

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.

Save € 100 for the IPS Convention in Tullamore 2015

The Early Bird registration for the IPS Convention 2015 and “Peatlands – A new conversation” closes on **3 April 2015** - book now and save €100. You will also be guaranteeing your place on what is set to be an exciting and rewarding meeting. Preparations are well underway to deliver what will be a new and vibrant approach to talking about peatlands. The **priority booking of rooms** for Tullamore 2015 will close on **3 April** so book now and save money on your hotel rooms. Please note that you must email or phone the hotels directly, using the promotional booking codes on our website: www.irishpeatsociety.ie/accommodation. Finally, the closing date for the **poster submission** is **3 April** - for those of you who are intending on submitting a poster please do so and avail of early bird rates for registration and accommodation. We look forward to welcoming you to Tullamore. Visit the event website at www.irishpeatsociety.ie, invite your co-workers and join at www.facebook.com/events/665566623563847.

Applications still welcome for Allan Robertson Grants

The IPS is glad to announce that the application deadline for the new Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals in Peatland Management, named after Allan Robertson, Honorary President of the IPS, has been extended to **30 April**. In addition we were able to receive more funding, so that **five grants** can be given out this year. Please send your applications/nominations as single PDF file to ips (at) peatsociety.org. 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. Note that there is no official application form, but applications can be written freely according to the project circumstances and technical possibilities of the applicant. More info: www.peatsociety.org/about-us/allan-robertson-grants.

IPS Executive Board met in Berlin

The Executive Board of the IPS held its spring meeting in Berlin during **16 - 17 March 2015**. Main task was to further develop the strategy and structure of the Society and to agree on actions to implement it within the next few years. Most importantly, the EB will suggest to change the name of the IPS to “International Peatland Society” and to adapt the mission and vision of the organisation accordingly. In addition, the EB approved the Annual Report and Accounts 2014 as well as the budget, membership fees and plan of activities 2015/2016 for submission to the Annual Assembly, accepted new members from Australia, Russia and Ukraine, and decided to apply for a donation permission with Finnish authorities. The Board also received progress reports on the upcoming IPS conferences in Tullamore 2015, Kuching 2016 and the jubilee symposium in 2018. IPS will continue to work closely together with its association and convention partners, a list of events can be found at www.peatsociety.org/events. In addition, the EB discussed developments on the EU no net loss and soil protection initiatives and IPCC inventory guidelines, as well as cooperative strategies for the Wise Use of peatlands and a joint venture proposal by Chernihiv Regional State Administration, Ukraine. The EB also evaluated IPS participation at SER 2015 in Manchester and approved Professor Ab Grootjans as new Assistant editor for the Mires and Peat journal. The next EB and SAB meetings will be held in Tullamore, Ireland on **7 June**, followed by the Annual Assembly of National Representatives on **11 June**.

New Address for IPS Secretariat

The IPS Secretariat will move to a new office as of **1 June** to benefit from better synergies with other organisations and companies. The new postal address is International Peat Society, **Nisulankatu 78, 40720 Jyväskylä**, Finland. Email and phone numbers remain the same. For impressions and a map see www.startupleipomo.fi/tilakonsepti.

Draga Atanasova new Intern for the IPS

From the beginning of April the new intern for the IPS office in Jyväskylä is Draga Atanasova from Bulgaria. She had her Bachelor degree in Philology from the University of Sofia, Bulgaria, and now she is finishing her Master degree in Intercultural Studies in Communication and Administration in the University of Vaasa, Finland. "I used to work as Marketing Assistant and translator in Sofia, before I decided to continue my studies. I believe that this internship will give me the opportunity to gain more practical experience in an international working space. I have always had interest in promoting the careful and thought-out use of natural resources and I am looking forward to contributing to the work of IPS". Ms Atanasova can be contacted at [draga.atanasova\(at\)peatsociety.org](mailto:draga.atanasova@peatsociety.org).

LIFE launches new Project Financing Tools

The European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) have launched two new financial instruments to drive investment in energy efficiency, preservation of natural capital and adaptation to climate change. The European Commission's contribution to the Natural Capital Financing Facility (NCFF) and the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) instruments will come through the LIFE programme, expanding its sphere from the provision of action grants to projects and operating grants to non-governmental organisations. The European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella, said the instruments show that biodiversity and the economy are not on opposite poles: "Protecting biodiversity creates jobs, stimulates investment and gives European industry a competitive edge." For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/features/2015/ncff.htm>.

Remote Sensing Symposium in Spain

An International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Wetlands "What can Remote Sensing do for the Conservation of Wetlands?" will be held in Seville, Spain on **23 October 2015**, within the XVI Congress of the Spanish Remote Sensing Association. Abstracts must be received before **30 April**, acceptance will be communicated before 1 June 2015. Remote Sensing can provide useful information about wetlands. Earth Observation (EO) satellites have been used to delineate flooded areas and to provide information on wetland location, limits and extent. But they can also be used to study wetland dynamics, monitor changes in water quality (e.g. cyanobacterial blooms, trophic status, inputs of terrestrial Carbon), to map habitat types, vegetation communities or ecosystem services. EO data can help in the conservation and management of wetlands. For more information, please see <http://congreso2015aet.com> and <http://ocs.ebd.csic.es/index.php/RSW/RSCW2015/schedConf/overview>. (submitted by Javier Bustamante)

Peatland Restoration Seminar in Värnamo, Sweden

Everyone interested in peat land restorations are invited to join the Final Seminar of LIFE+ project Life to ad(d)mire. Main topics at the seminar will be planning and performing hydrological restoration actions, vegetative restoration in wetlands, and positive effects of wetland restoration. There will be field trips to Store Mosse National Park (Ramsar and Natura2000 site) and other large bogs that have been restored within the project. The event will take place during **3 - 5 November 2015** in Värnamo, Sweden. The conference will mostly be held in English. Registration will open on **5 May 2015** at www.lifetoaddmire.se (currently only in Swedish). For more information contact Johan Rova, [johan.rova \(at\) lansstyrelsen.se](mailto:johan.rova@lansstyrelsen.se), phone +46 10 223 63 89, or see www.lansstyrelsen.se/jamtland/Sv/djur-och-natur/skyddad-natur/life-projekt/life-to-addmire/in-english/Pages/default.aspx.

BIOECON Conference in Cambridge

The 17th Annual BIOECON Conference "Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Sustainability" will be held **13 - 15 September 2015** in Cambridge, United Kingdom; hosted by the London School of Economics, the Graduate Institute-Geneva (IHEID) and University of Cambridge and supported by IHEID, FEEM, UNEP, WWF-Luc Hoffmann Institute, IUCN, and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (GRI-LSE). Theme is "Experimental and Behavioural Economics and the Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". The conference will be of interest to both researchers and policy makers working on issues in the area of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and sustainable development. Papers may be submitted to [bioecon \(at\) bioecon-network.org](mailto:bioecon@bioecon-network.org) no later than **22 May**. For more info: www.bioecon-network.org/pages/17th_2015/17th_2015.html.