INTERNATIONAL MIRE CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

issue 2001/1, March 2001

This issue of the IMCG Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ton Damman, our friend, collegue, and chairman of IMCG, who unexpectedly died 27th December 2000. Ton, we miss you.

The International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) is an international network of specialists having a particular interest in mire and peatland conservation. The network encompasses a wide spectrum of expertise and interests, from research scientists to consultants, government agency specialists to peatland site managers. It operates largely through e-mail and newsletters, and holds regular workshops and symposia. For more information: consult the IMCG Website: http://www.imcg.net

IMCG has an elected Main Board of 15 people from various parts of the world, that has to take decisions between congresses. Of these 15 an elected 5 constitute the IMCG Executive Committee that handles day to day affairs. The Executive Committee consists of a Chairman, a secretary general, a treasurer, and 2 additional members.

Viktor Masing (†), Hugo Sjörs, and Richard Lindsay have been awarded honorary membership of IMCG.

Editorial

The new year is already well underway and finally the first IMCG Newsletter of 2001 is here. The year 2000 ended really badly when our chairman Ton Damman died suddenly the 27th of December. We will keep up the "good work" as Ton would have wished we do.

Further, we are very proud and sad at the same time to present the last article of Viktor Masing (see p. 20/21), who died while we were finishing this Newsletter...

This issue of the IMCG Newsletter includes an article on the history of IMCG and calls for interested people to attend the 4th IMCG classification and terminology workshop, this time focusing on regional aspects.

This Newsletter, as previous ones, may also be found on the new IMCG web page. Downloading from there will in future be one of the main ways to distribute the Newsletter. Please fill out the registration form sent with this Newsletter to make your wishes regarding membership and your preferred way of receiving the newsletter in future.

Our editing has been as rigorous as always and any mistakes are entirely our responsibility. Keep informing us on anything happening regarding mires to report on it in the Newsletter. The deadline for the next IMCG Newsletter is 1 June 2001. Also for information or other things, contact us at the IMCG Secretariat. Address updates should be made with the registration form. In the meantime, keep an eye on the **NEW** IMCG web-site: http://www.imcg.net

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In memoriam: Ton Damman

On the 29th of December we received a message from Bernard Goffinet of the University of Connecticut, with the sad news that our Chairman Ton Damman had unexpectedly died two days earlier.

Dear colleagues,
Antoni (Ton) W. H. Damman, 68, of Manhattan, Kansas, formally of Tolland, Connecticut, died suddenly at Middlesex Hospital, in Middletown, Connecticut on Dec. 27. Ton was born April 21, 1932 in Utrecht, the Netherlands, son of the late Antoni and Wilhemina (Adriana) Damman. He studied Plant Ecology at the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands and received his undergraduate and MS degrees. In 1956, Ton immigrated to Newfoundland, Canada where he was a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, in St. Johns, Newfoundland. He received his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1964. Ton immigrated to the United States in 1967 to accept a faculty position in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Connecticut, Storrs. While a professor of Ecology, he provided instruction in Botany, Plant Geography, Plant Ecology, and Field Ecology. He also wrote many scientific papers and advised numerous students. He collected bryophytes and lichens as part of his interest in peatland ecology. Ton retired from the University of Connecticut in 1996 and moved to Manhattan, Kansas where he joined the faculty in the Division of Biology at Kansas State University. He willingly volunteered his time to many professional societies and conservation organizations. Ton had a passion for the outdoors and remote, beautiful places. He spent much of his life studying botany and plant ecology all over the world and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with others. His love of life, sense of humor and passion for teaching will be missed by all who knew him.
Ton is survived by his wife, Loretta Johnson Damman, of Manhattan, Kansas and formerly of Tolland, Connecticut, his son Hans Damman of Sardis, British Columbia, his daughter Margreet Else Damman Canam of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, two sisters, Alida Wevers and Johanna Wilhelm of the Netherlands, four grandchildren Gilbert and Sally Damman, Rebecca and Michael Canam, and very dear friend and sister-in-law Else Visscher. Ton was pre-deceased by his first wife Blandina Catherina Visscher.
A memorial service will be held Friday Dec. 29 2pm at the Storrs Congregational Church, 2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs with Joanne Myer officiating. There will be no calling hours and burial will be private. Coventry Funeral Home, 2665 Boston Turnpike, is in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the "University of Connecticut Foundation" care of the Ton Damman Fund, Box U-3206, Storrs, CT 06269-3206.

Bernard Goffinet
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With his strength and conviction, Ton had made his short chairmanship into the bright beacon IMCG needed in its newly established form and in all the challenges it now faces. His death certainly came to a blow to IMCG and all who knew him.

Geert Raeymaeckers:
I just received an email from Hans Joosten with the latest newsletter of the IMCG and read the word of our chairman. Immediately thereafter I opened a message from BRYONET, the information network of the International Association of Bryologists, and learned, with great sadness, that Ton Damman, our chairman of the International Mire Conservation Group, died a few days ago at the age of 68.

Sake van der Schaaf:
Dit is schrikken. Ton wekte afgelopen zomer bepaald niet de indruk dat hij ons zo snel zou verlaten.
Een rotbericht, en zoals je al opmerkte, niet alleen voor de IMCG.

Margrit von Euw:
What sad news about the death of Antoni Damman! The year ended real bad.

Tanja Minaeva:
only from Philippes mail that I've get today I had realised about what had happened. I need some time to get acustomed with that fact, sorry and with other please wait for tomorrow

Richard Lindsay:
Really sad, shocking, news about Ton. Although he himself had a life rich in so many things, his family and friends must be feeling his loss terribly. He was just such a nice guy.....
There was a letter waiting for me in my pigeon-hole, from Ton Damman. It was my official notification of being awarded Honorary Membership of the IMCG. It was a charming letter, but it was so very sad to read it because it must have been one of the last things he wrote.....

Jaanus Paal:
Ja, Ton was very kind man, so much as I understood after our short meeting, and his death is really an extremely sad news

Jack Rieley:
I was shocked when Richard told me about Damman's death. It is a tragic loss to his family, ecology/conservation, and IMCG.

Jan Sliva:
warum muss das neue Jahr so schlimm und traurig beginnen ?? Ich schreibe zuerst deutsch und nur dir, dann melde ich mich "offiziell" als IMCG bei allen. Aber für die englische Fassung fehlt mir der komplette Vokabular...
Ich bin sehr traurig und fassungslos, und ziemlich hilflos. Ich habe Ton bereits zehn Jahre gekannt und sehr geschätzt und wie du weisst, ich war auch ziemlich happy mit seiner Entscheidung, den Vorsitz zu übernehmen
.. es hat so gut angefangen.

Donal Clarke:
I am very sorry to learn of Ton Damman's death. From what I read of what he has written, he is indeed a loss.

Russell Anderson:
Bad news indeed about Toni Damman's death. I met him and he was a nice guy. He kindly sent me details of his acid-insuble-ash method when I asked his advice a few years ago.

R.S. Clymo:
A real shock, particularly as he had seemed in such good shape in Quebec. There is a growing scarcity in North America and UK of people who have a holistic understanding of peatlands, as opposed to those who flutter in with specialist knowledge and equipment and leave just as quickly.

Raimo Heikkilä:
The news about Ton have been a real shock to me also. What a pity.

Tapio Lindholm:
I got the message that IMCG has lost its new chairman This is a big sorrow of all of us. We in Finland have had feeling that we have lost also a good friend of Finnish mires and mire scientists too. Tony Damman had good contacts to Finland

Mette Risager:
Ton Dammans dead was quite shocking news!

photo: Michael Succow

Virtual meeting of the IMCG Executive Committee December 2000

The first meeting of the new IMCG Executive Committee took place in December 2000 as a virtual meeting via the internet. Participants: Ton Damman, Hans Joosten, Philippe Julve, Jan Sliva, Tatjana Minaeva. We primarily discussed IMCG organizational issues. The following main decisions were taken.

On IMCG internal organisation:

- Until formal registration, the IMCG functions according to the constitution adopted at the IMCG Congress in Quebec.
- Ton takes the lead in the discussion for improvement of this constitution and prepares – attuned with IMCG-EC and IMCG-MB - a proposal for ammendments of the current constitution for the IMCG Congress 2002.
- The Executive Committee must put proposals for significant decisions before the Main Board. The following line of action was adopted linking up with Constitution art. 10.3.b: Members of the Main Board must lodge any objections against a decision proposed within 4 weeks after receipt of the proposal. If no objections are received within this period, it will be taken that the proposal is approved.
- The next IMCG-EC meeting will be held in the period 26 – 30 March 2001 in the Netherlands associated with the IPS/IMCG meeting (see agenda elswhere in this Newsletter).
- As meeting place for the second IMCG-EC meeting two possibilities were proposed:Freising (July 29th - August 4rd 2001) during the 44. IAVS Symposium or Noyabrsk, Russia (20-24 August 2001) during the Siberian peatland symposium. Final decision will be taken on the next EC meeting.
- We start the official incorporation of the IMCG (in France) as soon as possible.
- On the following full IMCG-EC meeting, we will discuss and resolve a working plan for the period 2001 – 2002. Ton will prepare a draft based on input of all IMCG-EC members.
- The central secretariat adress will be moved from London to Greifswald.
- The WEB-site will be stationed in Kiel (Germany) and maintained by Michael Trepel.
- Jan will manage the IMCG membership and other address lists. He will regularly send all IMCG-EC members updated adress lists.
- Greifswald will continue the production of the Newsletter. As soon as possible, the Newsletter will – as far as possible – be distributed by the Internet. People who cannot (easily) receive the newsletter via the internet, will be provided by a hardcopy.
- According to the constitution members have to be formally adopted by the IMCG Main Board. The following procedure was decided: Membership requests will be send for approval to the IMCG Main Board as soon as possible but certainly within two months of their receipt. IMCG-MB –members will then get 4 weeks to bring up objections to individual applications. When no objections have been received within these 4 weeks, the individual will be admitted.
  In case motivated objections against admission of an individual have been made, all MB-members will be informed on these objections within 4 weeks. A decision on the admission will then take place by ordinary majority vote by the MB within 4 weeks after receipt of the request to vote. MB-members that have not voted within this period, will be considered to have voted in favour of admission. Jan is going to manage this procedure.
- Jan is going to systematically address potential members (e.g. from the existing contact lists) and ask them to apply for membership (see registration form with this Newsletter). Furthermore he is going to encourage all IMCG-MB members to actively recruit members.
- In choosing a French bank, Philippe selects one with many international branch offices (also to include the US). With the setting up of separate accounts in other countries, we wait until we will have more information about the geographical distribution of the membership and more members.
- The IMCG-EC decides on the support of meetings without substantial IMCG financial and personal input. In other cases, the IMCG-MB decides.
- Conform existing practise, IMCG resolutions will only be adopted during an IMCG-Congress. In between congresses, the IMCG-Main Board may send „letters of concern“.

Projects:

- Philippe informs us as soon as possible on the exact dates the French Congress and Field Symposium are going to take placem, so that we can have some input and consider possible conflicts.
- Jan contacts Piet-Louis to discuss the optimal scheduling of the 2004 South Africa Congress and Field Symposium and assists Piet-Louis with further planning.
- Jan takes over the coordination of the Classification and Terminology Project
- IMCG accepts formal partnership of the Global Initiative for Sustainable Use of Peatlands. Ton and Hans coordinate the project for IMCG.
- The IMCG confirms support of the meetings in Moscow (January 2001) and Noyabrsk (August 2001).

Agenda IMCG Executive Committee meeting

Wageningen (NL), 29 March 2001

Preliminary agenda for the IMCG-EC meeting on March 29 2001 in Wageningen (NL). Start of meeting: 09.00 h. a.m.
(between brackets): reporter

1. Formal issues
1.1 Chairmanship of the meeting
1.2 Confirmation of minutes of Dec. 2000 IMCG-EC meeting

2. Executive Committee
2.1 Chairmanship: the succession of Ton (Hans)
2.2 Decision on next IMCG-EC meeting in August (Freising / Tamsweg).

