



Editorial

A lot is happening in the world of mires and we felt the necessity for a newsletter. We compiled it from texts available on the internet and we arranged for authors on short notice. We thank all who have contributed to get the newsletter done within the one week we gave it: Olga Anisimova, Colin Bonfield, Alan Calder, Margrit von Euw, Andreas Grünig, Richard Hebda, Thomas Heinicke, Stefan Hotes, Irina Kamennova, Richard Lindsay, Tatjana Minaeva, Jack Riele, Mette Risager, Clayton Rubec, Richard Sims, Leszek Wolejko, Sergei Yazvenko, and Henk Zingstra. We took the liberty to (sometimes vigorously) edit the available texts. Any mistakes and omissions are entirely our responsibility.

What is missing from this Newsletter is up-to-date information on the IMCG Quebec Field Symposium, Conference, and Congress. The next Newsletter is planned for early next year, so please inform us on anything happening. In the meantime, keep an eye on the IMCG web-site: <http://ibs.uel.ac.uk/imcg/>

People, who complained that former newsletters were overloaded with Working Group minutes can be satisfied. The Working Group failed to meet since the last Newsletter...

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13th Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF 13) & 7th Ramsar Conference of Parties (COP7), San José, Costa Rica, 7th May - 18th May 1999

During the first half of May, 1999, a series of events with major implications for global peatland conservation took place in Costa Rica, under the auspices of, firstly, Global Biodiversity Forum (GBF), and subsequently the Ramsar Convention's 7th Conference of Parties (COP7). This newsletter here presents an overview of what happened during these two events, highlighting the key decisions and indicating the resulting actions which will follow. Most prominent among these is the decision by COP7 to endorse a draft Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP), which will now need to be taken forward by all those involved in peatland wise-use and management issues.

The GBF 13 was held between 7th and 9th May, with one of the workshops addressing "The Global Carbon Issue: Peatlands Wise Use and Management". It considered a range of issues relevant to peatland wise use through the presentations of several speakers, and ultimately led to a general endorsement of the draft GAPP as a means of best addressing many of the issues raised.

The output from the GBF Workshop was then fed directly into Ramsar COP7, which ran from 10th May to 18th May. A number of opportunities arose during COP7 for Contracting Parties to raise concerns or other comments about the draft GAPP, and some useful observations were made. Finally, on the last day of the Conference, the GAPP was considered in Plenary Session as Document 15.18 and was not merely endorsed, but actually strengthened, by the common consent of Contracting Parties.

GBF International Workshop on the Global Carbon Issue: Peatlands – Wise Use and Management

Richard Lindsay

The Peatland Workshop had a quite specific focus which was geared very much to a draft Global Peatland Action Plan, tabled for that meeting by the Canadian Delegation. A number of important issues were identified, particularly in relation to the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Nevertheless, throughout the two days, the clear objective of all participants was the identification of the means and mechanisms necessary to ensure that a workable and effective Global Action Plan for Peatlands be adopted by as wide a constituency as possible.

This in itself was remarkable, because members of the workshop represented a wide spectrum of interests, including members of the peat industry, NGOs, scientists, and government policy-makers. The most remarkable thing about the workshop was

the unanimous enthusiasm for, and determination to see, such a Global Action Plan put into place.

Although the Ramsar COP7 was the primary focus, the Workshop first considered peatlands and the global carbon balance as a key issue because peatlands represent both the largest single store of global soil carbon and have a greater density of stored carbon than any other ecosystem. Despite this, the Workshop learned that the present wording of the Kyoto Protocol, and its emphasis on forestry, leaves the enormous carbon store contained within the world's peatlands as a marginalised issue.

It is ironic that last year's fires in Indonesia, which are estimated to have cost the SE Asian Region more than \$10 billion, were widely described as "forest fires". In fact the greater part of the smoke and the biodiversity losses related to peat fires, but this went largely unrecognised by the rest of the world. The same oversight appears to have afflicted Kyoto.

The current approach of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC) fails to provide adequate mechanisms whereby nations can be encouraged to maintain and enhance their peatland carbon store. The Workshop was strongly of the opinion that this issue needs to be addressed, while at the same time maximising the limited opportunities within the current wording [for example, through the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of Article 12].

The Workshop next considered peatland biodiversity and highlighted several important issues. Firstly, biodiversity of peatland systems is a relatively recent concept because until recently, they were considered to be of low biodiversity value, or were simply not known at all. Now, increasingly, surveys have begun to reveal the quite extraordinary diversity of peatland areas, particularly but by no means exclusively in tropical regions. Such work has, however, barely scratched the surface. Less than 0.2% of SE Asian peatlands have been surveyed.

Another key point is that such biodiversity is important for local and indigenous people for a wide variety of products and services. Unfortunately, all too often the economic incentive structure is so designed as to drive these same people to destroy the very resource on which they depend, for what is often short-term gain and long-term disaster.

This theme was elaborated upon in the next topic which considered the need for, and use of, regional management guidelines for peatlands. Inappropriate management leads almost invariably to a range of on-site and off-site impacts which have important implications for biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and social and cultural infrastructure. Three key messages come from consideration of regional guidelines. Firstly, that these should be regional; it is important not to try to impose the same approach everywhere in the world. Secondly, such guidelines

should be based on a whole-ecosystem approach which includes on-site, off-site and socio-cultural aspects. Finally, there is an urgent need for development of ways in which practical implementation of such guidelines can be evaluated. We need to know to what extent they are being adopted on the ground, and if they are not being adopted, why they are failing to gain acceptance.

The Workshop then moved on to consider restoration of peatlands, and highlighted the fact that the largest losses of peatlands, and therefore the greatest opportunities for restoration, are the result of agricultural activities. Indeed there are some programmes now, for example in the Netherlands and the UK, where restoration from agriculture to peatland habitat is being carried out with widespread support. However, it is worth noting some exciting possibilities being explored by the peat industry in relation to sustainable growth and harvesting of peat. The theme of sustainability and wise-use was then developed further, and linked to the need for partnership, as exemplified by the joint activities of the International Peat Society (IPS) and the IMCG in seeking to define wise-use for peatlands.

The Workshop then brought all the various aspects of the presentations and discussions to bear on its consideration of the primary Workshop focus – the Global Peatland Action Plan. The draft Plan has an immediate link to COP7, but by its very nature it will have key linkages to the CBD, UNFCCC, and a range of other key international treaties.

The GAPP consists of 8 opportunities:

1. understanding peatland terminology
2. a global peatland and mire database
3. global peatland monitoring and awareness programmes
4. understanding and standardising wise-use concepts
5. using appropriate policy and legislative instruments
6. national and regional peatland management guidelines
7. research and co-operative networks
8. establishing programme and research priorities.

The Workshop recognised that the draft Plan would go through a period of refinement over the next 12 months, but unanimously endorsed the content. The Workshop did, however, note two requirements

which will need to be met if this Plan is to succeed: Firstly, this Plan cannot be the product of actions by one or two organisations only. It can only work if all relevant players across the full spectrum of interest groups – local to international – take an active part in the Plan. Secondly, and more fundamentally, the Plan must achieve real progress on the ground. Without this, it will be just one more piece of paper.

