

Annual Report 2024



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Secretary General's Review

The year 2024 with its theme “Navigating Change” was a transformative period for the International Peatland Society (IPS), marked by strategic advancements, operational changes, and a renewed focus on our mission of promoting the responsible management of peatlands. Despite challenges, we made progress in global collaboration, scientific initiatives, and organizational development.

The newly approved IPS Strategy 2024-2028 sets the scene for the next quadrennium. This roadmap with goals and main activities was developed through the extensive collaboration of the Executive Board (EB), Scientific Advisory Board, and IPS staff starting in late 2023. An implementation plan was added last autumn. Regular follow-up of actions will ensure it remains relevant to our members' needs.

The election of a new EB introduced fresh leadership and perspectives to IPS. The EB includes new representatives from Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Canada, Malaysia, and Ireland, ensuring a diverse

and global approach to addressing peat and peatland challenges, and further developing our organization.

IPS continued to serve as a vital platform for scientific collaboration. The 17th International Peatland Congress (IPC2024) in Taizhou, China, was a major highlight, attracting over 350 participants from 38 countries. Its Book of Abstracts was successfully launched at the end of the year. In addition, IPS' National Committees organized numerous significant events on all aspects of peatlands and peat.

Furthermore, IPS started to host educational webinars on a regular basis, coordinated by the new Second Vice President. IPS members also participated in related organizations' online and offline events, such as SERE24, IUFRO24, and the Baltic Peat Producers Forum.

As in previous years, IPS followed up and engaged in dialogues with major conventions such as Ramsar, UNFCCC, IPCC, and CBD, ensuring



The 17th International Peatland Congress was the most important event for the IPS in 2024. Photo: Zhang Bin

peatlands were discussed based on factual knowledge, recent data, and scientific findings.

Our flagship publications, Peatlands International and Peatland Snippets, provided members with timely updates on events, publications, research findings, international projects, and policy developments, supplemented by the Science Wire newsletter and regular social media contributions.

IPS' volunteers and staff played a central role in major projects like the EU H2020 MERLIN restoration initiative, and the new Growing Media 2050 study, both of which also supported the organization's funding to some extent.

Financial stability remained a critical focus throughout the year. To diversify income streams, in addition to membership fees, IPS secured project funding, initiated a crowdfunding campaign, and generated revenue from advertisements and sales of its publications. Major income was also generated by the Congress in China.

From a technical point of view, the Secretariat relocated its office in Jyväskylä, Finland, due to changes in the previous building's use. In addition,

the IPS online shop transitioned to a new provider following policy changes by the former platform.

Priorities for the future include implementing the 2024-2028 strategy, expanding funding sources, enhancing communication and scientific activities, and fostering stronger partnerships across sectors.

The Secretariat will continue to play a central role in supporting these efforts. Despite certain challenges, we are ready to meet the opportunities ahead.

Thank you very much for your support and commitment, in-kind and financially.

My special thanks go to Marko Pomerants, Donal Clarke, and Jack Rieley who have helped steering the IPS during the previous four years, and for decades of international peat family engagement, as well as to all other Board members and active volunteers.

Susann Warnecke

Managing Director / Secretary General
susann.warnecke (at) peatlands.org

Report of the Executive Board

Main achievements

IPS Strategy 2024-2028: A Roadmap to the Future

In 2024, the IPS launched its Strategy 2024-2028, providing a detailed framework for guiding its activities over the next five years. This strategy focuses on seven core areas: sharing information, engaging members, fostering international partnerships, contributing to global conventions, promoting national involvement, securing responsible funding, and monitoring progress.

The strategy was developed collaboratively, incorporating input from the Executive and Scientific Advisory Board, along with other stakeholders. It seeks to enhance knowledge and

advance the responsible use and management of peatlands, highlighting their critical roles in environmental conservation, biodiversity preservation, and economic activities. IPS plans to review its progress annually, with updates presented at major events such as International Peatland Congresses (IPC). The Strategy can be found at the IPS document database.

IPC2024 in Taizhou: A Global Gathering of Peatland Experts

The 17th International Peatland Congress was held in Taizhou, China, on 4 - 9 August, attracting 350 participants from 38 countries. The Congress, held for the second time in Asia, provided a platform for researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, and students to share knowledge



and discuss innovative solutions for peatland management during a week full of networking opportunities.

The event included 132 presentations and 18 keynote speeches, covering topics such as peatland restoration, carbon cycles, biodiversity, and the socio-economic impacts of peatland use. A major milestone during the Congress was the launch of the Global Peatlands Assessment, which provided updated data on global peatland carbon stocks and highlighted new opportunities for restoration efforts. Additionally, the Congress hosted a Sino-Foreign Peat Industry Summit, which fostered a valuable dialogue on the challenges and opportunities related to the responsible use of peat for, e.g., horticulture.

Participants also had the opportunity to explore practical aspects of peatland management through field excursions to urban wetlands, pristine peatlands, and agricultural peatland sites. The Congress served once again as an essential meeting point for advancing knowledge and fostering collaboration within the peatland community. A successful commercial exhibition completed the arrangements.

Collaboration with International Conventions and Other Organizations

IPS continued to play an active role in supporting and observing significant international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

For UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, IPS contributed virtually to discussions on the role of peatlands in climate mitigation and adaptation. IPS also provided input into the LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry) regulation, emphasizing the importance of peatland carbon stocks and the need for long-term monitoring. A meeting with IPCC on carbon accounting is planned for spring 2025.

IPS' participation in the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) included contributions to tasks on greenhouse gas assessment, agriculture-wetland interactions, and the integration of peatland conservation into broader biodiversity frameworks. These efforts highlight IPS' role as a vital contributor to global

conservation and sustainability goals, as well as economy and social justice considerations.

IPS was also a sponsor of the popular SER 14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration in Estonia, which addressed the role of peatlands in nature restoration efforts.

Project Work: Advancing Skills and Increase Funding

IPS continued its involvement in the EU H2020 Merlin Project, mainly promoting mainstreaming restoration within the peat extraction sector, but also advancing restoration efforts at the wider landscape level.

In addition, IPS started the Growing Media 2050 project together with Wageningen University and a number of partners to identify global demand and supply of horticultural substrates.

In autumn, IPS also got engaged in the Superpeat Miss Soil Project in the hope of obtaining additional funding. Additional projects are being pursued by IPS members in their countries and internationally.

2024: Expanding Knowledge and Resources

IPS produced several important publications in 2024, significantly contributing to the global knowledge base on peatlands and peat.

One of the highlights was, right at the beginning of the year, publication of the second edition of *Peatlands and Climate Change*, edited by Maria Strack, and partly financed by a crowdfunding campaign. This 414-page book provides an in-depth examination of peatlands' role in carbon storage, greenhouse gas emissions, and restoration strategies, making it a valuable reference for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

Another important publication was the IPC2024 Book of Abstracts, published in December, which summarizes 146 presentations by 474 authors from the Taizhou Congress, offering a comprehensive overview of current research and innovation in peatland science and technology. Both books can be purchased through IPS' newly launched online shop for a cost-based price.

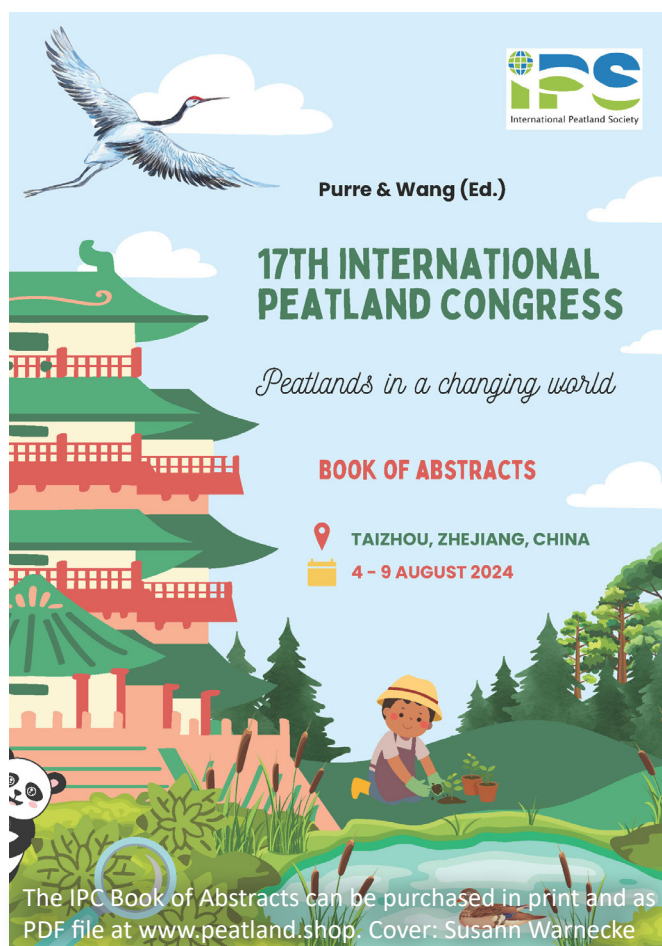
In addition, IPS continued its monthly newsletters, as well as its magazine, journal, blog and social media pages on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and X. In the autumn, we set up an account on BlueSky to diversify our online presence.

Membership Growth and Engagement

During the course of the year, IPS membership decreased from 1,595 to 1,555 members, mainly due to the loss of the Japanese NC. Members are located across 38 countries, and include individuals, corporate entities, NGOs, and students. A new category for "juniors" under the age of 21 was recently introduced.

The largest of the 15 National Committees (NC) were Indonesia, Germany, Finland, the Netherlands, and Malaysia. NCs again played a significant role in advancing IPS' objectives at both the regional and global levels, having altogether 1,516 members.

IPS focused on strengthening connections within its membership by organizing events, regularly updating its member database, and sharing reports whenever possible. We hope that these





Méline Guéné-Nanchen
Université Laval, Québec

Peatland restoration in Canada

Insights from recent research

26 November | 3 pm EET
Link in Peatland Snippets

www.peatlands.org/events

Teaser of the November 2024 webinar. All IPS member webinars can be rewatched via your member dropbox at <https://bit.ly/ipsm25>.

efforts enhance member engagement and underline the importance of voluntary work in achieving IPS' goals.

The Russian NC remains temporarily suspended in support of Ukraine; the Japanese NC was unfortunately dissolved according to the membership's own wishes. In other countries, 39 members are directly associated with the IPS Secretariat.

During the course of 2024, the IPS gained 83 and lost 123 members in total. More detailed member statistics can be found in the appendices. Membership is open to all individuals and organizations interested in peatlands and peat: www.peatlands.org/join-us.

Educational Webinars

In autumn 2024, IPS hosted several webinars aimed at disseminating knowledge and building capacity within its global network.

The first webinar was a repetition of the "research priority" presentation by the Scientific Officer in Taizhou.

Another webinar focused on strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural peatlands, offering insights into

national targets and the practical challenges involved in implementation.

The third Teams event explored restoration techniques in Canada, showcasing their impacts on climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

The December session examined the cultural and historical significance of mires, highlighting their societal value and ecological roles across time. These online events provided IPS members with valuable knowledge and created opportunities for discussions on best practices in peatland management.

Webinars will continue each month in 2025, led by the Second Vice President.

Baltic Peat Producers Forum

The Baltic Peat Producers Forum, held in Birstonas in Lithuania in September, brought together industry experts, researchers, and policymakers to address challenges and opportunities in peatland management. The forum, themed "Shaping a Growing Media Future for People and Planet", emphasized the current situation of the industry and market, as well as the need for responsible practices in growing media production and use.

IPS representatives actively participated in presentations and discussions, sharing insights from both industry and science. A meeting of IPS with Growing Media Europe (GME) and local association representatives was part of the programme.

National Committee Round Tables

IPS hosted, for the first time, two National Committee Round Tables in 2024 to foster communication and cooperation among its members. These meetings provided a platform for discussing funding, strategy implementation, and preparations for the 2025 IPS Convention in Sweden, among other topics.

The round tables also highlighted, to some extent, regional efforts, and facilitated the exchange of ideas, strengthening connections between IPS Boards, staff and NCs.

Allan Robertson Grants

The Allan Robertson Grants continued to support young researchers and professionals under the age of 30 in 2024. The seven grants provided funding for innovative projects, research equipment, and participation in major events, such as IPC2024.

Topics covered by grant recipients included peatland restoration, biodiversity conservation, and carbon dynamics. Applications for the three 2025 grants were open until 31 January, encouraging more young professionals to contribute to peatland science and expand their networks.

Office Move

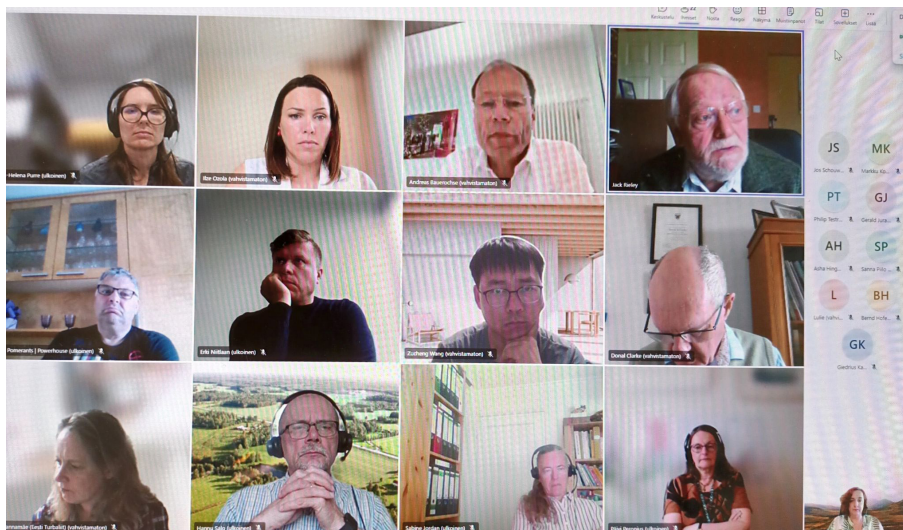
In April 2024, the IPS Secretariat relocated to a new office in Jyväskylä, Finland, due to ad hoc changes in the use of its previous building. This move provided an opportunity to modernize operations and optimize the management of IPS' extensive library and archives.

