



IMCG Bulletin: November 2014

Word from the Chair



www.imcg.net

Dear mire friends

We are living the last month of 2015! However, you have the privilege of reading our November bulletin before the year ends! I finally managed to hand in my thesis about a week ago. The IMCG, through its members, is once again at the forefront in efforts to conserve the globe's mires. Hans Joosten, our secretary –general, was instrumental in drafting and submitting the paper: *Accounting for peatland hotspots in the new climate agreement* at the climate conference (UNFCCC COP20) in Lima, Peru. Wetlands international reported that “this position paper gives insight in why peatlands should be treated as hotspots for climate change mitigation in the negotiations for a new climate agreement. It contains an overview of countries with significant mitigation potential. This can be realised by placing a ban on draining new peatlands (for forestry and agriculture), and by rewetting already drained peatlands, with options for the maintenance of productive land use under wet conditions (paludiculture).” Hans reported that unfortunately they were not able to secure peatland rewetting under CDM this time. However, he is positive that the next climate conference will have more positive results as interest is growing in peatland conservation as a mitigation measure to dampen climate change.

We encourage all our members to engage with the public and governments in countries in the different regions to make them aware of the threat to these unique ecosystems and the opportunities peatlands afford us to mitigate climate change.

As per usual, contributions for the IMCG Bulletin can be sent to Piet-Louis Grundling - peatland@mweb.co.za

Mires and Peat

More exciting news from *Mires and Peat*

To follow the news from last month that *Mires and Peat* has been accepted for coverage in the *Web of Science*, we can now announce that the appointment of two new Assistant Editors was enthusiastically confirmed during November by the Main Board of IMCG and the Executive Board of the International Peat Society (IPS). We welcome Dr Peter Jones of Natural Resources Wales (UK) and Professor Stephan Glatzel of Vienna University (Austria) to the editorial team.

Our publication target of 20 articles in 2014 will be reached with the appearance in December of:

An introduction to the bofedales of the Peruvian High Andes by M.S. Maldonado Fonkén [Volume 15, Article 05]

Mires and Peat is the open-access peer reviewed journal of IMCG and the International Peat Society (IPS). The editors are always ready to receive high-quality manuscripts on any topic relating to mires, peat and peatlands. See <http://mires-and-peat.net/> for a more detailed description of the scope of this unique journal for peat and peatland researchers and practitioners, as well as for 117 (so far) freely downloadable published articles.



News from our regions

Oceania news

Bev Clarkson (Clarksonb@landcareresearch.co.nz)

Peat bog remnant management

Moanatuatua Bog is a 114-ha remnant of a raised restiad bog (dominated by Restionaceae) that formerly covered 7500 ha in southern Waikato region, North Island, New Zealand. Classified as a Scientific Reserve, it is one of the few remaining examples of the *Sporadanthus ferrugineus* – *Empodisma robustum* vegetation type. However, the remnant is at risk from surrounding land-use activities, particularly dairying and horticulture. Concerns have been raised that continued lowering of the local water table and increasing nutrient inputs may push the bog towards ecological tipping points and irreversible loss of the key peat-forming restiad species. A working group comprising hydrologists, ecologists, conservation managers, and policy makers visited Moanatuatua in November 2014. The aim was to discuss research and current management practices to assess the impact of land-use activities on hydrology, biodiversity, and peat characteristics, and to develop policies and strategies for long-term management of the reserve and catchment. Proposed activities include establishing permanent transects to monitor hydrology, vegetation, nutrients, C, and peat condition in the reserve, as well as gathering information on catchment hydrology and farm management practices.

Sydney Sandstone Swamps

A forum of researchers working on the Sydney Sandstone Upland Peat Swamps was held at the University of New South Wales on 26 November. This community is listed as endangered under the Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act and is threatened by long-wall coal mining activities.

There were presentations on their spatial distribution, hydrology, endangered fauna, environmental history, the vegetation, biogeography and connectivity of flora, and possible approaches to assessing and monitoring swamp condition and ecosystem health, as well as an update on the impacts of long-wall peat mining.