For further information on this Workshop and the text of the draft GAPP, take a look at:

<http://ibs.uel.ac.uk/imcg/resource/gbf/gbf.htm>

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COP 7 Decision Regarding Global Peatland Action Plan

by Clayton Rubec

A GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE WISE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF PEATLANDS: This recommendation (COP7 DOC.15.18) was considered in Plenary on Wednesday, 12 May, and on Tuesday, 18 May. Delegates adopted the resolution with an additional clause recommended by GBF13 urging Contracting Parties (CPs), International Partner Organisations (IPOs) and other organizations to take immediate action to improve peatland awareness and protect sites under particular risk, especially tropical and boreal peatlands. In the final recommendation, the COP, inter alia: calls on CPs to prioritize support for inventory and evaluation of all peatland types and, where appropriate, nominate additional peatland ecosystems as Ramsar sites; endorses the Draft Global Action Plan for the Wise Use and Management of Peatlands and recommends cooperation in further refining the draft and establishing funding for appropriate projects in support of its Implementation Strategy; and invites the Scientific and Technical review Panel (STRP) and IPOs to assist CPs in evaluating the action plan. The draft global action plan is annexed to the resolution.

Meeting on a Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP)

by Clayton Rubec

Location: Freising, Germany (near Munich).

Date: November 30-December 1, 1999

The objectives of this meeting are:

1. Establish directions to additional input and minor redrafting of the Global Action Plan for Peatland

Wise Use and Management (Annex to Ramsar COP7 Recommendation VII.1) for transmittal to the Ramsar Standing Committee at latest for tabling on December 2 morning.

2. Develop specifics for step-wise implementation of this Action Plan such as:

- innovative financing mechanisms;
- clarity on Climate Change Convention Kyoto Protocol opportunities;
- general action areas of greatest priority.

3. Criteria for soliciting information on peatland conservation, wise use and management in each nation and by whom through the Ramsar National Reports process, particularly in the lead-up to Ramsar COP8 in 2002.

This meeting is designed to take advantage of a preceding joint working session of representatives of the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) and International Peat Society (IPS) being organized at this location on November 27-28, 1999. Results from this session are requested to be tabled and considered at the Ramsar Standing Committee Meeting in Switzerland running from Nov. 29-December 2.

The short time available precludes an in depth rewrite of the Draft GAPP. It is recognized the Plan can only be a framework on which specific site and sectoral actions can be identified, fostered and reported upon. The Action Plan cannot encapsulate all the detail many interests would like. If it is to be adopted internationally, inclusion of many specific project and geographic details likely would frustrate attempts to finalize and get acceptance of the text.

During a coordinating meeting, Clayton Rubec of the Government of Canada, Ed Maltby of the IUCN

Commission on Ecosystem Management, and Richard Lindsay of the International Mire Conservation Group, developed the initial recommended objectives and scope for this meeting as well as its proposed participants. The STRP simultaneously met on September 22-24 in Gland, Switzerland and responded to the request of Ramsar COP7 to advise on this process. STRP felt the GAPP should be fast tracked.

Partners will include

- IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (convener)
- International Peat Society (IPS)
- International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
- Ramsar Convention Bureau
- Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), Ramsar Convention
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- Wetlands International (WI)
- Various Government Representatives

The meeting if it is to make progress cannot at this stage be broad in terms of participation. Broader consultations should proceed over the 1999-2001 period in advance of Ramsar Standing Committee meeting of Fall 2001 (last meeting preceding Ramsar COP8).

Participants should come prepared to think broadly and not defend turf or agency positions, rather striving to offer their personal expertise and thoughtful ideas.

Wise Use Guidelines For Global Mires and Peatlands

by Hans Joosten

Under Article 3.1, the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention agree to "formulate and implement their planning so as to promote ... as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory." The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan (1997 - 2002, Recommendation 6.1) calls on Ramsar Parties to facilitate the conservation and wise use of peatlands at the national and regional levels, including the development of regionally based peatland management guidelines.

In their meeting in Surwold (Germany, November 1997), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) and the International Peat Society (IPS) agreed to jointly draw up a discussion paper on Wise Use Guidelines for Global Mires and Peatlands as a basis for such national and regional guidelines. Also the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (cf. IUCN "Guidelines for Integrated Planning and Management of Tropical Lowland Peatlands", Safford & Maltby 1998), and the Society of Wetland Scientists, as one of the major organisations of wetlands scientists, agreed to participate in the formulation of the Guidelines.

IPS started the discussion by publishing an "IPS

Statement on the Wise Use of Peatlands" in its magazine "Peatlands International" at the end of 1998. This statement was commented on and heavily criticised by IMCG members. The real cooperation started in the beginning of 1999, when an agreement was reached on the structure of the paper and the way to proceed.

The document is prepared in two versions:

- a) a short, statement-like summary document of 5 - 10 p.
- b) a longer version with more detailed scientific data and references of 50 - 100 p.

Logically the latter is being prepared first. It has the following (preliminary) content

1. Introduction
2. Nature, origin, extent, and use of mires and peatlands
 - 2.1 What are mires and peatlands?
 - 2.1.1 Basic terms and concepts
 - 2.1.2 Origin and natural properties of mires and peatlands
 - 2.2 Extent and location of mires and peatlands
- 3 Values and functions of mires and peatlands
 - 3.1. Values, functions, and norms
 - 3.1.1 The character of values

- 3.1.2 Categories of values
- 3.1.3 Positions with respect to intrinsic moral values
- 3.1.4 Types of instrumental values (functions)
- 3.1.5 Relation between values and norms
- 3.2 Functions of mires and peatlands for humans
 - 3.2.1 Production functions
 - 3.2.2 Carrier functions
 - 3.2.3 Regulation functions
 - 3.2.4 Non-material life support functions
- 4. Wise use of mires and peatlands
 - 4.1 Terms and Concepts
 - 4.2 Conflicting functions and use
 - 4.2.1 Types of conflicts
 - 4.2.2 Peatland conflicts
- 5. Criteria for wise use (IPS/IMCG)
 - 5.1 Principles of wise use of mires and peatlands
 - 5.2 General proposals
 - 5.3 Regionalised proposals
- 6. Strategies for implementation of wise use principles
 - 6.1 First things first: identification of priorities, major bottlenecks
 - 6.2 Implementation: policy, plans, programmes, projects
 - 6.3 Target organisations

7. Bibliography

Appendix: case studies

The wise use of peatland requires to optimally balance exploitation and conservation. The Guidelines aim to assist all those who influence peatland management in identifying, analysing, and resolving possible conflicts, in order to plan, design, and implement the best management option for any peatland. They are intended to be applicable to all forms of management or development, from single-sector developments to multiple use projects.

At this moment a 3th draft with proposals for the chapters up to 5.1 is circulating. The "state of the art" will be discussed during the IPS/IMCG Freising (Germany) meeting at the end of November 1999. Within IPS, Donal Clarke of Bord na Mona (Ireland) is the coordinator. IMCG contacts wishing to participate in the discussions, please contact:

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News from Japan

Protection of Nakaikemi Marsh

by Richard Lindsay

Nakaikemi Peatland is a 25ha basin fen lying at 45m altitude and surrounded by a relatively small catchment of hills which consist of at least three differing geological types. It therefore receives catchment water displaying three quite different solute characteristics.