3. Internal Organisation
3.1 Official registration: progress (Philippe)
3.2 The organisation of the discussion on the constitution
3.3 Membership: application, administration, status and progress (Jan)
3.4 Secretariat and website (Hans)
3.5 Treasurership and finances (Philippe)
3.6 Newsletter: production, distribution, and recipients (Hans)
3.7 Working Plan 2001-2002 (Tanja, Hans)

4. Contacts with other organisations
4.1 Wetlands International (Hans/Tanja)
4.2 European Habitat Forum (Philippe)
4.3 Ramsar STRP (Jan)
4.4 IUCN (Hans)
4.5 SWS (Hans)

5. Current issues
5.1 Peat: ecolabelling and renewable fuel
5.2 GAPP (Jan)

6. Projects
6.1 Proceedings Conference Kushiro Japan 1996: progress (Hans)
6.2 Proceedings Conference Quebec 2000: progress (Jan)
6.3 Field symposium, congress and conference in France 2002 (Philippe)
6.4 Field symposium, congress and conference in South Africa 2004 (Jan)
6.5 Classification and Terminology Project, incl. the Tamsweg workshop (Jan, Tanja)
6.6 Central European Peatland Project incl. European Red Lists (Hans)
6.7 European Mires Book (Hans)
6.8 Mire species lists (Philippe)
6.9 Global Peat Initiative
6.10 Specialist groups
6.11 Wise Use Guidelines (Hans); discussion starts at 14.00 h

REGISTER

Please fill out the registration form sent with this Newsletter.

IMCG workshop on peatland regionality

4th August – 8th August 2001, Tamsweg/Austria

Information about the regional distribution of mires and their use becomes more and more important. In order to work out an international conservation strategy we need to know the characteristic mire types for each region. To apply wise use guidelines we need information about the regional use and/or management of mires. Therefore, we have to identify gaps in knowledge and we need information about the conservation of the mires in the regions.

I am looking for people who want to deal with these questions. The final goal of this working group is to produce a book or booklet with a description of the regions, their peatland types, size, use and conservation status to have this kind of information beyond the scope of the IMCG European Mires Book. Such information will contribute to developing criteria for their protection, e.g. as Ramsar sites.

To initialise this working group and to structure the work we would like to invite those who are interested in it to take part in a workshop held in August this year in Tamsweg/Austria after the conference of the International Association for Vegetation Science IAVS in Freising/Germany. For people who are at this conference Jan Sliva and Michael Steiner will organize a shuttle from Freising to Tamsweg on the 4th of August and back to Munich airport on the 8th, for people who come by train or plain a shuttle to Munich or Salzburg is possible.

One of the reasons to choose the city of Tamsweg for this workshop was that in the surrounding area we find the best examples of Alpine mires in Austria. A tradition of IMCG was always not to discuss mires only indoors but also standing on them. Another reason for our choice of this locality is to present a mire rehabilitation project carried out by the Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology of the Vienna University in co-operation with the landowners, the Public Forestry Company, and the WWF Austria. We want to take the opportunity to show this project to the public (decision makers, journalists) and will ask you to comment on it.

The total costs of this workshop as far as we know at the moment will be • 180.- (for accommodation and food), but we are still looking for more subsidies. There will be no additional costs and no paying in advance.

The working group has to be restricted to 15 participants, because there is not more place available.

If you are interested in this workshop please contact Gert Michael Steiner before the 1st of May.

He will send you material on mire regionality a.o. a first draft worked out by Hugo Sjörs and presented in 1983 at the meeting in Oulanka/Finland where IMCG was founded.

Address:
Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. Gert Michael Steiner, Institute of Ecology and Conservation Biology of the Vienna University, Althanstr. 14, A-1090 Vienna, Austria. Tel.: +431 4277 54372, Fax: +431 4277 9542.
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Workshop on strategic action plan for conservation and wise use of peatlands in the Russian Federation

Moscow 23 - 25 January 2001

by Irina Kamennova (ikamennova@wwf.ru)

Background

The Russian Federation possesses vast areas of peatlands estimated at 370 million ha, which comprise up to 20% of the world peatlands. These peatlands are extremely diverse and include a wide variety of types, from the arctic and subarctic palsa and aapa mires to subtropical carrs and fens. They support globally significant biodiversity, and provide a variety of hydrological and biochemical functions valuable to people throughout Eurasia. Most of the Russian peatlands are relatively intact and offer a rare opportunity for conserving areas large enough to allow natural ecological processes to occur. Vast areas are being used by people in a broad spectrum of activities. As a result, many important peatland sites have been destroyed and degraded throughout most of the industrial and agricultural regions.

Peatlands in Russia are of interest from different social-economic or sectoral viewpoints. This may lead to conflicts between different interest groups, some of which also have useful information on peatlands and peatland uses. Non-sustainable use of peatlands will cause the irreversible loss of functions and values, including non-renewable resources (e.g. habitats maintaining unique biodiversity, carbon sinks, water and hydrology, and palynological information).

There has been a need to define these different interests and potential conflicts, to develop a Draft National Peatland Strategy supplementary to the National Wetland Strategy and Action Plan, and to discuss this document between major stakeholders, policy makers and peatland specialists.

A project proposal to hold a national workshop on preparation of a strategic peatlands action plan was prepared under the Wetlands International–Russia Programme funded by the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries. Under this programme, a National Wetland Strategy and Action Plan has been developed at an international conference held in Moscow in February 1999, that identified the peatland conservation as one of the priority subject areas. In 2000, a new project was launched under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme entitled 'Framework for peatland conservation and management in Russia'. The main output of this project has been the report of 'Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information' published in January 2001, which identifies the main stakeholders, explains the procedures to obtain information related to peatlands, and therefore provides the basis for the development of a peatland strategy (*see under new and recent books in this Newsletter*).

The project proposal was discussed and improved at the training course of 'Sharing Expertise for the Conservation of Peatlands in Eastern Europe' held under the Darwin Initiative Peatland Biodiversity Programme in Dundee, Scotland, from 13 August - 2 September 2000. A grant was awarded by the PDP Steering Committee to support the workshop.

The workshop idea was further discussed with the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation (MNR), the main federal authority responsible for implementing the national environmental policy, in September-October 2000. The project was approved, and all workshop documents, including letters of invitation, a preliminary list of participants, a programme and a draft Framework for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use were prepared in consultation with MNR.

Goal and Objectives

Goal:

To promote the conservation and sustainable use of peatland biodiversity in the Russian Federation by addressing the issues of the development threats to peatlands, opportunities of inter-sectoral cooperation, status of peatland inventory, monitoring, training, information exchange and peatland conservation activities, and by developing a strategic peatlands action plan.

Objectives:

- Familiarise the stakeholders and other relevant GOs and NGOs with the results of a review of information available on peatlands and their conservation ('Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information');
- Define priorities for improving informational background for peatland conservation;
- Identify major interest groups and discuss the possibility to develop a management agreement between stakeholders that will clearly define their functions, rights and responsibilities and include conflict management mechanisms;
- Develop a draft strategic peatlands action plan;
- Establish a steering group to finalise the preparation of the action plan;
- Develop a work plan for undertaking the activities planned.

Programme

The workshop was held in Moscow from 23 to 25 January 2001 and included three plenary sessions, with presentations by all major stakeholders on 23 January, discussion on *Framework for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia* on 24 January, and a meeting of the Steering Group established to finalise the document on 25 January.

Audience

Eighty nine peatland experts participated in the workshop, representing:

- Federal governmental bodies and organisations responsible for the utilisation and conservation of peatlands: Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation, Departments for: Environmental Protection, Utilisation and Restoration of Forests, Geology and Mineral Reserves, International Co-operation; Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation, Departments for Hunting Management, Amelioration of Lands and Agricultural Water Supply; Russian Fuel Company of "Rostopprom", Department for Peat Industry; Russian Geological Fund ('Rosgeofond'), "Geoprom";
- Regional bodies and organisations: Department on Natural Resources of the North-western Region, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Uses of Moscow Region, Committee for Natural Resources of the Pskov Region, Committee for Fuel and Energy Resources of the Leningrad Region, peat extracting companies of 'Sverdlovsktorf', 'Shaturtorf', 'Udmurt-Torf', and 'Kirtorf';
- National and international NGOs: Wetlands International, International Peat Society, International Mire Conservation Group, WWF – Russian Programme, IUCN Representative Office in CIS, GEF Project on Biodiversity Conservation, NEPCon - Nature, Ecology and People Consult, Russian Bird Conservation Union, Regional Non-governmental Centre 'Environment and Law', and Karelian Students Environmental Organisation;
- Scientific institutions of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and Universities;
- Protected peatland areas: Central-Forest State Nature Reserve, Bryanskij Les Nature Reserve, Khopersky State Nature Reserve, Rdeisky State

Nature Reserve, Zavidovo National Park, and 'Zhuravlinaya Rodina' Protected Area;
- Other GOs, NGOs, and individuals.

Outputs
- Resolution on *Framework for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use in Russia* (*see below*).
- Steering Group established to finalise the preparation of an Action Plan for the Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands in Russia.

Funding
The workshop was funded from four projects:
- Darwin Initiative Peatland Biodiversity Programme
- Wetlands International– Russia Programme
- PIN/MATRA Project of 'Framework for peatland conservation and management in Russia'
- WWF– Russian Programme

Follow-up
- Development of an Action Plan for the Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands in Russia.
- Establishment of a National Information Centre for Peatlands.
- Development of regional pilot projects for the wise use of peatlands.
- Development of a federal programme for research on peatlands.

Resolution on Framework for Peatland Conservation and wise use in Russia

This resolution was adopted by the participants of the International Workshop on a Strategic Action Plan for Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands in the Russian Federation held in Moscow from 23-25 January 2001.

NOTING that peatlands cover at least 20% of the total area of the Russian Federation, and contribute to about 2/5 of the world's peatlands;
REALIZING that peatlands are multi-functional natural systems which perform many globally important functions, such as stabilization of global carbon cycle, support of biological diversity, maintenance of hydrological regime over extensive areas, and accumulation of energy, matter and information on the geologic time scale;
AWARE that peatlands and their components are subjected to intensive and non-coordinated use by many industries and institutions;
EMPHASIZING that peatlands are of importance for agriculture, forestry, hunting, fuel production, recreation, tourism, nature conservation, and scientific research, as well as for supplying most of the needs of life for local communities and indigenous people;
REALIZING that Russia has long-established traditions in the study, use, and conservation of peatlands;
RECALLING the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitats (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) which place obligations on Contracting Parties relating to the conservation and wise use of all wetlands and wetland species throughout their territory;
FURTHER RECALLING the Concept of the Transition of the Russian Federation to Sustainable Development (1996), which suggests a balanced solution to social and economic problems, as well as those of environment and resource conservation, in order to meet the needs of the today's and future generations;
BELIEVING that concerted actions for the conservation and wise use of peatlands are urgently needed;

Participants of the International Workshop on Strategic Action Plan for Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands in the Russian Federation**,** representing
- Ministry of Natural Resources of the Russian Federation,
- Ministry of of Fuel and Power Engineering of the Russian Federation and Russian Fuel Company,
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation,
- Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Monitoring of the Environment,
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Uses of Moscow Region,
- Russian Academy of Sciences,
- Wetlands International,
- National Committee of the International Peat Society,
- International Mire Conservation Group,
- World Wide Fund for Nature,
- Global Environmental Facility, Project on Biodiversity Conservation in Russia,
- IUCN Representative Office in CIS,
- Russian Society for Nature Conservation, and
- Land Amelioration Association;

CALL UPON federal and regional legislative and executive bodies, peatland-related agencies and institutions, and all other interested organizations to consider actively the following strategic actions for the conservation and sustainable use of peatlands in Russia:

1. Improvement and inter-sectoral standardization of terminology on peatlands

It has been acknowledged that the system of definitions in the field of peatland management reflects specific objectives of land-users. Meanings of terms differ from one branch to another, which makes it difficult or even impossible to exchange registration, inventory, or monitoring data.

In order to collaborate in the field of planning and legal provision of peatland management, it is necessary to:

1.1 Develop and maintain an inter-sectoral group of experts on peatland terminology;
1.2 Compile and disseminate an inter-sectoral glossary of peatland terms;
1.3 Develop an inter-sectoral standard document that will include main definitions of peatlands as natural and economic features;
1.4 Develop sectoral glossaries and improve sectoral standards on the basis of the inter-sectoral standard document.

2. Promotion of information exchange to improve the basis for informed peatland resource management

To increase efficiency of inter-sectoral information exchange, it is required to:

2.1 Identify and compile a complete list of organizations that hold information on peatlands in Russia;
2.2 Compile an inventory of information available at all sectoral agencies;
2.3 Identify gaps in information required for informed natural resource management in each peatland-related sector;
2.4 Agree on formats, contents, rules of access to sectoral databases; set information exchange regulations as an instrument to reduce the cost of informational provision for decision making and to increase the effectiveness of peatland conservation activities;
2.5 Consider opportunities to provide sustainable funding for collecting and storing information on peatlands within both sectoral and inter-sectoral informational networks;
2.6 Within the framework of activities aimed at the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Russia, establish an information centre on peatlands under the Wetlands International-Russia Programme and develop an inter-sectoral peatland database.