The new office ensures that IPS can continue to efficiently support its global activities, including administration, editing of publications, finance and accounting, the coordination of projects, and important member services. The relocation was completed smoothly in addition to IPS' normal operations.

New Online Shop for Publications

In September 2024, IPS launched a new online shop as the old provider had closed IPS' account due to its non-EU Board members. The shop currently offers IPS' most important books, including the second edition of *Peatlands and Climate Change*, the *Wise Use* book and the *IPC2024 Book of Abstracts*, in both digital and print formats. Further publications will be added continuously.

A variety of secure payment options were introduced, and IPS members can avail of a



Most IPS meetings are held virtually, here the first National Committee Round Table for 2024 on 19 June. Screenshot: Susann Warnecke

20% discount on purchases. In addition, the IPS provides an open access document database at its website which is being updated regularly.

Funding

In 2024, IPS faced significant funding challenges, including a budget deficit compared to previous assumptions, and delays in payments.

Membership fees remain the major income source, but inconsistencies in contributions created uncertainty. To address this, IPS increased engagement with its main supporters and enhanced the communication of its activities and member benefits.

In addition, diversifying revenue streams became a new key focus. IPS secured some project-based funding through initiatives like the MERLIN restoration project and Growing Media 2050. Additionally, a crowdfunding campaign for the *Peatlands and Climate Change* book successfully raised 21% of its production costs. Advertisements in IPS publications provided supplementary income, while the new online shop contributed through the sale of books.

IPS also conducted a special membership survey to investigate the readiness of members to fund IPS directly, in addition to NC contributions, but results were not as promising as we had hoped for.

Looking ahead, IPS plans to obtain additional corporate contributions, launch fundraising



campaigns where appropriate, and attract event sponsorship to ensure long-term financial stability.

Future Events and Initiatives

Looking ahead, IPS has an ambitious agenda for the coming years, including:

- Annual Conventions in Sweden in 2025 and Ireland in 2026
- ISHS-IPS Symposium on Growing Media, being held in September 2025 in Freising, Germany
- 18th International Peatland Congress (IPC2028), to be held in Riga, Latvia, 11 - 16 June 2028
- Monitoring of and attendance of Convention meetings and COPs

These events are to be accompanied by numerous NC and Commission events, including webinars.

They aim to foster cooperation, share knowledge, and develop innovative solutions for peat use, peatland management, and restoration. More details are described in our Plan of Activities and Strategy.

Conclusion

In 2024, IPS demonstrated its commitment to advancing responsible peatland management through a new strategy, continued global cooperation, and increased knowledge-sharing efforts.

From the launch of the Strategy 2024-2028 to the success of IPC2024 and the introduction of new educational resources, IPS has made significant strides in addressing the challenges facing peatlands and peat, although the operative environment is increasingly complex and challenging.

With the addition of younger and active key persons, and a forward-looking agenda, IPS hopes to continue its crucial role in peatland advocacy and management worldwide.

For more information about IPS' activities, publications, and membership, visit www.peatlands.org.

Administration and Structure

Executive Board

The IPS Executive Board traditionally consists of members from the science community and those with an industrial background. During the Annual Assembly on 8 August 2024 in Taizhou, a new Executive Board was elected to lead the IPS. The elected members for the 2024-2026 term are as follows:

President: Hannu Salo (Finland, until 2026)
1st Vice President: Ilze Ozola (Latvia)
2nd Vice President: Anna-Helena Purre (Estonia)

Ordinary Board Members

Asha Hingorani (Canada)
Lulie Melling (Malaysia)
Paddy Rowland (Ireland)
Guus van Berckel (Netherlands)
Päivi Peronius (Finland, until 2026)

Continuing Board Members (2022-2026)

Bernd Hofer (Germany)
Sabine Jordan (Sweden)
Meng Wang (China)

Honorary president Professor Emeritus, Juhani Päivänen, is permitted to attend all meetings. The next EB elections will be held latest in summer 2026.

The administrative meetings of the IPS EB were held on 13 February, 21 March, 28 May and 12 September virtually, and on 4 and 8 August, as well as on 14 November in person (Taizhou and Copenhagen).

In addition, a funding workshop was held at Vantaa Airport on 11 April, and Board members participated in a meeting with GME and Baltic representatives in Birstonas, Lithuania, in September.

We warmly thank the IPS Secretariat, Lithuanian, and Chinese NCs for their kind invitations and arrangements.



The Executive Board met face-to-face also in Copenhagen in November to discuss strategy implementation and future activities. Photo: Bryggen Guldsmiden Hotel

The two National Committee Round Tables were held virtually on 19 June and 9 December.

The decisions resulting from our meetings were disseminated through Peatland Snippets or Peatlands International, as well as on our blog, by email, and on social media.

The IPS also shared the results of its media follow-up as time allowed.

Commissions

The IPS Commissions and their Expert Groups foster information exchange, suggest projects, and initiate international conferences and other events.

Commission membership is informal and is open to all IPS members; contact should be made with the chairs. All Commission chairs are members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Newly elected Chairs are Bernd Hofer (Environment, until 2026), Philip Testroet (Economy) and Kirsi Laurén (Society, until 2025).

The Commissions and Expert Groups at the end of 2024 were as follows:

Peatlands and Economy

Chair: Philip Testroet
Industrieverband Garten, Germany
testroet (at) ivg.org

1st Vice Chair: Guus van Berckel (interim)
g.vanberckel (at) griendtsveen.de

2nd Vice Chair: Giedrius Kavaliauskas (interim)
giedrius.kavaliauskas (at) klasmann-deilmann.com

3rd Vice Chair Jos Schouwenaars
josschouwenaars (at) kpnmail.nl

Expert Groups

Peatlands for Agriculture
Jos Schouwenaars (until June 2025)
josschouwenaars (at) kpnmail.nl

Peatlands for Forestry
Sakari Sarkkola
sakari.sarkkola (at) luke.fi

Peat for Growing Media
Philip Testroet
testroet (at) ivg.org

Peatlands and Environment

Chair: Bernd Hofer
hofer (at) hofer-pautz.de

1st Vice Chair: Maria Strack
mstrack (at) uwaterloo.ca

2nd Vice Chair: vacant

Expert Groups

Peatlands and Climate Change
Gerald Jurasinski
gerald.jurasinski (at) uni-greifswald.de

Peatlands and Biodiversity
Lydia Cole
lydcole (at) gmail.com

Peatland Restoration
Pete Whittington
whittingtonp (at) brandonu.ca

Tropical Peatland Round Table
Jack Rieley (until August), vacant
jack.rieley (at) btinternet.com



Peatlands and Society

Chair: Kirsi Laurén (until June 2025)

kirsi.lauren (at) oulu.fi

1st Vice Chair: vacant

2nd Vice Chair: vacant

Expert Groups

Peatlands and Education,
Communication and Publicity

Ilze Ozola

ilze.ozola (at) epicentrs.lv

Peatland Conventions and
International Affairs

Jack Rieley (until August), vacant

jack.rieley (at) btinternet.com

Peatlands and Culture

Ilze Ozola

ilze.ozola (at) epicentrs.lv

Peatlands and people, health and local livelihoods
vacant

If you are interested in one of the above vacant
or interim positions, do not hesitate to contact
anna-helena.purre (at) peatlands.org or the IPS
Secretariat.

Communications

Events

The following events were of special interest to IPS
members in the course of the year:

IPS EU H2020 Merlin

Peat Extraction Round Table III

16 January 2024

World Wetlands Day

Wetlands and Human Wellbeing

2 February 2024

www.worldwetlandsday.org

Finnish National Committee

Peatland Day (Suopäivä)



Helsinki, Finland

2 February 2024

www.suoseura.fi

IPS EU H2020 Merlin All-partner Meeting

Vienna, Austria

26 February - 1 March 2024

<https://project-merlin.eu>

Canadian Land Reclamation Association GMA

Edmonton, Alberta

6 - 8 March 2024

www.clra.ca

IPS Executive Board Meeting

MS Teams

21 March 2024

IPS Executive Board Funding Workshop

11 April 2024

Vantaa, Finland

EGU General Assembly 2024

Vienna, Austria

14 - 19 April 2024

www.egu24.eu

Functioning and rehabilitation of European
mountain peatlands

Bois-d'Amont, France

15 - 17 May 2024

<https://bit.ly/3OOLIBu>

Connecting Communities with Peatland

End of Project Conference



Van Nguyen presenting the IPS-facilitated Growing Media 2050 study by Wageningen University to IPC2024. Photo: Hannu Salo

4 - 9 August 2024
<https://ipc2024.com>

14th European Conference on Ecological Restoration
 Tartu, Estonia
 26 - 30 August 2024
<https://sere2024.org>

Baltic Peat Producers Forum
 Birstonas, Lithuania
 18 - 20 September 2024
balticpeatproducersforum.eu

Peatlands and Ecosystem Functions
 Freising, Germany
 18 - 21 September 2024
www.hswt.de

Athlone, Ireland
 24 May 2024
<https://communitywetlandsforum.ie>

Executive Board meeting 141
 MS Teams
 28 May 2024

World Peatlands Day
 2 June 2024
[#worldpeatlandsday](https://twitter.com/worldpeatlandsday)

German National Committee (DGMT)
 Annual Meeting
 5 - 8 June 2024
 Geeste, Germany
www.dgmtev.de

IUFRO World Congress 2024
 Stockholm, Sweden
 23 - 29 June 2024
<https://iufro2024.com>

IMCG Field Symposium and General Assembly
 Freising to Greifswald, Germany
 26 July - 9 August 2024
www.imcg.net/pages/events.php

17th International Peatland Congress
 Peatlands in a Changing World
 IPS Annual Assembly & General Assembly
 Executive Board meetings 142 and 143
 Taizhou, China

DGMT Forest Peatlands Conference
 Laußnitz, Bautzen, Germany
 20 - 22 September 2024
www.dgmtev.de

15th International Sago Symposium
 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia
 23 - 26 September 2024
<https://sagosymposium.com>

World Biodiversity Summit 2024
 New York, USA
 26 September 2024
www.worldbiodiversitysummit.org

REWET Training on Wetlands Conservation
 Seville & online
 3 October 2024
www.rewet-he.eu

DigiFREN seminar
 Aesthetics of Nature on the Move
 Joensuu, Finland & online
 3 October 2024
www.uef.fi/fi/tapahtuma/luonnon-estetiikka-liikkeessa

UN Biodiversity Conference #COP16
 Cali, Colombia
 21 October - 1 November 2024
www.cbd.int

Conference MENSCHEN.
MACHEN.MOORE.
Schwerin, Germany
7 November 2024
www.succow-stiftung.de

Society of Wetland Scientists
Annual Meeting 2024
Wetlands and Global Change:
Mitigation and Adaptation
Taipei, Taiwan
11 - 16 November 2024
<https://sws2024.org>

UNFCCC COP29
Baku, Azerbaijan & online
11 - 22 November 2024
<https://unfccc.int/cop29>

Executive Board Meeting 144
Copenhagen, Denmark
14 November 2024

MoorNet Statuskolloquium 2024
Bonn, Germany
19-20 November 2024
<https://moor-net.de>

IVG Sector Day Soils & Substrates
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
21 November 2024
<https://ivg.org/veranstaltungen>

Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel
(STRP) 27th Meeting
2 - 5 December 2024
Gland, Switzerland
www.ramsar.org

The activities of our NCs, SAB, and Commissions
can be found in the attachments. IPS
representatives attended a large number of the
virtual conferences arranged by other organizers.

An updated list of IPS and related
peat(land) events can be found any time at
www.peatlands.org/events.



Publications

In addition to the new books published in 2024, *Peatland Snippets* continued as IPS' concise monthly newsletter, providing quick updates on projects, events, and research related to peatlands. It kept members informed about developments, including webinars, publications, and international policy updates.

Peatlands International serves as IPS' main publication, providing members with longer reports on peatland research, projects, business life, and a preview of events. The magazine featured articles on restoration techniques, biodiversity, carbon questions, and responsible use practices.

Highlights included coverage of the IPC2024 in China, reports from international projects, and insights into cultural and historical aspects of peatlands. Each issue showcased contributions from experts worldwide, offering practical and scientific perspectives.

The magazine remains a vital platform for knowledge sharing and engagement within the global peatland community, and supports IPS financially.

The *IPS Science Wire*, managed by Scientific Officer Örjan Berglund, provided updates in 2024 on scientific advancements, international policies, and projects related to peatlands. It covered



Peatlands International is published four times a year in digital format. Cover photo of the 2.2024 issue: Mirko Bozic

research findings, global agreements like Ramsar and UNFCCC, and initiatives such as MERLIN and Growing Media 2050, as well as new academic papers.