A significant part of the peatland has been used for rice production at various times in the past, but this is all fairly long-abandoned. Today the vegetation forms a somewhat complex pattern of areas dominated variously by *Phragmites*, *Typha*, wild rice, *Carex*, *Monochoria*, *Leersia*, water *Miscanthus*, *Scirpus*, *Echinochloa*, *Eusteralis*, and *Menyanthes*.

The site supports at least 250 species of mire plant, of which 16 are classed as endangered or threatened: *Azolla japonica*, *Eusteralis yatabeana*, *Habenaria sagittifera*, *Iris laevigata*, *Isoetes japonica*, *Marsilea quadrifolia*, *Monochoria korsakowii*, *Najas japonica*, *Ottelia alismoides*, *Persicaria foliosa*, *Prenanthes tanakae*, *Sagittaria aginashi*, *Salvinia natans*, *Sparganium japonicum*, *Trapa incisa*.

A total of 1,300 species of insect have so far been recorded from the site, including 61 species of dragonfly (25% of the entire Japanese dragonfly list), 11 species of diving beetle, 5 species of silk moth, 110 species of spider. This catalogue includes *Scymnus nakaikemensis*, a ladybird new to science which was first discovered in 1996 at Nakaikemi and,

since then, only in one other part of Japan. The site also supports an endangered species of fish – *Oryzias latipes*, while other research indicates that the rich diatom assemblage contains several rare species.

Probably the most remarkable thing about Nakaikemi is, however, the peat deposit itself. The site was formed by the infilling of a steep-sided basin, and now the peat layer is between 50 and 60 metres deep. The radiocarbon record indicates an undisturbed record (other than the very surface layers) which reaches back more than 50,000 years. This palaeoarchive has been the subject of some analysis and reveals much about the pattern of vegetation change within the Japanese Archipelago and further afield (the site is on the west coast of Japan) well into the last glacial period. Beneath this peat deposit, geologists have identified an active fault across the basin.

Despite all this, Osaka Gas Company has made plans (encouraged by the Mayor of Tsuruga City) to develop a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Liquid Propane Gas (LPG) storage site on the mire. The proposal involves leaving a 5ha „conservation area“ which will be separated from the storage area by a bund of ordinary soil, and species will be transplanted into this area. The main peat body will be drained and after drainage the Company will flatten the surrounding hills and use the rubble to build a platform for 12 LNG tanks and 2 LPG tanks on the peat. The site lies less than 500m from Tsuruga City. Representatives of the Nakaikemi Marsh Trust held a

presentation during the GBF Peatland Workshop in Costa Rica. The members of the Workshop were strongly of the opinion that the site was of considerable international significance. Consequently it was agreed that a series of letters should be sent to those involved in deciding the future of Nakaikemi Marsh, urging all parties to consider ways in which destruction of the mire might be avoided.

Letters were sent to the Mayor of Tsuruga City, the Governor of Fukui Prefecture, the President of Osaka Gas Co. Ltd., the Japanese Environment Agency, and the Ramasr Bureau. The letters were sent by the International Peat Society (IPS) on behalf of the various delegates attending the Peatland Workshop. Following receipt of the letter, discussions have now been opened between IPS (and partners) and the Osaka Gas Co. Ltd.

Utonai Lake Wetland Complex

by Stefan Hotes

Plans for the Chitose River Flood Channel, that was to carry surplus rainwater from the Ishikari River catchment area to the Pacific, have been canceled. The channel, 40 km long and 200 m wide, would have threatened the wetland complex of the Utonai Lake near Tomakomai. Utonai Lake is on the Ramsar list and, together with its tributary the Bibi river, one

of the last wetlands in the Yufutsu Plain in South-Hokkaido. Apart from terrestrialisation mires directly surrounding the lake, especially the percolating and river flood mires of the Bibi River Valley are of great nature conservation value. Hopefully further development plans (industrial complexes, roads) near the lake will not frustrate the conservational troubles of the Wild Bird Society of Japan.

Bekanbeushi Mire

by Stefan Hotes

The raised bog-island in the Bekanbeushi Mire in eastern Hokkaido is planned for legal protection status. Bekanbeushi Mire is a complex of 8200 ha near Akkeshi predominantly with percolating and flood mires. Together with the brackish Akkeshi Lake it is on the Ramsar List as a protected wetland area. In its northern part a domed area of about 100 ha with a clearly different vegetation, likely to be ombrotrophic, is found. Raised mires are very scarce in the alluvial plains of East Hokkaido, providing for a scientific and conservational value of the area. Attempts to give the area the status of tennenkinenbutsu (natural monument) are being undertaken in order to secure its protection. Research on vegetation, fauna, and stratigraphy has started.

Burns Bog Ecosystem Review (British Columbia, Canada)

by Richard Hebda, Alan Calder, Richard Sims & Sergei Yazvenko

Burns Bog is the largest raised peat bog on the west coast of North America, occupying over 4000 ha in the Corporation of Delta, British Columbia, Canada. During the past century, human activities such as clearing, draining, farming, mining, filling, and burning have substantially altered Burns Bog. Some recently mined areas in the northern section of the bog have little vegetation. Along the margins of the bog, farm crops have replaced natural vegetation. Draining and filling have resulted in changes to the bog ecosystem and, in some places, the complete elimination of bog species. The water system of the bog has been altered, and shore pine woodland has increased. However, in open pools of water created by peat harvesting in the central part of the bog, sphagnum mosses and dwarf shrub populations are beginning to regenerate.

Informed land use decisions concerning Burns Bog are currently hindered by a lack of understanding and information about the current ecological state and functioning of the bog. In June 1999, the Government of British Columbia announced a review of the Burns Bog ecosystem to better understand the environmental systems and processes that contribute to the ecological integrity of the Bog. Delta Fraser Properties, the Bog's largest private landowner, has put all

development proposals on hold until the Review is complete.

Existing information and new data have to date been collected on a variety of subjects, including wildlife, plants, fisheries, hydrology, water chemistry, geology, and soils. Additional research is being done to examine bog ecosystem processes and dynamics, including:

- Identifying and mapping past and current indicator plant and animal species
- Tree ring studies and other techniques to document ecosystem change
- Documenting the pattern of succession, including the role of disturbance and regeneration of the bog
- Documenting restoration approaches and techniques
- Evaluating the regional and global significance of Burns Bog with respect to biological diversity, atmospheric processes, and connections with ecological processes and habitats in the region

Both the field studies and the initial integrative studies will contribute to the comprehensive assessment of critical indicators and measures for sustainability for Burns Bog.

The results of these studies will contribute to a series of four Technical Review Meetings, which will focus

on 1) wildlife and fisheries, 2) hydrology, 3) ecosystem processes, and 4) regional and global significance. These high-level scientific gatherings will take place on November 25, 26, 29, and 30, 1999

in Delta BC.

