INTERNATIONAL MIRE CONSERVATION GROUP

NEWSLETTER

issue 2004/2, May 2004

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 a 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 (Jan Sliva), a Secretary General (Hans Joosten), a Treasurer (Philippe Julve), and 2 additional members (Tatiana Minaeva, Stuart Brooks).

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

Editorial

The second Newsletter of 2004, only 2 months after the first one, but the constitution forces us to send out the final agenda for a General Assembly at least four months before the happening. In this Newsletter you will find already some documents for this Assembly, other documents will follow in the Newsletter that we will send out in the beginning of July.

To involve yourself in the discussions for the General Assembly, we ask you to study the documents and to send in reactions, amendments, notes, and points of discussion, to submit resolutions, and to candidate for the Main Board. But all this has to be done before July 5th, when we will prepare the next Newsletter.

Not only IMCG has its major meeting in 2004: the International Peat Society organises its International Peat Congress, in June, in Tampere (Finland) where almost 600 peat people will meet. This Newsletter includes some deliberations on the proposed new structure of IPS: to reorganise the activities of the present eight commissions into two Committees, an “industrial” and a “scientific” Committee. Will this be a positive development or is IPS simply going give in to the already existing dominance of the peat extraction lobby?

Please send all your proposals, contributions, news, publications, etc. to us, and with your help we will again prepare an interesting Newsletter.

For information or other things, contact us at the IMCG Secretariat. Address updates should be sent to Jan Sliva (sliva@wzw.tum.de). In the meantime, keep an eye on the continuously refreshed and refreshing IMCG web-site, where we will also install a special corner with contributions for the General Assembly: http://www.imcg.net

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General Assembly South Africa 2004

On the IMCG General Assembly on Sunday September 26 2004 in Paarl (Western Cape Province, South Africa) only a limited number of IMCG members can be present, and only limited time will be available. Therefore we will arrange the discussions and decisions largely by (e)mail, like we have done with the France 2002 General Assembly.

Below you may find the **final agenda** for this Assembly (that will be available on our website as well) and in the beginning of July we will produce a Newsletter containing further documents for the Assembly and all information on how the voting per email or snailmail will be done.
Background papers, concrete proposals, contributions for discussion, etc. on the agenda points can be submitted until **5 July**. Nominations for the IMCG Main Board should also be sent in by the beginning of July – the sooner the better of course – so that we can arrange the democratic procedures in a smooth way.

Final agenda of the IMCG General Assembly 2004 South Africa

1. Opening and Welcome
2. Minutes of the General Assembly of 21 July 2002 in Besançon
3. Biennial report on the state of affairs in the IMCG and on its policy
4. Balance sheet and the statement of profit and loss
5. IMCG Action Plan: progress and amendments
6. Membership fee
7. Election of the Main Board
8. Conference resolutions
9. Information on next venue 2006 in Finland; Agreement on venue 2008
10. Any Other Business (these are only subjects that do not need major decisions)

Background papers already available:

2. The minutes of the General Assembly of 21 July 2002 in Besançon (Agendapoint 2) can be found in IMCG Newsletter 2002/3.
4. A Progress Report of the IMCG Action Plan (Agenda points 3 and 5) can be found in this IMCG Newsletter; feedback is welcome
7. Several people present themselves as candidate for the Main Board (Agenda point 7) in this IMCG Newsletter, more in the next.
8. A resolution for Lower Saxony was presented in the previous IMCG Newsletter, you may find one for the Czech Republic in this one (Agenda point 8).

More papers will be included in the next IMCG Newsletter. All the Conference papers will be made available on the web, please check regularly for updates: www.imcg.net/assembly2004.htm

IMCG Main Board Election

On our General Assembly in South Africa we have to elect a new IMCG Main Board. In order to guarantee an effective democratic election process involving all members, nominations have to be submitted to the Secretariat before 5 July 2004, so that ballots can be sent out in time.
Please send your nomination (incl. a short description of your backgrounds, your activities in, and vision on mire conservation) to the Secretariat.

IMCG Action Plan (2002 - 2006): Progress report 01-01-2004

year	Action completed (with year of delivery)
year	Still on schedule
year	Action in need of attention and rapid completion (with year of planned delivery)
year	Action not completed and in need of urgent attention (with year of planned delivery)

Objective A: To identify the global diversity of mire features, functions, and values					
Targets	**Actions**	**Output**	**Champion(s)**	**Remarks**	**Year of delivery**
A.1. Assessment of the global distribution and condition of mires and peatlands	Preparation of an overview and gap analysis for all countries of the world on the basis of literature research and expert consultation	Report "The global status of mires and peatlands"	Hans Joosten	Draft data used for Wise Use Book	2002
				Full database prepared	2003
				Published under www.imcg.net/gpd/gpd.htm.	**2004**
A.2. Development of a globally valid system of mire types and an overview of their distribution	The preparation and publication of a typology and corresponding maps through continuation of the annual IMCG workshops	Report/book "The mire types of the World and their global distribution" also including an overview of global peatland classification	Michael Steiner Jan Sliva	This action relates to action C.1.4.	**2004**
A.3. Development of a globally unified consistent mire terminology	Development of a Universal Mire Lexicon (UML) in workshops and internet discussions	Draft Mire Lexicon	Ron Hofstetter	An older draft is available under http://fig.cox.miami.edu/~rhofstet/bil538/hygrogaia-1.html	2002
		Chapter on the UML in the European Mires Book (A.4.3.)	Ron Hofstetter	Draft has been submitted September 2002. see also A.4.	2002
A.4. Stimulation of regional mire and peatland inventories on the basis of an integral and coordinated approach	A.4.1. The instalment and facilitation of regional working groups, workshops and publications	The working groups are installed, the coordinators appointed, and the working plans agreed	H. Joosten (Europe)	Authors for all country inventories (- Azerbaijan) have been appointed and inventory content is agreed	2002
			Jan Sliva (Africa)	Working group Southern Africa operational; further expansion to tropical Africa is underway. (A.4.4.)	2002-2003
			Tanja Minaeva (Russia)	See A 4.5.	**2004**
			Xxx (South America)	See A.4.6.	**2005**