The *Peat Updates* in 2024 were targeted oral communications aimed at industry members and stakeholders, providing quick insights into developments in peatland management and the growing media sector. They covered updates on IPS initiatives, international policy discussions, and key industry trends, including restoration practices and carbon accounting. These updates served as a bridge between IPS and corporate associations which fund large parts of our activities.

The peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Mires and Peat*, jointly hosted by IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) has enjoyed continued success under the leadership of its editors, Dr Olivia Bragg and Dr Sabine Jordan. In the summer, Dr Gerald Jurasinski was appointed by IMCG as the Main Editor.

Conventions and Cooperation

Cooperation with international conventions continued under the leadership of Professor Rieley until August, then led by Scientific Officer Dr Berglund (until January 2025).

The IPS follows, in particular, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in which the IPS is active in four tasks in the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD).

It is one of the tasks of the IPS to present science-based facts to its members and stakeholders. This is best conducted face-to-face and in a balanced manner.

The IPS participated virtually in parts of UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. In addition, the IPS has cooperated successfully with the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA), and Growing Media Europe (GME).

Projects

Growing Media 2050: Investigating Future Demand

The Growing Media 2050 research project, a key focus for IPS in 2024, investigates future demand and supply for peat and alternative materials in horticultural growing media. The study aims to assess global trends, understand market needs, and identify sustainable pathways for the sector.

Growing Media 2050 seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of how much peat and other materials will be utilized, and available, in the future. The findings will inform policy decisions and support industry adaptation to evolving demands. Results are expected in spring 2025.

MERLIN

The IPS continued to participate actively in the EU Horizon 2020 (H2020) “Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of Freshwater-related Ecosystems in a Landscape Context: Innovation, Upscaling and Transformation” (MERLIN) project.

This project is being led by the University of Duisburg-Essen and comprises 46 partners with a total budget of €21 million, of which the IPS’ share is up to €55,550.

The input of the IPS is mainly related to Work Package 4 on Transformation. This included organizing round tables between MERLIN work package co-ordinators and peat industry stakeholders on the potential involvement of the peat extraction sector in Europe in upscaling peatland restoration from their extraction fields to the wider landscape, in addition to provision of expert advice on peatlands and peat from an international point of view to other MERLIN partners.

Meetings were attended mostly virtually by Jack Rieley, Anna-Helena Purre, Örjan Berglund, Hannu Salo, Päivi Peronius, and Susann Warnecke, as well as by other IPS members.

Peat Concept 2050

The work on a Peat Concept 2050 for industry continued under the leadership of Bernd Hofer, assisted by Örjan Berglund and Sabine Jordan/Philip Testroet.

Superpeat

In the autumn, IPS got involved in the Superpeat Miss Soil Project, which will focus mainly on forested peatlands. The funding application has been sent together with an international consortium, with the hope of obtaining additional income for IPS’ activities.

Päivi Peronius participated in the excursion to the Merlin case study site Komppasuo in 2024. Photo: Päivi Peronius



Honours

Allan Robertson Grants

The IPS awarded seven Allan Robertson Grants to research students and young professionals this year. The winners were:

- Laura Baugh: Unravelling the true climate effect of peatland restoration
- Emma Duley: Understanding carbon vulnerability in UK peat-forming wet woodlands
- Helen Essell: Resolving issues with dating blanket peat using radiocarbon
- Morena Merkelbach: Exploring farmers’ motivations and barriers for adopting paludiculture (PI 3.2024)
- Samantha Mitchell: Historical ecology and soil carbon dynamics in peatlands impacted by industrial smelting contamination (Sudbury, Ontario, Canada) (PI 4.2024)
- Julia Morarin: Biodiversity Atlas: Abitibi and Eeyou Istchee wetlands (Quebec)
- Emelie Obi: MSc research - Climate change effects on peatland below-ground biotic communities

Each grant amounts to €500 and the reports will be published in Peatlands International or presented at IPS events. The application period usually closes on 31 January. Funds are

provided by the IPS, as well as voluntary NCs and individuals.

Honorary Members

The IPS currently has 19 honorary members. The new honorary members include Donal Clarke and Jack Riele, who left the Executive Board in August.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of our honorary member Markku Mäkelä from Finland in the same month. Current honorary members are:

Gerfried Caspers, Germany
Donal Clarke, Ireland
Richard S. Clymo, United Kingdom
Jean-Yves Daigle, Canada
Hartmut Falkenberg, Germany

Matti Hilli, Finland
Gerry Hood, Canada
Paddy Hughes, Ireland
Piotr Ilnicki, Poland
Valerijs Kozlovs, Latvia

Thomas Malterer, USA
Juhani Päivänen, Finland
Jack Riele, United Kingdom
Anne Jelle Schilstra, the Netherlands
Paul Short, Canada

Jaakko Silpola, Finland
Ansis Snore, Latvia
Raimo Sopo, Finland
Nick van de Griendt, the Netherlands

Paused in support of Ukraine: A.K. Dergunov & B.N. Sokolov, Russia

Honorary membership nominations can be sent to the EB via the Secretariat at any time.

Secretariat and Staff

In 2024, the staff of the IPS Secretariat consisted of the Secretary General, Dipl.-Kfm. (FH) Susann Warnecke, working in Jyväskylä, Finland, and Scientific Officer Dr Örjan Berglund, who is located in Uppsala, Sweden.

At the end of the year, unfortunately, Dr Berglund announced the termination of his work as of 31 January 2025. Replacement will be sought if funding similar to the “Position Paper: Embracing Change” can be obtained.

Student workers supported IPS on-demand for the distribution of books and the office move in the spring.

The major tasks of the Secretariat include overall administration, management, and the organization of the EB, the SAB and other meetings, as well as conferences, communications, and finances. A change of title of the Secretary General, and thus possibly Secretariat, is envisaged for 2025.

The IPS Secretariat moved in April from its facilities at Nisulankatu to a new office at Suuruspäätie 11 C 9, 40520 Jyväskylä, due to the transformation of its old building to a supermarket.

Archives are held at Seppälä commercial area in a professional storage facility. The phone number and email remain the same.

The accounting is conducted electronically by TietoAkseli, together with the IPS staff. Jenni Kovanen, authorized public accountant at Saimaa Audit Oy, was appointed auditor by the Annual Assembly.



Besides attending all IPS meetings, the Secretary General participated in the excursion of the Finnish NC to Liesjärvi in May. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Finances and Funding

The income statement of the IPS shows a deficit of €19,638 for the financial year. Receivables amounted to €10,525 on 31 December. We hope that these will be paid in spring 2025. The NC fees for 2023 and 2024 of Indonesia and Ukraine, and a few smaller contributions, were removed as bad debts in December, without impact on membership.



During the Annual Assembly of the IPS: Hannu Salo, Üllar Püvi, Hannu Marttila, Bernd Hofer, Sakari Sarkkola, Elar Abram and Anna-Helena Purre.
Photo: Susann Warnecke

The deficit was mainly caused by a lack of industry fees compared to original expectations. Major additional income was achieved from IPC2024, and the first two thirds of the Growing Media 2050 project.

The EB proposes that the deficit shall be covered by previously accumulated funds until stability in the funding is reached via further negotiations.

The income from the MERLIN H2020 project is used gradually according to the work input of the Scientific Officer, and an administration overhead.

The total income of the IPS was €243,565, with expenditure amounting to €263,203. Assets and liabilities totalled €310,148 on 31 December.

The IPS is mainly financed by membership fees, of which the largest number are paid by corporate associations and NCs. In addition, the IPS collects a 15% commission when organizing major events, such as International Peatland Congresses. The income from IPC2024 amounted to €21,496. We warmly thank the organizers, especially Professors Meng Wang and Shengzhou Wang, for the extremely professional event.

Thanks to increased interest rates, the IPS was also able to accumulate interest from fixed-term investments, which totalled €2,962 by the end of the year. This will be continued in 2025 via short-term interest investment funds.

National Committees

At the end of the year, the IPS was represented locally by the following NC chairs and secretaries (the Russian NC was embargoed as of March 2022). The most up-to-date contact details are available at www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees.

Canada

Asha Hingorani, [asha \(at\) peatmoss.com](mailto:asha@peatmoss.com)
Shauna Wright, [cspma \(at\) peatmoss.com](mailto:cspma@peatmoss.com)

China

Dr Meng Wang, [wangm581 \(at\) nenu.edu.cn](mailto:wangm581@nenu.edu.cn)
Dr Shengzhong Wang, [szwang \(at\) nenu.edu.cn](mailto:szwang@nenu.edu.cn)

Estonia

Jüri Tiidermann, [jueri.tiidermann \(at\) asbgreenworld.com](mailto:jueri.tiidermann@asbgreenworld.com)
Kersti Rannamäe, [kersti \(at\) turbaliit.ee](mailto:kersti@turbaliit.ee)
Annika Päsik, [annika \(at\) turbaliit.ee](mailto:annika@turbaliit.ee) (MD)

Finland

Dr Markku Koskinen, [markku.koskinen \(at\) helsinki.fi](mailto:markku.koskinen@helsinki.fi)
Dr Sanna Piilo, [suoseura49 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:suoseura49@gmail.com)
Hannu Salo, [hannu.salo \(at\) bioenergia.fi](mailto:hannu.salo@bioenergia.fi) (industry)

Germany

Dr Andreas Bauerochse, [bauerochse \(at\) dgmtv.de](mailto:bauerochse@dgmtv.de)
Philip Testroet, [testroet \(at\) ivg.org](mailto:testroet@ivg.org) (IVG, industry)

Indonesia

Prof. Suwardi Suwardi, suwardi-soil (at) ipb.ac.id
Prof. Fahmuddin Agus,
fahmuddin_agus (at) yahoo.com
Prof. Budi Intra Setiawan, budindra (at) ipb.ac.id

Ireland

Dr Catherine O'Connell, cajohnfz (at) gmail.com
Pat Fitzgerald, patandclairefitzgerald (at) gmail.com

Latvia

Dr Ilze Ozola, ilze.ozola (at) epicentrs.lv
Karina Abolina-Zalpetere,
k.abolina-zalpetere (at) lvm.lv

Lithuania

Giedrius Kavaliauskas,
giedrius.kavaliauskas (at) klasmann-deilmann.com

Malaysia

Dr Lulie Melling, luliemelling (at) gmail.com
Frederick Haili Teck, fhreck (at) gmail.com
Sharon Yu Ling Lau, lauyuling (at) gmail.com
(Treasurer)

The Netherlands

Dr Guus van Berckel,
g.vanberckel (at) griendtsveen.de
Dr Ir. Jos Schouwenaars,
josschouwenaars (at) kpnmail.nl

Sweden

Dr Sabine Jordan, sabine.jordan (at) slu.se
Rita Larsson, rita.larsson (at) neova.se

Ukraine

Andrii Ozerchuk, uapeatsociety (at) gmail.com
Volodymyr Hnieushev, volod-g (at) ukr.net

United Kingdom

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

USA

Prof. Curtis Richardson, curtr12 (at) gmail.com
Sandra Neuzil, sneuzil.ips (at) gmail.com (until Feb 2025), Orion Blake, orion (at) flooded.farm (as of March 2025)

Additional NC and Commission reports are being published on the IPS website when available.

Outlook

Since the end of 2024, the activities of the IPS have continued mostly as normal. However, the significant reduction in budgeted and thus invoiced membership fees compared to the agreed Position Paper and Assembly interim budget has led to insecurity and, together with other reasons, a resignation of the Scientific Officer, which will put further pressure on the current staff, as well as on the voluntary Executive and SAB. In particular, participation in international conventions will be affected if no additional funding can be obtained.

As a minimum measurement, the IPS expects to increase NC and industry fees by 3% to compensate for inflation. The IPS will continue negotiations and try to propose additional funding to maintain and intensify convention work.

Rolling budgets will be used to balance income and expenses throughout the year. As agreed by EB in 2023, previously accumulated surpluses can be used to ensure IPS' activities in the case that the fee income is lower than originally budgeted.

Attachments

Member Statistics
Scientific Advisory Board Report
Commission & Expert Group Reports
National Committee Reports

Financial Report (signed separately)
Auditor's Statement

Approved by the EB on 26 March 2025, and to be approved by the Annual Assembly on 9 June 2025. Official version in Finnish. Signed by the EB and the auditor.