Information on the Ecosystem Review is available at: <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/special/burnsbog.htm>

National Wetland Conference on Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation

by Irina Kamennova and Olga Anisimova

The National Conference on Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation was held in Moscow from 24-26 February 1999. The Conference was organised by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Environmental Protection and the Wetlands International – Russia Programme in cooperation with the WWF Russian Programme Office and the GEF Biodiversity Project. Financial support to the Conference was provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, Directorate for Nature Management through the PIN/MATRA Funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands. 240 wetland experts from Russia and abroad participated in the Conference, including representatives of Russian federal and regional conservation authorities, national conservation agencies of bordering countries, scientific institutions and NGOs. Viktor I. Danilov-Danilyan, Chairman of the State Environmental Committee, opened the Conference with a speech of welcome. The presentations made by the representatives of the Russian Federal Forest Service, State Committee for Fisheries, Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Game Animals of the Ministry of Agriculture and Russian Academy of Sciences showed serious concern of the major nature resource users for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The plenary and workshop sessions covered the following topics:

- Wetland inventory, evaluation and monitoring
- Strategies for sustainable use of wetlands
- Wetland legislation
- Biodiversity conservation in wetlands
- International and transboundary co-operation
- Conservation of migratory waterfowl

- Education, public awareness and NGOs
- Wetlands of the Russian Arctic: conservation, wise use and requirements of local and indigenous people
- Mire conservation in Russia

The Conference documents and publications, prepared under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme, included the first two volumes of the *Wetlands in Russia* series, reports on wetland sites on the Ramsar Shadow List and on wetlands in northeastern Russia, compiled by A.L. Mishchenko and A.V. Andreev, a preliminary list of Russian wetland experts, a discussion document for the preparation of a Strategy for Wetland Conservation in Russia and a Draft Strategy.

The Conference provided participants with the opportunity to exchange technical experiences, review the current state of wetland conservation in Russia, and discuss *A Draft National Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation*. This document was prepared by a group of leading wetland experts supervised by Dr. V.G. Krivenko and V.G. Vinogradov. The main conclusion of the Conference was to make a concerted effort to finalise and adopt the Strategy.

The Draft Wetland Strategy is planned to be finalised and sent out for further comments in November 1999. For further information on the National Wetland Conference and a Draft Strategy for Wetland Conservation in Russia please contact the Wetlands International-Russia Programme Office.

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2nd IMCG Classification and Terminology Workshop, Popelna, Czech Republic, 22nd-26th March 1999

by Richard Lindsay

The 2nd IMCG Classification Workshop was held in Popelna, Šumava National Park, in the Czech Republic, and was organised by Jan Sliva. The meeting was a follow-up to the Workshop, held in Greifswald in 1998. It was designed to review

progress and begin the process of bringing differing concepts and approaches to classification together. Progress during the intervening 12 months has not been as rapid as hoped, but it was felt that such a meeting would be valuable to stimulate the process

into its next stages. This is particularly important, given that the IMCG is becoming involved in a number of partnership activities with bodies such as the IPS, Wetlands International, and the Ramsar Bureau, in which questions of classification and terminology are central issues.

At the outset, the workshop identified seven major themes for detailed examination from the range of topics originally identified at the Greifswald workshop. These seven themes reflected what were generally agreed to be the key topics to resolve:

1. Terminology
2. Conservation value
3. Hydrogenesis
4. Plants
5. Animals
6. Regionality
7. Multi-level approach & integration

Each topic was then approached in three-stages. Firstly a plenary 'brainstorming' session was used to bring ideas together and test the mood of the workshop about particular approaches. For some of the topics, there were then smaller 'working sub-groups' which explored the detail of various issues. Subsequent plenary sessions allowed the sub-groups to report back and test the ideas on the workshop as a whole.

Certain criteria were required of proposals:

1. They should, as far as possible, be universally applicable and thus, for example, not reflect any Euro-centricity. Ideally the systems should work perfectly well in parts of the globe which are still completely unexplored (in terms of their mire systems).
2. They must be readily applicable, and practical. Widespread adoption will only take place if a new approach is to be more effective than, and is considered to be at least as easy to use as, existing methods.
3. Systems cannot be expected to be taken up simply because they are published — even if the Sub-Group is convinced that their system is better than existing systems. There is an innate inertia, and also a sense of comfortable familiarity with existing systems, which must be overcome if any

new system is to be adopted. Topic Sub-Groups will need to present their approaches in such a way that makes the new systems attractive options for users to adopt, and must be willing to assist users actively in their adoption.

A variety of topics benefited from extensive discussion and debate, and for some of these there appeared to be a gradual development of consensus. Other topics clearly need much more thought and constructive debate between now and the next Workshop. Several clear decisions were made during the Workshop, mainly concerning an Action Plan which summarises the next phase of the work programme. Agreement was also reached on the composition of the seven Topic Sub-Groups, and the methods by which these Sub-Groups would operate.

These represent the active elements in the future programme. It will be essential that these Sub-Groups actively pursue their topic area with a view to having some concrete and widely-accepted proposals for the 3rd Workshop in March, 2000. Co-ordinators of the subgroups are:

1. Terminology, Ron Hofstetter, rhofstet@UMIAMI.IR.MIAMI.EDU
2. Conservation value, Hans Joosten, joosten@mail.uni-greifswald.de
3. Hydrogenesis, Hans Joosten, joosten@mail.uni-greifswald.de
4. Plants, Philippe Julve, philippe.julve@wanadoo.fr
5. Animals, Stefan Hotes, hotes@ees.hokudai.ac.jp
7. Regionality, Michael Steiner, gmst@pflaphy.pph.univie.ac.at
8. Multi-level & integration, Richard Lindsay, r.lindsay@uel.ac.uk

The co-ordinator of each topic is automatically included as a member of all other Sub-Groups, in order to encourage a co-ordinated approach across topics at all stages. Each Sub-Group will conduct most of its discussion electronically. Anyone wishing to be involved is welcomed to the discussions and should contact the respective topic co-ordinator. For more information contact the secretariat or visit: <http://ibs.uel.ac.uk/imcg/resources.htm>

International Conference and Workshop on Tropical Peat Swamps "Safeguarding a Global Natural Resource" 27-29 July 1999, Penang, Malaysia

by Jack Rieley

The International Conference and Workshop on Tropical Peat Swamps was held in Penang, Malaysia from 27-29 July 1999. The meeting was organised jointly by the School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia and the International Tropical Peat Swamp Research Group. It was

sponsored financially by the European Union INCO-DC Programme on "Natural Resource Functions, Biodiversity and Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatlands" as one of its milestone events. The sessions were attended by more than 140 technical experts and representatives from

government agencies and international organisations from more than 10 countries, mainly in the Southeast Asian region. The conference was opened by the Malaysian Minister for Science, Technology and Environment Datuk Law Hieng Ding.

More than 40 scientific and technical presentations were made on 27th and 28th July 1999 on a broad range of tropical peatland issues including biology, biodiversity, ecology, management and monitoring methodologies, socio-economic values and mechanisms to enhance collaboration in the region for environmentally sustainable management of tropical peatland resources. A field-based workshop was held to Pondok Tanjung swamp in Perak to view the biodiversity of and threats to this important wetland at first hand. More than 90 of the participants were involved in this supplementary event.

Two keynote papers were presented by Dr. Jack Rieley, University of Nottingham, UK and Professor Mashhor Mansor of Universiti Sains Malaysia on the importance of tropical peatlands for their biodiversity and ecological functioning, current impacts upon them and an appraisal of future prospects for their sustainability. The main conference programme dealt with a wide range of papers divided into six sessions.