3. Evaluation of peatland resources to develop a strategy for their conservation and sustainable use

To evaluate peatland resources, taking sectoral and regional peculiarities into consideration, it is required to:

3.1 Carry out detailed evaluation of peatland resources and develop plans for their sustainable use in several pilot regions;
3.2 Produce a breakdown of the current status of peatland resources and prospects for their use;
3.3 Provide economic evaluation of the current land-use practices in peatland areas;
3.4 Analyze techniques and technologies available and opportunities to introduce sustainable resource-use practices in peatlands;
3.5 Make a prognosis on future development of peatland-related industries;
3.6 Identify current and potential inter-sectoral conflicts and direct the ways to cope with them.

4. Feasibility study on requirements to peatland conservation and wise use

To substantiate the requirements and proposed actions on peatland conservation and wise use, it is necessary to:

4.1 Provide an easy access to the results of scientific research on the role of peatlands in the functioning of natural ecosystems (taking data available from other countries into consideration), in particular:
- Produce an overview on the distribution of peatlands in Russia (noting their main natural features, such as mire type, thickness of the peat layer etc.);
- Evaluate the importance of peatlands for natural processes, such as cycles of water, carbon, and other substances;
- Estimate the influence of peatlands on other natural features (ecosystems, landscapes, catchments, etc.);
- Evaluate the importance of peatlands for biodiversity conservation, including commercially valuable species.

4.2 Develop and substantiate requirements to ensure sustainable use of peatlands under intense anthropogenic pressure:
- Develop techniques for integral evaluation of social-economic importance of peatland ecosystems at local, regional and national levels;
- Develop methods to evaluate the resistance of peatlands to various uses and threats;
- Determine criteria for decision-making and impact assessment of development projects, which will enable to maintain the ecological status of individual peatlands, various peatland types, and complexes of peatlands.

5. Development of institutional and technical framework

To realize actions on peatland conservation and wise use, taking into consideration the international obligations of the Russian Federation as a Party to the Ramsar Convention, it is required to improve the technical provision of these activities, including legal, administrative, and economic aspects:

5.1 Provide the development of integrated legislation on wetlands, including peatlands as an important wetland type. The improvement of peatland legislation should be based on the acknowledgement of the importance of peatlands as multifunctional natural ecosystems playing a substantial social-economic role in Russia. It is

recommended to consider the possibility to develop a Federal Law on Peatlands as an instrument to regulate land use in peatland areas;

5.2 Promote the development of a management system for peatlands (including inventory, cadastre, planning, and control), based on the acknowledgement that structure and functions of peatlands are integral, as well as taking into account interests of land-users in utilization of resources and benefits of peatlands. A regional planning approach should be applied to introduce the peatland management system, with the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources acting as coordinator;

5.3 Develop a system of integral ecological-economic evaluation of peatland complexes and effectiveness of peatland resource uses; the resulting information should be used as a basis for decision-making on peatland use and conservation;

5.4 Develop EIA procedures for peatland-related development projects, including assessment of potential threats and consequences of project implementation;

5.5 Ensure that interests of local communities and indigenous people are taking into proper consideration during decision making on peatland-related projects.

6. Implementation

Once agreed and adopted, the strategy for peatland conservation and wise use should be implemented and put into concrete actions. To achieve this, it is recommended to:

6.1 Establish an Inter-sectoral Working Group including representatives of interested land-users, research and non-governmental organizations, which will coordinate the implementation of the strategy;

6.2 Develop a National Action Plan for Conservation and Wise Use of Peatlands as part of national strategies for wetlands and biodiversity conservation in Russia;

6.3 Develop a federal programme on peatland conservation and wise use in Russia and to submit the relevant recommendations to the government;

6.4 Develop regional programmes targeted on peatland conservation and wise use;

6.5 Initiate the development of investment projects on peatland management in several regions;

6.6 Create a portfolio of project proposals to fund them on a contest basis, in order to involve most effectively the potential of research institutes, universities, and non-governmental organizations;

6.7 Apply to appropriate committees of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and initiate a preliminary breakdown of current legislative acts for making a decision on the possibility to develop a Federal Law on Peatlands;

6.8 Apply to the Ministry of Natural Resources with a request to establish a coordinating structure responsible for inter-sectoral cooperation and the implementation of the National Action Plan for Peatland Conservation and Wise Use;

6.9 Apply to Russian Academy of Sciences and sectoral academies in order to coordinate research on peatlands and develop recommendations for the implementation of the National Peatlands Action Plan.

IMCG – the First 18 Years

by Richard Lindsay

It really is astonishing how rarely we recognise key moments in our lives when they actually happen. With hindsight, of course, it is easy to see how some things have subsequently come to change our lives in a fundamental way, but at the time we are usually too close to events. A single earthquake or volcanic eruption can cause sufficient consternation and chaos to keep us completely occupied with day-to-day survival. It may prevent us from seeing that it is the first stage in the opening of a new ocean, the re-shaping of the landscape that we have known until now.

In some ways the analogy is rather apt. I don't believe it is too much of an exaggeration to say that, in its 18-year existence, the IMCG has helped to change the global conservation landscape. It would be wrong to claim too much for the IMCG. Nevertheless, I think that most international environmental organisations (and many domestic ones) would acknowledge that the IMCG has played a key part in moving peatlands from the fringes of environmental thinking to a place at the heart of many global environmental issues.

The beginnings of this process seemed so innocent, so innocuous, in the form of a letter inviting various peatland scientists to Finland – specifically to Oulu – in the autumn of 1983 for a field symposium about peatland vegetation. The event was the brainchild of Seppo Eurola and Antti Huttunen, of Oulu University, and they succeeded in bringing together an impressive array of peatland specialists from around the world. It included such peatland

luminaries as Hugo Sjörs, Nils Malmer, the late (and much lamented) Stephen Zoltai and his wife Elizabeth, Klaus Dierssen, and of course Seppo Eurola. Not all of us were so impressive. At the time I was, shall we say, a trainee peatland specialist for the UK government wildlife agency, but I was embraced within the group with as much warmth as anyone, and some ground-breaking discussions were held in the sauna, lubricated with generous quantities of beer. I will never forget such a discussion with Klaus Dierssen, where he explained to us all the absolutely fundamental importance of Hugh Ingram's 'ground-water mound' theory for peatland conservation. Raised bog conservation in Europe would never be the same again. Neither would the world of music. It is impossible for any delegate there to forget the profoundly emotional experience of listening to Asbjørn Moen's rendition of his own spontaneous composition - Oulanka-joki (Oulanka River) - with its remarkably variable number of verses, its free-form time signature and astonishingly easy-to-learn lyrics (and now part of IMCG legend).

At the end of the Finland Symposium, several participants expressed their desire to have a similar meeting but with peatland conservation as the main theme. Michael Steiner said that he would be willing to host such an event. We all went home and thought no more about it until a letter appeared inviting us all to a field symposium in Austria, in the autumn of 1984. Michael had been as good as his word.

The invited delegates duly assembled at Innsbruck in 1984, and what followed was an eye-opening tour of Austria's peatlands, from west to east. Michael Steiner had laid on a programme that displayed the full range of peatland types and peatland conservation problems. The symposium coach in effect became our travelling home, and thus (though we didn't realise it at the time) the pattern was set for all subsequent IMCG Field Symposia – two weeks, travelling the host country, seeing the issues and problems for ourselves. At Klagenfürt, the afternoon was spent discussing the group and its purpose. Hugo Sjörs urged the group to become the dynamic force for peatland conservation that the IPS conservation group had failed to achieve. After some discussion about the name, it was agreed that the group should be henceforth known as the International Mire Conservation Group. I was elected temporary Chairman simply because I was the only native English speaker, and it had already been agreed that the language of the IMCG should be English (or assorted variants thereof). It was also agreed that the next Field Symposium should be held in Britain, specifically to look at a major peatland problem that was developing there in an obscure place called the Flow Country.

In 1986 the IMCG duly assembled in London (thus establishing another key feature of holding field symposia biennially). Sarah Oldfield and I acted as the coordinators. The programme took the Group up to Scotland, starting at Fort William on the west coast and heading in a huge loop all around the north of Scotland, through the Flow Country, and ending in Edinburgh for a 1-day Conference (again, establishing a pattern followed henceforth). The Group saw the scale of peatland destruction caused by forestry across thousands of hectares of blanket mire, tailed all the while by a radio journalist from the BBC. Antti Huttunen spoke for the Group when he said, while gazing out over the area in the evening light – "this is truly an organic landscape of world significance". Back in Edinburgh, Steve Zoltai steered the Group to produce a series of Resolutions (yet another precedent followed by all other Symposia) which were sent to the UK Government – at the time, headed by Margaret Thatcher..... In part thanks to the IMCG's intervention, the UK Government finally protected the Flow Country from further forestry damage in 1988, and only last year the UK Heritage Secretary expressed his intention to designate the Flow Country as a World Heritage Site.

In 1988 the IMCG Field Symposium was held in Sweden, and was organised by Christer Gøransson. This was a critical time for peatland conservation in Sweden, particularly in the face of demands from forestry and peat extraction. Inventory was not complete, and more resources were urgently needed for peatland conservation programmes. The IMCG travelled throughout central Sweden, seeing the issues for itself and talking to local and national interests both face-to-face and through the ever-present media. Again a set of Resolutions came out of the Symposium, and one of the most tangible results from these was the subsequent designation of Blaikfjellet – a very large area of peatland - as a National Park.

Subsequent Field Symposia followed in Ireland (1990), Switzerland (1992), Norway (1994), Japan (1996), Latvia (1998) and British Columbia (2000). Each Symposium has, in its own way, achieved things for peatland conservation in the host country, and IMCG can feel pride in the legacy that it has left on the peatland conservation landscape in these countries.

With Norway, however, IMCG also found itself swimming in larger, deeper waters thanks to the initiative of Clayton Rubec, from Canada. He saw a rôle for the IMCG on the international stage, pushing the larger international conservation groups to recognise that peatlands play a major part in the global ecosystem. Under Clayton's guidance, the Group drew together a set of statements and observations highlighting this importance. Clayton and I then sat, one evening, drafting the document late into the sunlit northern night as we gazed out across a vast Norwegian fjord. Neither of us will forget the way that, as we put the last piece of text together, two dolphins leaped from the water, perfectly framed by the picture window and looking like liquid fire in the light of the golden midnight sun.....

With this document, which subsequently become known as the Trondheim Declaration, the IMCG found itself increasingly drawn into the work of the

Ramsar Convention and, through Ramsar's own links, to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC). Since then, the IMCG has attended two Ramsar Conventions with Observer Status, now sits on the Peat Working Group of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), meets with officials of DGXI of the European Commission through the European Habitats Forum, and is a lead organisation in taking forward the Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP), which is the ultimate product of Clayton's efforts all those years ago in Norway. The IMCG is also now, through Hans Joosten, a joint author with the International Peat Society (IPS) of the draft Wise Use Guidelines for Peatlands, and project partner on Wetlands International's Central European Peatland Project (CEPP).

There have also been IMCG Workshops, held firstly and most memorably on the Solovyetski Islands in the White Sea, with the late and much lamented Marina Botch acting as IMCG's host. These Workshops, also held in Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland, have led to some significant steps forward in the common understanding of peatland systems, as well as, courtesy of Ron Hofstetter, the creation of as impressive a set of terms as one could hope for, my particular favourite being chertosomatic ombrohydrogenic Sphagnopedic oligotrophic hygrogaia (bog).

Despite all this more recent involvement on the world stage, the IMCG is still, at heart, a body concerned to promote the conservation of peatland systems at all levels. I know the sense of joy and relief it brought me to know that there were other peatland specialists out there who had the same problems but who were also willing to help share mine. The world is a big place with big problems, and sometimes it is easy to feel rather alone and helpless in the face of powerful development proposals. The IMCG exists in part to help dispel this sense of isolation. For many of us over the years it has been a treasured source of support and guidance, without which the job of peatland conservation would have been much bleaker and lonelier.

At the same time it is also an organisation that still, as it were, keeps its boots firmly in the mire. Active involvement in the conservation of specific sites and peatland areas continues to play a key part of IMCG activities. The organisation has never become a body simply interested in the development of large-scale strategies and broad policies. If it were to do so, it would lose an important part of its purpose and would weaken its reputation as an essentially field-based network of experts. It has managed to retain its belief that conservation ultimately succeeds on the ground, and it constantly works to pass on that message to others. Consequently the IMCG continues to be involved with the conservation of individual sites throughout the globe, providing international support wherever it is needed.