Susann Warnecke

Managing Director (Secretary General)
susann.warnecke (at) peatlands.org
+358 40 418 4075

Member Statistics

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Government al Institutes	NGOs	Honorary Members (NC+IPS)	Students	TOTAL
Indonesia	429		1					430
Germany	301	50	8	14		14	30	417
Finland (Suoseura+Ben)	207	19				9	18	253
The Netherlands	36	13	4			2	1	56
Malaysia	41	5					1	47
China	38		6					44
Ireland	33	2		1	3	2	2	43
Estonia		36				1		37
United Kingdom	22	4	1	1	1	2	6	37
Canada (CSPMA+CSP)	9	23				3	2	37
USA	22	2				3	1	28
Sweden	14	13						27
Latvia	13	5	1	1	2	2		24
Lithuania	2	20						22
Ukraine	10	3	1					14
1st January 2025	1177	195	22	17	6	38	61	1516
1st January 2024	1233	196	20	12	6	39	52	1558
1st January 2023	1233	190	11	9	6	32	61	1542
1st January 2022	1265	179	16	12	1	35	69	1577
1st January 2021	1346	201	12	10	1	41	65	1676

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	NGOs	Research Institutes, Universities	Government al Institutes	TOTAL
Norway	2	2	2			1		7
Denmark	1	2	1					4
Poland	2		1	1				4
Australia	4							4
Belgium	1	2						3
France	1	2						3
Hungary	2							2
Spain	2							2
Japan	2							2
Portugal			1					1
Bulgaria	1							1
Chile	1							1
Iceland	1							1
Italy	1							1
Peru	1							1
Rwanda		1						1
Singapore	1							1
1st January 2024	23	9	5	1	0	1	0	39
1st January 2024	19	9	7	1	0	1	0	37
1st January 2023	16	9	5	2	0	1	0	33
1st January 2022	16	8	2	4	0	1	0	31
1st January 2021	19	8	5	4	0	1	0	37

	Jan-25	Jan-24	Jan-23	Jan-22	Jan-21	Jan-20	Jan-19	Balance
NC members	1516	1558	1542	1577	1676	1711	1363	-42
Non-NC members	39	37	33	31	37	44	44	2
	1555	1595	1575	1608	1713	1755	1407	20

Russia and Belarus are embargoed in support for Ukraine.

Report of the Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the IPS underwent significant changes throughout the year 2024. The most substantial ones included the retirement of the Chair of the SAB, Prof. Jack Rieley, from active IPS work, and changes in the Chairs of the Peatlands and Economy and Peatlands and Society Commissions.

Dr Anna-Helena Purre was chosen as the new Chair of the SAB during the Annual Assembly in August 2024 in Taizhou, China. The SAB recognizes Jack for his great contribution in developing and managing the IPS and especially the SAB over the past years.

In addition to the change in the Chair of the SAB, Mr Philip Testroet was elected as Chair for the Peatlands and Economy Commission (replacing interim Chair Asha Hingorani) and Dr Kirsi Laurén as Chair of the Peatlands and Society Commission (replacing Dr Marie Kofod-Hansen). Bernd Hofer continues as Chair of the Peatlands and

Environment Commission. I wish all three chairs, including their Commissions and Expert Groups (EGs), strength and good cooperation. The full list of SAB and Expert Group members is available [here](#).

The new SAB had their first meeting with the Expert Groups on 1 October 2024, which 10 people attended. SAB plans and future activities were discussed, and an overview of the IPS projects (ongoing and applications) was provided. The next in-person meeting of the SAB (and possibly the Expert Groups) is planned to be in Gysinge in June 2025.

Throughout 2024, the SAB and the relevant Expert Groups have continued to support the Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of freshwater-related ecosystems in a Landscape context: INnovation, upscaling and transformation (**MERLIN**) project. Dr Örjan Berglund, by now the former Scientific Officer of the IPS, took part in the MERLIN All-Partner Meeting (26 February - 1 March 2024) in Vienna, Austria. IPS members attended several MERLIN meetings online, and SAB and peat extraction sector members also gave feedback to the project throughout the year by commenting on documents and participating in the third Sectorial Roundtable (June 2024; 24 participants).

Jack Rieley will continue to help IPS with the MERLIN project until the project finishes in 2026. Several MERLIN deliverables were prepared or finalized during 2024:

- Value Chain Analysis in Key Economic Sectors (09/2024; deliverable D4.4);
- Peatland infographic (currently in finalization);
- Peat Extraction Sector Strategy: Upscaling peatland restoration through nature-based solutions in the landscape (finalized 01/2025; deliverable D4.5).

As MERLIN is soon to be ending, IPS decided to participate in a joint application for the EU-funded project Demonstration of SUSTainable forest PEatland management pRACTices for biodiversity



IPS Vice Presidents Dr Ilze Ozola and Dr Anna-Helena Purre have experience in the challenges of peatland science. Photo: Susann Warnecke

conservation, carbon Production and climate resilience through a multi-stakeholder approach in key European pilot sites (**SUPERPEAT**). The application, with a total of 20 partners, was submitted in October 2024. The SUPERPEAT project will improve the carbon storage of peat soils, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and restore the ecological balance of peatlands through rewetting, forest restoration, and sustainable land management practices.

Chris Blok and others (2019) conducted their research about the **demand for growing media** at the request of the IPS over half a decade ago. The global picture has drastically changed during the past five years - COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine have led to food insecurity, but increasing pressure is simultaneously placed on the growing media industry to decrease its environmental impact while sustaining its quality and expanding availability. The production of several existing and new growing media (peat, coir, wood fibre, and bark, but also “new” possible types [acrotelm and Sphagnum moss, as well as plant fibres from grass species, new wood fibres, and biochars]) is essentially related to peatlands.

Considering all the previous points, the IPS initiated a renewal of the study on the demand for growing media (“The Growth of Growing Media Market by 2050: Demand and Availability of Raw Materials”), which is being conducted by scientists from Wageningen University (Van T.H. Nguyen, Tommaso Barbagli, Chris Blok, Zejia Zheng, and Francisco M. Duarte). The manuscript describing

the outcomes was submitted to a scientific journal in spring 2025.

The IPS SAB has provided its input and comments in 2024 to the European Union Commission Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (**LULUCF**) Regulation consultation in addition to responding to several smaller information and position requests.

The IPS and its SAB members, as well as its former Scientific Officer, have also been actively involved in conventions. In 2024, the main events were **Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)** meetings where online and in-person presences and inputs were provided.

IPS SAB members also attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) Conference of the Parties (**COP29**) online and gave an overview about the most important outcomes and peatland-related implications via Peatland Snippets 9.2024.

These conventions are closely related to peatlands through their focus on biodiversity and wetland habitats (Ramsar) and climate (UNFCCC).

The IPS SAB acknowledges the significant amount of work that peatland scientists have accomplished related to peatlands and their climate impact over the past decade, including the publishing of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Wetlands Supplement in 2013 and the mismatch between the peatland-related emission reporting



During one of the excursions of IPC2024 in China. Photo: Hannu Salo



Congress participants also visited several greenhouses. Photo: Hannu Salo

and actual emissions related to peatlands and peat-use.

The IPS approached the UNFCCC and IPCC in autumn 2024 to discuss the possibilities for improving the emission calculations and reporting approaches related to peat and peatlands. Planning for a possible meeting is currently ongoing for May 2025.

The Scientific Advisory Board has also initiated several IPS projects to develop and distribute fact-based information about peatlands and commit to the sustainable use of peat and peatlands.

The SAB initiated the global **data collection campaign** in autumn 2024. The data are collected to create related infographics and provide input for Peat Concept 2050+, which was again put into development in 2024. This is led by the Peatlands and Environment and Peatlands and Economy Commissions.

Peat Concept 2050+ addresses societal and environmental challenges by developing a comprehensive concept for achieving net-zero emissions within the peat industry by 2050 to support its future post-2050.

Additionally, SAB and Expert Group members have participated and represented the IPS in several peatland-related events globally. As a result of the 17th Peatland Congress in Taizhou, China (4-9 August 2024) the **Book of Abstracts** (edited by A.-H. Purre and M. Wang) was published online at the end of 2024.

The IPS **webinar series** was initiated, and regular webinars are now held online. The list of subjects presented in 2024 is provided below. As can be seen, these have analysed wide aspects of peatlands related to growing media, peatlands, and agriculture, as well as the IPS, peatland restoration, and peatland-related culture - thus covering topics from all three SAB Commissions.

28 August 2024: Alexander Sentinella

“Life cycle assessment of growing media”

23 September 2024: Jos Schouwenaars

“Reduction of GHG emissions on drained peatlands used for agriculture; an overview of national targets”

24 October 2024: Örjan Berglund

“IPS Research priorities and strategy”

26 November 2024: Méline Guêné-Nanchen

“Peatland restoration in Canada”

11 December 2024: Kirsi Laurén

“Cultural research of mires”

In conclusion, 2024 has been very active for the renewed Scientific Advisory Board of the IPS, with the initiation of several projects and plans (webinars and changes in peatland-related emission calculations, as well as SUPERPEAT and data collection) while continuing actively with previous activities (MERLIN, Peat Concept 2050+, convention work, and events).

Dr Anna-Helena Purre

Chair of SAB

anna-helena.purre (at) peatlands.org

Commission Reports

The Chairs of the three IPS Commissions form the Scientific Advisory Board, chaired traditionally by the Second Vice President of the IPS.

Peatlands and Environment

With the new Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board, a generational change has taken place at IPS. The Boards have not only become younger - the proportion of women has also increased significantly!

We also want to use this momentum in the Commission to continue working on our tasks and provide motivation.

Report on the activities and participation of the Commission Chair in 2024:

15 January - Workshop on IPS action plan and upcoming strategy for SAB and EGs
January - MERLIN Regional Scalability Plan (RSP) update: questions and answers parts I and II
30 January - MERLIN Peat Extraction Sector Strategy Meeting

13 February - EB meeting 139

7 March - Participation and presentation:

restoration of raised peat bogs and use of topsoil, 3N Bad Bederkesa, Germany

13 March - IVG online conference on peat extraction in Germany

21 March - IPS EB spring meeting

12 April - EB meeting, Helsinki: workshop on finances and presidency

15 April - MERLIN pre-meeting for third peat extraction roundtable

23 April - MERLIN peatland and wetland RSP feedback and further actions

24 May - IVG meeting on peat extraction in Germany

28 May - IPS EB meeting 141

5 June - Board meeting of the IPS German National Committee (DGMT), Meppen, Germany

6/7 June - Annual meeting of the DGMT, Meppen, Germany

19 June - IPS National Committee Roundtable 2024

4 August - IPS SAB and EB meeting, Taizhou

5-8 August - International Peatland Conference, Taizhou

8 August - General and Annual Assembly of the IPS, Taizhou

28 August - IPS-Growing Media Europe webinar: Life cycle assessment of growing media

12 September - Workshop on paludiculture, 3N Geeste, Germany



16/17 September - Committee of Experts meeting, RPP Tallinn, Estonia
 19/20 September 2022 - Peatlands and Ecosystem Functions - International Peatland Science Conference, Freiburg, Germany

1 October - IPS extended SAB meeting
 24 October - IPS research priorities and strategy webinar
 14 November - IPS EB meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark
 21 November - IVG Branchentag - Science Slam, Bad Zwischenahn, Germany
 26 November - IPS webinar: Peatland restoration in Canada

From the Expert Groups:

Biodiversity Expert Group (Lydia Cole)

A new collaboration between Prof. Mark Reed (Scotland's Rural College, SRUC), Dr Eric Jensen (Institute of Methods Innovation), Dr Lydia Cole (University of St Andrews), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)'s Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI) has launched an Evidence Synthesis Training Programme. With funding from the British Academy Talent Development

Award and GPI, the training will equip selected early career researchers from across the world with the skills to carry out rapid syntheses of evidence around particular questions of relevance for developing peatland-related policies and management plans. Published evidence syntheses and policy briefs will be available towards the end of 2026, and are likely to be accompanied by online launches of the briefings, which will be open to a range of audiences. (More updates to come soon!)

The Scottish Alliance for Geosciences, Environment and Society (SAGES) has launched a series of podcasts on different themes relating to the environment and climate change - the SAGES Climate Science Podcast - one of which features peatlands.

Restoration Expert Group (Pete Whittington)

- Annual Meeting 2024, Can-Peat
- Indigenous Engagement Plan
- Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG) and Can-Peat Peatland Symposium
- Metadata Repository and Upload Your Data Workshop
- Peatland Policy Workshop Intro



Scientific Officer Örjan Berglund attended the Ramsar STRP meeting in February 2024. Photo: Ramsar

In the current year, I hope that the EGs and the Commission will participate successfully in the ongoing projects and that there will be good participation in the IPS Annual Meetings, 9-12 June 2025 Gysinge, Sweden. Enjoy the week before bright midsummer in Sweden.

Bernd Hofer

Commission Chair
hofer (at) hofer-pautz.de



IPS members also attended the Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2024 in Birštonas, where an industry meeting was hosted by IPS. Photo: Hannu Salo

Peatlands and Economy

Introduction

The sustainable use and protection of peatlands are gaining global significance. The Peatlands and Economy Commission of the IPS focuses on the economic aspects of peatland areas and their sustainable management. Under the leadership of Philip Testroet, the Commission works on solutions to align economic interests with environmental and climate goals.

Objectives and Tasks of the Commission

The Commission researches and develops strategies to promote sustainable economic uses of peatlands. This includes:

- Assessing the economic impact of peatland conservation and rewetting measures
- Developing sustainable business models for peatland use, such as paludiculture
- Analysing political and legal frameworks to support sustainable economic practices
- Collaborating with businesses, policymakers, and academia to create innovative solutions for sustainable peatland use
- Encouraging dialogue between stakeholders to balance economic and ecological interests

Current Areas of Work

The Commission is actively engaged in the following projects:

- Collaboration with Bernd Hofer and the Peatlands and Environment Commission on the IPS Peat Concept 2050+
- Reviewing the MERLIN project, which focuses on peatland restoration and sustainable management

Why Join?

The Peatlands and Economy Commission is seeking dedicated professionals from science, industry, politics, and environmental organizations to contribute their expertise and ideas.

Participation offers:

- Access to an international network of leading experts in peatland use and conservation
- The opportunity to actively contribute to the development of sustainable strategies
- The ability to influence political and economic decisions regarding peatland landscapes
- Insights into current scientific findings and innovative economic models
- Participation in an online introductory meeting, where potential members can learn more about the Commission as well as discuss key topics and help shape future priorities

Who Can Participate?