Session 1: Peat swamp forest, aquatic and swamp flora and fauna (biodiversity, conservation and management).

Session 2: Structure and function of tropical peat swamps (pristine and developed).

Session 3: Water resources of peat swamps - importance, conservation and management.

Session 4: Socio-economic aspects of peat swamp forests - wise use and environmentally sustainable development.

Session 5: Techniques for effective management of peat swamp forests including remote sensing, GIS and ecosystem modelling.

Session 6: Environmental health aspects of tropical peat swamps.

In the closing session the following statement was adopted:

PENANG CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON TROPICAL PEATLANDS

The closing session of the International Conference and Workshop on Tropical Peat Swamps - "Safeguarding a Global Natural Resource" held in Penang, Malaysia from 27-29 July 1999

COMMENDED the organisers for arranging the meeting and the participating institutions for the significant progress made in recent years in terms of understanding the importance of, threats to and management options for tropical peatlands,

NOTED that Southeast Asia has more than 60% of the world's tropical peatlands and these areas play a critical role in climate change, hydrological balance, biodiversity conservation as well as provision of a range of goods and services for local communities,

NOTED WITH CONCERN the continuing loss and degradation of peat swamp forests in recent years especially the loss and degradation of over 1.5 million ha (5% of the region's peatland) through land clearing and forest fires in 1997/98 alone and current plans to convert additional areas of peatland in Indonesia and Malaysia,

URGED governments, research institutions, NGOs, private sector and other organisations to achieve the following goal:- *To minimise, stop or reverse the loss and degradation of Peat Swamp Forest Resources in Southeast Asia,*

CALLED for the following actions:-

1. Undertake an emergency programme of action to protect key tropical peatland sites important for biodiversity, carbon storage, hydrological functions and socio-economic value to local communities.
2. Put in place a moratorium on conversion of peatlands to agriculture and other uses pending in depth studies of the implications for sustainable development in the region and global climate change.
3. Develop or strengthen partnerships and information exchange between the growing number of organisations and individuals working on peatland issues in the region.
4. Encourage governments, research institutions and NGOs in the region to work together to implement key targets under the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (including the recent decision to prepare a Global Peatland Action Plan), the Convention on Biological Diversity and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which are relevant to conservation and wise use of tropical peatlands.
5. Encourage the strengthening of co-operation between governments of Southeast Asia in the protection of tropical peatland resources and prevention of peatland fires through the framework of the ASEAN Haze Action Plan, and other appropriate mechanisms.
6. Promote a program of rehabilitation of degraded peatland to return appropriate areas to their natural resource functions.
7. Develop and promote sustainable agricultural practices on tropical peat and focus any future sector developments on areas that have already been cleared of forest and present little prospect of rehabilitation.
8. Encourage establishment of a network of regional centres for environmental research on tropical peat and its sustainable management with USM taking a lead in this development.
9. Support the development and implementation of the Southeast Asia Peatland Action Plan and Management Initiative as a mechanism to advance the above actions and encourage the active participation of all relevant groups.
10. Encourage the allocations of appropriate human and financial resources by agencies in the region and external donors to facilitate this work

Holarctic Mire Plant Species List

The holarctic mire plant species list is an Excel spreadsheet compiled by Philippe Julve. It provides a synthesis of information about plant and moss species of the holarctic that are typically found in mire ecosystems. Philippe is keen to have as much comment on the list as possible and also to receive any relevant data, no matter how large, small, or complex. The primary requirement for completion of this work is that people should comment and contribute information. There are already plans to compile similar lists for other floral realms. The

ultimate objective is to generate a global mire species list. The list can be downloaded from Philippe's homepage:

<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/philippe.julve/>

or contact:

Philippe Julve
Hermine Recherches sur les milieux naturels
28 rue des Aubepines
59270 METEREN
(FRANCE)

The IMCG European Mires Book

by John Couwenberg & Hans Joosten

It is already several years ago, that the International Mire Conservation Group started an inventory project on the Mires and Peatlands of Europe. A preliminary version ("European mires: distribution and conservation status") was distributed, thanks to Michael Löfröth's and Asbjörn Moen's efforts, during the IMCG 1994 biennial Field Symposium in Trondheim. A lot has happened since then, both with the mires and peatlands of the world and with IMCG. But to everybody's regret, this important IMCG project was not brought to its end, due to lack of time of the responsible coordinators.

Meanwhile, the necessity to produce an europewide overview of peatlands and mires has not decreased. More than 60% of all European mires have been damaged to such an extent that peat accumulation has stopped completely. Rightly, many conservationists are busy saving whatever is left (see this newsletter). What is, however, still missing is that integrated overview of the abundance, distribution and conservational value of the mires and peatlands of whole Europe. We have decided to change that.

A lot of work has already been done with the "old" version, many manuscripts are already available and need only to be updated and adapted into a "standard" format. In the past two years, IMCG has intensively addressed the difficult questions of international mire classification and terminology, which will help in achieving a kind of standard format. We have a perfect deadline: the Quebec 2000 Millenium Event in August 2000:

- the largest wetland event in years to come;
- at the transition of two millenia;
- exactly 20 years after Roger Goodwillie's European Peatlands;
- as an important input to the GAPP.

We have a devoted, well-equipped, and peatland fanatic task force stationed in Greifswald (John Couwenberg, Thomas Heinicke, Hans Joosten, Lebrecht Jeschke), who's most important task of the next period will be "to get the book done". We knew,

that we could rely on the dedication, devotion, knowledge, and expertise of all mire conservationists of Europe. And indeed: at this moment (half November 1999) over 30 country teams are busy preparing their contribution, and the number is still rising!

The book will consist of general chapters and country chapters. The country chapters will cover all countries of Europe (including Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbeidjan; and Russia divided into 7 subregions) and ideally include

- basic information on location, area, climate, geology, landforms, soils, and vegetation of the country;
- a map of the country with mire regions and important mire/peatland areas (scale 1:1.000.000 - 1:6.000.000);
- information on local (= national) mire/peatland typologies, with an explanation of locally used terms;
- statistics: former mire area, total current peatland area, total current mire area, area of peatland used for agriculture and forestry, area of industrially mined peatland, area of mire/degraded peatland under nature conservation;
- a list of mires/peatlands of international importance to nature conservation: name, size, motivation of inclusion, conservational status;
- information on regional history of mire/peatland use and conservation, and current tendencies;
- information on existing legal and political framework for mire conservation;
- information on important restoration and conservation projects;
- a list of most important literature and other sources;
- the identification of gaps in inventory, knowledge, and conservation;
- an (optional) "european scale" interpretation of the national data: to be prepared by chapter author(s) and coordinators jointly.

Next to the country chapters, we will include general chapters with a pan-european scope on

- mire classification;
- mire regions (incl. map);
- distribution of mire types (incl. maps);
- history of mire use, anthropogenic degradation, and mire conservation;
- the international legal and institutional basis for mire/peatland conservation and management.

The whole project will result in a proposal for a european network of mires and peatlands of european and international importance for nature conservation.