	A.4.2. Assistance with project development and fundraising for the activities listed below	All activities listed below are included in the GPI proposal portfolio	Tanja Minaeva	Most project proposals are included in the portfolio and some of them have been GPI funded	2002
	A.4.3. The production of an overview of mire and peatland diversity and conservation status in Europe	Book "Mires and peatlands of Europe"	Hans Joosten	Draft text submitted to GPI	2002
				Finances for publication secured	2003
				Finalization and publication: Final texts are not yet available for some countries and some general chapters	**2004/2005**
	A.4.4. The production of an overview of mire and peatland diversity and conservation status in Southern Africa	Book "Mires and peatlands of Southern Africa"	Jan Sliva		**2004**
	A.4.5. The production of an overview of mire and peatland diversity and conservation status of Russia	Book "Mires and peatlands of Russia"	Tanja Minaeva		**2005**
	A.4.6. Starting the identification of the mire and peatland diversity and conservation status of South America	Book "Mires and peatlands of South America"		GPI supported reports on paramos and Patagonian peatlands	2004
			Rodolfo Iturraspe	Book "Peatlands of Tierra del Fuego"	**2005**
A.5. Identification of the main functions and values of mires and peatlands on a global scale	A.5.1. The collection of qualitative and quantitative information on the basis of literature research and expert consultation	Publication of a major chapter on functions and values in the IPS/IMCG Wise Use book	Hans Joosten	IPS/IMCG book "The Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands – Background and Principles" published	2002
	A.5.2. The ongoing synthesis of global databases on mire flora, vegetation, and mire plant ecology	Databases made available via the IMCG web site	Philippe Julve	How is progress and how to involve more members?	**2002**
	A.5.3. To start a mire fauna data base	Databases made available via the IMCG web site	**Not yet identified**	What should be the content of that database?	2006
A.6. Formulation of Ramsar Guidelines for peatland sites	Active participation in the work of the STRP Peatland Group in the preparation of such Guidelines	Revised Guidelines are endorsed by the Ramsar Standing Committee and COP8	Richard Lindsay, Andreas Grünig	Guidelines were endorsed by Ramsar COP8 in Valencia	2002

Objective B: To reduce the most significant threats to mires					
Targets	**Actions**	**Output**	**Champion(s)**	**Remarks**	**Year of delivery**
B.1. Identification of the main threats and of mechanisms to avoid them	B.1.1. The inventory of regional threats and their effects	Creation of a dynamic internet database on regional threats	Michael Trepel	A website for threatened peatlands was installed but gets little response	2003
		The inclusion of these analyses in the regional overviews (see above)	Hans Joosten	Europe, see A.4.3.	**2004/2005**
			Jan Sliva	Southern Africa, see A.4.4.	**2004**
			Tanja Minaeva	Russia, see A.4.5.	**2005**
			Rodolfo Iturraspe	South America, see A.4.6.	2006
	B.1.2. The development of an infrastructure for membership expertise exchange	The database on IMCG expertise is developed and maintained	Jan Sliva Michael Trepel	The new member registration form includes consent with publication of expertise data.	2003
				A questionnaire to existing members has been prepared and distributed	2003
				The database will be made available to all members	**2004**
		The mechanism for rapid expertise exchange by internet is provided	**Not yet identified**		**2002**
B.2. Promotion of the conservation of mires in hot spots	B.2.1. The development and operation of a hot line for mire threats incl. a mechanism for feedback	The IMCG Web-site contains a “hot-line” for mires under threat	Tanja Minaeva, Michael Trepel	A site “threatened mires” has been added to the IMCG website. Input is limited, feedback not yet organized	**2003**
	B.2.2. The acquisition of funds for the provision of free expertise for hot spots	The IMCG has a special fund to cover expertise provision for hot spots	**Tanja Minaeva, Stuart Brooks**		**2003**

Objective C: To explore mechanisms that further our aims and sustain our achievements					
Targets	**Actions**	**Output**	**Champion(s)**	**Remarks**	**Year of delivery**
C.1. Permanent IMCG involvement in international mire conservation policy	C.1.1. Cooperation with partner organizations (IPS, WI, SWS, IUCN, …), both bilateral and in umbrella organizations (EHF, CoCo…)	Information exchange by web links, information bulletins, and attendance of meetings	Michael Trepel,	Web links	2002-2003
			Margrit von Euw	Sending of IMCG Newsletters	2002-2003
			Exec. Committee	Joint Meetings	2002-2003
		Comprehensive mire conservation actions are undertaken in partnership	Hans Joosten	Wise Use project with IPS	2002-2003
			Tatjana Minaeva	Global peatland Inititative (with IPS, WI, IUCN)	2002-2003
			Hans Joosten	UNEP-GEF-project (with GEC, WI, IPS)	2003
		Active involvement in the European Habitat Forum	Richard Lindsay	Adequate IMCG representation in EHF was re-installed	2003
	C.1.2. Continued active participation in relevant Ramsar bodies	Active contribution in the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Research Panel	Stuart Brooks Andreas Grünig		2002-2003
		Active contribution in the Peatland Coordinating Committee CoCo-GAPP	Jan Sliva, Hans Joosten, Stuart Brooks, Piet-Louis Grundling	CoCo-GAPP was installed November 2003 with a strong direct and indirect representation of IMCG members	2003
		Endorsement of the IMCG web-site by Ramsar as official reference site for inventory data	Hans Joosten	CoCo-GAPP decided to use the IMCG Global Peatland Database as a base of inventory data	2003
				IMCG Global Peatland Database is being installed on the IMCG-web.	**2004**
	C.1.3. Pro-active participation in the Steering Group of the Global Peatland Initiative	The IMCG position is clearly reflected in all GPI policy.	Tanja Minaeva	GPI has supported several actions from the IMCG Action Plan	2003
		Submission of ample projects by IMCG and IMCG members	Tanja Minaeva	Due to lack of resources no new GPI projects have been started during 2003	**2004**
	C.1.4. Stimulation of mire/peatland related aspects in the Convention on Biodiversity	Recognition of mire types and patterns as paradigms of ecosystem diversity	Hans Joosten	CBD plans to adopt Ramsar typology → C.1.2.	2006