We are looking for professionals from the following fields:

- Agricultural sciences and sustainable farming

- Business and finance with a focus on sustainable investments
- Ecology, climate research, and environmental sciences
- Political decision-making and legislation
- Companies interested in sustainable peatland use

Expert Group for Peatlands and Agriculture (Jos Schouwenaars)

In 2024 the EG finished its survey on national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets on peatlands under agricultural use. The outcomes were presented during the IPS Congress in Taizhou and published in Peatlands International. The results were shared and discussed in one of the monthly IPS webinars.

During the year a limited number of online meetings were realized. Martin Hvarregaard Thorsoe, Dept of Agroecology, Aarhus University, introduced us to Danish policies to protect soil carbon.

We have also contributed to the presentation of the Scientific Officer on research priorities for IPS. It is important that members of IPS EGs share knowledge and organize studies and surveys on specific topics of interest for IPS.

Strengthening cooperation with other organizations will increase the potential for such activities. Our EG has started initiatives to increase the participation of agricultural organizations in its work.

The Coordinator of the EG will end his role at the Annual Assembly in June 2025. We are looking for persons from science or practice in the field of agricultural use of peatlands who are interested in contributing to organizing the activities of the EG.

Contact and Participation

Interested individuals are warmly invited to get in touch with Philip Testroet or the IPS. Additionally, an online introductory meeting will be organized to provide insights into the Commission's work and define key areas of focus.

For further inquiries, you may also contact:

First Vice Chair: Guus van Berckel (interim)
g.vanberckel (at) griendtsveen.de

Second Vice Chair: Giedrius Kavaliauskas (interim)
giedrius.kavaliauskas (at) klasmann-deilmann.com

Third Vice Chair: Jos Schouwenaars
josschouwenaars (at) kpnmail.nl

Together, we can develop innovative solutions to sustainably manage and protect peatland landscapes.

We look forward to your participation!

Philip Testroet

Commission Chair
testroet (at) ivg.org



Peatlands and Society

This year was the 20th anniversary of the launch of this Commission in the IPS. From the beginning, the main challenge has been to attract human and social researchers and other experts specialized in peatlands to become active in the IPS, as the Society was initially focused on the ecological and economic aspects. Nevertheless, everyone understands that the Commission's theme of



Peatland tourism is one of the growing trends in the 2020s. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Peatland and Society is extremely important and central in planning for the future of peatlands - because people make the decisions on the use of nature. Thus, scientific presentations on this topic have been given at all IPS Congresses, including at the International Peatland Congress in Taizhou, China, 2024.

The relationship between humans and peatlands was also central to the World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2024, which focused on wetlands and human wellbeing.

The composition of the Commission changed radically at the end of 2024, when Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden, the long-serving First Chair, left her post. The Second Vice Chair Rachel Carmenta, England, also stepped down. We would like to thank Marie and Rachel warmly for all their work for the IPS!

At the end of the year, the role of First Chair was temporarily taken over by Kirsi Laurén, Finland, the former First Vice Chair of the Commission. She works at the University of Oulu, Finland, but is currently involved in an international project with the Finnish team (University of Eastern Finland) studying the Digital Aestheticization of Fragile Environments (DigiFREN; see: <https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/digital-aestheticization-of-fragile-environments-digifren/#information>).

[uef.fi/en/digital-aestheticization-of-fragile-environments-digifren/#information](https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/digital-aestheticization-of-fragile-environments-digifren/#information)).

The Peatlands and Society Commission has been a cooperation partner of this research group. Laurén gave a presentation on “Cultural research on mires” at the IPS webinar in December in which she also described their work.

During the year 2024 the Commission had three Expert Groups. The Peatlands and Education, Communication and Publicity, and Peatlands and Culture Expert Groups were chaired by Ilze Ozola, Latvia, and Peatland Conventions and International Affairs by Örjan Berglund, Sweden. The Peatlands and People, Health and Local Livelihoods Expert Group was unfortunately without a Coordinator.

The Commission is looking for a new Chair as of June 2025.

Kirsi Laurén

Commission Chair
kirsi.lauren (at) oulu.fi



National Committee Reports

Canada

The horticultural peat industry is small in terms of the total area of peatlands used in Canada. Indeed, the areas where the industry operates or has functioned in the past total 36,032 hectares (Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association [CSPMA], 2024), which represents 0.03% of the total peatland area in Canada. Compared to other peatland disturbances such as agriculture, mining, forestry, and hydroelectric reservoirs, the impact of the horticultural peat industry is significantly lesser, representing only approximately 1% of the country's disturbed peatland areas (UNEP, 2022).

Despite this small proportion, the horticultural peat industry has taken significant steps to restore and responsibly manage the peatlands it uses. To date, one third of the areas impacted by the industry have been restored or reclaimed, representing over 70% of post-extraction areas, demonstrating the industry's commitment to the sustainability and conservation of peatland ecosystems.

Collaborative Partnerships Research

Collaboration between the horticultural peat industry and academic research teams has been essential to the development of effective restoration methods and other best practices.

For over 30 years, the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA) has helped fund over \$20 million in research projects, in partnership with federal agencies such as the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). This is a considerable amount considering the size of the Canadian industry. The Peatland Ecology Research Group (PERG), led by Dr Line Rochefort of Université Laval, has played a key role in research and innovation in ecological peatland restoration.

As a result, the PERG research team has developed an incomparable and internationally recognized expertise in Peatlands biology and ecological restoration approaches, resulting in over 400 publications between 1992 and 2024.



Happy National Representatives, Board members, staff and observers after the Annual Assembly. Photo: Frida Pasanen

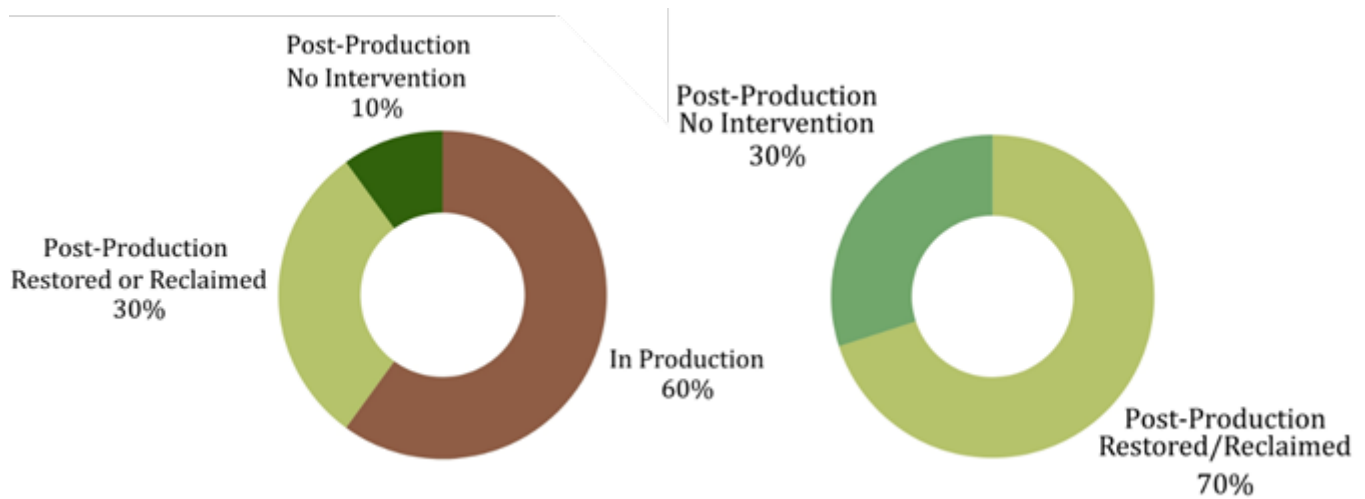


Figure 1. Breakdown of the Canadian horticultural peat industry's footprint in 2023, including production and post-production (left), and within post-production, the proportion of areas that have been restored or reclaimed compared to those that have not (right).

In 2025, the industry is funding three collaborative research programmes through NSERC programmes where every dollar invested by the private sector is matched by an equivalent amount from NSERC: NSERC Alliance Grant programme named “Nature-based solutions: Restoration of peatlands for biodiversity recovery and climate change mitigation” (2024-2029). Principal investigator: Dr Line Rochefort (Université Laval); co-investigators: Maria Strack (University of Waterloo, ON), Ian Strachan (Queen's University, ON) and Marc-André Bourgault (Université Laval, Québec).

NSERC Collaborative Research and Development programme entitled “Greenhouse gas emission factors from peat extraction, use and after use” (2019-2025). Principal investigator: Nigel Roulet (McGill University, Montréal, Quebec); co-investigators: Maria Strack (University of Waterloo, Ontario), David Olefeldt (University of Alberta) and Tim Moore (McGill University).

NSERC Alliance Grant programme entitled “Fen restoration and ecotone creation in Southeast Manitoba” (2021-2026). Principal investigator: Pete Whittington, (Brandon University, Manitoba); co-investigator: Maria Strack (University of Waterloo, Ontario).

In 2024, the industry also invested in the creation of the Partnership Research Chair in Ecosystem Restoration, led by Dr Line Rochefort, Professor at Université Laval's Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences. The five-year Chair has a mission to advance, through research and the training

of highly qualified personnel, the science and practice of ecological restoration of disturbed environments to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, re-establish an ecologically sound relationship between nature and culture, and transfer this knowledge to stakeholder communities.

“Today, the peat industry's partners are investing in the adventure of a new partnership Chair in ecosystem restoration, to advance the Canadian agenda in the restoration of degraded peatland ecosystems, and in the next generation of young researchers”. Dr Line Rochefort

From a communications standpoint, in 2024, CSPMA released a series of videos, each presenting a different aspect of the Canadian



Dr. Line Rochefort speaks on the importance of industry-academic collaboration at Université Laval. Photo: CSPMA



The Alliance grant from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) promotes a partnership between the Canadian peat industry (CSPMA and its members), Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC), the Government of Manitoba, the Université Laval, the University of Waterloo and Queen's University. Photo: CSPMA

horticultural peat industry. The videos cover “Canadian Horticultural Peat 101”, “Responsible Production”, “Ecological Restoration”, and “Scientific Research”.

Canada’s horticultural peat industry has demonstrated a strong commitment to responsible peatland management through decades of collaborative research and the implementation of best practices. Restoration methods developed in partnership with PERG have effectively restored the ecological functions of peatlands, and national initiatives aim to reduce the industry’s footprint.

In addition to research, the industry is involved and working directly with provincial and federal government departments, where regulations are developed and applied, and with the federal government, which is responsible for the national GHG inventory. The latest national GHG report for Canada includes an updated emissions factor (EF) for the sector, based on the research mentioned above, and estimates total emissions from the horticultural peat industry at approximately 1.6 MT of CO₂ equivalent annually (vs 2.2 MT in 2022 according to calculation with the previous EF).

By continuing to collaborate with academic researchers and innovate in its practices, the Canadian horticultural peat industry is committed to a sustainable future and the conservation of peatland ecosystems to ensure peat remains ideal for growing, for generations to come.

Estonia

Estonia’s peat industry holds significant importance in the national economy and in managing natural resources. The country’s peat reserves are estimated at 2.37 billion tonnes, with 0.6 million tonnes classified as passive deposits and 1.8 billion tonnes as active, or usable, deposits - representing over 0.4% of the world’s peat reserves.

Of the active deposits, 573 million tonnes have been designated for industrial extraction. There are currently 128 operating peat extraction sites in Estonia with a licensed area of approximately 21,300 hectares. At the moment, peat extraction continues at the same rates as in previous years. Compared to 2023, the share of substrates (growing media mixture) has increased by one third in 2024.

In terms of state politics, 2024 has seen a strong focus on climate policies, leading to heightened scrutiny of Estonian peat production. Several measures have been implemented to regulate peat areas suitable for extraction, with a particular emphasis on formulating the Estonian climate politics, also known as the climate-resilient economy law. However, at the end of 2024, parliament decided to withdraw the bill. The process is currently on hold for an unknown period of time.

Since regaining independence in 1991, Estonia has declared the restoration of its first peat extraction area of ca. 250 hectares (more than 1% of areas covered with mining permits) by the end of 2024. The whole process took approximately five to seven years, including the preparation of works and documentation and obtaining the necessary national approvals.

With regard to greenhouse emissions, Estonia continues to account for direct emissions resulting from horticultural peat extraction, classifying it as peat utilized for energy production. However, following the introduction of specified peat carbon content figures in the previous spring, there has been a 22.4% reduction in the greenhouse gas emission factor. A two-year study on implementing circular economy principles in the use of horticultural peat products and reducing

associated greenhouse gas emissions in the LULUCF sector was finalized at the end of 2024.

The aim was to measure actual emissions from the usage of horticultural peat. During the research, the changes in carbon content, biomass production, and greenhouse gas emissions associated with the utilization of horticultural peat, both in the laboratory and among substrate users, were measured. The investigation concluded that, compared to the IPCC default value of 60%, the actual carbon content of horticultural peat in Estonia is significantly lower at 47.4%. Consequently, in most countries, the emissions related to the utilization of horticultural peat are estimated to be higher than they are theoretically possible.

The decomposition experiments on the peat substrate demonstrated that during the average period of use (one year), there is a 2% loss of the original organic carbon content of the substrate peat. This indicates that the carbon loss in the form of greenhouse gases during direct usage of horticultural peat is modest, with almost all of the carbon loss occurring as carbon dioxide. The study concluded that approximately 98% of the carbon originally contained in peat moves to the soil during after-use.

