

Peatlands

International

issue 1.2018



Welcome to Rotterdam! Annual Convention, Jubilee Symposium & Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit
Call for Papers: "Peatlands for People Revisited" in British Columbia, Canada
In Memoriam: Peat Artist Papu Kirsti Marjatta Pirtola 1949 - 2017
Wetlands contribute to biodiversity after peat extraction
The 24th Peatland Ecology Research Group Symposium
UK Peatland Strategy - Workshop and Launch
Taking Action for Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
The Indonesian Peat Prize



Growth



Substrates



Potting Soils



Raw Materials



Energy



Renewable Energy

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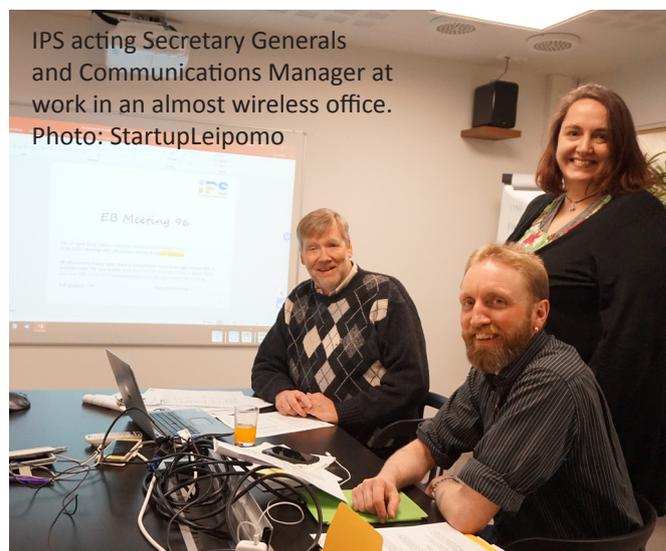
Editorial

The International Peatland Society is celebrating its 50th jubilee this year. When our society was established in Québec in 1968, times were different. The Cold War was the hottest topic, but there was also a strong peace movement, along with the Woodstock Festival and other legendary events, as many of our members may remember.

Today, while peace is needed more than ever in many parts of the world, international cooperation and communication have increased, together with the never-ending expansion of global markets almost everywhere.

The Executive Board of the IPS has recently given its recommendation to hold the **2024 International Peatland Congress (IPC)** in the Republic of China – the final decision will be taken during our Annual Assembly in September. At the same time, we are already looking forward to the next **IPC in Tallinn, Estonia in 2020** where environmental, economic and societal issues will also play equal roles.

In addition, there will be six seats available on the Executive Board, also as of September. Are you willing to influence how IPS will develop in the next four years? Would you like to work



voluntarily for a truly international organization? While a handful of candidates have already come forward, more will surely be welcome. Ask your National Committee in China, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Sweden whether they would be willing to nominate you – scientists and women are especially welcome to join the Board! The deadline for nominations is **31 May**.

The same date is also the extended early registration deadline for the festive IPS 50th Jubilee Symposium in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, from **11 to 13 September**, and the special Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit on **10 September**. Did you know that these will be held on a large 1950s-style ocean cruiser?

Both events will be great opportunities to learn more about peat in the regulatory environment, food and quality of life, peatland research, and greenhouse gas emissions, and of course to meet

Peatlands International is the global magazine of the International Peatland Society (IPS). It provides the almost 1,500 individual, institute and corporate members of the Society with up-to-date information on peat and peatland matters, reports and photos of conferences and workshops, background reports and publication reviews.

To serve all of our members, we provide always a good balance between economic, social and environmental points of view. To receive Peatlands International in your email every three months, visit www.peatlands.org/join-us and sign up as a member or subscribe for € 60/year.

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Are you interested? Contact ips@peatlands.org.

Cover: Restaurant Spirit in Rotterdam.
Photo: Iris van den Broek, Rotterdam Marketing
www.peatlands.org/publications/peatlands-international

your peers. Meanwhile, we show you around the venue and reveal some details about the programme in this edition of Peatlands International. Visit www.ipsjubileesymposium.nl and www.ips50summit.nl - and register.

Here, in Jyväskylä, the trees have turned green just a few days ago. The birds are singing almost 24/7 and our peatlands have become accessible again, both for nature excursions and for industrial purposes. Let us continue to make wise decisions based on holistic approaches for which uses and non-uses our peatlands are best suited. Thank you for being a member!

Susann Warnecke

IPS Communications Manager
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ROTTERDAM

11 - 13 September 2018
ipsjubileesymposium.nl

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Register now:
ipsjubileesymposium.nl



Welcome to Rotterdam!



Annual Convention, Jubilee Symposium & Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit

The International Peatland Society celebrates its 50th anniversary from 11 to 13 September with a Jubilee Symposium, titled “Wise use of peatlands, past and future”, combined with a spectacular gala evening. Hosted by the Dutch National Committee of the IPS, the Symposium will for most part be held on the SS Rotterdam, a former flagship of the Holland-America Line but now a hotel and conference centre permanently moored in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Everyone is welcome.

Jubilee Symposium

Scientists, policy makers, regulators, representatives of NGOs and industry managers (from the peat harvesting, growing media and energy industries) will meet to share their most recent scientific research and technical developments in the field of peatlands and climate change, the use of peatlands in agriculture, forestry and by the peat industry, tropical peatlands and the restoration of peatlands.

Special attention will be given to Dutch landscape history, responsible peat production and the use of peat in horticulture, the subsidence of drained peatlands, related CO₂ emissions and strategies for

dealing with soil subsidence, like submerged drains and paludiculture.

During the symposium, the results of the IPS project “Peat for Food and Quality for life” will be presented. The project includes a forecast of the demand for peat from 2020-2050 and describes how this demand can be responsibly satisfied.

Preliminary Programme

Tuesday 11 September

Facilitator: Dr. Reinier de Man

- Registration and coffee/tea
- Three prominent speakers from Finland, Canada and the Netherlands: Welcome and opening remarks



Our meeting venue and hotel: SS Rotterdam © Susann Warnecke



- Prof. dr. ir. Theo Spek, University of Groningen, the Netherlands: Landscape History of the Netherlands: The result of five centuries of peatland drainage, agriculture use and peat cutting
- Prof. Jack Rieley, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom: Peatlands and CO₂ Emissions: A world-wide perspective and mitigation goals
- Prof. Supiandi Sabiham: Indonesian Tropical Peatlands
- Invited speaker: Peatland Restoration
- Ir. Jan van den Akker, Wageningen University, the Netherlands: The Perspective of Agricultural Use of Peatlands
- Rik Janssen, Gedeputeerde Provincie of South Holland: Subsidence of Peat Soils in the Netherlands: From recognizing the problem to agreeing on solutions

Presentation of the results of the IPS project “Peat for Food and Quality of Life”

- Dr. Reinier de Man, Supply Chain Consultant, the Netherlands: An Introduction to the Subject
- Ir. Chris Blok, Wageningen University, the Netherlands: Peat Demand: Reflections on the

world’s need for growing media for food and quality of life in the period 2020-2050.

- Dipl. Ing. Bernd Hofer, Hofer & Pautz GbR, Germany: Available World Wide Peat Resources to Cover the Demand
- Panel discussion

Please visit www.ipsjubileesymposium.nl for updates on the programme and to find the latest information.