			Hans Joosten	The report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change includes a substantial part about peatlands	2003-2004
	C.1.5. Stimulation of mire/peatland related aspects in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto process	Recognition of the importance of peatlands and mires as carbon stores and sinks	???	The Ramsar Convention pleas for minimizing degradation and for promoting restoration wetlands that store or may sequester carbon	2002
				The report of the Ad Hoc Group (see C.1.4.) was offered to the UNFCCC	2003
				Ramsar and CBD have asked the IPCC for a paper on the relationship between wetlands and climate change	2002/2004
	C.1.6. The development of an IMCG long-term mire conservation strategy	A long-term IMCG strategy	Hans Joosten	An IMCG/IPS workshop on the Future of Peatlands was organized during the IPS 2004 Congress	2004
C.2. An effective global network of mire conservationists, linking to regional networks, by expanding IMCG presence to all regions and countries	C.2.1. The production and distribution of a regular Newsletter with global coverage	Informative IMCG Newsletter	John Couwenberg, Hans Joosten	In 2002 4 Newsletters were produced with a total of 130 pages	2002
				In 2003 4 Newsletters were produced with a total of 142 pages	2003
	C.2.2. The maintenance of a Website with global coverage	The IMCG web-site is up-to-date and easily accessible and contains conservation relevant information	Michael Trepel	The web pages were visited 2666x in 2001, 5231x in 2002, 7437x in 2003 and already 4299x in the first five months of 2004.	2002-2006
	C.2.3. The wide distribution of IMCG information material and membership registration forms, including to appropriate societies and journals.	An annual growth of the IMCG membership by 10%, representing 5 additional countries	Jan Sliva	Per 31.12.2002 IMCG had 265 members (= + 56 % compared to 31.12.2001) in 37 countries (= + 1). Per 31.12.2003 IMCG had 366 members (= + 38 % compared to 31.12.2002) in 37 countries (= + 0)	**2002-2006**

	C.2.4. The expansion of IMCG membership in Southern Africa	IMCG members / contacts in most countries in Southern Africa	Jan Sliva, Piet-Louis Grundling	At the end of 2002 IMCG had members in Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. During 2003 no additional extra countries joined.	2004
	C.2.5. The preparation of the 2004 IMCG Congress in South Africa	The 2004 IMCG Congress in South Africa	Piet-Louis Grundling	The IMCG Congress in South Africa is scheduled for 12.-26. September 2004	2004
	C.2.6. The expansion of IMCG membership in South America	IMCG members / contacts in most South American countries		At the end of 2002 IMCG had members in Argentina and Colombia. During 2003 no additional extra countries joined.	2006
	C.2.7. The preparation of an IMCG Symposium in South America 2005/2006	An IMCG Symposium in South America 2005/2006	Rodolpho Iturraspe	An field symposium in Tierra del Fuego is planned for November 2005.	**2005**
	C.2.8. The support of national and local initiatives in mire conservation by providing expertise and assistance in fundraising and awareness campaigns	**The IMCG members have easy access to any needed expertise to carry out mire conservation activities in their countries**	**???**	See also B.2.1.: dynamic database of threats.	**2003**
C.3. Provision of free exchange of information	C.3.1. The organization of meetings, symposia, and workshops.	Biannual IMCG symposium	Piet-Louis Grundling	South-Africa , see also C.2.5.	2004
			Tapio Lindholm	Finland, 2006 Field symposium, Conference, and General Assembly	**2006**
			???	2008 Field symposium, Conference, and General Assembly	**2008**
		Regular workshops devoted to regions or issues.	???		2002-2006
	C.3.2. The preparation of publications	IMCG Publications	Hans Joosten J. Couwenberg	2002: Weber Augstumal book	2002
			Hans Joosten	2002: Wise Use book. See also C.2.1.	2002
	C.3.3. The publication of a scientific journal on peat and peatlands	An peer reviewed International Journal of Peat and Peatlands	Olivia Bragg Hans Joosten	First appointments for a free, internet based journal has been made with IPS. First issue scheduled for 2004.	**2004**

C.4. Development and implementation of a policy on economic incentives for mire conservation	C.4.1. Development of a policy on certification and ecolabelling	Policy document adopted by IMCG MB / General Ass.	Hans Joosten	As no consensus exists within the peat industry, the issue will be pursued by IPS Commission II and IMCG is kept informed.	**2004**
	C.4.2. The stimulation of the development and the use of peat alternatives	Information on the IMCG Web-site on peat alternatives	**???**	Couple with IPCC and UK Peat Campaign	**2003**
	C.4.3. The promotion of adequate labeling, certification, and licensing of peatland related products and activities	Adequate "ecolabels" for peat (products)	**???**	Relates to the renewal of EU ecolabels in 2006; interventions depend on outcome of C.4.1.	2006
		Certification concepts for peat industries	**???**	Interventions depend on outcome of C.4.1.	2006
		The inclusion of Wise Use concepts in national licensing	???	.	2006
	C.4.4. The promotion of "debts for nature swaps" for mire conservation	"Debts for nature swaps" for mire conservation	???		2006
C.5. Awareness campaign	Identification of the motives for mire use. Identification of the stakeholders on the international level. Formulation and dissemination of a Wise Use approach.	Publication and wide dissemination of the Wise Use background document and declarations	Stuart Brooks	The Wise Use book and the WU Statement flyers were published and are being widely disseminated. All versions of flyer are not yet available on the IMCG website (C.2.2.)	2002/2003
			Exec. Committee	The Wise Use Book and flyers were presented and distributed at CoP 8	2002
			Hans Joosten	The IPS associated peat industry prepared a DVD on peatland wise use	2004
			???	The publication of the booklet "Wise use for children and ministers"	**2004**
		Presentation of Wise Use approach on the IPS Congress	Michael Trepel	Wise Use is the motto of the 2004 IPS Congress. Concerted input from IMCG is required.	**2004**

Pleased to meet you…:
Canditates for the IMCG Main Board

On our General Assembly (Congress) in South Africa we have to elect a new Main Board.
Members (including current MB members) who want to stand candidate for Main Board membership are requested to nominate themselves by sending a short letter or email to the secretariat. This should include

- a statement of willingness to stand for election for Main Board Membership
- an indication which specific task the candidate is prepared to fulfil (chairman, secretary, treasurer, "ordinary" Executive Committee member, "ordinary" Main Board member)
- some information about the candidate, his/her mire associated background, and especially information about how he/she sees the future tasks and priorities of IMCG.