It has been a fascinating, exciting (sometimes too exciting!) and rewarding experience to be Chairman of the IMCG during these years. What have I gained from it? A wide network of truly good friends from around the world. A wealth of experience, provided generously and selflessly by a number of people who know far more about peatlands than I ever will. An opportunity to see the vast diversity of the global peatland environment (never let anyone tell you that peatlands are boring!) and a growing understanding of just how significant peatlands are to the global ecosystem. An opportunity to speak on behalf of peatlands on the global stage, and thereby give something back to the world's peatlands in return for the pleasure that they have given me. And they have given me my future wife. What more could I ask?

Now the IMCG stands poised on the brink of a new era. The tragedy of Ton Damman's death, which is a terrible personal blow to all who knew, loved and admired him, leaves the IMCG without a Chairman just as it enters the world stage as a formally-constituted body. I am sure that the IMCG will survive. It has a rich history on which it can draw, and of which it can be proud. Floreat IMCG !

VISIT THE NEW IMCG HOMEPAGE AT

HTTP://WWW.IMCG.NET

EU ecolabel revisions – NO to the inclusion of peat

by Philippe Julve and John Couwenberg

The European Union is currently revising its ecolabel policy. An ecolabel is attributed to products that are without or that prevent harmful effects on the environment. The current ecolabel standard for soil improvers was adopted 1 April 1998 and will thus be valid until 31 March 2001. Prolongation of the existing criteria is now agreed by the Commission and will ensure a further transitional period of max 18 months.

The Italian Environment Protection Agency (ANPA) drafted a new proposal ("Establishing the ecological criteria for the award of the community ecolabel to soil improvers and growing media") of which a second version was circulated in February of this year. The basic idea of this proposal is to extend the ecolabel also to include growing media (mixture of soil improvers and other material) which should than include at least 30% of ecolabeled soil improver. The additional materials (max. 70 % vol.) of growing media should then be of natural sources of origin and if that means peat, it should come from peatlands where protocols of good environmental management and final restoration practices are applied (i.e. 'the fulfillment of national and/or international conservation standards').

Currently, peat is the major component used in mixture with compost for the production of growing media to be used for hobby gardening. Peat is used in percentages between 5 and 10 % for the preparation of soil improvers, while it is more than 50% in the production of growing media.

As stated in the technical report of ANPA, the inclusion of peat is being disputed by many interested parties as not consistent with an "eco-sustainable" purchasing behaviour; for instance, many highlight the "non-renewable" feature of peat; moreover, exploitation of peat bogs is often seen as an activity affecting sensitive natural sites. This issue is strongly linked with the extension to growing media and will be discussed again in the Working Group.

Still, ANPA is of the opinion that, 'in order to allow the Ecolabel to get an effective driving force for consumers towards eco-sustainable purchase patterns, it has to be applicable also to those marketing sectors that do constitute, to date, the main outlets for composted products. Among these, pot cultivation covers a big market share. Be it agreed or not, peat is to date the main component of potting mixes, while we know that a "sustainable" use of potting mixes would consider increasing the percentage of waste-derived materials instead of peat (as this latter is a non-renewable resource, at least in the short and medium term). Awarding the ecolabel to those potting mixes with at least a certain percentage of waste-derived composted products would thus be a powerful step to drive the behaviour of purchasers (and consequently the marketing mix and strategies) towards a more "sustainable" production of potting mixes.'

Nearly 25 people attended the second Ad Hoc Working Group meeting concerned with the revision of the European ecolabel citeria for soil improvers (and growing media) in Brussels March the 5th. The two main discussion points were the possible introduction of peat and of sludges into ecolabelled products. Among other papers, those expressing the views of IMCG, Russian WWF and Wetland International programmes, and Espaces Naturels de France were distributed to the participants.

After presentation of the technical matters by ANPA, people were invited to express their position. Representatives from Germany (IPS), Finland, Italy and France expressed their interest in allowing a certain amount of peat into growing media and soils improvers. Representatives from Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and IMCG/France were strongly against it.

On behalf of IMCG Philippe Julve explained that the ecolabel should in the first place give an insurance or advice to the consumers in order to provide them with environmental friendly quality products. The eco"logic" label should not become a primarily eco"nomic" label merely provided to give a boost to industrial companies. The introduction of a certain amount of peat into ecolabelled products would destroy the significance and credibility of the EU ecolabel as peat is not a renewable ressource. This measure would lead to overdestruction of habitats of internationally recognised value (Ramsar Convention, EU Habitats and Birds Directives...). The efforts that have been already made especially in France to promote peat-free products (e.g. advertising campaign from E. Leclerc, Carrefour, among other distribution companies) would be destroyed, and the already ecolabeled companies, which have made efforts to produce and sell peat-free products, would be discouraged. Furthermore, the introduction of a new discredited European ecolabel would discredit other environmental labels in place in some countries. A representative of a Belgian company that sells peat-free products strongly acknowledged this point of view.

After hearing all opinions and to avoid lengthy discussions, ANPA reminded the attendants of the 3 alternative proposals to be decided upon:

P1. "all the products minimal 30 - (50) % (vol.) materials alternative to peat"
P2. "all products peat free"
P3. "for amateur gardening: peat free - for professional growers: all the products minimal 30 - (50) % (vol.) materials alternative to peat"

IMCG strongly supports P2 and would consider the European Ecolabel discredited in case P1 or P3 were adopted.
The report of the meeting will be sent by ANPA to all participants and "competent bodies" (in each country there is a competent body with the task to advice its government). The competent bodies will report back and this will lead to another draft, which will be presented to member states for voting (5th april).
We strongly recommend that IMCG members, especially from EU member and EU accession states, make their opinion known to their government. A list of competent bodies for each member state can be found at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/compbod.htm.
Drafts and reports on the revision of the ecolabel for soil improvers and growing media can be found at:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/soil_improvers_revision.htm
Remember that countries do not have the same weight in terms of vote, and so the votes of France, Germany and GB are of especially great importance, even if we can count upon the Scandinavian and Belgian votes.
The position paper of IMCG that was circulated at the meeting can be found below. It has already been distributed to all the competent bodies.

Position paper of IMCG: No to incorporation of peat in eco-labelled Soil Improvers and Growing Media

The eco-labelling of Soil Improvers (SI) and Growing Media (GM) has the laudable aims to minimise waste by promoting use and re-use of organic waste material, while reducing environmental damage or risks.
The **International Mire Conservation Group** (IMCG) applauds the initiatives of the European Commission to stimulate a more sustainable and environment-friendly use of soil improvers and growing media.
In the European Commission Decision draft "Establishing the Ecological Criteria for the Award of the Community Ecolabel to Soil Improvers and Growing Media" it is proposed to award an ecolabel to soil improvers and growing media that contain a minimum amount of 30 % vol. of composts.
To stimulate the use of composts, it is proposed to grant Growing Media an ecolabel even when non-renewable (fossil) peat (up to 70% vol.) is added. The peat should have been extracted under conditions that "guarantee of environment safeguard and maintenance of the natural properties of the wetland ecosystem" and "shall come from peat lands where protocols of good environmental management and final restoration practices are applied (i.e. the fulfilment of national and/or international conservation standards)".
The IMCG would like to bring the following issues under your attention:

The effect of including peat in eco-labelled growing media is doubtful and might even be negative.
Currently only 1-2 % of the growing media consist of composted biogenic waste and bark. The Technical Report states, that "from a technical point of view" growing media can consist of up to 50% of composts.
If this statement is true, the current share of composts in growing media is only determined by the price ratio between composts and peat. An increased use of composts should then be brought about by raising the relative price of peat. This means that an ecotax on peat will be far more effective to reach the Commission's goal than an ecolabel on peat containing media. An ecotax will stimulate a 50 % replacement of peat by composts in the total Growing Media market. An ecolabel will lead to a replacement of only 30% (the required minimum) in the – much smaller - eco-labelled market.
If the Technical Report's statement is *not* true, an ecolabel will hardly influence the volume of composts used in professional horticulture. The modern horticultural industry demands growing media of high and constant quality and can not take the risk of using suboptimal materials as long as better alternatives are cheaply available.
It is probable that eco-labelled growing media with up to 70% of peat will penetrate markets that currently use a much larger share of composts. This is exactly the process that has been taking place in North-America in the last decade, where Canadian peat – also with "environmental " pretences - has taken over large parts of the USA home gardeners market at the expense of composts. This may imply that rare high quality peats will increasingly be squandered where they could easily be substituted by composts.

The condition that the peat used in GM "shall come from peat lands where protocols of good environmental management and final restoration practices are applied (i.e. the fulfilment of national and/or international conservation standards)" can not be met.
Currently no generally agreed protocols of environmental management of peatlands and no generally accepted criteria for a successfull restoration exist.

Recognizing that peatlands are severely underrepresented in the global wetland conservation system, the Ramsar Convention has launched an ambitious Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP) at its 1999 Ramsar COP7 in Costa Rica. This GAPP (see http://www.imcg.net/docum/gapp.htm) identifies various themes related to the development of such protocols. The GAPP is envisaged to appear as a Resolution at COP8 in Spain in 2002 for its acceptance and further implementation.
The discussion on the development of Guidelines for the identification of peatlands of international importance has only just been started within the Ramsar Scientific, Technical and Review Panel.
Good progress has been made with the development of Wise Use Guidelines for Global Mires and Peatlands by the International Peat Society and the International Mire Conservation Group. These Guidelines, however, do not formulate concrete and detailed criteria for "good environmental management." These have to be worked out in a later stage through an approach that integrates international criteria (including Ramsar criteria) with national conditions.
No national or international standards for restoration practises exist nor are currently under development.
The developments mentioned have to be coordinated, tuned and harmonised to avoid internationally uneven provisions.
All this implies, that no internationally accepted and easily applicable protocols and standards can expected to become available during the period in which the product group definition and the specific ecological criteria for the product will be valid.

The eco-labelling of non-sustainably extracted peat is in conflict with many international Conventions, Directives and recommendations.
As peat accumulation and storage are the main natural properties of peatland ecosystems, peat extraction *per definitionem* conflicts with the "maintenance of the natural properties of the wetland ecosystem" (*cf.* Ramsar Convention).
Peatlands in the world contain as much carbon as contained in the atmosphere and they accumulate annually appr. 1 % of the carbon emissions of fossil fuels. Peat extraction and associated drainage change peatlands from carbon sinks into carbon sources (*cf.* UNFCCC).
The peat currently used in soil improvers and growing media is at least thousand years old and mostly much older. The time needed for a renewal exceeds any reasonable economic and cultural time frame (*cf.* Rio-Declaration)
In practise, such a renewal, however, does not take place. Although peat has been extracted extensively within Europe for almost 1000 years, virtually no peat has accumulated on the cut-over areas since. Unless the peat accumulating capacity of cut-over peatlands is restored, the resources will eventually be depleted.
Restoration can only apply to part of the peatland functions. The functions related to carbon storage, archive value, shape, sophisticated self-regulation, and surface patterning are irreversible destroyed or need thousands of years to develop.
Current restoration activities have to be applauded, but are still extremely restricted - largely to nature conservation sites. For technical and planological reasons, restoration cannot be expected to contribute to a sustainable peat use in the next 50-100 years.
Claims of current sustainability cannot, therefore, withstand critical evaluation. Peat losses from human exploitation are currently 2 – 3 times larger than global peat accumulation. Both peat volume and mire/peatland extent are continuously decreasing globally. The annual consumption and losses of peat in the EU are larger than its annual accumulation in entire Europe. Most countries from which peat is imported into the EU have a negative peat budget, including all Baltic states.
The peat type preferably used for growing media (slightly humified Sphagnum peat) is restricted to raised bogs, that occur in specific climatic and biogeographic regions. Within the EU, this peatland type has become near to extinct in the last century and is consequently a priority habitat in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEG). Outside the EU the type is under threath, as the peat industry roams – as the last hunter-gatherers – from one exhausted peatland to the next. Losses of peatland types in whole biogeographic regions can not be compensated for by peat accumulation in other areas or by protection of other peatland types.