Wednesday 12 September, Field Trips

In four field trips, or “lectures on the road”, we offer further knowledge of peat in South Holland. The main topics concern CO₂ emissions, soil subsidence, paludiculture, submerged drains, landscape history and high-tech horticulture. The lecture road trips will last from approximately 9:00 to 17:00.

Fieldtrip 1. Back to the Past: The Dutch and their history with peat

Nowadays, peat is scarce in the provinces of South and North Holland, but around the year 800 both provinces were almost completely covered with a massive layer of peat. Between 800 and 1900, the

peat disappeared due to human interference. The history of the west part of the Netherlands is the history of the Dutch and their relationship with peat. The influence of (the disappeared) peat is still recognizable in the landscape of today. In this excursion, we show how the Dutch shaped their land, first by peat reclamation and then, when the soil became too wet for agriculture, by dredging the peat for fuel.

Fieldtrip 2. Peat Village Boskoop: Peat and tree culture

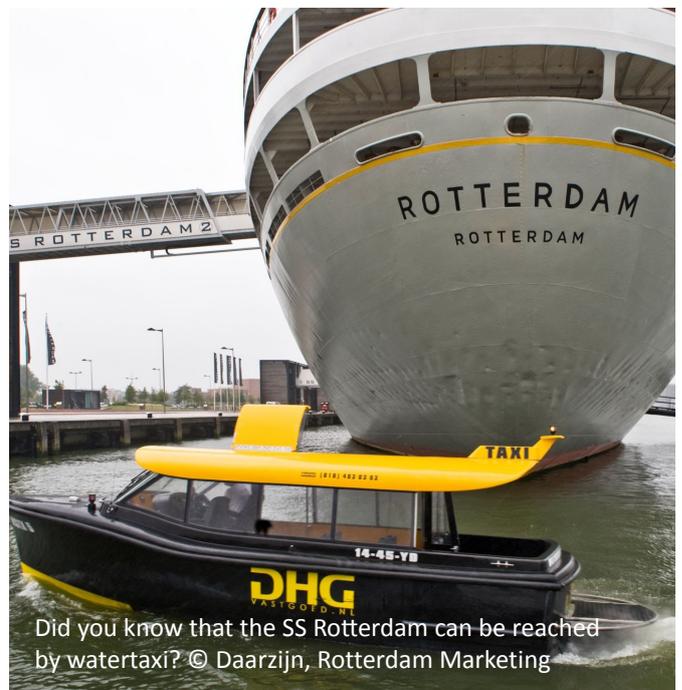
Boskoop has been known since the 19th century for its excellent tree nurseries. The village of Boskoop, originally known as Buckescop, dates back to circa 1210. It was first mentioned in 1222, when Count Willem I donated land and possessions to the abbey of Rijnsburg. The abbess of Rijnsburg decided to use the land to expand the orchards of the abbey. She considered, correctly, the peatland surrounding the village to be ideal for growing trees and plants. In the 19th century, the demand for Boskoop trees increased, and the international export business started growing.

Fieldtrip 3. Cruising Down the Peat River Rotte

The peat river the Rotte starts at Moerkapelle (near the mill “De Oorsprong”) and flows via the Rottemeren, past Bleiswijk and Bergschenhoek (the residential core of the Rotte) to the City Triangle of Rotterdam where the Rotte turns into the Stokviswater. In 1270, a 400-meter-long dam was laid in the Rotte to keep the Meuse water out. The Rottewater could flow freely through locks in the dam. The dam, which was built almost immediately afterwards, forms the origin of Rotterdam. This excursion follows the Rotte downstream by boat.

Fieldtrip 4. Research Centre Zegveld: The Future of the Peat Meadow

The western peat meadow area is called the Green Heart because it is a green



area situated between all major Dutch cities. It is considered to be a very valuable cultural and historic area. Among the main issues concerning the peat meadows are subsidence and greenhouse gas emissions. The subsidence in the western peat meadow area is 5-10 mm per year and is mainly caused by peat oxidation. The resulting CO₂ emissions are 10-25 t/ha/year. In the worst-case scenario, subsidence rates and CO₂ emissions might be doubled! In the Peat Meadow Innovation Centre Zegveld, new innovative methods are developed and tested to minimize peat oxidation to conserve the peat meadow area.

Thursday 13 September, Parallel Sessions

Thursday is dedicated to scientific sessions on all aspects covered by the Commissions and Expert





Rotterdam is easily accessible by train - only 30 minutes from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Skyscrapers next to the railway station © Susann Warnecke

These will be followed by the closing ceremony, the National Committee Round Table and the Annual Assembly of the IPS.

Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts for oral and poster presentations can be submitted until **31 May** at <https://goo.gl/forms/09hivgrcGFBnwjmR2>. Abstracts should include a short summary of the

Groups of the IPS. There will be parallel sessions and poster presentations on:

Peatlands and Environment

- Peatlands and Climate Change
- Peatlands and Biodiversity (Ecology, Hydrology and Geology)
- Peatland Restoration
- Peatlands and Outreach

Peatlands and Economy

- Peatlands for agriculture
- Peatlands for forestry
- Peat harvesting techniques and technology
- Peat for growing media and energy

Peatlands and Society

- Peatlands Education, Communication and Publicity
- Peatland Conventions and International Affairs
- Peatlands and Culture
- Peatlands and people, health and local livelihoods

Other peatland-related topics suggested by those who submit abstracts.

presentation you intend to give on Thursday. The maximum length is 500 words. The abstracts will be reviewed by the Scientific Committee of the Symposium, supported by the Commissions and Expert Groups of the IPS.

Speaking time will be 10-15 minutes. After acceptance, **only registered** participants will be included in the programme. Travel, health, visa and accommodation costs must be covered by each participant.

By submitting an abstract, you agree to have the document published in the proceedings of the Symposium and/or online. Abstracts should be submitted in English. For proofreading services, we recommend www.englishproofread.com.



Main auditorium in red © Susann Warnecke

Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit

In response to an increasing concern about the use of peat at an international level by peatland managements, IPS is organizing a Global Summit for top executives and senior management of major peatland and peat companies that rely upon peatland and/or peat products for a significant part of their business. The Summit will be held on the SS Rotterdam on Monday, **10 September 2018**.

Senior representatives of key International Conventions, Agreements and Programmes will inform the executives of the importance of the global peatland resource, especially in climate change processes. The role of the international and regional organizations in initiating policies on peatland and peat will be explained, as well as how they can affect the commercial viability of peat industry companies once adopted by contracting parties (Governments).

By facilitating this meeting between international policy advisers and peatland and peat company executives, IPS feels that executives will obtain a better understanding of the environmental sustainability procedures. Also, they will become more aware of the emerging and direct effects of international governance policies, environmental protection requirements and how these can affect their businesses.

It is the intention of the IPS to provide an international forum for the top management of peat and peat products industries, peatland management companies for forestry or palm oil production and others. The Summit is a perfect place to share knowledge about peatlands that are being used by peat industries globally and industry requirements until 2050. More information can be obtained online at www.ips50summit.nl.