Eight candidates present themselves below. Additional candidates can be presented in the next Newsletter.
In order to guarantee an effective democratic election process involving all members, nominations must be submitted to the Secretariat before **July 5th 2004**, so that ballots and other General Assembly Documents can be sent out in/with the next Newsletter and will reach everybody in time.

Olivia Bragg (UK)
I am happy to stand for re-election to the IMCG Main Board. I am still an active wetland ecohydrologist based in the UK, with a special interest in the hydrological management of bogs. Over the last two years I have been involved in peatland work in Scotland, England, British Colombia, and Indonesia, and co-ordinated a peatland restoration project in Nizhny Novgorod Province (central Russia). Otherwise, much of my time has been filled by work for the UK and Irish agencies responsible for implementation of the European Water Framework Directive. It's encouraging that, having more or less sorted out how to deal with the easy wetlands (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastline), we are now beginning to think nationally about how mires will fit into this legislation. A related IMCG responsibility is my current involvement in the work of Ramsar STRP Working Group 3 on water resources (specifically groundwater). The last two years have also seen the publication of two edited books on peatland conservation in central and eastern Europe in which I was involved; one on the Darwin Initiative project (available for free download from the IMCG website) and the other on the Wetlands International CEPP project (edited jointly with Richard Lindsay). An offshoot of these activities is that we have finally prepared the available papers from the IMCG Japan meeting for imminent publication in the International Peat Journal. My name appears in the IMCG Action Plan against Objective C3.3 "the publication of a scientific journal on peat and peatlands", and I anticipate that some of my contribution over the next two years will focus on developing this initiative into a high-quality, accessible, and truly international publication.

Stuart Brooks (Scotland)
Current Position
Head of Conservation, Scottish Wildlife Trust

Mire Related Positions
Executive Committee IMCG, Main Board IMCG, (IMCG Observer) Ramsar STRP, and member of CoCo for GAPP. Chairman of the Wildlife Trusts UK Peatland Specialist Group, Chairman of the Restoration of Scottish Raised Bogs Project Management Steering Group

Mire Related Experience
Studied mire ecology at University of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK). 1991-2 undertook practical restoration and survey work on blanket mire in north England. 1992 joined Scottish Wildlife Trust as Field Officer for EU LIFE I Nature project on restoration of lowland raised mires; researched restoration techniques in Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland - co-authored Conserving Bogs: The Management Handbook in 1995. 1995-7 member of specialist peatland consultancy undertaking restoration projects and survey work mostly in the UK. 1998-2001 part of consortium and management team undertaking the Peatland Biodiversity Programme sponsored by the Darwin Initiative - training and facilitating workshops in 13 Central and Eastern European countries. 2001-03 Campaigns and Projects Manager responsible for LIFE III Nature Project and UK Peatland Campaign - targeting peat use in amateur horticulture sector. 2003-4 now responsible for 50 staff, 125 wildlife reserves including 11 lowland mires and 7 upland mire systems, national campaign and policy unit dealing with UK legislation, CAP reform, marine issues, EU legislation, 3 public visitor centres, conservation projects and corporate strategic management.

Ambition for IMCG for next two years
I believe IMCG has made huge strides in both its conservation output and its own internal management systems within the last t years. Instrumental to this has been the prioritisation of its work around the Action Plan, its ability to access partnerships and think strategically and above all the dedicated, tireless contribution of its members. However I also believe that the IMCG is nowhere near reaching it's potential. As an organisation the IMCG is at a watershed. It stands on the brink of becoming a hugely significant force within the international

policy arena where opportunities and necessity demand its attention but it lacks the ability to fulfil this role being limited by its capacity as a purely voluntary led organisation. To take us to the next level, if that is what is desired by the membership, I believe we need to pay attention to the following:

1. IMCG should formulate its vision and strategy and update its Action Plan. The Action Plan is a useful list of activities we are undertaking but does its sum deliver the strategic ambition of the organisation?
2. The risk to the organisation from the over reliance on a few key active members.
3. The financial management and financial strategy of the organisation. To move to the next level the organisation needs to generate unrestricted funds to enable it to take proactive steps, raise its profile and meet the targets in the Action Plan.
4. The profile and membership of the organisation. IMCG considerably ''punches above its weight' and as a consequence already has a good (and improving) profile and membership but with some investment in these areas it could be considerably increased.

I appreciate that change is not a comfortable concept for most people but I advocate this is necessary if IMCG is to continue to grow, improve its efficiency, effectiveness and become the organisation it could be.

Rodolfo Javier Iturraspe (Tierra Del Fuego Arg)

Age: 49, living and working in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina. Engineer in water resources and Associate professor of the University of Patagonia (Ushuaia). Research carried out at the Centro Austral de Investigaciones Científicas (CADIC-CONICET) and water management activities at the Subsecretaría de Recursos Hídricos of Tierra del Fuego Government.

Mire related interests: mire hydrology, hydrological mire-landscape relationships, and mire conservation for water basin management.

I became IMCG Main Board member in 2000. From my view point the global and local importance of IMCG activities is increasing year to year. IMCG was born within the borders of Europe, but within this changing world we should promote a bigger participation of distant countries. In this respect, I think point A.4 of the IMCG Action Plan "Stimulation of regional mire and peatland inventories on the basis of an integral and coordinated approach" is very important and I support activities wherein experienced members join regional working groups to give advice about mire conservation. In the region I work (South of Argentina) mires occupy extended areas, likewise in Southern Chile, where mire conservation is still in its infancy. I hope to visit Punta Arenas (Chile) to spread the word on IMCG and make some members there.

