside CIMTROP Office in 2002. Photo: Jack Rieley

Suwido was unwavering in his belief that the naturalness of the peat forest should be maintained, that there should be continued access to it by the Dayak people and that its importance should be made known throughout the world.

He was passionate about education and he saw the opportunity to raise the level of expertise and training of his colleagues in UNPAR. In this respect he was unselfish and promoted others before himself.

Suwido was also a strong family man supporting his own children in their studies and encouraging them to reach for the highest standards of character and education. He was justly proud of them. They do him and his wife Mama Rio incredible credit. We know his three boys well and offer them our respect and sympathy and urge them to follow their father's example.

Suwido's kindness went beyond his own family, welcoming colleagues and strangers into his house, including ourselves and our children Alex and Elisabeth, along with many MSc and PhD students and other researchers. Suwido was a larger than life person. He had very firm opinions and he didn't suffer fools gladly. He respected those who earned it in his eyes and had little time for those with whom he disagreed. His principles and views were unshakable but you always knew

where you stood with him. In this he was also a leader amongst his own people, the Dayak, whose interests he spent his life promoting while recognising their strengths and weaknesses. They have lost one of their best advocates and he will be a hard act to follow.

On behalf of the peat family and all of the students to whom Suwido acted as mentor and local 'father', we extend our deepest sympathy to Mama Rio and her sons Rio, Teddy and Zeppy. Farewell our colleague, friend and brother. We hope you have gone to a better place and that you will find peace there.

Kata-kata sudah berlalu,
Tinggal Kenangan tentang engkau yang sangat mendalam,
Dan, kami akan terus mengenangmu, selalu

*Jack Rieley,
Susan Page, Adi Jaya,
Bambang Setiadi and
Hidenori Takahashi*

Peat and peatland events

IPS Executive Board Meeting (Skype)
18 January, 14 - 16 hrs

Ramsar STRP meeting (STRP20)
Gland, Switzerland
13 - 17 February 2017
www.ramsar.org

International Conference on Climate Change 2017
(ICCC 2017): Climate Change, Facing the challenge
beyond COP21
Colombo, Sri Lanka
16 - 17 February 2017
<http://climatechangeconferences.com>

23rd PERG Symposium
Université Laval, Québec City
21 - 22 February 2017
www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca

IPS Executive Board Meeting
Lund, Sweden
1 - 3 March 2017

German Peat and Peatland Society
Seminar und Excursion
Zeven, Germany
12 - 13 Mai 2017
www.dgmtev.de

2nd Peatland Symposium
University of Oulu, Finland
18 - 19 May 2017
harry.uosukainen@turveruukki.fi

German Peat and Peatland Society
Naturschutzfachliche Leitplanken für Tourismus
und Umweltbildung an und in Mooren
Drübeck, Harz, Germany
22 - 24 May 2017
www.dgmtev.de

IPS Annual Convention 2017
Aberdeen, Scotland, Scotland
28 - 31 May 2017
www.peatlands2017.net

28 May: IPS business meetings: EB, SAB and
Commissions

29 and 31 May: Symposium and workshop
"Responsible Management of Drained Peatlands"

30 May: Excursions

31 May: Annual Assembly

Fen Peatlands After Drainage – organic soils in
mountain areas
Kudowa Zdrój, Poland
10 - 14 July 2017
barbara.kalisz@uwm.edu.pl

ISHS-IPS Joint Symposium
Portland, Oregon, USA
20 - 25 August 2017
www.ishs.org

Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
7th World Conference
Foz do Iguassu, Brazil
27 August - 1 September 2017
www.ser.org

German Peat and Peatland Society
Annual Assembly and Excursions
Deuselbach, Hunsrück, Germany
20 - 23 September 2017
www.dgmtev.de

Carbon Cycling in Boreal Peatlands and Climate
Change II – Hyytiälä revisited
Hyytiälä, Finland
25 - 29 September 2017
aino.korrensalo@uef.fi, harri.vasander@helsinki.fi

2nd International conference on the utilization of
wetland plants RRR2017
Greifswald, Germany, 26 - 28 September 2017
www.paludiculture.uni-greifswald.de

More at: www.peatlands.org/events

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Submission deadline: PI 3/2016: 3 March

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Towards the
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