Rates

IPS Jubilee Symposium

- IPS members € 425 / before 31 May € 400
- Non-IPS members € 475 / before 31 May € 450
- Students € 250 / before 31 May € 225

Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit

- Summit 10 September only € 350
- Including first day of jubilee symposium and gala evening € 650
- Including all days of jubilee symposium and gala evening € 700

Any travel, health, and accommodation costs have to be covered by the participants. Transaction costs for credit card and PayPal are € 1.50 + 3.9 % per transaction.

Hotel reservation

Please book the SS Rotterdam, which can be found at Katendrechtsehoofd 25, 3072 AM Rotterdam, the Netherlands, or <https://ssrotterdam.com>. In your confirmation email you will find a link to the hotel reservation website with special rates for IPS participants. The price of a room is € 149, including breakfast for one person. If two persons are staying in one room, € 16 will be charged extra



The Summit venue. Most areas of the ship were renovated recently in original 1950s style © Susann Warnecke

elections to the Executive Board (six seats available) and the selection of the venue and host of the International Peatland Congress 2024.

Nominations to the IPS Executive Board should be sent by National Committees to the IPS Secretariat until **31 May 2018**, at the address ips@peatlands.org, including a nomination letter and a CV of the person being nominated.

for breakfast. This special rate is excluding 4.5% city tax and valid from 9 till 13 September. You are advised to book your rooms as early as possible, since the availability of rooms at this favourable rate is somewhat limited. Rotterdam also has plenty of other hotels available in the city centre and close to the harbour; please see, for instance, www.booking.com.

Sponsor us!

The Organizing Team offers all companies the possibility to sponsor the Jubilee Symposium, the Industry Summit or both events. Please contact team@ipsjubileesymposium.nl for options. You will be visible to some 200 attendees from all over the world.

Official invitation

The official invitation to National Committees will be sent out by the IPS Secretariat in mid July. Please check your mailbox and register as soon as possible.

Note that the Annual Assembly will include

The City

Rotterdam reinvented itself after being bombed during the Second World War. It broke with the past and chose modern architecture. The motto of “light, air and space” was ground breaking for the time. Rotterdam still embraces experimentation - almost anything is possible. Here, you are constantly surprised by new initiatives, from a rooftop city farm to a music festival in the harbour, from an exclusive rooftop bar to a brewery in an old warehouse.

Rotterdam has an incredible variety of fun things to do for visitors of all ages, including sailing



In other areas, modern conference facilities are waiting for guests from near and far © Susann Warnecke



Come with us to Rotterdam! View at Rijnhaven and the Rijnhavenbrug by night © Ossip van Duivenbode, Rotterdam Marketing

through the port, visiting attractions, admiring the architecture, looking at art, shopping or enjoying a night on the town. At <https://en.rotterdam.info/> you will find many tips to ensure that your stay in Rotterdam is as enjoyable and interesting as possible!

- Dr. Michiel Gerding, Historisch Adviesbureau Drenthe
- Ing. Rens Jacobs, Bol Peat BV
- Dr. Anne Jelle Schilstra, IVEM, University of Groningen
- Drs. Anne Wolf, Centre for Landscape Studies, University of Groningen

Organizing Committee

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- Symposium General: Drs. Thanja van Dongen, Growing Media Europe
- Chairman Organizing Committee: Drs. Guus van Berckel, Griendtsveen AG

Members:

- Ir. Jan van den Akker, Alterra, Wageningen University
- Drs. Piet Cleveringa, Geological Survey

Scientific Committee

- Ir. Jan van den Akker, Alterra, Wageningen University
- Dr. Samu Valpola, Chair IPS Scientific Advisory Board
- Ingrida Krigere, Chair IPS Commission Peatlands and Economy
- Bernd Hofer, Chair IPS Commission Peatlands and Environment
- Marie Kofod-Hansen, Chair IPS Commission Peatlands and Society.

*See you!
 -> ipsjubileesymposium.nl
 -> ips50summit.nl*

Taking Action for Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

The bubbling breeding call of the Curlew was once a common sound across Ireland's countryside. The iconic call of this beautiful bird has unfortunately become a rarity in Ireland.

While we may see large numbers of Curlew along Irish coasts during the winter season the majority of these birds are overwintering and not breeding.

The Curlew is in crisis! The bird has suffered widespread declines across its European range. Nowhere has this been more severe than in

Ireland, it is estimated that there were 5000 breeding pairs in the 1980's and this number has fallen to less than 150 pairs in the Republic. This is a devastating 97% decline in our native breeding Curlews (O'Donoghue 2017).

What is driving the decline?

Curlew are long-lived and should be able to maintain stable numbers if each pair raised just



Curlew © D. Camier

one chick every couple of years. Unfortunately, in Ireland their breeding success has plummeted due primarily to loss of suitable habitat to forestry, intensification or abandonment of farmland and commercial peat extraction. It is estimated that 71% of Curlew breed on bogs and 29% breed on rushy pasture and wet grassland.

The birds breeding on bogs are also reliant on grassland for feeding. Secondly, predation by foxes and crows, who often thrive in the modified and fragmented landscapes make it almost impossible for Curlew to rear young chicks.

If no action is taken to help save these iconic birds and Curlews continue to decline at the present rate, it is predicted that breeding Curlew will be extinct in Ireland within 5-10 years!

Curlew Task Force

A Task Force for Curlew was formed in January 2017. The Task Force consists of a wide range of relevant stakeholder groups and key individuals with experience in Curlew conservation. The Task Force adopts a collaborative approach whereby all members can contribute something towards Curlew conservation, from those who shape policy to those who deliver action on the ground.

The Task Force has been divided into sub-groups to concentrate on particular areas including; Curlew ecological requirements and research; farming and agricultural advisory; Curlew and people; forestry; bogs; predation and nest protection and planning.

These groups discuss action points and make recommendations for the future. The task force also provides guidance where necessary to the Curlew Conservation Programme.

The Curlew Conservation Programme

The Curlew Conservation programme, run by the National Park & Wildlife Service (NPWS), was set up in 2017. The pilot programme focused on six of the most important areas in Ireland for breeding



Curlew nest on Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare © K. Geraghty

Curlew, including the Stack's Mountains in Kerry, Lough Ree, North Roscommon and Leitrim, North Monaghan, Donegal and Lough Corrib. There is also a research element to the Curlew Conservation Programme in the form of a Ph.D. being undertaken at the School of Agriculture in UCD, in collaboration with BirdWatch Ireland.

In each of the key areas local teams are surveying for Curlew, engaging in nest protection efforts and liaising with landowners. The programme places the landowner and the birds at the centre of all considerations, with the key goal of giving the Curlew the best chance of rearing chicks.

The 2017 Curlew Conservation Programme report is available at www.npws.ie (O'Donoghue 2017)

IPCC taking action for Curlew in Kildare

Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare is owned and managed by Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) and Curlew have been recorded on the site since 2005.

Thanks to funding from the international conservation group - Seacology in California (www.seacology.com)

Volunteers monitoring Curlew on Lodge Bog © C. O'Connell



Curlew from grazing horses and the timing of farming grassland management works on agricultural lands where Curlew were feeding.

2. Enhancing Habitat

Habitat enhancement works included inserting 22 dams to block drains and raise water levels to restore raised bog habitat, a preferred breeding habitat of the Curlew.