Hans Joosten (Germany, Netherlands)

Born: 15-3-1955; grown up with 40% of the Dutch bog remnants within 5 km of his parents' house. Happily living with wife and two daugthers (17 and 15 years) next to a (restored) Baltic Sea transgression mire. Studied geobotany, socio-economic history, aquatic ecology (Nijmegen University), and palaeoecology (Utrecht University). Earned his dr.-degree on landscape ecology and nature conservation of bogs. Worked as teacher, scientist, and policy maker at the Open University, the National Forest Service, the Ministry of Agriculture, and Utrecht University and as private consultant (all based in the Netherlands). Since 1996 senior scientist and since 2002 associate professor at Greifswald University (Germany), where he manages the working group on mire (palaeo)ecology within the study programme "Landscape Ecology and Nature Conservation." Interested in everything related to peat and peatlands.

I stand candidate for the Main Board and am prepared to continue my activities as Secretary-General in a similar way, to make mire conservation a global topic and to strengthen the IMCG.

Elena Lapshina (Siberia)

Born November 25, 1958 in Tomsk, Russia. Education: M.Sc. (Diploma) Tomsk State Univ. in Biology: "Spatial structure of pine forest biogeocoenosis", supervised by Dr. Yu. Lvov. In 1987, Ph.D. in Botany at the Tomsk State University: "Landscape structure and dynamics of the peatlands in the Ob river flood-plain (Southern part of Tomsk Region)".

From 1980 to 1988, scientific researcher at the Department of Ecology, and from 1988 to 1990, senior teacher at the Department of Botany, Tomsk State University. From 1990-1991, I held a post-doctoral position at Kiel University (Germany), supervised by Prof. K. Dierssen.

Since 1992, I have worked as Associated Professor at the Department of Botany, and as Head of the Laboratory of Biogeocoenology at Tomsk State University.

In 2003, I became Head of the Regional Centre of Western Siberian Mire Investigations, Research Institute of Information Technology, Khanty-Mansiysk.

My main fields of interest are:

- Botany (biodiversity of Siberian mire and forests vegetation),
- Peatland Ecology,
- Paleoecology and Climate Change,
- Environment and Mire protection,
- Landscape Ecology, GIS Modelling.

I participated and am participating in various international research projects on Siberian peatlands and climatic change and on protection of minerotrophic mires of South Western Siberia.

I would like to focus some IMCG activities on the peatlands of Western Siberia, one of the largest

peatland areas in the world, this includes providing a focus and facilities for international co-operation in the study and conservation of Western Siberian peatlands, by:

- establishing an International Centre for Western Siberian Mire Investigations and a Field Station near Khanty-Mansyisk (West Siberia);
- stimulating and facilitating interdisciplinary scientific research into the dynamics of Western Siberian peat ecosystems, including their hydrology, geochemistry, palaeo-ecology and vegetation;
- fostering interest, collaboration and technical facilities (incl. field sites) for long-term international interdisciplinary research;
- coordinating and contributing to the collection of baseline information on the distribution, size, quality, ecological characteristics and biological diversity of peatlands in Western Siberia and the carbon stored in them;
- coordinating and contributing to the monitoring of changes and trends in the quantity and quality of the Western Siberian peatland areas;

This can and should be achieved through collaborative research, network communication, seminars, workshops, symposia, publications and other means related to specific objectives and projects.

Tatiana Minaeva (Russia)

In 1988, I graduated from the Dept. of Geobotany of the Moscow State University and I started my PhD in 1994 at the Komarov Botanical Institute in St-Petersburg.

I was fully employed as researcher in the Central Forest Biosphere Nature Reserve for 11 years and lived in a village 400 km North West from Moscow. My investigations concentrate on mire plant ecology, and natural dynamics of mire and forest vegetation. Currently, I'm still half time employed in the Nature Reserve, to continue the long term observations done by myself and other staff, but I have moved to Moscow.

The other half of my time I now devote to nature conservation activities: in 1999-2001 I have been leading a WWF Russia project on the development of protected areas in the European part of Russia and have been assisting Wetlands International Russia Programme in developing a peatland programme. Since 2002 I have concentrated only on the latter activity of the peatland conservation programme. Currently I am the Russian Representative in the STRP of the Ramsar Convention and have a seat in the Coordinating Committee of the Ramsar Global Action on Peatlands initiative.

I have been active in the Russian Mire Society led by Marina Botch since 1989. In 1991, I organised one of traditional biennial field seminars of the society in the Central Forest Nature Reserve. There I heard about the IMCG network, which was at those times restricted to one representative from our country.

When IMCG started to spread as a wide network, I got the opportunity to join that pleasant community (1996). Since then I have been involved in many developments – symposia, discussions, etc. In 1997, I became part of the Working Group (the precursor of the Executive Committee) and took part in the discussions on the Constitution and organisational developments of IMCG. In Quebec the first official elections according to the new constitution took place and I was elected as EC Member.

As EC member I have taken part in the organisation of IMCG activities (day to day management, preparation of events and discussions, development of the IMCG Strategy, fundraising, informational networking etc.). Besides that I am currently representing IMCG in the GPI Steering Group.

I would like to apply my facilities to implement the IMCG Strategy, develop and carry out some of the IMCG projects, assist in fundraising for those projects, and provide informational exchange. I also plan to expand the network in Russia and provide involvement of Russian experts in IMCG activities.

Dr Jennie Whinam (Tasmania, Australia)

My interest in peatlands started when I was an undergraduate student at the Australian National University in Canberra, where Dr Geoff Hope introduced me to the delights of peatland ecology. I was able to pursue these interests further when I moved to Tasmania, where the bulk of Australian Sphagnum peatlands occur and where there are large buttongrass moorlands dominated by the Cyperaceous tussock *Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*. My post-graduate work at the University of Tasmania continued the peatland theme, with my Honours project being on string bogs and my PhD thesis on the ecology of Tasmanian *Sphagnum* peatlands.

