

The IPS is an organisation of corporate and individual members dedicated to the responsible management and Wise Use of peatlands and peat. It promotes the gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience. The Society serves all those interested in peat and peatlands including the scientific, industrial and commercial, and regulatory communities. It respects the economic, social and environmental values of the peatland resource. Currently the IPS has more than 1,500 individual and institutional members from 44 countries.

## Mires and Peat Journal accepted by Web of Science

Mires and Peat is the open-access peer reviewed journal of IPS and the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG). At the beginning of this month, the journal was accepted for inclusion in the Thomson Reuters Web of Science databases, which are used as the basis for citation indexing and the calculation of Journal Impact Factors (JIFs). This momentous development unequivocally confirms that the journal is produced to the highest academic publishing standards. It also brings much closer a target set in 2006, that it should “achieve a scientific classification in the ISI Thomson Master Journal List”. The Thomson Reuters listings are published annually, towards the end of summer, so the first appearance of Mires and Peat can be expected in the second half of 2015. Mires and Peat qualified for Web of Science evaluation by attaining the required minimum publication rate (15 articles in any nine-month period) at the end of 2013 and maintaining it through 2014. All IPS and IMCG members who have contributed, whether by submitting their work for publication in the five volumes that have been assembled during this period or by reviewing and/or editing manuscripts, must be thanked and warmly congratulated on an amazing achievement.

But now, of course, we must continue publishing at this rate into the foreseeable future. The supply of manuscripts is beginning to run low. There is currently just enough material ‘on the books’ to keep the journal going for five months (until April/ May 2015) and the average turnaround time from submission to publication is slightly longer than that. The current special volume Mountain Peatlands (inspired by the IMCG Andes field symposium) is still to be completed and IMCG are developing two new ‘themed volume’ topics, but neither is ready yet. **Therefore, the Editor-in-Chief has challenged IPS to find up to ten high-quality new manuscripts that can be submitted and processed in time to fill the gap in publication that will otherwise start opening in the middle of next year.** So, if you are just completing your next paper on any topic relating to mires, peatlands and/or peat, PLEASE consider seriously whether you could finalise (soon) as a submission to Mires and Peat now that it is a Web of Science journal. In return you are offered friendly and constructive editing, fast ‘no-fuss’ publication of high-quality submissions, and free global exposure of your work. You can easily find the journal online at [www.mires-and-peat.net](http://www.mires-and-peat.net). If you have any questions (and especially a manuscript to submit), please contact the Editor-in-Chief [o.m.bragg \(at\) dundee.ac.uk](mailto:o.m.bragg@dundee.ac.uk).

## IPS Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals Launched – you can contribute

We are proud to announce that the IPS has launched a new grant for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management, named after Allan Robertson, Honorary President of the IPS. The Grants are targeted towards all persons who have carried out or are still carrying out major research or practical work on behalf of peat and peatlands. Applicants will normally be younger than 30 on application deadline (**30 March**) and the grants amount to 2 x € 500 annually. This can be extended if additional funds are obtained. Applications can be sent by email to the IPS Secretariat, [ips \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:ips@peatsociety.org). References, project plans and other documentary can be submitted additionally. Decisions will be made by the IPS Executive Board following recommendations from an evaluation committee. A report on the project or work shall be submitted for Peatlands International and/or a presentation should be given at an international IPS event at the latest 12 months after the grant has been provided by bank transfer. If your networks would like to provide additional funding for the grants, please contact [susann.warnecke \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:susann.warnecke@peatsociety.org).

## David Wilson Chair of Climate Change Commission 10

David Wilson is new Chair of IPS Commission 10 on Peatlands and Climate Change. He can be contacted at Dr David Wilson, B. Ag. Sci, Ph.D, Earthy Matters Environmental Consultants, Glenvar, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, Ireland, Phone:

+ 353 749177613, email: david.wilson (at) earthymatters.ie, web: [www.earthymatters.ie](http://www.earthymatters.ie). He will be supported by Dr Florence Renou-Wilson (University College Dublin, email: florence.renou (at) ucd.ie) as Secretary and Dr Maria Strack (University of Waterloo, Canada, email: mstrack (at) waterloo.ca) as Vice Chair. More information on the Commission and the results of the previous Working Group can be found at [www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c10-peatlands-and-climate-change](http://www.peatsociety.org/about-us/commissions-and-working-groups/c10-peatlands-and-climate-change).

## IPS Decisions in a Nutshell

The Executive Board of the IPS held its autumn meeting in Brussels during **11 - 13 November 2014**. The following decisions were made, among others:

- agreed on a EB and SAB structure, value and strategy workshop in Geeste, Germany **18 - 20 January 2015**
- discussed the financial status, unpaid National Committee membership fees and a proposal for the industrial fee scheme from 2016 onwards, as well as a possible renewal of the IPS website
- heard reports on the Ramsar meetings in Gland in September and Kufstein in October, which were attended by Jack Rieley and Jenni Simkin on behalf of the IPS
- noted a report on the IUCN Conference in Inverness, UK and feedback given by IPS participants
- discussed the EU No Net Loss initiative and Soil Protection Initiative and established a monitoring group to follow up developments
- noted and evaluated the FAO webinar "Towards responsible peatland management"
  
- noted the CSPMA Industry Social Responsibility Report
- kicked off a Cooperative Strategies for the Wise Use of Peatlands project under the lead of Guus van Berckel
- participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Seminar of the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA) at the European Parliament on 12 November
  