3. Raising Awareness

The plight of breeding Curlew was described and discussed with ten educational groups visiting Lodge Bog.

seacology.org), IPCC with the help of volunteers, undertook a project on Lodge Bog in 2017 to:

1. Monitoring Curlew on Lodge Bog

Monitoring confirmed that two pairs of Curlew attempted to breed on Lodge Bog and the main threat that was observed was from Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*). These birds predate Curlew eggs. Other threats were disturbance of ground nesting

Curlew Conservation Action Programme 2018

The experience gained from IPCC's work with Curlew to date coupled with help from technical experts and ornithologists have allowed us to build



Curlew landing on Lodge Bog, Co. Kildare © A. McCluskey

a Curlew Plan of Action for 2018 which aims to ensure the birds breed successfully and fledge their chicks.

IPCC will continue to monitor and record the distribution and behaviour of Curlew on Lodge Bog from April to July 2018.

Local volunteers will undertake predator control measures on and around Lodge Bog trapping crows using Ladder and Larson Traps and controlling foxes using Lamping.

IPCC will speak to local farmers about delaying hay cutting to allow chicks to find shelter and food before they fledge and provide compensation if necessary.

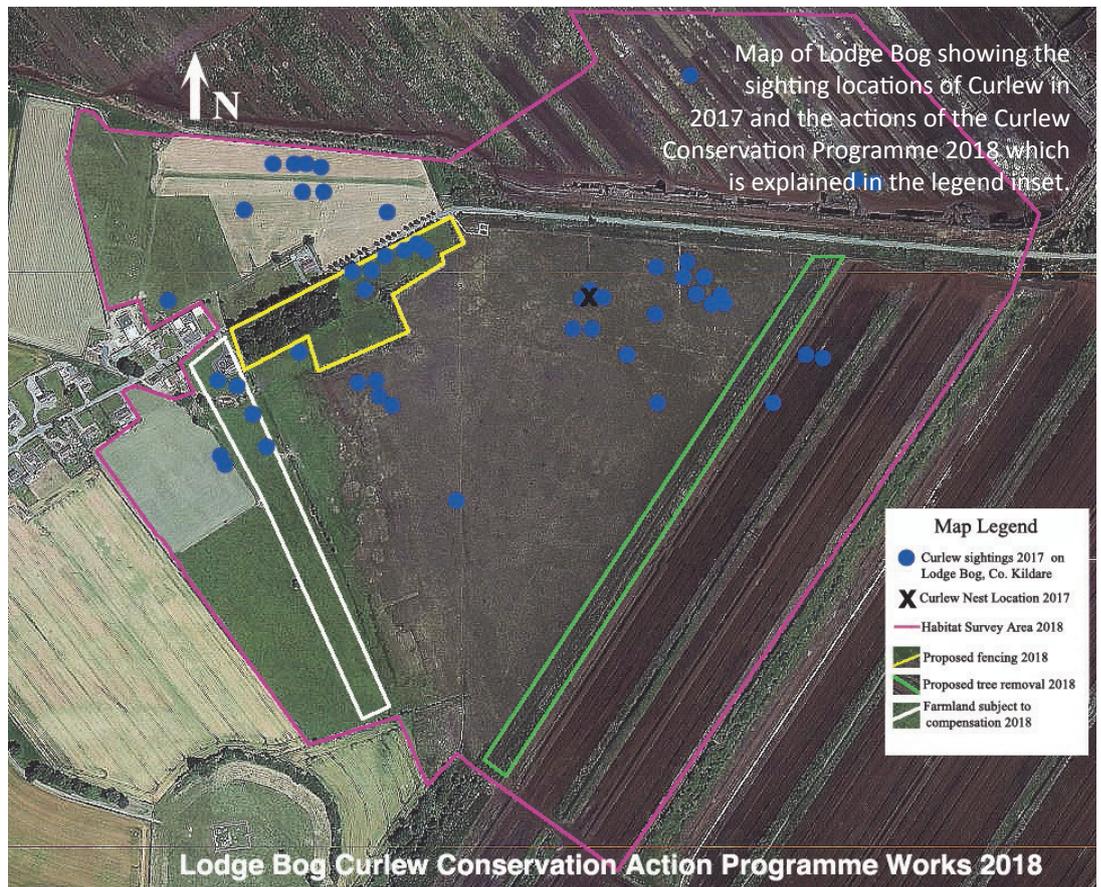
IPCC will survey and map the habitats on the bog and in the surrounding farmland and cutaway bog being used by Curlew. A fence will be erected to prevent livestock entering the site prior to the arrival of the birds.

World Curlew Day

The first ever World Curlew Day will take place on April 21st 2018. The day will celebrate Curlews and build awareness and appreciation among the general public. IPCC will host the 'Cry of the Curlew' event (see www.ipcc.ie).

Conclusion

The work that is being undertaken nationally to protect breeding Curlew highlights the need for peatland conservation measures that protect the



habitat of the birds. It also highlights the need to restore wetland habitats for other wading birds including Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

References

O'Donoghue B. G (2017) The Curlew Conservation Programme Annual Report 2017. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Killarney, Ireland.

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UK Peatland Strategy

Workshop and Launch

The United Kingdom IUCN National Committee launched its new UK Peatland Strategy on 19th April 2018 at the Friargate Quaker Meeting House in York, England. This was followed by a reception in Grays Court Hotel, York.

The event was attended by over 60 participants from many parts of the UK. The Workshop was introduced by Clifton Bain, Executive Director of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme and chaired by Rob Stoneman its Chair. After an introduction to the UK Peatland Strategy the meeting divided into six focus groups to discuss the six major strategy goals and identify possible action needed to implement them.

The Strategy

The vital connection between people and peatlands is an issue of global concern and the

United Kingdom stands among those peatland nations that are leading the way in safeguarding this important part of our natural environment.

The IUCN UK Peatland Programme has developed the first collaborative Peatland Strategy to capture and embed, for the long term, a shared vision for UK peatlands, helping maintain a focus across a broad partnership and allowing progress to be marked and celebrated.

The UK Peatland Strategy encompasses all peatlands in the United Kingdom and is also of relevance to the UK Overseas Territories. It sets the context for the devolved administrations strategic peatland action plans.

The goals contained within the UK Peatland Strategy recognise the diversity within and between peatlands and the pressures that are exerted on them, but identifies a common way forward by:



Peatland restoration excursion of the IPS Annual Convention 2017 in Aberdeen © Susann Warnecke



UK Peatland Strategy Workshop © Jack Rieley

- Conserving and enhancing the best and most readily recoverable peatlands
- Restoring heavily degraded peatland to functioning, peat-forming ecosystems
- Applying land uses that are compatible with healthy peatlands
- Shifting management of drained peatlands under intensive productive use towards wetter ways of farming
- Maintaining a formal, government supported programme to stimulate funding, share experience, promote best practice and monitor progress towards strategic goals
- Communicating peatland values, both intrinsic and measurable, to a wide audience.

Goals

Conservation

This goal addresses the protection and enhancement of the UK's best peatlands i.e. those with natural or semi-natural vegetation, which is capable of peat formation (even if it is not currently doing so). Dependent on location and local land-use these peatlands may require very little or no intervention.

Where low levels of degradation, minimal restoration will be required to recover habitat function. Land management practices that

may lead to damage or an increase in atypical vegetation must also be avoided. This goal considers both protected areas, but also the significant proportion of peatland that is currently undesignated but meets the criteria for this goal.