The eco-labelling of growing media that contain fossil peat hinders the development of new environment-friendly technologies.
Slightly humified Sphagnum peat is a valuable resource for professional horticulture. In West- and Central Europe formerly extensive stocks are almost exhausted and peat is increasingly imported from the Baltic countries, Finland and Canada.
The rate at which resources have been disappearing makes it clear, that - if these trends continue - slightly humified Sphagnum moss peat and virgin bogs will in the long run survive only in nature reserves and areas which are technically and commercially inaccessible. Bog reserves will continuously be under threat to follow the example of the Esterweger Dose, the last large living bog in Germany: a nature reserve since 1937, sacrificed for peat extraction at the end of the 1950's...
Fossil peat as an exhaustible natural resource should therefore be timely replaced by renewable alternatives.
Development of such alternatives will be severely hampered by awarding an eco-label to a product that contains up to 70% of fossil peat:
The pressure on developing growing media largely from composts and similar re-used organic wastes will decrease as the failing properties of current

composts can easily be compensated for by adding considerable amounts of fossil peat.
The pressure for developing *paludiculture*, the rotational "farming" of peat, for which the first pilot studies are currently being undertaken, will decrease as fossil peat will– when mixed with only 30% of compost – already have the "air" of environment-friendliness, sustainability, biodiversity protectiveness and all other "eco"-attributes and therefore have the same market-advantages as products that rightfully deserve eco-labelling.

As ecolabelling of Soil Improvers and Growing Media containing peat will significantly miscredit ecolabelling, we ask you to refrain from awarding an ecolabel to products that contain peat.

We wish you success with your important task to guide the European Union towards a sustainable future.

Sincerely yours, On behalf of the International Mire Conservation Group, signed,

dr. Hans Joosten, Secretary-General

(a formatted version of this letter can be downloaded from the IMCG homepage http://www.imcg.net)

How peat extraction for energy use threatens Europe's most rich habitats

by Giulio Volpi, WWF Climate Campaign

The European Commission's proposal for a Directive on the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources (COM (2000) 279) has the potential to promote substantial and rapid growth of renewable energy in the European Union (EU). A crucial element of the proposed Renewables Directive is the European Parliament proposal to consider peat as renewable energy source. This is unacceptable because it will have a detrimental effect on the peat resource in Europe. In fact, mires, including peat bogs, for all their richness and biodiversity, are certainly some of most threatened habitats in Europe, particularly because of energy uses.

Peat resources are severely threatened
Today, compared to other continents, Europe has suffered the greatest loss in mires. In Europe as a whole, peat formation has stopped in about 60% of the original mire area whereas in the EU-15, peat formation has stopped in circa 73% of its original mire surface. Most mire types are now so rare that they are included in Annex I of the 1992 Habitats Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, requesting the member states to designate mires as Special Areas of Conservation.
Among the EU-countries, Finland and Sweden have lost the smallest portion of their original mire area; nevertheless 80 and 35 percent of their former mire area have disappeared. These countries and Ireland are the main consumers of peat as an energy source. Additionally, more and more peat is being imported into the EU, primarily from the Baltic States, Byelorussia and Poland and other potential EU members.

Peat is not renewable
Peat is a fossil fuel, because it cannot be renewed within any reasonable economic time frame, having accumulated over thousands of years. On the basis of a comparison of annually extracted and annually accumulating peat volumes on various geographical scales and looking at specific peat exploitation sites, formed in the past 10.000 years, most of these peatlands have a peat layer of less than 10 m deep. This implies a peat accumulation in the past of less than 1mm peat/year. Most peatlands are exploited in less than 50 years.

Peat extraction is not sustainable
The annual consumption and losses of peat in the European Union occur at a greater speed than the annual accumulation of peat in the mires of the whole of Europe. Also on a global scale, the peat balance is negative. Peat is still being formed under natural conditions, but both the total volume of peat and the extent of peatlands and mires are currently decreasing as a result of several sectors: energy, forestry, agriculture, etc. During the "LIFE-week" seminar held in Brussels in October 1999, a mire-session was organised and it was clear that destruction of peatlands for energy production in e.g. the UK and Ireland are still viewed as a major threat for the conservation of mires.
The claim of the energy sector that present-day peat accumulation compensates for the loss due to extraction for energy production is clearly invalid for the EU. This argument disregards that peat losses due to extraction for fuel use must be added to loss from extraction for other purposes (agricultural soil improvement). Also additional losses during and after

extraction, and losses from sites neighbouring extraction are not taken into account. Moreover, in all these countries additional massive peat losses take place by agriculture, forestry etc. Furthermore, peat extraction is continuously reducing the area where peat accumulation may take place, because regeneration of peat accumulation after peat extraction is negligible.

Peat restoration is not the solution
Between 1992 and 1998, 25-35 million Euro has been invested by the LIFE-Nature EU financial instrument in the conservation and particularly in the restoration of damaged mires in the EU. In view of the potential accession of several important mire-countries into the EU, it would be less expensive to preserve the mires which are present in these countries, instead of paying for the repair after these mires have been damaged as a result of unwise land use.

Conclusions
The objective of the directive is to encourage the development of renewable energy sources (RES) and double the contribution of RES over the next decade. This will have a detrimental effect on the peat resource in Europe. The peat balance in both EU and Europe as a whole is already negative (peat exploitation and consumption is higher than peat production in natural ecosystems) and peat extraction plays an important role in this negative balance. Therefore, peat extraction is not sustainable and should be excluded from being considered renewable energy source.
Contact: WWF Climate Campaign
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Wise Use document now available online

On December 2-3 2000 the International Peat Society and the IMCG have jointly discussed the first (almost) complete draft of the Global Guidelines for the Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands in Heathrow/London. The comments submitted before, on, and after that meeting have since been incorporated by the two compilers Donal Clarke (IPS) and Hans Joosten (IMCG). A new draft of the full document has now been send around to the boards of both organisations and will be discussed on March 30-31 in Wageningen (Netherlands).
The document provides
- extensive background information on the extent, types, functions and uses of mires and peatlands,
- an underlying rationale for Wise Use, and
- a proposed framework for the Wise Use of mires and peatlands.

The draft document is available on the internet under www.mirewiseuse.com to give as many people as possible a chance to study it. Each chapter can be downloaded separately if wanted. Do not hesitate to react!

After Wageningen the Wise Use document will probably also be published as a book.
For more information:
Hans Joosten joosten@uni-greifswald.de

VISIT

HTTP://WWW.MIREWISEUSE.COM

Download and read the DRAFT documents

“Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands: A Framework”

and

“Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands: Background and principles”

developed by IPS and IMCG

Defining and classification of peat wetland eco-regions in South Africa

by Piet-Louis Grundling and Gary Marneweck

Introduction

The need for a South African peat wetland inventory was identified by the Peat Working Group, the Directorate Land and Resources Management (DLRM) and the Peat Forum, and was listed as a priority in terms of management of the resource. The peat wetlands, and other types of wetlands form a valuable part in terms of their role in catchment and river hydrology. The following aspects and key issues were previously identified as areas of concern:

- Peat wetlands are not well researched, characterised or inventoried (or mapped) in most parts of the country, except for the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and parts of the Highveld;
- Peat wetland eco-regions, except for the coastal areas of KwaZulu-Natal and parts of the Highveld, are not well defined in South Africa;
- Baseline data does not exist for most peat wetlands in terms of their ecological, hydrological and water quality functions in their respective catchments;
- Baseline data does not exist for most peat wetlands in terms of the economic value of the peat resource nor the respective value of the wetland functions;
- The short and long term needs of the peat industry in terms of demand and supply, and peat product requirements are not well defined;

The defining and classification of potential peat wetland eco-regions in South Africa were identified as essential to the future development of peat related industries and the establishment of a baseline database to support further decision making and assist with management and legislative measures. The DLRM commissioned the Institute for Soil, Water and Climate (ISWC): Agricultural Research Council to administer this project and ISWC appointed as lead agency Wetland Consulting Services (WCS) to execute the project. This project will be completed by May 2001.

Objectives

The primary objective of this project is to compile a linked digital database with digital maps starting at 1: 1 000 000 scale of peat wetland eco-regions in South Africa.

The secondary objectives are as follows:

- To define and delineate peat wetland eco-regions based on geological, hydrological, geomorphological and climactic data;
- To assess the ecological, hydrological and water quality functions of peat wetlands at a catchment level;
- To create a baseline data set on the above-mentioned functions;
- To classify the peat eco-regions in terms of sensitivity, function and land-use and
- To determine the short and long term needs of the peat industry.

Provisional peat wetland eco-region distribution

South Africa has been divided into 17 provisional peat wetland eco-regions, based on the various parameters and sources. The peat eco-regions are restricted to the eastern part of the country and the southern coastal areas. These areas receive on average more than 750 mm per year, well above the yearly average of 497 mm for the country as a whole. A notable exception is the western part of eco-region 11 with a yearly average rainfall of about 500 mm. Here the geologic conditions, as defined in the dolomitic karst landscape, is of importance.

A closer inspection reveals the importance of the relationship between climate (especially rainfall), geology and geomorphology, as expressed in the mean annual recharge of the aquifer and in the base flow component of the mean annual precipitation or run off. The following provisional peat wetlands are proposed:

- Maputaland
- Durban
- Transkei
- Cape South Coast
- Soutpansberg
- Western Highveld
- Eastern Highveld and escarpment
- Midlands
- Eastern Cape Interior
- KwaZulu-Natal North Coast
- KwaZulu-Natal South Coast
- Eastern Province
- Western Cape
- Waterberg
- Central Highveld
- South-Central Highveld
- KwaZulu-Natal Interior

Fieldwork

The fieldwork is progressing well and various regions were visited and some of the results are:

Waterberg and Soutpansberg regions

One peatland was investigated in the Waterberg and a few were identified in the Soutpansberg. A follow up visit discovered more peatlands in the Soutpansberg. An abandoned peat exploitation site dating back to the early 1980's was also discovered. Peat was supplied from this peatland to nurseries in the Pietersburg area. About half of the peatlands in the Soutpansberg is impacted on by agriculture, forestry and exploitation.

Central Highveld region

The area between Carolina and Secunda were visited. No positive results were obtained and follow up visits are planned. Some pans will also be investigated.

Eastern Highveld and Escarpment region

A database of WCS was accessed as part of the project and data on a major concentration of peatlands on the Steenkampsberg Platteau are available. Peatlands were investigated in the Kiepersol and Nelshoogte areas. Follow up visits will

take place to this region. Peatlands in this region were impacted on by both forestry and agriculture.

KwaZulu-Natal Interior and Midlands region
Field visits to these regions revealed few and a low concentration of peatlands. Some peatlands were discovered in the Greytown area and in the catchment of the Pongola near Groenvlei. Large parts of the provisional boundaries will be redrawn and the eco-regions will be much smaller. Peatlands in this area were found to be in relatively good condition

Eastern Cape Interior region
Wetlands were investigated in the Maclear area. A follow up visit revealed that the only peatlands in this area occur in the Hogsback District. The boundaries of this eco-region will be redrawn in total and the area will be much smaller than previously envisaged.

Eastern Cape, Cape South Coast and Western Cape region
About 50 wetlands were visited in this region. Nearly 30 % of these contained peat. Some unique palmiet (a *Juncus* and not *Typhia* species) dominated (Eastern and Western Cape) and a spagnum dominated (Cape South Coast) peatlands were discovered in these regions. The peatlands in the Eastern Cape were found to be in a very bad state, with an estimated 70 % loss or seriously impacted on. The peatlands in the South Coast and Western Cape were in a better state, especially in the Western Cape.

The South-Central Highveld region in the Free State and Mpumalanga must still be visited as well as the Transkei region. Additional visits to the Cental and Eastern Highveld regions will also take place.