In Estonia, the peat reaches the soil through various means: via the roots of the planted culture (approximately 31%), or composting (approximately 6%), direct transfer from the greenhouse to the field (approximately 12%), or to the open-air garden soil (approximately 48%), and during afforestation with tree seedlings (approximately 3%). It is estimated that only 0.15% of used horticultural peat ends up in municipal waste in Estonia. Over a hundred years, it can be estimated that approximately 30% of the carbon contained in peat does not decompose and remains stable in the soil.

Finland

The year 2024 marked the society's 75th year of operation. The jubilee year was

celebrated at the 5th Suopäivä - National Peatland Day symposium on 5 April at the House of Science and Letters in Helsinki.

A spring excursion was organized on 8 May in collaboration with the Forest Biology Club, focusing on the diversity of forested peatlands in southern Finland. The regular activities, including the spring and autumn meetings and seminars, were conducted online.

The 75th volume of the journal *Suo - Mires and Peat* was published. The IPS Annual Assembly was held on 8 August in Taizhou, China, where Sakari Sarkkola represented the Finnish Peatland Society, and Päivi Peronius was elected as a new IPS Executive Board member.

Meetings and Seminars

The fifth Peatland Day was held on 5 April in Helsinki at the House of Science and Letters, focusing on the needs of peatland research in a crisis-ridden world. The seminar featured three invited oral presentations by Professor Raija Laiho, Professor Annamari Laurén, and Santtu Kareksela, over 25 contributed oral presentations, more than a dozen posters, and an excellent performance of key violin music by folk musician Emilia Lajunen. The seminar was attended by over 110 participants. Peatland Day was funded by the Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation.

The statutory Spring Annual Meeting was held remotely on 25 April 2024. The Spring Seminar followed immediately after the Annual Meeting



The spring excursion brought participants to the forested peatlands near Liesjärvi, which are being rewetted. Photo: Susann Warnecke

with 17 participants. The theme of the seminar was “Exploring Peatlands and Their Recreational Use”. Guest speakers included Marjo Neuvonen from the Natural Resources Institute Finland, who discussed the recreational and health benefits of nearby nature, and journalist and author Päivi Mattila, who shared her experiences and the process of writing the book *Retki suolle*. Jarmo Honkanen and Petra Tammisto from the City of Vantaa gave a presentation on the planning of Vantaa’s outdoor routes, peatlands, and nature excursions to these. Additionally, Tiina Seppä from the University of Eastern Finland introduced the DigiFREN project, which investigates peatlands and people’s relationship with them through interviews and social media.

In 2024, a spring excursion was organized on 8 May 2024, in collaboration with the Forest Biology Club. The excursion focused on the diverse values and functions of forested peatlands and took place in Liesjärvi National Park and its vicinity, including Soukonkorpi, Rottasniitunsuo, Lettosuo, and Tervalammisuo. Discussions in the field covered topics such as peatland biodiversity, restoration, and functionality, with expert presentations throughout the day.

The statutory Autumn Annual Meeting was held remotely on 4 December with 20 members in attendance. The Autumn Seminar followed online after the Annual Meeting, with 35 participants.

The seminar focused on the themes of wetland cultivation and Sphagnum moss harvesting. Invited speakers included Maija Lampela, Jani Anttila, Tanja Myllyviita, and Niko Silvan, who presented the “RahKoo - Climate-smart Growing Medium from Sphagnum Moss” project. Kristiina Lång discussed “Peatland Fields in the Green Transition - Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Biomass Production”, and Sakari Sarkkola introduced “PaluWise - A New International EU Research Project on Wetland Cultivation”.

The Society also actively participated in topical public discussions and in stakeholder cooperation related to the use of peatlands.

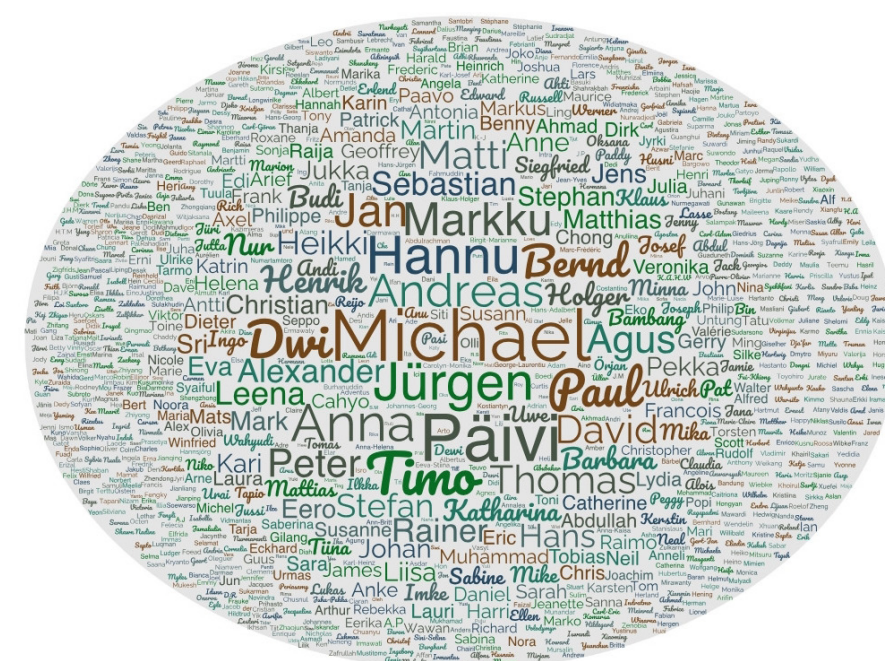
Germany

In 2024, the DGMT once again provided a platform for dialogue and discussion about peat and peatlands. Many events took place. Some of them were jointly organized in cooperation with other institutions and organizations, reflecting the broad range of topics:

The regular series of seminars and excursions on “Peatlands and Peat” in Zeven as a training course for laypeople, employees from peat industry, administrations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and students took place on 19 and 20 April. The seminar was extended for the first time with the topic of “Peatland Archaeology”.

This addition, which met with great interest, was aimed at sensitizing the participants, most of whom come from the fields of nature conservation and rewetting, to the importance of the peatlands as an archaeological archive. Many thanks to Gerfried Caspers, Joachim Blankenburg, Mirjam Briel, and Eckhard Schmatzler.

The annual DGMT Conference took place from 2 to 4 June in the Emsland Moormuseum in Groß Hesepe on the invitation of Dr Michael Haverkamp, director of the Moormuseum.



Finnish and German members are well represented in the IPS as you see from the word cloud of most popular first names. Graphics via wordcloud.com

The programme, which was attended by over 150 participants, comprised 40 lectures and 20 poster presentations, as well as various half-day excursions and a day excursion to the coastal peatlands of northwestern Germany. We express to all organizers from the Moormuseum and DGMT our greatest appreciation.

An essential part of the annual conference was the General Assembly with the election of Klaus Kraatz as the new treasurer, as well as the appointment of section leaders and members to the Advisory Board.

For the Society, the honours and the awarding of the sponsorship prize at the Assembly were a special highlight in 2024. With the award of the C.A. Weber Medal to Prof. Dr Vera Luthardt, the society honoured her decades of commitment to peatland ecosystem research, student education in the field of peatland science, and peatland protection.

Dr Volkmar Rowinsky was awarded honorary membership in recognition of his many years of commitment as first editor of the TELMA. For his scientific achievement in the field of peat and peatlands, Lennard Heidberg was honoured with the sponsorship award, endowed with €1000, for his master's thesis entitled "Landscape System Analysis of the Bog Grundloses Moor in Northwest Germany - History and Present of the Bog as a Basis for Its Rewetting".

Together with the German Soil Science Society (DBG), a joint workshop on addressing peat and other organic soils with the help of the new mapping instruction KA 6 took place in Wagenfeld, 3 and 4 September.

In 2005, the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) Ornithology Group Großdittmannsdorf and the DGMT jointly organized a conference on peatlands. From 20 to 22 September 2024, the impressive results



Steffi Lemke, German Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (2021-25) was one of the speakers at UNFCCC COP29 in Baku in November which IPS attended online. Photo: UNFCCC

of many years of work were presented at the conference on the "Documentation, protection and rewetting of forest mires in the Radeburg-Laußnitzer Heide, Saxony", which was well attended by 73 participants.

In cooperation with the Pfrunger-Burgweiler Ried Foundation, Wilhelmsdorf, and the Swabian Heritage Association, Stuttgart, a three-day symposium on practical issues relating to the planning and implementation of projects and measures for the rewetting of drained peatlands was held 7 to 9 November 2024, in Wilhelmsdorf, in the Ravensburg district.

The Pfrunger-Burgweiler Ried, with approximately 2,600 hectares of peatlands, is the second-largest wetland in southwest Germany. In this wetland area, which consists of several interconnected peatlands, one of the most successful large-scale nature conservation projects of the federal government has been conducted.

The aim of the conference was to share experiences from projects that have been successfully implemented with approximately 150 participants and to derive professional standards from them. In addition, bottlenecks in implementation in the areas of project management, availability of land, financing and public relations, and possible solutions were discussed.

From 7 to 10 November 2024 the established Sphagnum moss identification course in cooperation with MoorInformationsZentrum Ahlenmoor took place.

Under the motto “Perspectives for peatland protection in Lower Saxony: small measures - big impact”, the Annual Symposium with an interdisciplinary exchange of experiences in cooperation with the Alfred Toepfer Academy for Nature Conservation (NNA) of Lower Saxony took place in Camp Reinsehlen on 3 December 2024.

Many members of the DGMT have been involved in various working groups on the subject of peatlands and peat at local, regional, national, and international levels and contributed with their expertise to various discussions.

In addition to the events, a brochure on the topic of “Cultural Heritage and Nature Conservation in Peatlands” was produced in cooperation with the Schleswig-Holstein Archaeological State Office and the Lower Saxony State Service for Cultural Heritage.

TELMA 54, our national yearly published journal with articles and reports relating to peat and peatlands, can be ordered at <https://www.dgmtv.de> or can be found online at <https://e-docs.geo-leo.de/handle/11858/6421>.

Ireland

The principal activity in the year under review was the road trip event that took place on the

8 and 9 October, which was based on the theme of agriculture. Forty members participated in a two-day programme. They visited five peatland sites where innovative work and research is being undertaken to develop farming techniques that help contribute to protecting soil carbon, enhancing wetland habitat quality, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The sites visited were located in counties Offaly and Tipperary in the midlands of Ireland.

The focus on peatlands and agriculture was chosen because of an ambition of the Common Agricultural Policy to create coherence between agricultural and climate policies. Carbon sinks such as peat soils are a target for action in reaching climate neutrality by 2050. It is estimated that up to 335,000 ha of organic peat soils are being farmed in Ireland with emissions in the region of 8-9 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent annually. The usage of peatlands in farming requires drainage.

The negative consequences are the release of stored carbon, a reduction in water quality, and land subsidence. The peatland road trip sought to learn how greenhouse gas emissions are being measured from agricultural peatlands and what wise use management strategies are currently being developed to achieve low-emission goals with benefits to farmers, as well as the economy, society, and the environment.

The Irish Peatland Society (IrPS) is grateful to the sponsors of the Peatland Road Trip 2024 - Bord na Móna, National Parks and Wildlife Service (through the Tóchar Wetlands Restoration Scheme), and RPS and also acknowledge the presenters at

each site and thank them for their lively and informative presentations and hospitality.

Having attended a number of IPS Executive Board meetings during the year, Donal Clarke stepped down from his long-serving role on the Executive Board of the IPS after an uninterrupted spell of 22 years and was deservedly conferred with honorary membership of that organization for his outstanding service to it during that time. He co-authored the



New IPS honorary members Jack Rieley and Donal Clarke have done tremendous work on behalf of the IPS for decades. Photo: Susann Warnecke

seminal “Wise Use of Peat and Peatlands” with Hans Joosten, served as Vice-President when he oversaw the organization of the 13th International Peat Congress held in Ireland in 2008, and served as President of the IPS for the following four years until 2012. Since then, he has collaborated with Professor Jack Rieley on a number of important publications for the IPS, in particular the Strategy for Responsible Use of Peatlands published in 2019.

At the quadrennial International Peatland Congress held in Taizhou (China), Paddy Rowland was elected to the Executive Board of the IPS for a term of four years.

The IrPS also supported the “Allan Robertson Grants for students and young professionals” by way of a donation of €500 and is also pleased to report that a number of new members joined during the year.

Latvia

The Latvian National Committee of the IPS (LNKB) has played an active role in the development of the peat industry in Latvia in 2024. The organization has been involved in policy discussions, sustainability initiatives, scientific research collaborations, and public outreach efforts to promote responsible peatland management and industry growth.

LNKB continues to expand its membership, having welcomed new members such as SIA “Līvānu kūdras fabrika” and SIA “Rīgas meži”.

During the Annual Meeting in February 2025 members decided to change the name of the organization to the Latvian National Peatlands Society (LNPS) to better reflect its expanding membership and broader engagement in peatland-related topics beyond peat extraction. The decision to rename the organization also helps distinguish the LNPS from the Latvian Peat Association and aligns with its mission to include a diverse range of peatland stakeholders.