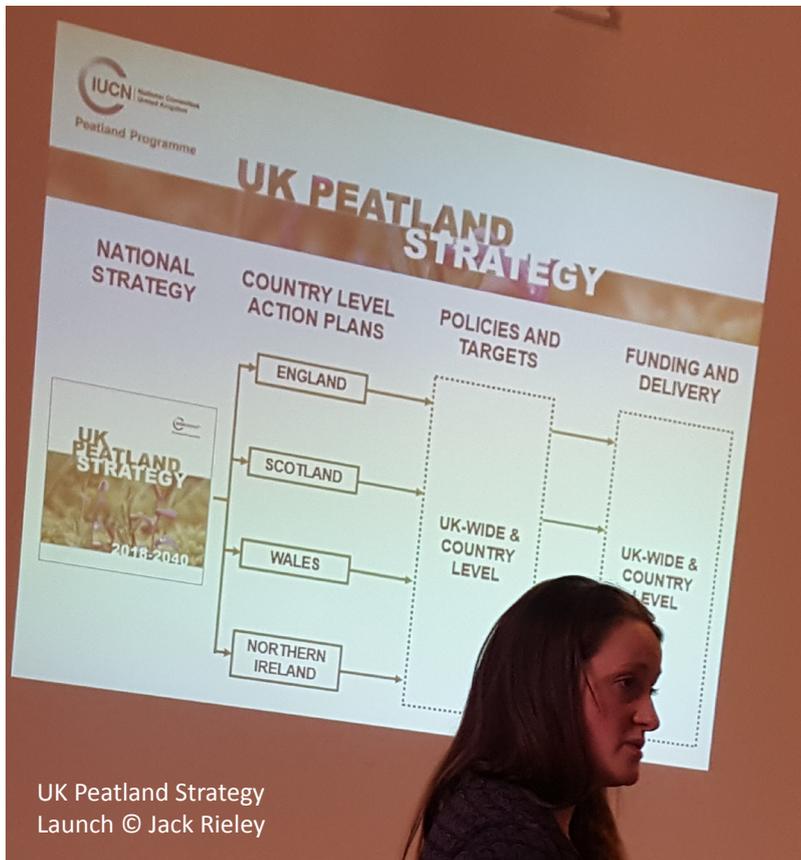
Restoration

This goal focuses on the restoration of heavily degraded areas of peatland that do not support any seminatural vegetation. Restoration in this context equates to the stabilisation of the site and recovery of peatland function. The timeframe for this restoration may be unknown, nor necessarily through conventional methods e.g. seeding of rye grass to stabilise bare peat. This goal is important in terms of preserving carbon stores and maintaining extent of peatland habitat.

A target of 80% of degraded peatland brought under restoration management is included in this goal, recognising that a tolerance is required allowing for areas that cannot be restored e.g. built development losses. Peatland restoration does not exclude other land uses, but it cannot be used as a justification or future solution to be undertaking damaging land uses.

Adaptive Management

This goal focuses on seeking change in the ways in which intensively farmed peatlands are



UK Peatland Strategy Launch © Jack Rieley

damaging practices are prevented. It is important to recognise that sustainable management will equate to different things in different landscapes – working with local communities and land managers to help recognise these differences will be important. Funding to support sustainable management will also be essential.

Co-ordinate

This goal focuses on establishing or maintaining a formal programme/ umbrella body at the UK level to implement and deliver the UK Peatland Strategy, and co-ordinate restoration and conservation activity. The IUCN UK Peatland Programme has played a central role in establishing the strategy and providing co-ordination, however this programme operates on an unsustainable business model reliant on grants from charitable trusts.

Moving forward a formal programme with a more sustainable and stable business model and funding regime is required.

Communicate

This goal is based on communicating the importance of peatlands and taking immediate action, as summarised in goals 1-4. It is recognised that without instilling the value of peatlands to a wider audience then achieving long-term change will be an uphill struggle, if not impossible. The strategy and breakout session notes on implementing the six goals can be found at: www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org/resources/uk-peatland-strategy-2018-2040.

IUCN UK Peatland Programme welcomes any additional thoughts or suggestions to these notes, so if you have any feedback please convey them by emailing info@iucn.org.uk.

managed, including both arable cropland and intensive grazing. It also highlights unsustainable peat extraction in terms of developing alternative products as soil conditioners and growing media, with a focus on finding solutions that don't simply shift the burden onto other countries.

The aim of this goal is to retain the extent of existing peat soils by keeping them wet and in situ either through adjusting management such as reduced tillage and raising water tables through to more effective measures involving the growing of plants that survive in wet peatlands (often termed paludiculture) as alternative crops for food or energy production.

Sustainable Management

This goal focuses on establishing and applying land uses that are compatible with healthy peatlands and/or peatland restoration activities. Several land uses are recognised as being compatible with re-wetted peatlands e.g. farming and grouse shooting, however some sites may require no intervention to achieve sustainable management.

Where necessary, regulation or other means might be required to ensure unsustainable or

Jack Rieley

IPS UK National Committee
jack.rieley@peatlands.org



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We all have peat on the plate...

In only 1 m³ peat substrate it is possible to produce up to 350,000 vegetable seedlings. Without peat efficient commercial horticulture is not conceivable. And our plates were nearly empty.



Wetlands contribute to biodiversity after peat extraction

In Finland, former peat extraction sites are usually afforested, used as agricultural fields or rewetted. Vapo Group has established more than 1500 ha of wetland areas spreading all over the country, in more than 80 locations. The wetlands are about 4 - 5 ha on average, but there are larger areas, some even spreading over hundreds of hectares. Many of them have become popular destinations for bird watching and outdoor recreation.



When pumping stops at a site, the lowland, surrounded by higher mineral soil, starts to accumulate water. Therefore, the formation of a wetland ecosystem takes place naturally, although this depends on the peatland basin topography, soil type and hydrology, and how the water levels and succession develop.

Some wetland areas become like a lake and some more like a flood water meadow. In just a few years, the shallow shore margins are colonized by typical aquatic flora, creating a diverse and sheltered environment for numerous species.

In the following section we briefly introduce five wetland areas, all of which have been created on former peat extraction sites of Vapo Company.

Hirvineva wetland in Liminka, Northern Ostrobothnia

- Established in 1995 with more than 100 ha of rewetted area, near Oulu
- Located only 11 km south of the well-known Liminganlahti bird sanctuary and nature protection area at the Gulf of Bothnia, Baltic Sea
- Abundant and diverse waterfowl that can be watched either from a bird watching tower or from the surrounding road