Short and long term needs of the peat industry
This part of the project is of importance not only in terms of the future development of the mushroom farmers and relevant nursery sector, the long term management of peatlands, but will also serve as an important component in determining the sensitivity of the eco-regions. Interested and affected parties are invited to participate in especially this part of the project.
For more information:
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Peatlands in Armenia: Values, Threats and Needs

by Karen Jenderedjian[1], Aram Gabrielyan[1] and Susanna Hakobyan[2]

[1]Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia; [2]Institute of Hydroecology and Ichthyology of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia

Armenia with a total area 29,743 km^2 lies between the Black Sea and the Caspian Lake. The country covers the northern part of the Armenian Plateau, which is 0.5 km higher than neighboring territories. Being a mountainous country, Armenia has average altitude 1850 m a. s. l.
Armenia has limited water resources, and wetlands occupy not more than 1% of the total territory of the country. The distribution of wetlands is unequal. All 70 registered peatlands - with a total area of 3,000 ha - are situated between 1400 and 2200 m a.s.l. Most of them cover less than 1 ha. Of the 20 largest peatlands 14 are in the northern part, 4 in the basin of Lake Sevan, and 2 in the southern part of the country. The largest are Gilli (1500 ha, Lake Sevan Basin), Shahnazar and Saratovka (total 700 ha, northern Armenia, on the border with Georgia).
The total volume of peat of commercial interest is estimated to amount to 50 million m^3. The peat layer is up to 6 m thick but usually does not exceed 1.5 m. The main peat forming plants are reed (*Phragmites*), sedges (*Carex*), bulrushes (*Scirpus*), reed-mace (*Typha*), and mosses (*Sphagnum*). Commercial demand for peat is as fertilizer in horticulture and agriculture, as litter in lifestock farming, as mud cure in balneology, and as fuel in years of energy crisis. Estimated peat excavation at present is about 50 thousands m^3 annually. The degree of decomposition of the extracted peat is 55-82%.
The mire vegetation itself is in demand for grazing, ensilage fodder and in smaller quantities as building material. Armenian mires support many species of pharmacological interest and edible and tannin and ether-bearing plants.
The ecological values of Armenian mires are incomparably higher than the economical. Here we mention only a few of them. Armenian mires constute a refugium for the boreal wetland flora of the Minor Caucasus with a number of post glacial relicts, a habitat for a number of endangered plant and animal species, and important resting and foraging sites for migrating birds.
Unfortunately mire loss and degradation have reduced the natural ecological values. At present, only a few mires remain comparatively undisturbed. The greatest mire loss resulted from drainage of the

Lake Gilli area in the 1950's. Due to this single action the number of breeding waterfowl species in Armenia was reduced by 30 species. Among them are Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*), Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*), Velvet Scoter (*Melanita fusca*), White-headed Duck (*Oxiura leucocephala*), and Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).

In 2000, a GEF PDF project "Restoration of Lake Gilli" was launched implemented by UNDP. The Ministry of Nature Protection and the NGO "Khazer" carried out direct studies. GEF project documents for restoration of 1,000 ha of the Lake Gilli system, including mire recovery, already exists. It is estimated that after completion of the project the sequestration of CO_2 will increase to 1450 ton per year. Most of the waterfowl species are expected to return to their former nesting area. It is proposed to use the site for bird-watching and limited economical activities such as waterfowl and fish breeding, grazing, and hay mowing as part of management.

Restoration of Lake Gilli area will be a substantial contribution of Armenia to acieving the goals set out by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the UN Convention on Climate Change. Armenia is Contracting Party in both conventions since 1993.

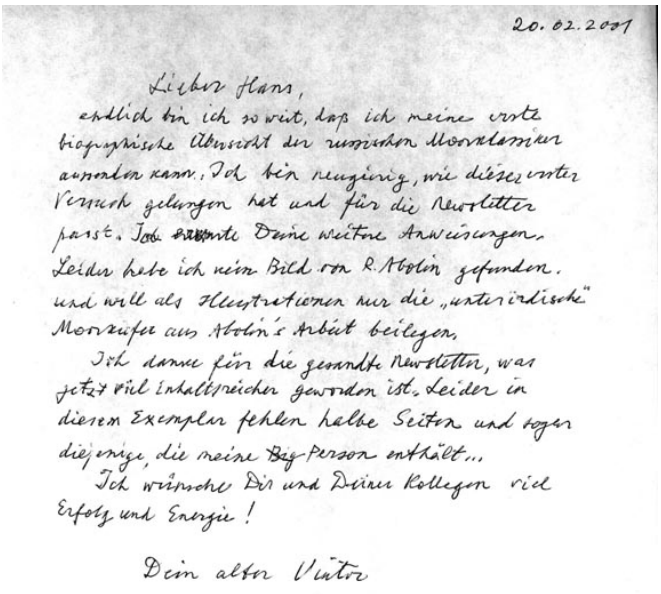
The authors invite interested organizations and persons to provide them with input in the restoration of the largest inland waterfowl area in the Caucasus Region.

Contact address:
Ministry of Nature Protection, 35 Moskovian St., Yerevan 375002, Armenia, Tel.: 374-1-531841, Fax: 374-1-151959, E-mail: Jender@nature.am

In memory of Viktor Masing

Viktor Masing, our IMCG honorary member, died yesterday, 18 March 2001, 75 years old. He suffered from bad health already for a long time. Three weeks ago we received a last article from his hands to put in the IMCG Newsletter. He wanted to make a series on "russian" mire scientists who are not so well known in the West and started with the article on Robert Abolin, that you will find on the next page of this Newsletter. The fact that he started with Abolin in the beginning of the alphabet was a nice sign of his ongoing involvement in mire science and conservation It is also apparent from the accompanying letter he sent with the article (below).

He was a friend, teacher, and model to us all. He has left his lasting footsteps in mosses and sand...



20.02.2001

Lieber Hans,
endlich bin ich so weit, daß ich meine erste biographische Übersicht der russischen Moorklassiker auswärts kann. Ich bin neugierig, wie dieser erster Versuch gelungen ist und für die Newsletter passt. Ich erwarte Deine weitere Anweisungen.
Leider habe ich kein Bild von R. Abolin gefunden. und will als Illustrationen nur die „unterirdische" Moorkiefer aus Abolin's Arbeit beilegen.
Ich danke für die gesandte Newsletter, was jetzt viel inhaltsreicher geworden ist. Leider in diesem Exemplar fehlen halbe Seiten und sogar die einzige, die meine Bio-Person enthält...
Ich wünsche Dir und Deinen Kollegen viel Erfolg und Energie!

Dein alter Viktor

20.02.2001

Dear Hans,
finally, I managed to send out my first biographical review of classic Russian mire scientists. I am anxious to hear how this first attempt has come out and whether it fits the Newsletter. I expect your further instructions.
Unfortunately I could not find a picture of R. Abolin and only want to add a picture of the "subterranean" mire pine from Abolin's work as an illustration.
I thank you for the sending of the Newsletter that has become much more rich in its contents. A pity that half of the pages were missing from my copy and including those that covered my person too...
I wish you and your collegues the best of luck and energy!

your old Viktor

Robert Abolin – an unknown classic of mire science

by Viktor Masing

Robert Abolin – Aboli• š in Latvian – was born on the 18th of May 1886 in Livland (Latvia). He studied at the famous Institute of Forestry in St. Petersburg, where he was captivated by Dokuchajew's soil science.

From 1909 – 1911, he studied the mires of the districts Pskov (Pleskau) and Novgorod in NW-Russia. These studies were published in 1914 under the peculiar title „Epigenological classification of mires" (in Russian). In the development of mires Abolin distinguishes the lake or river stage, the groundwater stage, and the precipitation stage. The latter he described as a series of peat forming *Sphagnum* communities (*Sphagnata*) lying on top of eachother and forming the mire as a convex landform unit. Abolin's scheme can be seen as a first model of mire development - F. Clements published his succession theory 1916. In the same publication, Abolin proposes some additions to landscape science as started almost simultaneously by L. Berg in Russia and S. Passarge in Germany in 1913. He created a hierarchical classification of landscape units. The largest being the Epigenema, comprising the whole of the Earth, that was subdivided into life zones. (The term 'life zone' had been coined 1898 by Ch. Merriam in America.) Smaller surface (epi-) units followed. The area of the smallest, Epimorpha, approximately corresponds to that of a plant community.

In 1915, an overview was published of growthforms of *Pinus sylvestris* in mires. In previous European literature, all forms were named f. *sphagnicola* Ruprecht or var. *turfosa* Woerlein. Abolin distinguished four ecological forms, including the rare f. *pumila* Abolin, which grows completely sunken in the peatmoss. The picture on the right is taken from Ka• (1941). We described this form also from Estonia (Masing 1957, Läänelaid 1980). The other three forms, f. uliginosa, f. Litwinowii, and f. Willkommii, were already described by Sukachew (1905).

After the revolution many young Latvians remained in Russia and because of their communist conviction they were not able to return to Latvia. In Soviet Russia, the 'red soldiers' were initially highly appreciated and they were even employed as personal guards by Lenin.

Robert Abolin, however, prefered science and the extensive unexplored Central Asian deserts. At the new university of Tashkent, he organised expeditions to the deserts of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgizstan. Later he was called to Moscow as desert specialist.

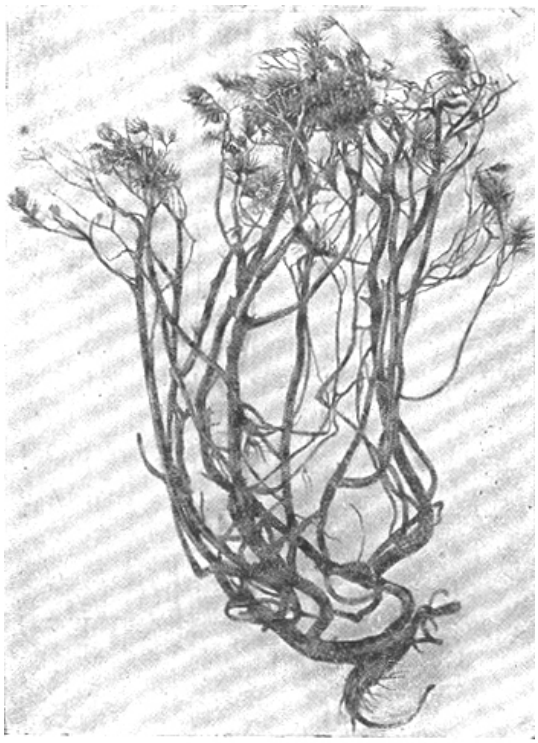


Рис. 43. Pinus silvestris fo pumila Abolin.
Из В. Сукачева, 1926.

Scientists of Baltic origin still seemed suspicious to the stalinist security service. Robert Abolin was arrested and disappeared. The 'Lexicon of Russian botanists' by S. Lipschütz (1947) states he died in 1939; when or where remains unknown. The infamous statement may be repeated: the revolution swallows its children...

Regional News

News from France

by Philippe Julve & Jean Marc Hervio

The first french National Wetland Action Plan has come to an end. It included a national research programme that financed around 12 projects. One project was devoted to French mires and studied 10 sites involving 6 universities. The project was aimed at developing a typology of French mires and mire type specific conservation management. The studies involved hydrology, vegetation, C and N fluxes, social behaviour, management, etc... A report was presented to the scientific committee at the begining of this year and will be presented during a global symposium in May.
The second National Wetland Action Plan will enter into force this year. It will include the creation of 6 "resource centers" (that include documentation, observation, expertise...), one of them dealing specifically with mires (others concern alluvial zones, atlantic coastal wetlands, mediterranean coastal wetlands, great continental wetlands, and ponds). The Mire Center will be managed by Espaces Naturels de France, an NGO which is a federation of regional nature protection bodies.
A cooperation project with Latvia and Estonia will begin in 2002 to protect and manage mire sites in these baltic countries. These projects could be financed through the French World Environment Fund (FFEM) and European Union Funds (e.g. LIFE).
for information contact
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Jean Marc Hervio: jean-marc.hervio@libertysurf.fr)

News from South Africa

by Piet Louis Grundling

The Floods and Peat

Major flooding took place in southern Africa during January/February 2000. These floods caused quite a lot of damage in Southern Africa as was reported in the international media. The effect of urbanisation, agriculture and the general lack of care for the land we live on became evident. High peak flows, flash floods and a loss of human life and resources could all be traced down to catchment degradation and wetland loss (and a lot of rain).
Even the mushroom farmers in South Africa were affected. Peat exploitation operations in the South African Highveld (A local name for the interior of South Africa) were severely disrupted by flooding of two important peat resource areas, one at Bapsfontein (Baps's spring), north east of Johannesburg and the other at Gerhardminnebron, near Potchefstroom. It was not possible to take peat out of the peatlands due to high water levels and shortage of peat for the mushroom farmers developed. The situation became so critical that farmers in the Cape region had to import peat from overseas.

New Guidelines for Reports on the Environmental Impact of Peat Extraction

The Peat Working Group of South Africa (PWG) has finalised and approved new guidelines for Reports on the Environmental Impact of Peat Extraction on the rehabilitation of peatlands exploited for their peat and new application procedures for the exploitation of peatlands.
A Peat Forum meeting will be arranged in the near future by the PWG to inform interested and affected parties on the latest developments on the South African peatlandscape.
For more information contact:
Philip Swemmer, chairperson of the PWG:
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John Dini, Assistant Director, Department of Environmental Affairs:
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The Working for Water Programme and Peatlands

The very successful Working for Water Programme, a poverty relief initiative of the South African government has now targeted the rehabilitation of degraded wetlands as part of their programme. Four peatlands stand to benefit already from this more than welcome involvement of Working for water. The Heddlespruit peatlands near Graskop (Grass hill) in the Blyde (Joyfull) River Canyon Nature Reserve and the Verlorenvallei (Lost Valley) wetlands in the northeastern parts of South Africa, the Rietvlei (Reed swamp) peatlands in the Rietvlei Nature Reserve near Pretoria and the Kromme (Skew) River fens were rehabilitated in the 1st phase of the programme and are again earmarked for rehabilitation in the latter half of this year.
Thanks to David Lindley of South African Rennies South African Wetland Programme for his hard work in bringing wetland rehabilitation and Working for Water together!
The 2001 World Wetland celebrations (2nd February 2001) in South Africa centred around the wetland rehabilitation programme and the national launch of this programme were held at the Rietvlei Nature Reserve near Pretoria. It was officially launched by the South African minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.
For further information contact Piet-Louis Grundling: peatland@mweb.co.za (tel.: + 2712 808 5342).