The LNPS now includes peatland owners, foresters, scientists, scientific institutions, and aims to incorporate other peatland-related stakeholders such as farmers, berry growers, flower and



Latvian NC Chair and First Vice President Ilze Ozola with previous IPS President Gerald Schmilewski and Bernd Hofer in Taizhou. Photo: Susann Warnecke

seedling growers, research institutions, and others involved in peatland management.

Key Activities in 2024

Strengthening Sustainability Efforts

- Started work on a memorandum on sustainable business in the peat industry with the Latvian Peat Association and Latvian Corporate Social Responsibility Platform (CSR Latvia).
- Engaged in discussions with the NGO “Zaļā Brīvība” regarding peatland restoration and its impact on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Organized sustainability seminars for peatland owners and peat producers.
- Contributed to EU policy discussions on carbon trading and climate policy.
- Participated in the CASSINI Hackathon to explore satellite data applications for peatland monitoring.

Collaboration with Research and Education Institutions

- Established collaborations with Riga Technical University (RTU), Latvia University of Life

Sciences and Technologies (LBTU), and the University of Latvia.

- Hosted lectures for Erasmus programme students and participated in the annual “Science Night” event.
- Conducted a survey with the Market and Opinion Research Centre (SKDS) on public opinion regarding peat extraction in Latvia, published in Dienas Bizness.
- Organized peatland restoration study trips.

Education, Communication, and Stakeholder Engagement

- Expanded its digital presence with the launch of LNKB’s LinkedIn page and website www.peatociety.lv.
- Organized “Peat Days” across Latvia, including exhibitions on peat sculptures and sustainability-focused discussions.
- Participated in “Forest Days” in collaboration with Latvia’s State Forests (LVM) and the Latvian Peat Association.
- Conducted guided bog tours for school students to educate them on post-extraction peatland ecology.



The 18th International Peatland Congress will be held in Riga in June 2028. Photo: Christine Kozak

International Engagement and IPS Activities

- LNKB played a key role in IPS governance, with Ilze Ozola appointed as the First Vice President of IPS.
- Engaged in IPS Board meetings and different discussions.
- Represented Latvia at the International Peatland Congress in China.
- Started to organize the IPS International Peatland Congress in Riga in 2028.

Plans for 2025

LNKB aims to further strengthen its role as a key advocate for sustainable peatland management. The focus areas include:

- Implementing the sustainability memorandum and promoting best practices for peatland restoration.
- Strengthening policy advocacy efforts in collaboration with national and EU decision-makers.
- Expanding scientific collaborations with universities and research centres.
- Organizing more public education initiatives, including expanded “Peat Days” events.
- Hosting IPS Executive Board meeting in Riga in March 2025.
- Organizing international study trips to Ireland and Estonia to explore sustainable peatland management practices.
- Participating in the IPS Annual Conference in Sweden (June 2025).
- Continuing engagement with IPCC and UNFCCC to improve peatland emissions reporting methodologies.
- Continuing to organize the IPS International Peatland Congress in Riga in 2028.
- Renaming the Latvian National Peat Society to the Latvian National Peatland Society (done).

To summarize, in 2024, LNKB significantly strengthened its position both in Latvia and internationally. Through active engagement in sustainability initiatives, in addition to public outreach and policy advocacy, LNKB continues to drive responsible peatland management. The planned activities for 2025 will further enhance the organization’s influence in shaping the future of the peat industry in Latvia and beyond.

Lithuania

The year 2024 was significant for the Association of Growing Media Producers (ATGA). Throughout the year, the association actively worked on strategic changes, implemented sustainability principles, organized key events, and strengthened communication, as well as expanding cooperation with regulatory institutions and international organizations.

One of the most important changes of the year was the renaming of the association to better reflect its field of activity - from the "Peat Producers Association" to the "Association of Growing Media Producers". This decision was made to more accurately represent the association's activities and communication strategy.

Important measures were implemented to improve communication: the official website atga.lt was updated, participation in social media was strengthened, and closer cooperation with governmental institutions was established.

Additionally, a comprehensive communication plan was developed to facilitate smoother resolution of issues related to the growing media industry. Sustainability strategy became one of ATGA's top priorities. The association developed and implemented strategic documents defining clear environmental, social, and governance principles. Peatland reclamation initiatives were strengthened to reduce emissions and ensure sustainable resource use.

ATGA actively participated in international climate change projects, encouraging member engagement and the responsible development of the peat sector. Notably, ATGA is one of the first associations in Lithuania to implement and officially certify a sustainability strategy that meets European Sustainability Reporting Standards.

It is also important to highlight that in recent years, ATGA

member companies have completely phased out the usage of peat as fuel, further reinforcing their commitment to sustainable and responsible practices.

The 2024 peat extraction season was stable, although mid-season concerns arose regarding the achievement of annual targets. Of the total peat extraction areas in Lithuania, covering approximately 13,500 hectares, 2.8 million cubic metres of raw peat material were extracted. The total export volume reached approximately 900,000 tons, with the main export markets being the Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Italy, and Spain.

The majority of imported peat came from Latvia. These figures indicate that the sector remains competitive and adaptable to change.

The Baltic Peat Producers Forum (BPPF), held on 19 September 2024 in Birštonas, attracted over 270 participants from various countries. Discussions at the forum focused on responsible peat use, as well as trade trends and the future prospects of the industry. The event served as a platform for discussing the latest innovations and sustainability practices.

Key messages delivered at the BPPF event:

- The demand for growing media is expected to increase by more than 400% by 2050, driven by population growth, as well as rising incomes and the increasing demand for vegetables



Although alternatives are being developed and used, peat is still the most important growing medium for commercial plants. Photo: Anna Jakutajc

and ornamental plants. To conserve peat - the primary component of growing media - it is essential to find large-scale renewable material alternatives that ensure continuous growing media production.

- Closer and more effective cooperation between growing media manufacturers and growers is crucial for sustainable and uninterrupted activity. Transparency is essential in discussions with NGOs and legislators (at both EU and national levels) - all claims must be backed by scientific research and factual data.
- Growing media producers must embrace sustainability and take immediate action. Now is the time to analyse the current situation to identify gaps and develop a strategy to reduce emissions and improve efficiency through advanced technologies and artificial intelligence.
- Peatland reclamation can help reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, but there is no universal solution for all managed peatlands. A combination of measures is necessary to achieve an optimal balance between emission reduction and risk management.
- The Baltic peat industry plays a significant role in the global market, particularly in agriculture, which relies on substrates with limited alternatives. The industry contributes significantly to regional and national economies through taxation, job creation, and competitive wages. Peat for growing media

production is extracted from only 0.05% of peatlands worldwide, and maintaining this activity depends on adhering to principles of transparency, responsibility, and sustainability.

The overall assessment of 2024 indicates that ATGA continues to strengthen its position in the sector. Achievements in communication, sustainability, innovation, and exports open new opportunities for future strategies.

In 2025, ATGA plans to further enhance partnerships with international organizations and initiate new research projects to ensure the sustainable and competitive development of the industry.

Malaysia

To highlight the critical role of tropical peatlands, the Malaysian Peat Society (MPS), in collaboration with the Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute (TROPI), launched several significant initiatives in 2024. These projects aimed to elevate awareness, foster appreciation, and facilitate discussions on the crucial function of tropical peatlands in environmental sustainability.

A standout event was the International Sago Symposium 2024, conducted from 23 to 26 September. This symposium, co-organized with Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) and the Society of Sago Palm Studies (SSPS), included partnerships with Nagoya University, Pelita Holdings, Craun Research, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), and i-CATS University College.

It gained additional support from prominent international entities such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Sarawak Convention Bureau (SCB). Themed around “Unlocking the Potential of Sago Palm: Towards Sustainable Food Systems and Environmental



The official launching of the 15th International Sago Symposium 2024.
Photo: Sarawak TROPI

Restoration”, the symposium provided a vibrant forum for exploring the sago palm’s nutritional value and its role in food security and potential for ecological restoration.

The sago palm emerges as a pivotal player in sustainable development, as a robust crop that not only offers nourishment but also flourishes in tropical peatlands, thereby aiding environmental preservation. The symposium united experts, researchers, and advocates, sparking innovative ideas on leveraging the sago palm for a more sustainable future.

Another noteworthy initiative was the Living Labs for Wetland Research (LiWeFor) seminar on 15 October 2024. Organized by TROPi and the University of Tartu, Estonia, and supported by MPS, this seminar attracted over 150 participants. It aimed to enhance and extend the global network of Living Labs, focusing on wetland forest research, education, and management. The seminar featured 15 presentations by postgraduate students and researchers, promoting dynamic discussions and the exchange of knowledge. A subsequent two-week field campaign in Maludam National Park and surrounding oil palm plantations in Betong and Sibul, Sarawak, provided practical insights into these discussions.

In addition to hosting influential events, the MPS enabled its members to present their research

at major international conferences, contributing significantly to the global scientific discourse on peatlands. Members attended the 17th International Peatland Congress in Taizhou, China, the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, the Centennial Celebration and Congress of the International Union of Soil Sciences in Rome, Italy, and the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting in Washington, DC. These conferences were not only platforms for presenting research but also opportunities for forging collaborations, broadening views, and deepening peatland studies expertise.

As we tackle the complexities of climate change, these initiatives underscore the importance of protecting our vital natural ecosystems. By championing the conservation and sustainable management of tropical peatlands, we are committing to a healthier, more resilient planet for future generations.

The Netherlands

In 2024, the Dutch IPS National Committee continued to establish close relations with other national organizations related to soil science and land use, like the Dutch Soil Science Society and the Network Land and Water. Unfortunately, we did not succeed in organizing events, but in 2025 this will result in new joint activities related to the



The participants posed for a group photo at the LiWeFor Seminar 2024. Photo: Sarawak TROPi

management of peatlands and nature restoration. In addition, the Board has made a “reset” of the organization. Membership administration was brought up to date and some financial issues were tackled successfully. Therefore, it was important to strengthen the contacts with members from the industrial sector to guarantee their commitment and IPS membership for the future.

Guus van Berckel, our Chairman, has been re-elected as member of the Executive Board. Jos Schouwenaars, our Secretary and Coordinator of the Peatlands and Agriculture Expert Group, has attended meetings of the extended Scientific Advisory Board.

Two of our Board members have participated in the publication “Reduction of GHG emissions on drained peatlands used for agriculture; an overview of national targets”, published in Peatlands International.

Our Chairman also participated in the IPS Congress 2024 in Taizhou. At the end of 2024, we had seven corporate and 35 individual members.

Sweden

During 2024, the Swedish Peat Research Foundation (TorvForsk) conducted intensive work to disseminate knowledge about peatlands and their importance for climate and environment. We focused in particular on greenhouse gas fluxes, peat characteristics, and the rewetting of drained peatlands. Through active participation in the media and various professional forums, we have contributed to raising public and policymakers’ awareness of the importance of our natural, managed, and restored peatlands.

TorvForsk announced Congress scholarships for participation in the 17th International Peatland Congress in Taizhou, China. The scholarship of 10,000 SEK was awarded to Antonia Hartmann, PhD student at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umeå, who presented a poster titled “On the effect of soil compaction by vehicular traffic on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cultivated peat soils under different moisture regimes” and a talk on “The role of plant phenology on the boreal C cycle in peatlands”. Abstracts from both presentations

have been published in the Congress Book of Abstracts. Planning has started for the IPS annual convention on “Peatlands for Environment, Economy and Society”, which will be held in Sweden in June 2025.

USA

The US National Committee (USNC) Member Meeting was held on 11 December 2024 attended by eight of 28 current members.

The USNC discussed several options to raise membership and operational funds. To help raise awareness of US-IPS, the committee is considering an American-sponsored symposium on peatlands in North and South America. A planning session for this meeting will be held in the spring of 2025.

The USNC is also planning to contact the Canadian IPS group to further investigate how peat retail sellers can benefit from IPS and in turn contribute to IPS financial goals. A new Secretary, Orion Russell Blake, was appointed in December, replacing Sandra Neuzil, who retired from the position.

Orion comes to the USNC-IPS with a background as a paludiculture entrepreneur in New York’s Hudson Valley where he has been trialling cold-hardy Asian rice varieties as a staple crop that can be transitioned to by conventional peatland farmers in his hometown that will allow for catchment-scaled rewetting. He hopes to establish a paludiculture hub that will explore more crops such as Typha and Sphagnum moss in time.

For further reports, please visit www.peatlands.org or contact the Chairs of the Commissions and National Committees directly.

Welcome to Gysinge in Sweden for the Annual Convention 2025!

Cover: Chinese "peatland dragon" by AI/SW.

International Peatland Society

Business ID: 1074181-4

**Financial statement in accordance with the Accounting Ordinance for
small- and micro-sized enterprises
between 01.01.2024 - 31.12.2024**

This financial statements must be archived until 31.12.2034

Financial statement 01.01.2024 - 31.12.2024

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The financial statements has to be stored for at least 10 years after financial year.

Financial year's bookkeeping material has to be stored at least 6 years, beginning from the end of the year, when financial year has ended.