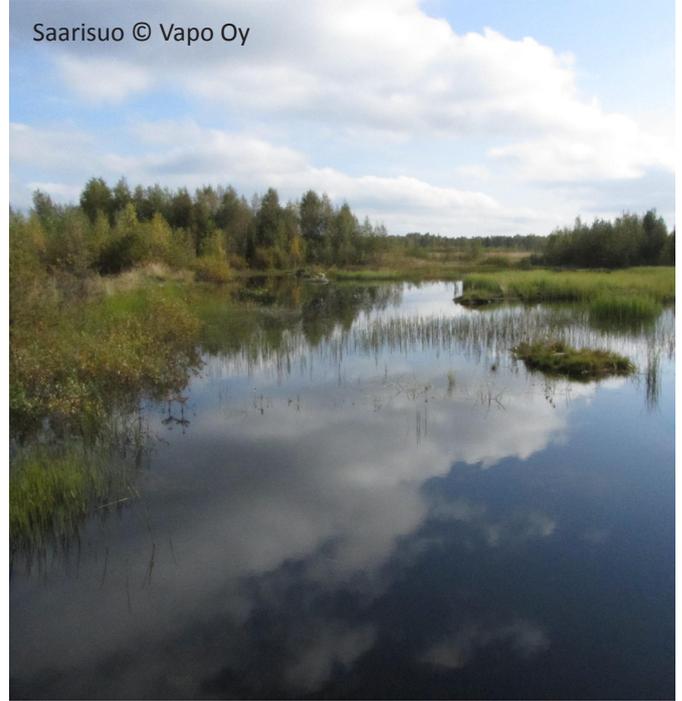
Piipsanneva © Vapo Oy



Piipsanneva area in Haapavesi, Northern Ostrobothnia

- A mosaic of over 300 ha with lush *Typha latifolia* and shrub vegetation
- The area attracts considerable numbers of ducks, waders and predatory birds, especially during migrating periods
- Given the abundance and diversity of species, too few people visit the area

Saarisuo © Vapo Oy



Saarisuo mire in Viitasaari, Central Finland

- Wetland established in cooperation with a LIFE project
- The area is now owned by a local hunting club and serves as wetland for the management of waterfowl and game
- Good accessibility and infrastructure for nature observation



Röyhysuo © Vapo Oy

Röyhysuo mire in Janakkala, Häme

- A rewetted peatland of about 15 ha in southern Finland and planned jointly with Vapo, the municipality and many expert organizations
- The Ornithological Society of Kanta-Häme has carefully surveyed birds here since 2014
- According to the surveys, there are a variety of nesting bird species and many rarities, such as a Ross's gull, a great egret, a black tern and a red-necked phalarope

Partinlammensuo mire in Joutsa, Central Finland

- A small wetland with a birdwatching tower and a shelter, located at Joutsa
- The property is now owned by a hunting association which provides game management
- There are plans to further develop the biodiversity of the site by establishing some crop yielding areas to feed birds and other wildfowl

The above information was also presented as poster at the Finnish Peatland Day in Helsinki on 2 February 2018. For more information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Juha Ovaskainen

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New members of the IPS

New members (or new contact persons for corporate and institute members) are approved by our National Committees or, in other countries, by the Executive Board of the IPS. Fill in our online membership form at www.peatlands.org/join-us! (status 1 May, students and institutes on page 28f)

Individual members

Germany, DGMT: Susanne Abel, Gerdt Behrendt, Volker Blüml, Mirjam Briel, Sandia Brinkmann, Katrin Dürr, Stefan Frank, Mona Gharib, Marion Heumüller, Nora Hubayne, Dr. Horvath (Hungary), Christoph Kayser, Tom Kirschey, Alexander Koch, Karsten Krüger, Jan Felix Köbbing, Heiko Köster, Sarah Matheis-Kist, Almuth McLeod, Stephan Melms, Jürgen

Müller, Stefan Müller-Kroehling, Nadine Nusko, Matthes Pfeiffenberger, Katrin Reckziegel, Eva Rosinski, Lydia Rösel, Gert Michael Steiner (Austria), Simon Stock, Jens Thormann, Juliane Trinogga, Tobias Weber, Diana Weigerstorfer, Olga Vybornova, Dominik Zak, Lotta Zoch

Latvia: Romualds Dovgjallo, Girts Peirags, Thomas Zeitheim

The Netherlands: Chantal Hendriks, Maureen Kuenen, Aukjen Nauta, Loes Scholtens, Roy van Beek, Leon van Paassen

New Zealand: Justin Wyatt

Poland: Jan Pawluczuk, Pawel Rydelek, Mateusz Stolarczyk, Luiza Tylec

Singapore: Alex Cobb

United Kingdom: Lisa Belyea, Ian Lawson, Jakub Olewski, Mary Norton Scherbatskoy

USA: Amanda Brioche

poetry NORRLAND

You speak with me about forests and mountains,
You ask me from where does
the heart get its fountain.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You speak with me about rivers and valleys.
You speak with me about ice so slippery.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You mention the Gulf Stream,
Without it, all here like tundra would seem.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You speak with me about
the movements of history.
How many of them were by force?
How many illusory?
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You speak with me about revivals in waves.
Followed by stagnation's conservative graves.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You instruct me how I can my own steps steer,
So that I won't disappear into a mire, that is near.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You point at natural and unnatural limitations.
I have lived with them all,
these numbing sensations.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You give from the outside world a scent,
A hint about how life was really meant.
When you are speaking with me about Norrland.

You must be good in every sense,
Showing such extraordinary patience
In speaking with me about Norrland.

*Original version 1-3 April, 2001,
version in English June-September 2010*

*Emma Ingelsson
Alkbring*

Sweden, emma.ingelssonalkbring@gmail.com

Corporate members

Canada, CSPMA: Ernie Basque (Sun Gro Horticulture), Mélissa Berger (Berger Peat Moss), Sandro Bertossi (Premier Tech Ltee), Neil Bragg (Bulrush Horticulture, UK), David Brennan (Farm Credit Canada, FCC), Scott Briscoe (Aurora Peat Products), Ken Elsbury (Sun Gro Horticulture), Stephen Fyffe (Juniper Organics), Ashish Gokhale (John Deere Limited), Rich Hendricks (Crushing Mechanics Inc.), Jeff Knape (Scotts Miracle-Gro Company), Jay Labonte (Farm Credit Canada, FCC), Jérôme Lambert (Lambert Peat Moss), Rob Maze (Sun Gro Horticulture), Mark Murphy (Premier Tech Horticulture), Luc Robichaud (Jiffy Company NB), Karen Stephenson (Scotts Canada), Matt Stromsten (Blue Skye Organics), Jody & Gary Williston (Therhault & Hachey Peat Moss), Chad Wills (Scotts Miracle-Gro Company)
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Pim Heijmans (Jiffy Products International BV, NL), Thorsten Meyer (Brüning Euromulch GmbH), Reinhold Schröder (Europäisches Fachzentrum Moor & Klima Wagenfeld GmbH), Marco Weber (Oilex International GmbH)
Finland: Vesa Tempakka (CEO Vapo Oy)
Latvia: Andis Gredzens (Klasmann-Deilmann Latvia), Ivars Jansons (Saldus melioracija)
United Kingdom: James Hayes (Bulrush Horticulture), William Jessop (Forestry Research), Aidan Morris (Westland Horticulture)

Students and institutes on page 28f ->

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The Indonesian Peat Prize

After much anticipation, on World Wetlands Day in February of this year, the winning team of the Indonesian Peat Prize was revealed. With two years from launch to completion, spanning a period of new and recurring outbreaks of fire in the country, controversial instructions on the use of peatland concessions and growing international pressure to divest funds from the palm oil industry, this announcement is much welcomed. But what is the Indonesian Peat Prize? Who are the winners? And importantly, how might it contribute to tropical peatland conservation?

What is the Indonesian Peat Prize?