- continued preparing the "Colloquy on the Peatland Experience – a new conversation on peatlands" in Tullamore, **7 - 12 June 2015**. This will be the main event of the IPS next year. More information will be up in December, follow [www.peatsociety.org/tullamore2015](http://www.peatsociety.org/tullamore2015)
- noted progress of the International Peat Congress in Kuching, Malaysia, **15 - 19 August 2016**, including the call for sponsors, and agreed on a small group to get familiar with the venue and meet cooperation partners in 2015 [www.ipc2016.com](http://www.ipc2016.com)
- evaluated participation and cooperation possibilities with the SER 2015 World Conference on Ecological Restoration in Manchester, UK, **23 - 27 August 2015**

The next EB meetings will be held: 18 - 20 January 2015 in Geeste, Germany; late March in Berlin or Helsinki; 6 June in Tullamore, Ireland; and in October/November 2015, place to be agreed. The Scientific Advisory Board meets 5 - 9 January 2015 by email and 18 - 20 January in Geeste, Germany together with the EB.

## Workshop on Wetlands and Climate Change in Montpellier

Eurosite is organising a two-day workshop on wetlands and climate change, in collaboration with Aten, Natuurmonumenten and Wetlands International. The full workshop title is: 'Creating a Climate for Change: Working internationally with wetlands to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change for the benefit of human wellbeing'. The workshop will take place in Montpellier, France on **10 - 11 December 2014** and will include a field trip day, presentations on wetland-based climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, and discussions to identify common strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. These discussions will contribute to a set of guidelines on adapting wetlands to climate change. The workshop language is English and deadline for registration is **3 December 2014**. Full information can be seen at [www.eurosite.org/en-UK/creating-climate-for-change](http://www.eurosite.org/en-UK/creating-climate-for-change). (Naomi Racz, Eurosite)

## Peat Extraction Season Update for Finland

The production season started very early in some places in Southern Finland, but the extracted amount was small. Weather turned chilly and rainy again in May, July changed the mood and turned the season to normal; even the old shallow production fields could be utilized towards the end of the season thanks to a dry mid-season. August was an

average weather wise and the season continued to September. Milled peat for energy was harvested 16.5 TWh (18.8 million m<sup>3</sup>) and sod peat 1.7 TWh (1.56 million m<sup>3</sup>). Environmental peat for horticulture, bedding, soil improving, composting etc. was harvested 1.65 million m<sup>3</sup>. Currently, the peat harvested for bedding purposes exceeds the amount of peat used for growing media and substrates. In total, peat was harvested in round figures 22 million m<sup>3</sup>. In addition to the larger extraction areas, there are some 300 domestic peat harvesting sites under the 10 ha category, for which environmental permits are not required. It is estimated that some 0.5 million m<sup>3</sup> of peat is produced from those, mainly sod peat and environmental peat. The harvesting targets were met by 90%. (*Hannu Salo, Bioenergia ry*)

## Peat Export Statistics from Latvia

Latvian peat was exported to 101 countries, this year even to three new countries - Cuba, Luxembourg and Mauritania. Exports to Brazil increased significantly, from 800 t in 2013 to 8650 t until September. Also exports to Algeria, Macedonia, Mozambique, Syria increased significantly. The UK government decision to abandon any use of peat products is also visible - export has decreased. Export also decreased to Finland and Estonia. In Latvia were good weather conditions for peat extraction which reduced the need for peat imports. The weather was good only in July. May and June were rainy as well as August. Despite the geopolitical situation we exported the same amount of peat to Russia and to Ukraine; though there are huge impact on logistics. (*Ilze Ozola, Latvian Peat Producers Association*)

## New Natural Resources Institute Finland as of 1/2015

MTT Agrifood Research Finland, the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL) and the statistical services of the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Tike) are to be merged under a new entity called Natural Resources Institute Finland as of **1 January 2015**. The new institute is aiming at developing bioeconomy research widely and looking for increasingly integrated solutions to societal problems. The more cohesive structure of the scientific community is to ensure the preservation and development of vital research infrastructures and optimise the use of information, monitoring data and statistics. The merger of the institutions should also lead to lower costs and better productivity over time. In 2012, the total output of the institutions was more than 1,700 person-years of research, and their combined turnover was approximately EUR 140 million. The new Natural Resources Institute Finland will have offices across the country. The merger is part of the reform of Finland's research and innovation system. Info: [www.luonnonvarakeskus.fi/english](http://www.luonnonvarakeskus.fi/english).

## Forests and People World Congress in Durban 2015

The XIV World Forest Congress "Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future" will be held **7 - 11 September 2015** in Durban, South Africa. The organizers have now published the call for abstracts: papers, posters and videos: Share your people-centred ideas, field experiences, cutting-edge research, development projects, practical applications and theoretical models at the world's largest and most important gathering of the forest sector. Abstracts on the central theme of the Congress and on relevant topics that also align with any of the six Congress sub-themes are welcome:

- Forests for socio-economic development and food security
- Building resilience with forests
- Integrating forests and other land uses
- Encouraging product innovation and sustainable trade
- Monitoring forests for better decision-making
- Improving governance by building capacity

For the first time, the call includes video submissions. Deadline for your proposals is **15 December 2014**. The complete call for papers can be found at [www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/87584/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/87584/en).

## Vacancy: Deputy Secretary General for Ramsar

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat is looking for a Deputy Secretary General. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat has its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland where the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) provides some administrative services to the Convention's Contracting Parties for the operations and implementation of the Convention. The Deputy Secretary General is the most senior position, after the Secretary General, in the 22-member Ramsar Secretariat. The vacancy closes on **30 November**. For the full announcement go to <http://jobs.economist.com/job/7524/ramsar-convention-secretariat-deputy-secretary-general>. (*Christopher Briggs, Ramsar*)