For more information: contact:

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 Grimmer Strasse 88
 D-17487 Greifswald, Germany
 joosten@mail.uni-greifswald.de

Wetlands International: "Peatland Conservation and Management in Central Europe; Development of a Strategy and Action Plan".

by Mette Risager & Henk Zingstra

The project is aiming at the protection and management of biodiversity values related to peatlands in Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, and Ukraine. The project is divided into three phases. The first phase will produce a strategy document including the identification of project opportunities, in the second phase an action plan and project proposals will be developed and the last phase will be focused on the implementation and execution of the project proposals. Funding for the execution of the project proposals will be sought through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The elaboration of the strategy (the first phase) is funded by the the Dutch and Danish governments, which both have allocated additional funding for the action plan development.

The main outcomes of the strategy include

- the design of criteria for assessing the values of peatlands for biodiversity
- collecting, reviewing, and assessing national information on the distribution of peatlands
- producing an overview of peatland distribution in the focal countries
- identifying areas significant for global biodiversity
- identifying root causes threatening the biodiversity of the peatlands

This will enable the compilation of a "Red List" of the most endangered peatlands. The project also includes the review of training needs and the design of a training programme.

In each of the countries involved in the project, a national co-ordinator has been appointed to secure the input of relevant national data. The co-ordinators

are the liaison between national experts and the project manager, Wetlands International.

Likely issues to be supported through the Global Environment Facility are protected area designation, implementation of international (e.g. Ramsar convention) and national legislation, (e.g. establishment of nature reserves and national parks), the development and implementation of management and restoration plans, introduction of sustainable land use activities with the full involvement of local communities, peat based industries and forestry enterprises, and the execution of training activities as well as the establishment of a monitoring system.

The project links to the Darwin Initiative - "Biodiversity in Peatlands: Training for Conservation Management in Eastern Europe". The Darwin project provides training staff in the target countries and will include transfer of technology and know-how, enabling these countries to take cross-sectoral measures to conserve the biodiversity of their resources, and thus assist in their obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.

The IMCG and Greifswald University support the project particularly with regard to classification and terminology of mires, wise-use guidelines, etc. and to link the project to the elaboration of "The IMCG European Mire Book".

The Global Action Plan for the wise use and management of Peatlands (GAPP) is also seen as an important part of the project implementation and it is a challenge to elaborate the strategy and action plan as a pilot project for GAPP

NEW AND RECENT BOOKS

Krivenko, V.G. (ed.) (1999) Wetlands in Russia, Vol. 1: Wetlands of international importance. Wetlands International Publication No. 47, 255 p. (in russian); Wetlands International AEME Publication No. 52, 194 p. (in english).

Russia is extremely rich in wetlands, including 120,000 rivers with a total length of 2,300,000 km, 2 million lakes with a total area of 370,000 sq.km. Russia's coastline stretches tens of thousands of kilometres. In 1976, the Soviet Union joined the Ramsar Convention and designated 13 wetlands of

international importance to the Ramsar List. It was evident even then that, though providing international status for these sites, the country made only the first step towards conservation of its wetlands. The first national wetland inventory, carried out in the early 1980s, indicated that at least 250 wetland areas met Ramsar criteria. No progress was, however, made. In 1991, after the break-up of the USSR, only three Ramsar sites remained in Russia. Serious efforts were made to initiate new activities to conserve and sustain Russian wetlands. On 13 September 1994, the Government of the Russian Federation passed Decree No 1050, which confirmed Ramsar status for the three sites and designated 32 additional sites as wetlands of international importance. The total area of the 35 Ramsar sites is 10.7 million ha. The majority of the sites are large complex habitats and include wetlands of various types. Eight out of 35 sites are primarily represented by marine wetlands, and the rest are inland natural complexes with a high proportion of floodplain and deltaic riverine complexes and peatlands.

Presented at the National Conference on Strategy for Wetland Conservation in the Russian Federation in Moscow from 24-26 February 1999, this volume presents datasheets and maps of the 35 wetlands.

Botch, M. (ed.) (1999) Wetlands in Russia, Vol. 2: Important Peatlands. Wetlands International Publication No. 49 (in russian), 88 p.

Peatlands play a key part in most landscape types covering the extensive area of the Russian Federation. According to some estimations, peatlands occupy 161 million hectares in Russia, including 75 million ha in Western Siberia, 38 million ha in European Russia, 24 million ha in Central and Eastern Siberia and 27 million ha in the eastern portion of the country (Botch *et al.*, 1994).

During the last decades, the importance of peatland conservation has become more and more recognised, both nationally and internationally. In 1967, an international project of 'TELMA' was launched under the aegis of UNESCO, IUCN and the International Biological Programme (IBP). Twenty countries took part in this project, including the USSR where a national working group was established. The group was supervised successively by A.A.Nitsenko, V.V.Mazing and M.S.Botch. As a main result of this work, the objectives of peatland conservation and major threats to the ecological status of peatlands have been identified. A List of Peatlands in the USSR that require protection was compiled. In 1979, the List included 305 sites covering 1.5 million ha, or 1% of the total area of the country (Botch, Mazing, 1979).

The proportion of peatlands in the global network of protected wetland sites is still rather low. The total area of the Ramsar peatland sites comprises less than six percent of the Ramsar sites designated by

December 1995 (Frazier, 1995). Also the Ramsar Strategic Plan 1997-2002 recognised peatlands as an under-represented wetland type in the Ramsar Network of Wetlands of International Importance.

On this basis, a project has been launched under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme to identify peatland areas that meet the Ramsar criteria. Funding for this project has been provided by the Government of the Netherlands.

This volume contains information on 51 important peatland areas collected by a group of experts supervised by the late professor Marina S. Botch. This information has been compiled on the basis of the revised TELMA List and some recent inventory studies. The total area of these sites is over eight million ha, including the world's largest peatland of Vasyuganskoye, which covers five million ha.

Information on the sites is provided under the following headings: *Name and address of compiler; Name of peatland; Geographical co-ordinates; General location; Area; Altitude; Wetland type according to the Ramsar classification; Ramsar criteria; Overview; Physical features; Ecological features; Land tenure/ownership; Current land use; Development projects, changes in land use; Disturbances/threats; Conservation measures taken; Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented; Social and cultural values; Noteworthy fauna; Noteworthy flora; Current scientific research and facilities; Current conservation education; Current recreation and tourism; Management authority; Jurisdiction; and Bibliography.* An outline map showing the location of sites in the country is also provided.

An english version of this second volume on Russian wetlands is in preparation.

Mires and paludified forests in the light of the task of sustainable use of nature. GEOS Moscow, 393 p. (in russian)

The proceedings of a conference held in september 1999. The book presents over 150 papers by specialists from Russia, Belarus and other countries, divided into six sections, covering:

- the distribution and geographical peculiarities of mires, paludified earth, and forests
- genesis and dynamics of mire development (in the past and today)
- structural and functional organization, primary productivity of mires and paludified forests
- role of mires in the biosphere. Biogeochemical cycles of natural and exploited mire systems
- problems of sustainable utilization of mires (hydroforest melioration and forestry, agricultural utilization of mires and peat, food resources of mires, recultivation and usage of exploited peat bogs)
- biodiversity of natural and meliorated mires and paludified forests, monitoring and protection

For more information contact:

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Odintsov District
Moscow Oblast 143030
Russia
sirin@rosles.msk.su; aas@ilan.msk.su

Belokurov, A., Innanen, S., Koc, A., Kordik, J., Szabo, T., Zalatnay, J. & Zellei, A. (1998) Framework for an integrated land-use plan for the Mid-Yaselda area in Belarus. EPCEM, Leiden.