After the devastating peat fires of 2015, creating a toxic haze that covered parts of Southeast Asia for

months, the spotlight was on Indonesia to address the cause of the burning. Unsustainable land use in peatland areas was the primary offender, whether resulting from activities of industrial-scale oil palm and pulp and paper companies, smallholders, or a mixture of both. Who exactly is to blame varies by place and perspective; further discussion of which will be left for another day! In order to address this international disaster and restore the burnt landscapes, the Indonesian Government established the Peatland Restoration Agency, or BRG, in January of 2016.

Before the BRG could address the challenge of understanding the distribution of peatland (mis)uses and consider where to restore the ecosystem, there was a need to know where the peat actually is, and crucially, how deep it is. There was already a map of peatland distribution in Indonesia: Wetlands International compiled one in 2004 and the Ministry of Agriculture in 2011, which



An area of deforested, drained and burnt peatland, converted into smallholder agriculture, within a Biodiversity Concession, Central Kalimantan province. Mapping of these activities, and the depth of peat on which they are happening, will assist with planning more responsible landscape management © Lydia Cole

A new oil palm plantation under development, at the edge of a protected peatland (with remnant peat swamp forest visible in the background). How far into the peat dome the plantation extends, and thus the extent of impact, will be measurable using the new mapping techniques © Lydia Cole



can be accessed through the Global Forest Watch platform. However, these maps offer a very coarse spatial resolution and an even coarser indication of how thick the peat is. Since their production, earth observation and ground-based technologies have improved dramatically, making higher resolution mapping more feasible.

Cue the Indonesian Peat Prize.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provided one million USD to the Indonesian Government's Geospatial Information Agency (BIG) with which to launch an international competition with the primary goal of developing a "fast, accurate and cost-effective way to map Indonesia's vast tropical peatlands". The open competition had been bubbling away since February 2016, with a selection of finalists being put through their paces

over the last six months. But there could only be one winner!

And the winner is

The winning team is an international collaboration of scientists (mostly men!), coming from Indonesia, Germany and the Netherlands. The aptly named International Peat Mapping Team (IPMT) comprises members from Indonesia's Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), South Sumatra province's Sriwijaya University, and three German institutions: Greifswald University, the Remote Sensing Solutions GmbH (RSS) and Airbus DS Geo.

They convinced the judges of their ability to create a prototype method for surveying the country's peatlands, with their proposed "multistage" solution: a cost-effective, versatile combination of satellite remote sensing, airborne LiDAR and

ground-based measurements. Though this group was awarded the prize, other finalists proposed using similar techniques (with the possibility of lower costs) which may also form part of the solution as the exercise unfolds.

How might the prize help peat?

In theory, the map will create a universal, repeatable method for mapping peatlands across Indonesia (and potentially the world). Having One Map from which land covers can be defined and land uses observed and allocated will enable a greater transparency in local and national government decision-making. It may also help to reduce the regular conflict encountered when land management decisions are made without complete information on land use and tenure.

In practice however, a lot of money has been spent on a mapping exercise that will only mean anything if there is money to spend on the management exercise to accompany it. The conservation challenge on the ground is likely less to do with knowing the exact depth of a peat substrate and more to do with the depth of understanding of the people living there of how important maintaining a wet peatland is; coupled with the depth of understanding of the challenges and aspirations of those people by the institutions

proposing sustainable management policies. The cost of understanding the extent of the challenge, of figuring out how to restore such a transformed landscape and of enforcing the variety of potential policy solutions must not be underestimated.

Nazir Foad, the Head of the BRG, tasked with one of the most challenging jobs in the world, is "optimistic that the agency will complete the restoration program [of over 2 million hectares] by 2020". To put this into perspective, the UK has committed to having two million hectares of restored or sustainably managed peatlands by 2040, and that will likely be a struggle despite the growing funds available, the restoration expertise sourced from across the northern hemisphere and the level of national support (in the most part).

But the political commitment and transparency shown by Indonesia is admirable, and strongly welcomed at this critical point in the story of tropical peatlands.

Congratulations to the winners; good luck to the BRG. Your work is just beginning!

Lydia Cole

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New members of the IPS (continued from page 24)

New members (or new contact persons for corporate and institute members) are approved by our National Committees or, in other countries, by the Executive Board of the IPS.

Student members

Germany, DGMT: Maria Aljes, Imke Byl, Sophie Drexler, Janna Gerken, Lennart Gosch, Sebastian Heller, Rebekka Mandler, Rainer Richard Schüle, Clemens von Scheffer, Jörg Weidner

The Netherlands: Sara Thornton, Maurice Paulissen, Cindy Quik
United Kingdom: Sarah Cook, Paul Gaffney, Frances Manning

Institute members

Russia: Alexandra Rodionova (Siberian Federal University, Krasnoyarsk)
Germany, DGMT: Andreas Bauerochse (Niedersächsisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege, Hannover), Thomas Leu (Amt für Landwirtschaft und Natur, Münsingen, CH), Jürgen Metzner & Isabell Raschke (Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege), Hermann Wreesmann (NLWKN Betriebsstelle Brake-Oldenburg)



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The 24th Peatland Ecology Research Group Symposium

The 24th PERG symposium was held on the 15th February 2018 at Université Laval in Québec City, Canada. This year 55 participants attended, with a good representation from the peat industry, academics and graduate students working across Canada and some visitors from overseas universities.

The keynote presentation was given by Dr. Nicole Fenton from the Institut de recherche sur les forêts (IRF) of the Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT, Québec, Canada). Nicole gave an excellent talk on sustainably managing peat forests, highlighting fifteen years of research work.

The symposium then proceeded with presentations on Sphagnum farming and cloudberry production, followed by a poster

session (see the photo below), a fen session and then a bog session, both of which covered various aspects of restoration and ecosystem services.

The final science session was entitled “Improving restoration methods and assessing success: Five years of research on peatland restoration and management”, which reflected on the recent activities of PERG and included contributions from many researchers involved during the last five year research programme.

The symposium was closed by Jean-Paul Doyon, who presented the Grand plée Bleue bog conservation project with a series of stunning photos. Participants were then invited to a “cocktail” of food and drinks produced on campus by students of Université Laval, which was sponsored by Magellanicum Ecosystem Services.



Poster session during the PERG symposium © Martin Brummell

Two international speakers were invited: Paul Gaffney of the University of the Highlands and Islands, in Northern Scotland, UK; and Cândida Margarida Mendes of the University of the Azores, Portugal.

Paul gave a presentation on using water chemistry to evaluate restoration progress, from formerly afforested blanket bogs site in Scotland, while Cândida spoke about regenerative succession of Azorean peatlands, after disturbance, as an ecological restoration tool.

Due to the high quality of oral and poster presentations from the graduate students, there were two awards given for each. The runner up prize for oral presentation was awarded to Sébastien Meilleur (MSc) and the prize for best oral presentation went to Méлина Guêné-Nanchen (PhD), both of Université Laval.

The prize for best poster presentation was awarded to Chao Liu (PhD) of the Northeast Normal University in China and Université Laval. The runner up prize for poster presentation was Tasha-Leigh J. Gauthier (PhD) of the University of Waterloo.

Congratulations to all our prize winners! Abstracts for the symposium are available on the PERG website, www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca.