The financial statements prepared by:
TietoAkseli Ltd, authorized accounting firm
info@tietoakseli.fi

Address: Suuruspääntie 11 C 9, 40520 JYVÄSKYLÄ Business ID: 1074181-4
Domicile: Jyväskylä

1074181-4

Balance sheet

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT-ASSETS		
Tangible assets		
Machinery and equipment	214,44	285,92
Tangible assets in total	214,44	285,92
NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	214,44	285,92
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables		
Short term		
Trade debtors	9 622,69	17 673,00
Other receivables	751,67	399,37
Prepayments and accrued income	150,64	1 946,13
Short-term receivables in total	10 525,00	20 018,50
Total receivables	10 525,00	20 018,50
Investments		
Other investments	0,00	150 000,00
Investments in total	0,00	150 000,00
Cash in hand and at banks	299 408,64	146 676,73
CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	309 933,64	316 695,23
ASSETS IN TOTAL	310 148,08	316 981,15

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	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
LIABILITIES		
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Retained earnings	273 986,08	289 323,91
Surplus (-deficits) for the financial year	-19 637,80	-15 337,83
CAPITAL AND RESERVES TOTAL	254 348,28	273 986,08
CREDITORS		
Short term		
Accounts Payables	23 908,46	4 982,00
Other creditors	18 415,67	20 590,16
Accruals and deferred income	13 475,67	17 422,91
Short term creditors total	55 799,80	42 995,07
Creditors in total	55 799,80	42 995,07
LIABILITIES IN TOTAL	310 148,08	316 981,15

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Income statement

	01.01.2024 - 31.12.2024	01.01.2023 - 31.12.2023
ACTUAL OPERATION		
PUBLISHING		
Income	14 472,21	5 553,51
Expenses	-15 312,33	-11 066,18
PUBLISHING TOTAL	-840,12	-5 512,67
CONFERENCES		
Income	21 496,45	4 817,31
Expenses	-96,24	-624,30
CONFERENCES TOTAL	21 400,21	4 193,01
PROJECTS		
Income	48 008,26	6 947,23
Expenses	-38 373,65	-2 497,55
PROJECTS TOTAL	9 634,61	4 449,68
OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION		
Income		
Income	3 721,10	3 160,00
Expenses		
Wages and salaries	-110 085,56	-102 352,95
Pensions	-12 780,19	-13 795,41
Other insurances required by law	-9 667,84	-7 590,30
Depreciations	-71,48	-95,30
Other expenses	-67 966,21	-67 715,57
OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL	-196 850,18	-188 389,53
ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL	-166 655,48	-185 259,51
SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT	-166 655,48	-185 259,51
MEMBERSHIP FEES		
Income	152 904,50	171 893,00
Expenses	-8 849,00	-3 282,00
MEMBERSHIP FEES TOTAL	144 055,50	168 611,00
SURPLUS-/TRADING DEFICIT	-22 599,98	-16 648,51
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Income	2 962,18	1 310,68
Expenses	0,00	0,00
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY TOTAL	2 962,18	1 310,68
SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT	-19 637,80	-15 337,83
SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	-19 637,80	-15 337,83

Income Statement & Budget 2024

INCOME STATEMENT	Realised 2024	Budget 2024	Realised 2023	Realised 2022
Status May 2024, approved by AA 8 August 2024				
	status 11 February, Merlin included in several accounts, WUR third rate moved to 2025	with final industry fees, rent, PA project etc.; position paper increase not successful		
INCOME				
Membership fees				
Membership fees total	152,905 €	156,159 €	171,893 €	148,772 €
Publishing				
Sales of magazines	60 €	60 €	59 €	59 €
Advertisement income	4,380 €	4,200 €	4,232 €	4,022 €
Sales of publications	9,496 €	7,000 €	1,066 €	2,007 €
Other publication income	536 €	92 €	196 €	0 €
Publishing total	14,472 €	11,352 €	5,554 €	6,088 €
Events				
Travelling and meeting income	0 €	0 €	0 €	0 €
Conference income (15% Congre	21,496 €	0 €	4,817 €	0 €
Events total	21,496 €	0 €	4,817 €	0 €
Other				
Grant contributions	2,500 €	2,500 €	2,000 €	2,500 €
Project income (WUR, Merlin) in	48,008 €	64,726 €	6,947 €	2,102 €
Donations	1,221 €	1,600 €	1,160 €	
Interest income	2,962 €	2,000 €	1,311 €	0 €
Other income total	54,692 €	70,826 €	11,418 €	4,602 €
INCOME TOTAL	243,565 €	238,337 €	193,682 €	159,462 €
EXPENSES				
Staff and external services			SW + ÖB	SW only
Salaries (calc. 3% increase)	-110,086 €	-107,759 €	-102,353 €	-71,136 €
Additional staff (SO, was Merlin)				0 €
Auditing	-1,860 €	-1,860 €	-1,860 €	-1,860 €
Accounting	-13,383 €	-11,000 €	-10,440 €	-5,595 €
Social security	-9,073 €	-9,110 €	-6,763 €	-973 €
Pension funds	-12,780 €	-15,000 €	-13,795 €	-12,892 €
Insurances required by law	-595 €	-850 €	-827 €	-683 €
Healthcare	-560 €	-2,000 €	-489 €	-1,643 €
Other social costs	-1,018 €	-1,200 €	-986 €	-227 €
Training	-395 €	-500 €	-354 €	-250 €
Staff and external services total	-149,749 €	-149,280 €	-137,867 €	-95,258 €
Facilities and administration				
Rent & related	-8,899 €	-8,853 €	-7,309 €	-5,990 €
Cleaning & recycling	-722 €	-800 €	-379 €	-181 €
Office equipment	-1,270 €	-4,000 €	-3,924 €	-100 €
Office materials	-430 €	-400 €	-128 €	-151 €
Printing and copying	-994 €	-2,300 €	-1,053 €	-712 €
Books and magazines	-949 €	-800 €	-574 €	-470 €
Mailing	-3,548 €	-4,000 €	-812 €	-628 €
Phone and internet	-855 €	-500 €	-409 €	-450 €
IT and maintenance	-1,360 €	-2,000 €	-2,358 €	-1,585 €
Office catering and staff occasion	-146 €	-200 €	-62 €	0 €
Other insurances	-2,298 €	-2,000 €	-1,485 €	-1,572 €
Other costs	-2,371 €	-3,000 €	-72 €	-1,034 €
Facilities and administration tota	-23,841 €	-28,853 €	-18,564 €	-12,873 €

Travelling	many paid themselves!	careful use of funds!		
Domestic travelling and accommo	-1,059 €	-1,000 €	-845 €	-671 €
Domestic allowances	-429 €	-1,000 €	-581 €	-225 €
Foreign allowances	-2,906 €	-3,000 €	-2,477 €	-672 €
Mileage allowances	-80 €	-1,000 €	-70 €	-92 €
Secretariat foreign travelling and	-2,582 €	-5,000 €	-1,910 €	-2,551 €
EB travelling and accommodation	-2,857 €	-5,000 €	-3,301 €	-1,900 €
SAB travelling and accommodatio	0 €	-2,000 €	-1,354 €	0 €
SO travelling and accommodation	-3,659 €	-7,000 €	-5,701 €	
Meeting costs/room rents/interna	-2,559 €	-5,000 €	-4,819 €	-695 €
Representation/external catering	-106 €	-1,000 €	-2,645 €	-856 €
Registration fees	-1,543 €	-2,500 €	-2,613 €	-1,575 €
Convention travelling	-2,962 €	-1,500 €	-2,222 €	-3,262 €
Tropical peatlands	0 €	-1,000 €	0 €	0 €
Other travelling costs	0 €	-1,000 €	-3 €	0 €
Travelling total	-20,740 €	-37,000 €	-28,539 €	-12,497 €
Publishing				
Online journal Mires and Peat	-5,500 €	-5,500 €	-5,500 €	-5,000 €
Proofreading + translations	-1,372 €	-2,500 €	-1,487 €	-1,584 €
Other publication costs (CC book	-6,439 €	-6,400 €	-2,145 €	-169 €
Website and email	-2,002 €	-3,000 €	-1,934 €	-2,603 €
Book scanning	0 €	-100 €	0 €	0 €
Publishing total	-15,312 €	-17,500 €	-11,066 €	-9,356 €
Other				
Other costs	-8 €	-2,000 €	-1,180 €	-1,103 €
Project expenses (WUR/PA resea	-38,374 €	-57,660 €		-1,800 €
Merlin (in and out until properly re	included in above	-1,300 €	-2,498 €	-1,561 €
Conference expenses	-96 €	-1,495 €	-624 €	-53 €
Allan Robertson Grants	-3,500 €	-3,500 €	-3,000 €	-3,500 €
Marketing	-438 €	-1,000 €	-704 €	-191 €
Membership fees	-129 €	-1,000 €	-127 €	-125 €
Others total	-42,545 €	-67,955 €	-8,133 €	-8,333 €
Financial				
Credit losses**	-8,849 €	-5,500 €	-3,282 €	-291 €
Depreciations	-71 €	-100 €	-95 €	-127 €
Banking fees	-1,337 €	-1,400 €	-1,184 €	-772 €
Webshop/credit card fees	-680 €	-749 €	-222 €	-533 €
Interest expenses	-5 €	0 €	0 €	-16 €
Other financial expenses	-73 €	0 €	-68 €	-163 €
Financial total	-11,015 €	-7,749 €	-4,851 €	-1,902 €
EXPENSES TOTAL	-263,203 €	-308,337 €	-209,020 €	-140,218 €
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-19,638 €	-70,000 €	-15,338 €	19,244 €

Notes to the Financial Statements

The valuations, matching and translation principles and methods applied

This financial statement has been drafted in accordance with the Government Decree on the information presented in the financial statements of micro-undertaking paragraph 3, section 1, subsections 2 and 3.

Information Concerning the Nature and Business Purpose of the Essential Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements and the Total Amount of Financial Commitments

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Rental liability	1 050,00	632,57

Personnel

	31 December 2024	31 December 2023
Average number of personnel	1,5	1,5

Capital

Changes in capital

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Retained surplus	273 986,08	289 323,91
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	-19 637,80	-15 337,83
Capital and reserves	254 348,28	273 986,08

Total income

	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
Total income	243 564,70	160 095,33
Total expenditure	-263 131,02	-208 924,26
Depreciation	-71,48	-95,30
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	-19 637,80	-15 337,83

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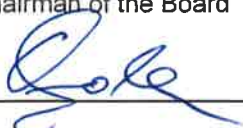
Signatures

Riga 26.3.2025



Hannu Salo

Chairman of the Board



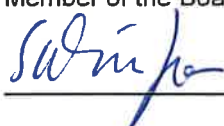
Ilze Ozola

Vice Chairman of the Board



Asha Hingorani

Member of the Board



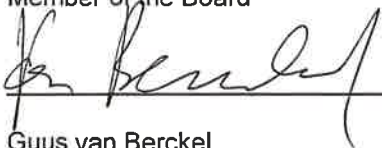
Sabine Jordan

Member of the Board



Päivi Peronius

Member of the Board



Guus van Berckel

Member of the Board



Susann Warnecke

Secretary General



Anna-Helena Purre

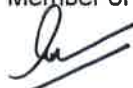
2nd Vice Chairman of the Board



[Bernd Hofer \(Apr 1, 2025 11:32 GMT+2\)](#)

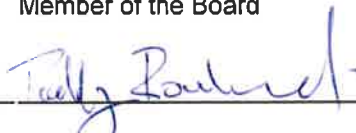
Bernd Hofer

Member of the Board



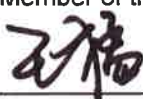
Lulie Melling

Member of the Board



Paddy Rowland

Member of the Board



Meng Wang

Member of the Board

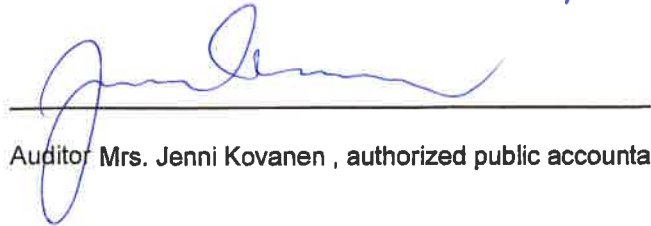
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Auditor's note

Our auditor's report has been issued today.

Mikkeli at the date of digital signature

14. April 2025



Auditor Mrs. Jenni Kovanen , authorized public accountant

1074181-4

List of accounting books and materials

List of accounting books, receipts and records and storage methods

Financial Statements

Financial Statements	Digital archive
Balance sheet specifications	Digital archive

Chart of accounts and balances

Account-specific income statement	Digital archive
Account-specific balance sheet	Digital archive
Chart of accounts	Digital archive

Accounting books

Journal	Digital archive
General ledger	Digital archive
Accounts receivable	Digital archive
Accounts payable	Digital archive
Wages accounting	Digital archive
Cash book	Digital archive
Stock accountings	Digital archive
Personal ledger	Digital archive

Receipts

Cash vouchers	Digital archive
Bank statements	Digital archive
Sales invoices	Digital archive
Purchase invoices	Digital archive
Salaries	Digital archive
Memo vouchers	Digital archive
Tax returns for self-assessed taxes	Digital archive
Note vouchers	Digital archive

All material is stored digitally.

AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation of the Finnish original)

To the Annual General Meeting of International Peatland Society

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of International Peatland Society (business identity code 1074181-4) for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the society's financial performance and financial position in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. My responsibilities under good auditing practice are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable in Finland and are relevant to my audit, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors (Executive Board)

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements. The Board of Directors is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to liquidate the society or cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with good auditing practice will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with good auditing practice, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the society's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events so that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Other reporting requirements

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the report of the Board of Directors. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. My responsibility also includes considering whether the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in compliance with the applicable provisions.

In my opinion, the information in the report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the information in the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in compliance with the applicable provisions.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of the report of the Board of Directors, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Mikkeli, 14. April 2025



Jenni Kovanen
APA