For the past 14 years I have been Botanist for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, where the bulk of Tasmanian peatlands occur. The primary focus of my work has been the conservation of plant communities and assessing environmental threats. My primary interests in peatlands are their ecology and conservation, including paleoecology, particularly *Sphagnum* peatlands. I have also been involved in assessing the impacts of *Sphagnum* moss harvesting and peat mining, both resources used by the horticultural industry. I have recently undertaken conservation and reservation assessments of *Sphagnum* peatlands in south-eastern Australia (Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) and been the co-ordinator of an overview of Australasian *Sphagnum* peatlands. I have also undertaken research into sub-Antarctic peatlands, including the pool complexes of Heard Island and *Sphagnum* moss beds of Macquarie Island. I am currently working with colleagues trialing rehabilitation techniques on montane and sub-alpine *Sphagnum* peatlands destroyed or badly

impacted by major bushfires throughout south-eastern Australia in January 2003.
Line Rochefort invited me to participate in the Wetlands 2000 Event in Quebec, which was my first foray into international peatlands. I attended the IMCG symposium in France 2002, and enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many peatland experts out in the field, looking at various types of peatlands and discussing the problems of managing and conserving them. I am attending the forthcoming IMCG symposium in South Africa.
I look forward to continuing as a member of the IMCG Board and contributing where I can to the conservation of these fascinating and important ecosystems.

Lesław Wołejko (Poland)
Born: 2 August 1956 in Szczecin, Poland.
Education: Masters in Agriculture (1980) Szczecin Agricultural Univ.; PhD in Agriculture (1990): "Comparison of spring fens developing in natural conditions und under human impact", Szczecin Agricultural Univ.; DSc (Dr hab.) in Biology (2003): „Dynamics of spring ecosystems in North-western Poland", University of Gdańsk.

Since 1980, I have worked at the Dept. of Botany and Nature Protection of the Agricultural University in Szczecin. My scientific fields include ecology, history, protection of mires, restoration, landscape management: I have worked in various surveys of natural areas for protection (inventories, management plans, impact assessment), most recently in the introduction of the Natura 2000 network in Poland.
Foreign experience: Japan, the Netherlands, currently Slovakia (international program). Member of the Wetland Commission in the State Council for Nature Conservation (counsel to the Minister of Environment) and the Nature Protection Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences. I have been a member of IMCG since 1992.
In my oppinion IMCG should remain an idependent body of "experts" and people interested in mires, where opinions and concepts are formulated and exchanged. From this position it should be able to affect the international and state policies in cases where such intervention is needed, not by direct involvement in formal bodies but by rendering help to local members in particular countries. The invaluable quality of IMCG is the possibility to organise and perform global-scale theoretical and educational actions related to mires, unbiased by political or economical affiliations.

IMCG Resolutions

Submit your draft resolutions!

The IMCG General Assembly in South Africa 2004 will again discuss and adopt resolutions. To streamline the procedure, IMCG members are requested to submit their draft resolution timely, i.e. as soon as possible, to the IMCG secretariat. This will enable to circulate the draft resolutions among the Main Board, to publish the necessary background information in the IMCG Newsletters, and to put the drafts on our website so that everybody can send reactions (to the IMCG Secretariat).

Draft resolutions should identify the apparatus and bodies to which the resolution has to be directed or sent. Examples (phrasing and content) of resolutions can be found on the IMCG website (www.imcg.net/docum/france/frres.htm).
Below you can find a draft resolution for the Czech Republic.

Draft resolutions can be submitted to the Secretariat until **July 5th 2004!**

DRAFT
IMCG Resolution to the Czech Republic

To the Minister of Environment of the Czech Republic

The International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) is a worldwide organisation of mire (peatland) specialists who have a particular interest in the conservation of peatland habitats. The IMCG willingly places its advice and expertise at the disposal of any government seeking to establish or maintain mire conservation programmes.

The Czech Republic´s mires, as water-driven ecosystems, have been developing for the last 13,000 years; their organic deposits store and provide valuable scientific information about the long-term Holocene landscape history of Central Europe. They occupy less than 0.3 % of the country´s area, but include a broad variety of fen and bog habitats whose ecologic specificity and biotic uniqueness is irreplaceable in the sustainable development of European biodiversity. The international network of the Ramsar Sites includes several locations of well preserved Czech peatlands, but their regional testimony would be significantly enhanced by registration of a cluster of bogs situated in the Ore Mountains along the Czech-German boundary. Though protected by preliminary legislation, these outstanding mires called "Rašeliniště Krušnohoří" deserve further acknowledgement at national level and subsequent recognition as a Ramsar Site. IMCG recommends rapid processing of the proposal and adoption of the Rašeliniště Krušnohorí into the Ramsar Sites network.

The area of peatlands in Czechia has been substantially reduced in recent decades, and their protection by governmental authorities has been recognized as an urgent need by the Laws on Nature Protection No.128/1992 Sb. and No.168/2004 Sb. Satisfactory implementation of these laws, however, is hampered by a conflict with the Law No.61/1956 Sb. on peat extraction that allows utilization of virgin peatlands and beginning of new extraction action where irreversible damage to natural function of peatland ecosystems is irresistible. Therefore a strong mechanism ensuring the compatibility of the above laws is needed. IMCG recommends retraction of the Law of 1956 and development of adequate programmes of expert evaluation, monitoring and conservation of mires within the newly declared EU sites of Natura 2000, and adoption of conservation measures covering the majority of minor peatlands distributed in humid mountains and waterlogged floodplains.

Conservation practice of mires, listed within the current network of Czech nature reserves is unilaterally focussed at the maintenance of species diversity of rare plants and animals. Unfortunately, overall peatland ecosystems´ integrity is damaged by large-scale drainage carried out by foresters and agriculturalists, both within the area of particular wetlands and in their broad surroundings. Disrupted hydrological regime resulted necessarily in successive desiccation, loss of entire bog and fen communities, and landscape deterioration. Restoration of water regime is an urgent need for most peatlands in the Czech Republic and IMCG recommends implementation of appropriate programmes and reasonable activities.

A new structure for the International Peat Society (IPS)?

by Hans Joosten

During the IPS Annual Assembly in Tampere (Finland) on 11 June 2004, the Executive Board of IPS will propose a number of changes to the way the IPS operates.