It was an opportunity for researchers to update colleagues on their project and many collaborative links have been formed and strengthened.



View into a low nutrient Sydney sandstone swamp, a focus of the 2013 IMCG Australian field symposium (Photo: Jennie Whinam)



News from Germany

Michael Trepel (mtrepel@ecology.uni-kiel.de)

Draft guidelines for better mire conservation in Germany ready

On 13 October 2014, around 100 participants discussed the draft result from a Bundesamt für Naturschutz project on Mire Conservation in Germany. The project aimed at developing tools for improving the conservation and restoration of mires with a multifunctional perspective on different scales. For the mire complex scale, tools were developed to assess vegetation changes based on habitat types, changes in fauna based on species, and changes in climate impact based on water levels and vegetation type. For nutrient regulation, a tool was developed for a qualitative assessment of the function. For larger scales, e.g. states, examples for prioritizing and selecting sites for protection and conservation were shown based on ecological value data and agro-economic data.

The results from the project are available as draft guidelines at <http://www.moorschutz-deutschland.de>; participants and interested persons are invited to send comments until the end of the year 2014. The final guidelines will be available at the beginning of 2015.

Schleswig-Holsteins joins MoorFuture group

On 26 November 2014, Ute Ojowski from Stiftung Naturschutz Schleswig-Holstein officially signed the contract with Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to join the MoorFuture group. The first mire, which will be rewetted by selling MoorFuture certificates, is a 60 ha part of the Königsmoor mire complex west of Rendsburg. Schleswig-Holstein will be presented in the MoorFuture group through the Ausgleichsagentur a partner of Stiftung Naturschutz; their activities take place under the auspices of Environmental Minister Robert Habeck. The Ausgleichsagentur compensates environmental impacts caused by agriculture or industry. The new MoorFuture certificates are sold for 54 € plus tax, they compensate one tonne of carbon dioxide emissions. Read more: <http://www.ausgleichsagentur.de/moorfutures/>

News from all over

Saving Peatlands with the President

“Today we made history in the protection of Indonesian peatlands. I’ve just got back from a monitoring trip to Sumatra’s devastated peatland forests with Indonesia’s new president Jokowi, where the president witnessed firsthand ongoing peatland and rainforest destruction and took decisive action to stop it” reported Longgeng Ginting, Greenpeace Indonesia’s Country Director.

President Jokowi made his visit to support Abdul Manan, a villager from Sungai Tohor, a small community in fire-ravaged Riau province. Manan had petitioned the president to come witness for himself the devastating impacts on the province of decades of forest and peatland destruction by the pulp and palm oil industries. Ginting stated: “With your support, we have just made a major step forward in the battle to protect forests and the climate.” Read more: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/news/Blogs/makingwaves/saving-peatland-with-the-president/blog/51490/>

Inland Aquatic Ecosystems Database

A database of individuals and institutions engaged or interested in inland aquatic ecosystems (wetlands, lakes, rivers) in general, with emphasis on Wetland Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is now being prepared with



the financial support from the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), Kobe, Japan (www.apn-gcr.org), for a project awarded to the National Institute of Ecology, New Delhi. The database is being hosted at the website of the Centre for Inland Waters in South Asia (www.aquaticecosystems.org) which will maintain it over the long term and extend to all tropical countries, especially within Asia. The database will facilitate developing a network of individuals interested in the studies, conservation and management of wetlands/rivers/lakes and promote exchange of information and communication among them.

All researchers interested in wetlands, rivers, lakes for any reason and anywhere in Asia, whether associated with a university, college or research institution or not, are invited to join the network. Individuals are required to register with a valid email ID and password, at www.aquaticecosystems.org. After verification from their email inbox, they will be able to access the [dashboard](#) where they should fill in a data form. All fields should be completed. Individuals have the option to allow their email IDs to be made public or not. The CVs and list of publications can be uploaded as a WORD file or PDF. The form can be edited at any time by logging in again and going to EDIT mode (instead of VIEW mode). The [database](#) (as it develops gradually over time) can be searched, after logging in. Find out more from Brij Gopal brij44@gmail.com

IUCN Investing in Peatlands Conference a success!