This report aims at i) bringing together knowledge about the Pripyat-Yaselda floodplains available at different institutes in Belarus and, based on this information, ii) drawing up a framework of an integrated land-use plan for part of the Pripyat floodplains. The report costs Dfl. 35.- (ca. USD 18) can be obtained from:

Centre for Environment and Climate Studies
Mw. A.H.M. Huisman-Bouwman
P.O. Box 9101
NL 6700 HB Wageningen
The Netherlands.

Discounts are provided for citizens from Eastern and Central Europe.

Masing, V. (1999) Sammud samblas ja liivas. OÜ Greif, Tartu. 136 p. (in estonian)

“Footsteps in mosses and in sand,” the title of this autobiography. Viktor’s footsteps keep impressing both mires, scientists, and conservationists. The booklet provides an overview of his life with and for mires.

Moen, A. (1999) National Atlas of Norway: Vegetation. Norwegian Mapping Authority, Hønefoss., 200 p.

Norwegian Nature is extremely varied. The great diversity in the vegetation and flora found in Norway is striking. This beautiful atlas describes this colourful vegetational biodiversity. The emphasis of the many maps – 110 in total, 50 of which cover not just Norway, but the Nordic countries, northwest Europe, and the rest of the world, to provide for a greater context – lies on:

- vegetation zones, which reveal differences from south to north and from the lowlands to the high mountains;
- vegetation sections, which show how the plant life varies from the coast to the interior, i.e. mostly from west to east;
- vegetation ecological regions, which are a combination of the zones and sections.

Maps on different aspects of the natural environment that are important for the variation in the plant cover, particularly climatic maps, are also presented.

Besides maps, there are many figures explaining such features as trends over time, degree of cover, and environmental factors that are vital for understanding the distribution of the vegetation. Typical landscapes, vegetation types, and plants are illustrated by 125 colour photographs. The text provides additional information on the various themes. Tables and text boxes offer scientific details. Focus is also put on how the vegetation regions have been utilised over the ages and how new insight into biological diversity can be used in the effort to protect nature.

The atlas will be useful for everyone interested in flora, vegetation, physical geography, and biological diversity. It will also be of great value for those concerned with nature management.

Peatlands are not only well represented in the country, but also in this fascinating book.

The english edition of Atlas Vegetation may be purchased for NOK 500.00 (ca. USD 65) from:

NTNU
Museum of Natural History and Archeology
Botanical Department
N-7491 Trondheim
Norway
e-mail:
inger.growen@vm.ntnu.no;
svorkas@vm.ntnu.no

or from:

Norwegian Mapping Authority
Servicebox 15
N-3504 Hønefoss
Norway

Sopo, R. (ed.) (1998) The spirit of peatlands – proceedings of the International Peat Symposium, Jyskä, Finland 7-9 Sept. 1998. International Peat Society, Jyskä. 288 p.

These proceedings cover over 90 oral papers and posters, concerning following topics:

- long term economic, social, and environmental aspects of peatland management.
- peatland forest ecology
- alternative uses of mire plants and peat
- peatlands and biodiversity
- restoration and reclamation
- carbon balance and peatlands
- peat industry

Stortelder, A.H.F., Hommel, P.W.F.M. & Waal, R.W. de (eds.) (1998) Broekbossen. KNNV, Utrecht. 216 p. (in dutch)

Entirely about carrs, this book covers the dutch forest ecosystems of brook valleys, fens, and bogs. It provides an integrated and detailed overview of abiotics and biotics of the various systems. A pity this beautiful book is written in not the most accessible language.

Van der Schaaf, S. (1999) Analysis of the hydrology of raised bogs in the Irish Midlands. A case study of Raheenmoore Bog and Clara Bog. PhD thesis, Wageningen, 375 p.

The results of Sake's research on bog hydrology with many data and new ideas on groundwater mounds, vertical seepage, effects of drainage, acrotelm properties (incl. transmissivity, water level fluctuations, discharge, selfregulation), evapotranspiration, and water balances with special attention to the situation in the two Irish bogs.

For information contact:

Sake van der Schaaf
Agricultural University Wageningen
Department of Water Resources
Nieuwe Kanaal 11
NL-6709 PA Wageningen
sake.vanderschaaf@users.whh.wan.nl

Irmeler, U., Müller, K. & Eigner, J. (eds.) (1998) Das Dosenmoor – Ökologie eines regenerierenden Hochmoores. Faunistisch-ökologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft, Kiel. 283 p. (in german)

Gives an overview on the Dosenmoor in Schleswig Holstein, Germany, in which attempts at bog revitalisation have been carried out since 1978. The book can be ordered from:

Faunistisch-ökologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft
Biologiezentrum, Universität
Olshausenstr. 40
D-24098 Kiel
Germany

Schopp-Guth, A. (1999) Renaturierung von Moorlandschaften. Bundesamt für Naturschutz, Bonn. 220+xvi p. (in german)

A background document for the conservation and restoration of german peatlands. Price: 39.80 DM (ca. USD 20) For more information:
BfN-Schriftenbetrieb im Landwirtschaftsverlag
D 48084 Münster
Germany

Standen, V., Tallis, J.H. & Meade, R. (1999) Patterned Mires and Mire Pools – Origin and Development; Flora and Fauna. Proceedings University of Durham 6-7 April 1998. British Ecological Society, London. 212 p.

The Durham conference was organised to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the origins of pattern features in mires, and the processes which take place within them. The proceedings are presented under four categories: the origin of pool features, the biological and hydrological processes taking place within patterned mires, the invertebrate communities within the pool

clusters, and the animals of the wider mire system.

A copy (GBP 18) may be obtained from:

Valery Standen
Department of Biological Sciences
Science Laboratories
South Road
Durham DH1 3LE
United Kingdom
Valerie.Standen@durham.ac.uk

Maltby, E. & L. Maclean (1999) Peatlands under pressure – Arctic to tropical peatlands. Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research, London, 37 p.

Papers from the Society of Wetland Scientists International Symposium, Anchorage, Alaska 8-12th June 1998. For more information contact:
Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research
Huntersdale, Callow Hill, Virginia Water,
Surrey GU25 4LN, United Kingdom
rhier@rhbc.ac.uk

Manneville, O. (coord.) (1999) Le monde des tourbières et des marais – France, Suisse, Belgique et Luxembourg. Delachaux et Niestlé, Lausanne. 320 p. (in french)

A beautiful overview of peatlands in francophone Europe; colourful, scientifically thorough, and accessible.