The current operating structure of IPS consists of eight Commissions, each responsible for an area of activity:
I: Survey, Stratigraphy, Classification and Conservation of peatlands
II: Industrial Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands
III: Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands in Agriculture
IV: Physical, Chemical and Biological Characteristics of Peat
V: After-use of Cut-over and Disturbed Peatlands
VI: Peat Balneology, Medicine and Therapeutics
VII: Ecology and Management on Forested Peatlands
VIII: Cultural Aspects of Peat and Peatlands

Commission II serves a dual function: it is both the IPS Commission dealing with industrial utilizations of peatlands and peat and at the same time it functions as the International Peat Producers' Association (IPPA), an interest group of peat extractors. Commission II is the best organised: it consists of "captains of industry" of major peat companies who have their own professional interests, staff, and budgets. The commission meets in plenary session twice a year and its activities are co-ordinated by a steering committee. The other seven Commissions operate by organising symposia, by publishing books and an occasional newsletter, and by networking on research projects. Most of them are hardly active outside symposia. This is on the one hand caused by a lack of capacity of the chairperson (who has to pull the cart additional to his/her normal job in which "being IPS commission chairman" is not one of the core activities), the lack of involvement of the commission members, and the topic. And it is caused by a lack of money, because IPS does not systematically support the Commissions financially. For Commission II members, whose companies earn their money by selling peat, this is not a problem. But for the other Commissions, it is! The names of these Commissions may reflect important societal interests like conservation, agriculture, and forestry, but in practise their membership predominantly consists of scientists, not of representatives of relevant and financially blessed interest groups.

The IPS Executive Board now proposes to reorganize into two Committees: an "Industrial Committee" that will focus only on the extraction and commercial use of peat (coordinating the present functions of Commission II/IPPA), and a "Scientific Committee" that will coordinate the functions carried out by the other seven Commissions. The IPS Executive Board is not happy with the preliminary names of the Committees, because it recognizes that also the "Scientific" area represents commercial activities whereas the "Industrial" area also includes scientific research. But the fact remains that the present Commission II consists of people who work in "the industry," whereas the other Commissions consist of scientists.

It is envisaged that the chairperson of each Committee will be a member of the IPS Executive Board, in order to promote maximum cooperation between the two Committees and between them and the Executive Board. Both Committees would meet twice a year on the same date and in the same place. The travel expenses of the members of the "Scientific Committee" would be subsidised or paid by the IPS. Those of the "Industrial Committee" have to be covered by the industrial members themselves.

The IPS Executive Board proposal formulates a series of aims of the proposed reorganization. It is interesting to evaluate the reorganisation with respect to these aims.

1. "Clarify the mission and objectives of the IPS"
It is not clear how the proposed structure contributes to this aim.

2. "Improve the overall functioning of the IPS"
It is not clear how the proposed structure contributes to this aim (see below).

3. "Improve the cooperation between the "industrial" and "scientific" elements in the IPS"
The cooperation between the "industrial" and "scientific" elements in IPS would certainly be improved, because the groups would meet regularly. What the real benefits will be of that cooperation is not clear. Firstly the "Industrial Committee" will anyhow perform herself the scientific research it commercially needs. The companies involved have all large research departments or a research budget that widely surpasses everything that the "Scientific Committee" will have available.

4. "Provide for better coordination between the different scientific disciplines within the IPS"
Within a "Scientific Committee" indeed a better coordination between the different scientific disciplines can take place. But such regular meetings can also be organized between the chairpersons of the current Commissions. For that purpose you don't need reorganization.
Enabling "coordinators" of areas to meet twice a year will, however, not solve some fundamental problems:
- that the areas of various IPS Commissions are globally insignificant, becoming economically marginal, or have globally nothing in common nor

have joint interests (what has, for example, to be coordinated between balneology and peatland forestry?)
- that IPS has not succeeded in organizing major societal interest groups like farmers, foresters, conservationists and their organisations, because they do not primarily focus on the peatland aspect of their activities or because there are other more effective organisations available to represent their interests
- that integrated multidisciplinary "peatland science" is becoming a rare approach. Sciences become increasingly atomistic instead of holistic, discipline oriented instead of landscape type oriented. A hydrologist that investigates peatlands benefits more from a hydrological organisation than from a peatland organisation
- that still no money will be available for activities within the poor non-industrial areas and between these areas.

5. "Better reflect the reality of how the industrial and commercial elements currently operate"
The proposed structure will certainly "better reflect the reality of how the industrial and commercial elements in IPS operate". It will expose the organisational dominance of the peat industry in IPS that is so well illustrated in the IPS finances. Officially 49% of the IPS income is derived from industry fees (2003 figures). The National Committees contribute 22%, whereas income from publications (24%) and other sources (5%) cover the remaining part. In practice the industry pays even about 2/3 of the IPS income as it also contributes substantially to the National Committee fees and to publication income through its purchases of publications and advertising. Without the money of the industry IPS could not function as it is doing now.

6. "Provide greater clarity to industrial and commercial members on how the industrial fees they pay are used."
The aim to "provide greater clarity to industrial and commercial members on how the industrial fees they pay are used" is superfluous. Already now the industry can clearly see how her money is used: she pays 2/3 of all expenses of IPS. The new structure will not factually change this financial imbalance. It will only change it optically. At present the members represented in one of the eight commissions (12.5 %) pay over 50 %, possibly even two thirds, of the expenses of the whole organisation. In the proposed structure the members of one of the two Committees (50%) will pay 50% (or somewhat more) of the total expenses.
The industry sees that IPS is not (anymore?) the most efficient organization to lobby international bodies like the EU, the European Energy Foundation, and the UN, for their direct interests. For that purpose the industry is already developing other organisational structures. With respect to IPS, the more "modern" industrial members understand how useful an organisation of "all" peatland stakeholders is to be widely accepted in society and to prevent (expensive) polarization.
The more short-sighted parts of the peat industry see how much they pay for IPS and ask what the direct "value for money" of their investment is. For them a construction of "half of the money for half of the organisation" is much more acceptable. It will show better than today that IPS consists of two groups: the "haves" and the "have nots": the "Industrial Committee" that can pay for itself and a "Scientific Committee" that has to keep its hands up.

If I were a modern entrepreneur, I would be a modest entrepreneur. I would not show off my importance so explicitly, even if I had the power: just because I had the power. An IPS with a broad representation of interests would be more efficient for my peat industry, because it would speak my words, maybe not all, but in a more effective way. I would not spoil that aspect for "greater clarity" in exposing IPS as an industry lobby.