IUCN UK Peatland Programme rea.cris@iucn.org.uk

In the United Kingdom's largest peatland event, UK and international peatland experts gathered for the IUCN UK Peatland Programme Conference in Inverness last month, October 2014. The three-day Conference learned lessons from the many peatland conservation projects taking place across the UK in an effort to bring 1 million hectares of peatland into good condition. The event also heard from scientists who have been studying the benefits of peatlands for tackling climate change and helping reduce the costs of drinking water treatment. Over the last six years the IUCN UK Peatland Programme has brought together a partnership of scientists, land managers and policy makers aimed at bringing our peatlands into good condition and this year's conference didn't disappoint! To view the presentations from the conference (from those speakers who allowed us to share) please visit the website [here](#).

Peatland conservation relevant papers

Collected by Hans Joosten. If you want to share papers, please send the title and URL to Hans at joosten@uni-greifswald.de

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1. Sphagnum farming: A long-term study on producing peat moss biomass sustainably:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925857414005436>
2. Seed structure and germination in buriti (*Mauritia flexuosa*), the Swamp palm:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0367253014001212>
3. Degradation changes stable carbon isotope depth profiles in palsa peatlands:
<http://www.biogeosciences.net/11/3369/2014/bg-11-3369-2014.html>
4. Modeling the rate of turnover of DOC and particulate organic carbon in a UK, peat-hosted stream: Including diurnal cycling in short-residence time systems:
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JG002671/abstract?campaign=wolotoc>
5. Temporal variability of carbon and nutrient burial, sediment accretion, and mass accumulation over the past century in a carbonate platform mangrove forest of the Florida Everglades:
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JG002715/abstract?campaign=wolotoc>



6. Late Quaternary vegetation dynamics and hydro-climate in the Drakensberg, South Africa: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379114003643>
7. Clonal in vitro propagation of peat mosses (*Sphagnum* L.) as novel green resources for basic and applied research: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11240-014-0658-2>
8. Short-term effects of biogas digestate and cattle slurry application on greenhouse gas emissions affected by N availability from grasslands on drained fen peatlands and associated organic soils: <http://www.biogeosciences.net/11/6187/2014/bg-11-6187-2014.pdf>
9. Cushion peatlands in the high Andes of northwestern Argentina as archives for palaeoenvironmental research: <http://www.borntraeger-cramer.de/9783443643256>
10. The 'Little Ice Age' in the Southern Hemisphere in the context of the last 3000 years: peat-based proxy-climate data from Tierra del Fuego: <http://hol.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/10/01/0959683614551232.full.pdf?ikey=3zfAQcigyZ50DZJ&keytype=ref>
11. Landscape analysis of nutrient-enriched margins (lagg) in ombrotrophic peatlands: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969714014454>
12. Long-term research in peatland ecology: a necessity to uncover patterns in these resilient and stable ecosystems: <http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/pdf/10.1139/cjb-2014-0144>
13. Predicted areas of potential distributions of alpine wetlands under different scenarios in the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau, China: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921818114002057>
14. Vegetation history, climate and human impact in the Spanish Central System over the last 9000 years: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618213003753>
15. Tracing the land use history and vegetation dynamics in the Mont Lozère (Massif Central, France) during the last 2000 years: The interdisciplinary study case of Countrasts peat bog: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618213008288>
16. Environmental evolution in Sierra Nevada (South Spain) since the Last Glaciation, based on multi-proxy records: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618214000998#>
17. Shifting occupation dynamics in the Madriu–Perafita–Claror valleys (Andorra) from the early Neolithic to the Chalcolithic: The onset of high mountain cultural landscapes: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618214000500>

Please send your contribution to the **IMCG Bulletin** by the 20th of each month: peatland@mweb.co.za