Les tourbières de Midi-Pyrénées – comment les conserver? (1999) Espaces Naturels de Midi-Pyrénées, Toulouse. 116 p. (in french)

Published in the LIFE Nature project „Tourbières de Midi-Pyrénées“, a regional overview of peatlands and their biodiversity value is given. For more information contact:

Espaces Naturels de Midi-Pyrénées Conservatoire régional,
75 voie du TOEC,
F 31076 Toulouse cedex 3.
ENMP@espaces-naturels.fr

Dupieux, N. (1998) La gestion conservatoire des tourbières de France: Premiers éléments scientifiques et techniques. Espaces Naturels de France, programme Life „Tourbières de France“. 244 p. (in french)

Based upon the analysis of nearly 150 experiments of peatland management carried out in France as well as upon a thorough research in literature, this handbook draws up a first synthesis of knowledge of peatland conservation management. The main methods of management (water control, scrub management, grazing, mowing, and turf-stripping) and of monitoring are described and illustrated with a variety of photographs and drawings. 22 case studies

representing the variety of peatlands, peatland managers, and management techniques illustrate in a practical way the numerous and complex problems related to the management of these ecosystems. This document will provide nature managers and anyone interested in peatland conservation with valuable information. For more information contact:

Espaces Naturels de France – programmes opérationnels
16, rue de Boeuf Saint-Paterne
F 45000 Orléans
enf@infonie.fr

Grundling, P.-L., Mazus, H. & Baartman, L. (1998) Peat resources in northern KwaZulu-Natal wetlands: Maputaland. Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pretoria.

Maputaland, northern KwaZulu-Natal hosts the most extensive wetlands and best developed peat deposits in South Africa. It is an underdeveloped region and has an apparent potential for peat mining. Maputaland is part of the southern area of the Mozambique Coastal Plain, and is an area of high biodiversity, with a high concentration of endemic species.

This book reports on a project, carried out to map, characterise, and document the peat resources of Maputaland in terms of i) description of peat types; ii) proximate analysis, energy content, and dating; iii) peat forming flora and pollen analysis.

It proposes management guidelines for the Maputaland's peatlands, of which over 70% are in proclaimed conservation areas, and points at the value of the peatlands as a source of permanent and clean water being much more important than any of the other uses.

For more information contact:

Wetlands Conservation Programme
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
Private Bag X447
Pretoria
South Africa
0001
nat_mm@ozone.pwv.gov.za
<http://water.ccwr.ac.za/wetlands/>

Safford, L. & Maltby, E. (eds) (1998) Guidelines for Integrated Planning and management of Tropical Lowland Peatlands, with Special Reference to Southeast Asia. IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Gland Switzerland. 65 p.

The first of a series (?) of regional guidelines and a building block for similar exercises elsewhere and on the global level.

price: GBP 10; USD 15

For more information:

IUCN Publications Services Unit
219c Huntingdon Road
Cambridge, CB3 0DL
United Kingdom
info@books.iucn.
<http://www.iucn.org/bookstore/index.html>

Messina, M. G. & Conner, W.H. (eds.) (1998) Southern forested wetlands – ecology and management. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton. 616 p.

Covers the southern part of the USA, ranging from West Virginia to Florida to Texas and inland north to Arkansas and Tennessee. The book presents ecological and management aspects.

Trettin, C. C., Jurgensen, M. F., Grigal, D. F., Gale, M. R. & Jeglum, J. K. (eds.) (1997) Northern forested wetlands – ecology and management. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton. 486 p.

With chapters on wetland resources, on ecology and vegetation, on hydrology and biogeochemistry, and wetland management. Though the focus is on forested wetlands in North America, also contributions from Eurasia are included.

Warner, B.G. & Rubec, C.D.A. (eds.) (1997) The Canadian Wetland Classification System, 2nd edition. Wetlands research centre, Univ. of Waterloo, Waterloo. 68 p.

Copies of this report are available from:
Wetlands Research Centre,
Environmental Studies Building 1
University of Waterloo,
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

Tiner, R.W. (1999) Wetland Indicators – A guide to wetland identification, delineation, classification, and mapping. Lewis Publishers, Boca Raton. 392 p.

Almost 400 pages clarifying what a wetland is and how to distinguish between different types.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IMCG/IPS meeting and GAPP discussions

27 November – 1 December 1999, Freising, Germany
Meeting of the boards of IPS and IMCG on cooperation (Surwold II). For information contact Richard Lindsay r.lindsay@uel.ac.uk
This meeting is followed by discussions on the GAPP. (See elsewhere in this newsletter.) For information contact: Clayton Rubec: clay.rubec@ec.gc.ca

Conservación de ecosistemas a nivel mundial, con énfasis en las turbas de Tierra del Fuego.

March 2000, Ushuaia, Argentina

A course in the ecosystem approach to nature conservation, with special emphasis on the mires of Tierra del Fuego. Org.: Laboratorio de Geología del Cuaternario del Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas (CADIC-CONICET). For information contact: Adrea Coronato, Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas CC 92 (9410) Ushuaia Tierra del Fuego, Argentina acoronato@arnet.com.ar

3rd IMCG Classification and Terminology Workshop.

24-28 March 2000, Lagow, Poland

See also : 2nd IMCG Classification and Terminology Workshop elsewhere in this Newsletter.

This 3rd Workshop will have three objectives:

- Review of near-finalised classification approaches for the seven Topic Areas, discussion of unresolved issues, and then compilation of the seven Topic systems into an integrated descriptive system.
- Agreement on the content of presentations concerning classification and terminology to be made at IMCG's Conference (and in possible joint events) during the Quebec 2000 Millennium Wetland Event.
- An IMCG European Regional Symposium, for those unable to attend the biennial Field Symposium and Congress in Canada but wishing to have an opportunity to be involved in deciding and influencing IMCG issues. Outputs from the Regional Meeting will be fed into the subsequent biennial Field Symposium and Congress.

The approximate costs will be 70 DM/day for people from „the west“. This price includes a stay in a single room with bath, all meals, and a half day excursion by bus. Prices for people from the east (and other countries with "currency problems") will be (much)

less. Furthermore we are looking for sponsors to enable more people to join.

For all technical and scientific information contact Leslaw Wolejko
Akad. Rolnicza Instytut Biologii Roslin
ul. Slowackiego 17
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Québec 2000 Millennium Wetland Event

6-12 August 2000, Quebec, Canada

For further info, email: cqvb@cqvb.qc.ca
See also: <http://www.cqvb.qc.ca/wetland2000/>

The mission of the Québec 2000: Millennium Wetland Event is to foster the understanding and sustainability of the World's peatlands and wetlands through promotion of positive interactions by the many stakeholders involved nationally and internationally in wetland and peatland science, policy, management, wise resource use and regulation.

The members of the Québec 2000 organizing committee are honoured to invite everyone interested in wetlands and peatlands to attend. Quebec will host the 12th international symposium of the IMCG, the 11th international peat congress of the IPS, the 21st Annual Conference of the SWS, and the 6th International Wetland Symposium of INTECOL.

These groups will share a common venue, Trade Exhibition, field trips, excursions, social functions and much more. Delegates to any of the meetings will be able to attend any or all of the activities of the other organisations.

Québec 2000 is the first opportunity of the next millennium to meet, hear about and discuss the latest innovations, challenges and directions in wetland and peatland science. This international event features a high-profile roster of some of the world's most respected research authorities and industry and environmental leaders: A unique opportunity to expand your network.

7th International Conference on Wetland Systems for Water Pollution Control

11-16 November 2000, Lake Buena Vista, Florida

Submission Deadline: January 24, 2000

For information contact:

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See also: http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/~conferweb/wpc/wpd_ab.htm