Peat resources of KwaZulu-Natal wetlands: Southern Maputaland and the North and South Coast

A report on this project on behalf of DEAT has just been completed by the Council for Geoscience. This project completed an inventory on the coastal region of KwaZulu-Natal and was a follow up on the peatlands of Maputaland (see Issue 6 of the IMCG Newsletter, November 1999). It addresses various issues ranging from peatland distribution and diversity to impacts and threats. Please contact John Dini at + 2712 310 3789 or Joanne Seeman, Council for Geoscience at + 2712 841 1074 for more details.

Peatland Inventory in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina

by Claudio Roig and Rodolfo Iturraspe

As recommended by the "Ecosystems Conservation at World Level with Emphasis on Tierra del Fuego Mires Seminar" (Ushuaia, mar/2000), the administration of Tierra del Fuego began their peatland inventory with the aprox. 35.000 ha in the central area of the Island. Although the major peatlands are outside of this area, it deserves priority for mire conservation and wise management activities, because with its access facilities it is the most important area for peat extraction.
The main objectives of the inventory are:
(i) the identification and classification of mires according to botanical composition and morphological and topographical characteristics;
(ii) the development of field data sheets easy to apply in futures inventories;
(iii) the collection of plant reference material;
(iv) the making of an illustrated botanical guide.
The multidisciplinary working group is formed by researchers of CONICET, the University of Patagonia, and professionals of the State Administration. The inventory will be made during the present year in form of field works and air photograph and satellite image analysis.
The inventory data will provide the basis for environmental impact assessment studies in relation to peatland exploitation. Results will be essential for the wise land use planning in the area with respect to exploitation and conservation.
For more information:
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Rodolfo Iturraspe, frodolfoiturraspe@yahoo.com

Olympic rowing course threatens Schinias wetlands

The Greek government has planned the construction of the rowing course of the 2006 Olympics in the Schinias wetland, Marothon. The Olympic engineering works would destroy 80% of the vast reed-bed at the site of the Rowing Course. Under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives Greece is obliged to take steps to designate Schinias as protected area (as 'Special Area of Conservation' (SACs) under the Habitats Directive and as 'Special Protection Area' (SPAs) under the Birds Directive). Schinias contains at least 6 important habitat types which are protected under the Habitats Directive, including some 'priority habitats' which are subject to the strictest protection regime of the Habitats Directive. Schinias is also home to at least 110 species of birds which are protected by the Birds Directive. Examples are glossy ibis, marsh harrier, black-winged stilt and kingfisher. In spite of all this, the Greek Government has excluded Schinias from the list of areas recommended to the European Commission to be SACs under the Habitats Directive, even though the Government's own scientific advisers told it in 1996 that Schinias should be included on this list.
British scientists from the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) described the Schinias wetland as one of high conservation value and expressed their deep concern for the future of the area due to the construction of the Olympic Rowing Center. Also all Greek political parties of the opposition have expressed their disapproval of the construction of the Olympic facilities in Schinias – Marathon.
For more information:
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tel.: 01-3314893 (ext.:107), fax. 01-3247578
a.chaini@wwf.gr

News from Ireland

Kildare bypass - the threat to Pollardstown fen

Ireland's leading environmental NGOs issued a joint statement fully supporting the Inland Waterways Association's concerns over the potential damage from the Kildare By-pass on Pollardstown Fen and the Grand Canal.
Pollardstown Fen is the largest (220 ha) and most important spring fed fen in Ireland. It is a National Nature Reserve since 1986 and also a Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive. Three habitats listed on Annex I of the Habitats Directive occur in the area, they are:- Alkaline fen, calcareous fen and petrifying springs with tufa formation.There is simply not enough known about the complex and unstable hydro-geology of the Curragh Aquifer to ensure that the design will not damage rare and internationally protected flora and fauna.

The planned building of the road will involve cutting six metres deep into the mid Kildare aquifer which supplies the Fen with its vital nutrient rich water. The original idea of sinking the road to such a depth was to protect the "amenities of the area" which did not however, extend to include Pollardstown Fen. In the eight years since the 1993 Public Road's Enquiry, it became clear that the design was fatally flawed. The original cutting would have drained more than 5 million gallons of water a day from the ground.
But the subsequent assessment of the new "plastic tanking" solution ignored the warning of Dúchas, the competent national authority and failed to allow the public or NGOs to comment.
This urgently needed by-pass could proceed without further delays and with minimum risk to nature conservation -if it was left on the surface.

Windmill park threatens blanket bog

Recently, An Bord Pleanála decided to approve the windfarm development proposed for Corry Hill, County Leitrim. The site on which the development of six wind turbines is to take place is on an area of pristine bogland on top of Corry Hill. The upland blanket bog is now a very rare and important habitat in Ireland and Western Europe. Less than 10% of the habitat type is being protected for conservation in County Leitrim and the site is listed as a proposed Special Area of Conservation on the recently published shadow list.
Dúchas, the state agency responsible for nature conservation did not object to this development despite the fact that they are obliged to protect what remains of this habitat type in Ireland and are currently being taken to the European court on the grounds of non-compliance with EU conservation directives. Until such time as Dúchas carry out a national survey of upland sites in Ireland and designate them appropriately this type of unsuitable development will continue, and result in further loss of upland blanket bog.
It is hoped that future developments of this type will take account of such considerations in the contents of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). IPCC are of course in favour of renewable energy sources such as wind power but upland sites are a limited resource in Ireland that need to be surveyed in order to identify which sites are most suitable for wind energy and which should be protected.

IPCC collects

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council collects a variety of items to raise funds or goods to help support the Save the Bogs Campaign. As a charitable group this is an important source of income for us.
We collect a variety of items including postage stamps, first day covers, stamp collections, telephone call cards, foreign and old coins, postcards, old Christmas and greeting cards, bus change tickets, and vouchers and supermarket points.
With the help of volunteers we do the following with these collected items:

- Christmas cards and greeting cards we recycle into gift tags and new cards which we sell through our shop and gift catalogue. The actual waste paper that is left is sent for recycling. We are principally interested in the front of the card, and only if there is no writing on the back.
- Postage Stamps (and associated philatelic stuff) we sort into different categories (Irish Commemoratives; Irish Definitives; World; and UK Commemoratives and Definitives), they get trimmed to leave a 0.5 cm margin around the edge and we then sell them to Irish stamp dealers or as stamp collectors packs in the shop. Used telephone cards are also sold on to collectors. Last year alone we received 58 kilograms of stamps from our supporters and the general public.
- Postcards we sort into categories and sell to postcard collectors. We are particularly interested in John Hinde cards and old postcards. Some of the more general and modern cards we recycle with sticker on back for use here in the office when writing to members.
- Old coins and bank notes and foreign money we either try and exchange for Irish pounds if the currency is still valid or offer older coins to collectors.
- Bus change tickets we collect are taken to CIE to claim refund.
- Vouchers and supermarket points we exchange for goods to sell at our Annual Save the Bogs Sale of Work.

One important point to make is that volunteers are a very important part of this whole process. Without their help in cutting and sorting we would find it very difficult to do all the work. So their input is crucial and we are always looking for extra pairs of willing hands.

For more information on Irish Peatlands and their conservation, contact the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, 119 Capel Street, Dublin 1 Ireland
Fax: +353-1-8722397; Tel.: +353-1-8722384
bogs@ipcc.ie or info@ipcc.
http://www.ipcc.ie

IPCC's initiative to simultaneously raise money and awareness is the kind of idea one wishes were his own. If you have similar or equally clever projects to report about, please contact the IMCG secretariat.

The Conservation Handbook: gratis copies project

From the NHBS home page on www.nhbs.com

The Conservation Handbook - Research, Management and Policy by William J Sutherland has been published by Blackwell Science (278 pages).
The aim of The Conservation Handbook is to provide clear guidance on the implementation of conservation techniques. It provides constructive advice and information on how to tackle conservation problems, from fieldwork through to drafting Action Plans. The wide range of methods described include those for ecological research, monitoring, planning, education, habitat management and combining conservation with development. 18 case studies illustrate how the methods have been applied.
The book is being sent free of charge to those practising conservationists outside Western Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan who are otherwise unlikely to obtain a copy. These copies are provided at cost price by Blackwell Scientific, the publisher, and paid for with the author's royalties. Each book sold means another one will be donated. Administration and distribution of gratis copies is handled free of charge by NHBS. The Christensen Fund has generously made a grant to cover the cost of postage.
If you wish to obtain a copy or order a book to be sent to people who live in the area outlined above and would benefit from this book, please send your name and address, the name of the suggested recipient, their address and a sentence or two explaining why they should be sent this book, to Conservation Handbook Gratis Copies Project, NHBS, 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN.
Email: gratis@nhbs.co.uk. The number of books donated can be followed at
www.nhbs.com/info/sutherland/conservation_handbook.html
more information on the book can be found on
http://www.nhbs.com/xbscripts/bkfsrch?search=101322

New and recent Journals/Newsletters/Books/Reports

A.A.Sirin, A. A. & Minaeva, T. Yu. (Eds.), 2001. Peatlands in Russia: towards an analysis of sectoral information. Moscow, GEOS Publ. 190 pp.

Peatlands cover over 20% of the territory of the Russian Federation, comprising the dominant type of wetlands in the country. These peatlands have formed under different natural conditions, and include a wide variety of types. They support globally significant biodiversity, and provide various natural functions and benefits to people. In most regions of Russia, they have long been involved in many economic activities, including forestry, agriculture, peat extraction for different purposes, etc. Attitudes to peatlands, their values, and conservation requirements differ considerably among sectoral and regional interest groups, and local communities.
During the last decades, a large amount of peatland-related information has been accumulated at many institutions and sectoral agencies. These data need to be integrated and analysed. Many scientific and sectoral organisations have been involved in research on peatlands and carried out peatland inventories, which have not been compatible with each other. As a result, even basic terms and characteristics, like peat covered area, peatland type, storage of peat etc. have different definitions and calculation procedures. The resulting estimates of resources may differ considerably. The comparison and gap analysis of existing information on peatlands seems to be a key solution to the problem.
The existing information on Russian peatlands can be divided into sectoral and inter-sectoral blocks. The former is under official responsibility of different ministries, state agencies and institutions. The latter is stored by research institutes, universities, and NGOs, and has been compiled under research and conservation projects supported by various funds, grants and other sources. These activities have not been strictly regulated by legislative acts and standards, and so the data are less formalised and less available in comparison with the sectoral databases.
This book presents an overview of sectoral information on peatlands, including historical reviews, terminological aspects, legislative basics, standards, procedures to collect and store information, structure of informational networks, and conditions to gain access to them. The role of various industries and agencies in the use and conservation of peatland resources is described. Research on peatlands as peat deposits, agricultural and forested lands, hydrological objects, habitats of plant and animal species and communities are reviewed.
The structure of governmental bodies responsible for collecting information on peatlands has been changed many times, especially during the last ten years. This is why the review is structured around major

traditional sectoral interests: peatlands as peat deposits; peatlands as land resources, etc. The purpose of the book is to show which sectoral information can be used as a basis for informed peatland resource management and decision making.
For more information contact:
Tatjana Minaeva: tminaeva@wwf.ru
Andrej Sirin: sirin@rosles.msk.su

Gobal, B., Junk, W.J. & Davis, J.A. (ed.) (2000) Biodiversity in wetlands: asssessment, function and conservation. Volume 1. Backhuys Leiden, 354 pp. US$ 98

Fourteen contributions deal with plant and animal biodiversity and significant efforts to promote diversity in rivers, wetlands, and floodplains of Asia, Europe, Africa, and South America.
http//www.backhuys.com

Maier, E. (2000) Das Moor im eigenen Garten. Moorgärten anlegen, gestalten und pflegen. Parey, Berlin. 130 p. DM 78.