Paul Gaffney

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Call for Papers “Peatlands for People Revisited” in British Columbia, Canada

Call for paper submissions

Does your research focus on wetlands, specifically peatlands? Then you are invited to submit your work for presentation at Peatlands for People Revisited. This conference will highlight the current research addressing wetland and peatland conservation and The Species At Risk Act (S.A.R.A.).

Email an electronic abstract (word or PDF) of your paper or project of no more than 750 words using plain-language. Include your name, home institution, email, and contact number in the submission.

Please email all submissions to Nathalie@burnsbog.org by **May 21, 2018**. Successful applicants will be notified by **June 1, 2018**.

Peatlands for People

The Burns Bog Conservation Society organized the first Peatlands for People conference in 1996.

And 22 years later we find ourselves revisiting our important peatlands. The Society in association with Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) will be hosting the Peatlands for People Revisited Conference from October 11-13, 2018, at the KPU Surrey Campus in British Columbia, Canada. The conference coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Society.

Burns Bog Conservation Society

Founded in 1988 by 20 people, the Society gives a voice for the largest raised peat bog on the west coast of North America. The Society is a champion for the protection of Burns Bog and other peatlands. It runs educational programs for children and adults. These include day tours, summer camps, and community events.

Burns Bog Conservation Society
4-7953 120th Street
Delta, BC V4C 6P6, Canada
+1 604.572.0373
www.burnsbog.org

In Memoriam:

Peat Artist Papu Kirsti Marjatta Pirtola 1949 - 2017

Kirsti Marjatta Pirtola was born on 10th June 1949 in Nurmijärvi, Finland, and from childhood she loved, and used, the name *Papu* (bean). After high school, she studied handcrafts, ethnology, folk poetry and art history.

Papu married her classmate Erkki Pirtola in 1975 and they had four sons. Nature was close to Papu's heart and a source of inspiration for her performances and art. Papu's artwork also reflected her deep knowledge of Finnish folk culture, spiced with irony and humour and she was responsible, in part, for establishing the first vegetarian restaurant in Helsinki, as well as the Kojjärvi environmental movement.

Papu performed in Ö-group and Ilkka-Juha Takalo-Eskola's *Metsäteatteri* (Forest Theatre), held exhibitions in Finland, Germany, Hungary and Ukraine and joined several ethnological study trips to many destinations including Viena, Karelia, Russia and Setumaa, Estonia. She was also part of *Ehivaija*, an a cappella group, which performed Kalevala songs, including several times for the Finnish Peatland Society.

In the beginning of the 1990s, with the guidance of Ruth Erne of Switzerland and Johannes Klossi of Sweden, Papu started to develop peat textiles using the fibres of the



tussock cotton grass and established Kultaturve Oy (Gold Peat LLC), which developed the industrial use of peat fibres. However, the creation of unique art was closer to Papu's heart and she resigned from the company to travel around Finland teaching yarn spinning and felting using peat fibres. She was always enthusiastic about talking about the properties of peat textiles and used plant-based dyed lamb's wool to finalize her pieces of art which were exhibited both nationally and internationally.

One especially inspiring event was the *Suon voimat* (Mire's Forces) symposium in Seinäjoki in 1995, which presented the scientific and artistic aspects of peatlands. In a performance organized during the symposium, Papu span peat thread on a mire, while Reijo Kela danced on the peat next to her.

Papu also joined the Finnish Peatland Society, and the idea of a multiyear project called *Elantoa suosta Pohjanmaalle* (Livelihood from Peatland to Ostrobothnia) was born. Another important event was the *Suon estetiikka* (The Aesthetics of Mires) conference in Iloanta in 1998, during which Papu taught peat felting and spinning. Friendships and collaborations with other artists began during this conference, resulting in shared exhibitions and performances around the world.

Papu was part of the *Lumo* group which built an oxygen room for exhibitions and performances in the centre of Helsinki in 2003. Next to the oxygen room, Papu also built *Naurumuuri* (Nauru - laughter, muuri - wall), a piece of installation art containing a peat sauna. The sauna drew attention internationally and she went on to build peat saunas elsewhere.

She also made wonderful tapestries for exhibitions and warm peat felt insoles and slippers as pieces of art designed for everyday use.

Papu attended many international symposia and congresses organized by IPS, where she presented her peat products. She also took

part in organizing the International Peatland Congress held in Tampere in 2004, and as part of the congress she built a contemporary piece of peat art in Sorsapuisto park, Tampere.

Articles describing Papu's products and art, as well as the properties of peat fibres have been published in the books *Peatlands in Finland* (1996) and *Finland - Fenland* (2008), both published by the Finnish Peatland Society.

Furthermore, Papu also organized several collective exhibitions in which mires and peat had important role. One of her most outstanding exhibitions was based on stories from the *One Thousand and One Nights* collection of tales, and was first held in Helsinki in 2006. The exhibition broke all visitor records and was also later exhibited in other major cities in Finland.

After having attended the IPS Annual Convention 2017 in May in Aberdeen, Papu's last personal peat textile exhibition, *Suosta nousseet* (Arisen from the mire), was held in the Papu gallery in Helsinki from 7th-18th November 2017.

Papu passed away on the last day of the exhibition and one felting course, among many other things, remained unfinished.

Papu's works of art and peat products are valuable memories of the life and work of this versatile artist, who was a great friend of mires and peat. The peatland community, both nationally and internationally, will miss this friendly, hearty and unique member, who brought glory to the group.

Riitta Korhonen

Long-term friend and collaborator
Former Chair of Finnish National Committee
riittakorhonen3@gmail.com

Translation: Mari Könönen, Alaska, US
with some additions by Susann Warnecke

Peat and Peatland Events

Executive Board Meeting
6 June 2018, 15 - 17 hrs EET
by phone

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

“Permafrost peatlands in a changing climate –
past, present and uncertain future”
5th European Conference on Permafrost
(EUCOP) 2018
Chamonix, France
23 June - 1 July
<https://eucop2018.sciencesconf.org>

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and
Technological Advice
Montreal, Canada
2 - 7 July 2018
www.cbd.int

National Conference on Ecosystem
Restoration (NCER)
New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
26 - 30 August 2018
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ncer2018>

World Water Week
Stockholm, Sweden
26 - 31 August 2018
www.worldwaterweek.org

Executive Board Meeting
Geeste, Germany
29 - 31 August 2018

International Exhibition
GREEN IS LIFE
Warsaw, POLAND
6 - 8 September 2018
www.greenislife.pl

SER Europe Conference
Restoration in the Era of Climate Change
Reykjavík, Iceland
9 - 13 September 2018
www.ser.org

Executive Board Meeting
Rotterdam, the Netherlands
9 September 2018, 14 - 18 hrs

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

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

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

IUCN UK Peatland Programme
8th Annual Conference
Loch Lomond, Scotland, UK
2 - 4 October 2018
www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

Arctic Biodiversity Congress
Rovaniemi, Finland
9 - 11 October 2018
www.arcticbiodiversity.is

Peatlands for People Revisited
11 - 13 October 2018
Vancouver/Surrey
British Columbia, Canada
www.burnsbog.org

16th International Peatland Congress
Tallinn, Estonia
16 - 19 June 2020
www.turbaliit.ee

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Submission deadline: PI 2/2018: **10 June**



How an Indonesian Village Keeps Peat Fires in Check

Tapestry of Light - New Book



IPS Meetings in Rotterdam - join us for a unique jubilee!