Detailed technical information on how to create your own mire garden, with ample information on cultivatable mire plants from all over the world. Recognizes the importance of a large hydraulic storage coefficient for peatland ecosystems and presents ways how to realize that artificially. Gives a good idea where nature conservation may eventually end, if we do not worry about the naturalness behind the biodiversity. An honest book for gardeners, that, however, often reminds of how currently restoration projects are planned and designed.

Fansa, M. (ed.), 1999. Weder See noch Land: Moor – eine verlorene Landschaft. Isensee, Oldenburg. DM 36.

Beautiful catalogue of an exhibition in the Oldenburg National Museum. Covers all aspects of bogs in Northwestern Germany, including ecology, history, archaeology, and art. With description and pictures how a 75 m^2 (!) large bog profile was prepared for the exhibition.

Meuleman, A.F.M., 1999. Performance of treatment wetlands. PhD thesis Utrecht, 113 p.

Bundle of draft articles with synthesis and discussion reporting on the performance of treatment wetlands under different loading rates of domestic sewage or polluted river water, with guidelines for design and management measures. When maximum loads do not exceed 1000 kg N ha^{-1} yr^{-1} and 100 kg P ha^{-1} yr^{-1} good removal efficiencies and effluent quality can be expected. If the effluent is used to supply natural wet ecosystems that are sensitive to eutrophication, maximum loading rates should even be a factor 10 lower.

Wagner, A. H., 2000. Minerotrophe Bergkiefernmoore im süddeutschen Alpenvorland - Die Carex lasiocarpa-Pinus rotundata-Gesellschaft: Synsoziologie - Ökologie – Naturschutz. Thesis, Univ. of Munich.

This thesis on the Minerotrophic Pinus rotundata mires in the south-German forelands of the Alps (syntaxonomy - ecology - nature conservation) can be downloaded (.pdf) from:
http://tumb1.biblio.tu-muenchen.de/
publ/diss/lg/2000/wagner.html
Or contact:
Alfred Wagner
Kappelweg 1
D 82497 Unterammergau
wagner-ugau@t-online.de

Jansen, A., 2000. Hydrology and restoration of wet heathland and fen meadow communities. PhD thesis Groningen, 189 p.

Bundle of (draft) articles with general discussion on the abiotic requirements of wet heathland communities and the hydrological processes and hydrological system types which provide for these conditions, followed by the formulation of criteria for successful restoration of these communities. In contrast to other plant communities of wet heathlands, the major part of the characteristic species of fen meadows have not re-appeared within ten years after carrying out the restoration measures, probably because of the absence of a persistent seed bank and the absence of mycosymbionts (orchids!). The dispersal of these species might be improved by connection of isolated reserves, adequate management schemes, and – as a last possible measure – re-introduction.
More information: Andre.Jansen@kiwa.nl

Flade, M., 2001. Report on the 2. Aquatic Warbler Expedition to Western Siberia 21 May - 4 June 2000

IMCG Newsletter 2000/3 featured a short article on the outcome of this excursion. The 37 page full report is now available from the the Aquatic Warbler Conservation Team
For more information contact:
Martin Flade:
Dorfstrasse 60, D-16230 Brodowin, Germany
martin.flade@munr-lags.brandenburg.de

Strohmeyer, A., Artinger, K. & Krogmann, F., 2000. Landschaft, Licht und niederdeutscher Mythos. Die Worpsweder Kunst und der Nationalsozialismus. VDG, Weimar, 282 p.. DM 49,-

Discusses the role of painters and authors of German's most important artist colony, the peatland colony Worpswede, in nationalistic and nazi ideology.

Paping, R.F.J. (ed.), 2000. De extreme armoede van arbeiders in de Drentse venen in de negentiende en eerste helft van de twintigste eeuw. Mythe of harde werkelijkheid.. Boon, Groningen, 236 p. DFL 39,90.

Bundle of „Historikerstreit" essays on whether the socio-economic conditions in the Drentian peat bogs in the 19th and beginning of the 20th century were indeed as harsh as often claimed.

IPCC, 2000. Irish Fen Inventory Report.

The "Irish Fen Inventory Report" brings together for the first time all the available information about fens in Ireland. Forty experts assisted with the identification of the new fen sites which are mainly located in limestone areas of the West and North-West of the country.
Six different types of fen were found to occur in Ireland, they include fens that occur around lake edges, along river floodplains, in deep basins, valleys, in blanket bog and at fresh-water springs. Valley fens were shown to have a very limited distribution.
The research was funded by The Heritage Council. Copies of the report cost £30 including p&p and are available from IPCC.
More information:
Patrick Crushell, Conservation Officer, IPCC, 119 Capel Street, Dublin 1. Tel/Fax: 353 1 872 2397
bogs@ipcc.ie
http://www.ipcc.ie

Crow, G.E. & Hellquist, C.B. (2000) Aquatic and wetland plants of northeastern North America.
Volume I: Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms: Dicotyledons. 536 pp
Volume II: Angiosperms: Monocotyledons. University of Wisconsin press, Madison. 456 pp.

Covers the region from Minnesota to Missouri, eastward to the Atlantic from Newfoundland to Virginia. Treats 1,139 species of native and naturalized aquatic and wetland plants of freshwaters, salt marshes, and tidal waters. The key use little technical language. With many line drawings and a comprehensive glossaries of plant and habitat terms.
http://www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/

Coronato, A. & Roig, C. (eds.), 2001. Conservacion de ecosistemas a nivel mundial con enfasis en las turberas de Tierra del Fuego.

Proceedings of a workshop on Mire and Peatland use and conservation held in March 2000 in Ushuaia (Tierra del Fuego). For more information contact:
Andrea Coronato, acoronato@arnet.com.ar
Claudio Roig, croig@impsat1.com.ar

DON'T FORGET TO FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM SENT WITH THIS NEWSLETTER!

For details visit the IMCG homepage:

HTTP://WWW.IMCG.NET

or contact Jan Sliva: sliva@weihenstephan.de

UPCOMING EVENTS

See for additional and up-to-date information: http://www.imcg.net/imcgdia.htm

Planta Europa conference on wild plant conservation: 'Developing a Plant Conservation Strategy for Europe'.

Pruhonice, Czech Republic 23rd- 28th June 2001

See the previous IMCG Newsletter for details or contact:
Elizabeth Radford
Planta Europa Co-ordinator
Plantlife
21 Elizabeth Street
London
SW1W 9RP
UK
Tel.: +44 (0)20 7808 0106
Fax: +44 (0)20 7730 8377
liz.radford@plantlife.org.uk
http://www.plantlife.org.uk

International Field Symposium and Excursion: West Siberian Peatlands and Carbon Cycle: past and present

20-24 August 2001, Noyabrsk, Russia

See the previous IMCG Newsletter for details or contact:
Mr. S. V. Vasiliev
Sovetskaya –18, Novosibirsk, 630099, Russia.
Tel.: (3832) 22-58-40, (3832) 22-54-15.
Fax: (3832) 22-76-52.
sv@issa.nsc.ru
http://www.issa.nsc.ru/wspcc/index.html
Communication and registration via email and Internet is preferred.

Asian Wetland Symposium 2001

Penang, Malaysia, 27 – 30 August 2001

Please visit the website for information concerning the Symposium. Interested parcitipants can register as well as submit their abstracts electronically as explained in the website.
http://aws2001.domainvalet.com

Biodiversity of the European North theoretical basis of the study, socio-legal aspects of the use and protection

Petrozavodsk, Russia, 3-7 September 2001

The Institute of Biology of the Karelian Research Centre of RAS invites you to take part in the International Conference «BIODIVERSITY OF THE EUROPEAN NORTH (theoretical basis of the study, socio-legal aspects of the use and protection), which will be held on September 3-7, 2001 in Petrozavodsk (Russia).

Main programme topics include theoretical basis and methods of the study of flora and fauna biodiversity in the European North, protected areas and biodiversity conservation, and socio-legal aspects of the sustainable use of biological resources, ecological tourism.
Presentations will be in Russian and English. Translation services will be provided.
Abstracts received before 1 April 2001 will be included in the book of abstracts. The registration fee of 150 US$ includes admission to the conference, book of abstracts, welcome party, coffee/tea.
For more information contact:
Dr. Tatjana Kharkina
Institute of Biology,
Karelian Research Centre of RAS,
11 Pushkinskaya St,
185610 Petrozavodsk,
RUSSIA
Tel. +7 8142 76 27 06
Fax: +7 8142 77 98 10
biodiv@krc.karelia.ru
http://www.krc.karelia.ru/conference
http://biology.krc.karelia.ru

Symposium: Irish Raised Bogs- Conservation, Utilisation and After-Use

Ireland, 4 - 12 September 2001

See the previous IMCG Newsletter and the leaflet attached to this issue or contact:
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
119 Capel Street
Dublin 1
Ireland
Fax: +353-1-8722397
Tel.: +353-1-8722384
bogs@ipcc.ie or info@ipcc.ie (new e-mail!)
http://www.ipcc.ie (new URL!)

Changing Wetlands: new developments in wetland science

Sheffield, UK, 11th - 13th September 2001

See previous IMCG Newsletter for details or contact:
Conference Secretary
Changing Wetlands Conference
Sheffield Wetlands Research Centre (SWeRC)
Department of Geography
University of Sheffield
SHEFFIELD S10 2TN
United Kingdom
Fax.: +44 114 279 7912
Email: wetlands@sheffield.ac.uk
http://www.shef.ac.uk/~g/wetlands

CALL FOR REGISTRATION

Dear all,
At the meeting in Québec it was decided that IMCG will be an official organisation. This involves registration of membership. To register as IMCG member please fill out the form on the back.
Becoming a member means to subscribe to the constitution and supporting the aim of IMCG to "internationally promote, encourage and, where appropriate, co-ordinate the conservation of mires and related systems at all scales; and internationally enhance the exchange of information and experience relating to mires and factors affecting them." Registration of course also means you will receive the IMCG Newsletter.
Not becoming a member of IMCG does not mean you cannot read the IMCG Newsletter anymore. If you do not want to become a member, but still wish to receive the Newsletter you are also asked to fill out the form on the back.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM ON THE BACK

There are various kinds of IMCG membership: ordinary members, supporters and benefactors (sponsors). Ordinary members are expected to be or become positively involved in one way or another with activities that coincide with the goals of the IMCG. Supporters are those who do not wish to be that involved but do wish to support the goals of the IMCG. Benefactors are those who wish to provide significant support to the work of the IMCG. Acknowledged benefactors may use their status for commercial or publicity purposes.
At least until the next biennial meeting 2002 in France, there will be no membership fee. According to the IMCG constitution, members have to be formally adopted by the IMCG Main Board. Therefore, it may take up to three months after receipt of your application before you are informed on admission. Therefore, send in your registration form as soon as possible.
To become familiar with the IMCG Constitution, please visit the new IMCG web-site:

http://www.imcg.net/

Send the completed Registration Form (by mail or fax) as soon as possible to:

Mr. Jan Sliva (EC IMCG)
Dept. of Ecology TUM
Chair of Vegetation Ecology
Am Hochanger 6
D-85350 Freising - Weihenstephan
Germany
Fax: ++49 / 8161 / 71 4143

You can also answer all question from the registration form in an e-mail addressed to:

sliva@weihenstephan.de

(the registration form can also be downloaded from the IMCG homepage http://www.imcg.net)

The Main Board hopes to welcome a lot of IMCG members !

IMCG - Registration Form

Please write legible to avoid transcription errors !!!

☐ I want to become ordinary member of IMCG
☐ I want to become a supporter of IMCG
☐ I want to become a benefactor to IMCG
☐ I do not wish to become a member, but do wish to receive the IMCG Newsletter
read the back of this form for more information or contact Jan Sliva (address on the back).

	Example:	Your entry:		
First name/-s (Forename/-s)	John Marc			
Last name (Surname)	Travolta			
Title (Dr., Prof., etc.)	Dr.			
Form of Address (Mr, Ms, ..)	Mr.			
Organisation	University of Marocco, Dept. of Wetland Research			
Address	1432 Desert Street			
Postal code	GL14 K53			
City	Casablanca			
Country	Marocco			
Telephone office	+65 /182/ 532574	Country code	city code	number
Telephone home				
Fax office	+65 /182 / 532570			
Fax home				
Email office*	Jmtrav@desert.ma			
Email home*				
*please indicate which e-mail address you prefer to use; also with respect to receiving the Newsletter (see below)				
Your expertise / interests in relation to IMCG activities	Peatland ecology, Sphagnum ecology			
Do you have access to the Internet ?	yes			

To reduce expenses, new ways of receiving the Newsletter are offered.
Please indicate the alternative most suitable for you below.

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