Páramos

On 4 May the Colombian Embassy and the IUCN Netherlands Committee (www.iucn.nl) presented the Spanish edition of the Atlas "Los Páramos del Mundo" edited by Dr. Robert Hofstede, co-ordinator of the international Páramo Group (www.paramo.org). The peaty Páramos cover significant parts of the alpine zone of the Northen Andes, East-Africa and SE-Asia and are diverse ecosystems, culturally as well as biologically. They are highly threathened by conversion.
The book was presented to the Embassadors of Colombia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador in the Netherlands with the request to support initiatives in their countries for the sustainable management of these important and long neglected ecosystems.

International workshop on Integrated management and rehabilitation of peatlands

6-7th February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Workshop on Integrated management and rehabilitation of peatlands was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 6-7 February 2004. The workshop was jointly organized by the Global Environment Centre and Wetlands International with support from UNEP-GEF, UNDP/GEF, DANIDA and CIDA-CCFPI. It was attended by more than 100 technical experts and representatives from a broad range of government agencies from 14 countries around the world. A total of 25 papers were presented in this two day workshop. It was officially opened by the Deputy Director General of the Forestry Department, Peninsular Malaysia, Y. Bhg. Dato Shaharuddin bin Mohd Ismail. This workshop deliberated on two main themes namely 'Integrated Management and Policy' and 'Rehabilitation and Restoration of Peatlands'. Two Working Groups on 6th and 7th of February reviewed in detail issues related to the themes and prepared a broad range of recommendations which were presented at the panel discussions.

The workshop recognised that peatlands covering 400 million ha or 3% of the world's land surface from tropical to polar zones, are natural climate regulators and one of the world's largest carbon stores, containing more than 550 billion tonnes. One hectare of tropical peat swamp forest stores up to 5,000 tonnes of carbon which is 15 times more than any other forest type. Possessing unique biodiversity, they also store 10% of available freshwater and have numerous crucial ecological functions. However, peatlands worldwide are being threatened by land clearing, drainage, as well as forest and peat fires. In Southeast Asia alone more than 2 million ha have been destroyed by fire and a further 6 million ha drained in the last 15 years. Loss of peatlands can have catastrophic impacts on human life, health and economic productivity as it changes global climate, causes extreme flooding and drought, as well as other environmental degradation. If all the carbon stored in peatlands were released it would nearly double the concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide and lead to a drastic global temperature rise of 2-3 degrees Celsius. Natural water supply and flood control functions would also be disrupted and economic products and services would be lost.

The workshop identified a range of solutions to address the degradation of peatlands including:

- implement regional and national strategies and policies for the sustainable management of peatlands;
- develop integrated management strategies for individual peatlands which will harmonise the strategies of the different development sectors;
- rehabilitate degraded peatlands to prevent further fires, carbon loss and restore its natural functions and biodiversity; and
- protect remaining pristine peatlands.

The meeting discussed a range of recent efforts to seriously address peatland problems. For instance, in Southeast Asia, the 10 ASEAN governments established the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative to facilitate and promote active cooperation, on information exchange, and sharing of expertise and resources among the countries to prevent peatland fires and manage peatlands wisely. Russia has recently adopted a peatland policy which will guide the protection and restoration of peat resources. Its giant neighbour China has started to protect and restore the peatlands in the upper watershed of the Yellow River to help ensures year-round water supply and reduce flooding. Indonesia, which bore the brunt of the 1997-8 peat fires in Southeast Asia, has started a community based programme on protecting and restoring peatlands by local communities.

Participants during one of the sessions.

These positive steps are not sufficient to reduce the overall global trend of peatland degradation, however. Global efforts need to be redoubled and collaboration on successful approaches needs to be enhanced. The workshop was the first meeting of its kind in Asia to bring together peatland restoration experts from around the world to discuss and develop common strategies and techniques for peatland restoration and integrated management. cause

One targeted output is the framework for a global handbook on peatland management and restoration techniques. The workshop also called upon Parties to the UN Convention on Biodiversity to recognise the importance of peatlands for biodiversity and climate change. It specifically highlighted the need for concerted action to stop the further degradation of peatlands. The peat experts also urged the Parties to incorporate the issue of peatlands into CBD decisions on biodiversity and climate change as well as mountain and freshwater ecosystems.

For more information, contact David Lee at the Global Environment Centre: david@genet.po.my
www.gecnet.info
www.peat-portal.net
www.riverbasin.org

Ecological Restoration for Mountain Environments

Worshop in the Australian Alps
by Jennie Whinam

A Workshop on Ecological Restoration for Mountain Environments: Approaches and Techniques was held in the Australian Alps in late April. Some 85 attendees got to hear about problems and techniques being used in mountain restoration projects. The final day included papers and a fieldworkshop on restoration of montane peatlands destroyed or degraded in major fires in 2003, led by Geoff Hope, Jennie Whinam, and Roger Good of NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service.
Below an abstract of one of the presentations.

Mire Rehabilitation Programs in montane Australia

by Geoffrey Hope[1] and Jennie Whinam[2]

Peat swamps have had a bad press, often hinted at in the names given them by stockmen, e.g. Dismal, Rotten, Wambagugga, etc. These gentry liked the fact that moist soils provided edible sedges and grasses in drought time but resented the bottomless muck peats that could bog their cattle, and the inedible mosses and shrubs. Burning and ditching were the main attack tools and a high proportion of the total area of humic soils has been lost in south eastern Australia from burning and humification, even in montane sites now protected from grazing. During the 2003 fires the only area of peatland in the ACT that kept smouldering for several days had been ditched far in the past. Smaller peat fires consumed ditch and incised channel margins that were dry. By contrast, even after months of drought, fire damage to the peat soils in intact mires was very restricted, even where surface vegetation had burnt fiercely. Although charcoal in bog sediments demonstrates a continuous exposure to fire over the past 8000 years, in their un-ditched state mires were intact and able to regenerate from moisture held in the peats. They were resistant to invasion because pH stayed low and waterlogging discouraged generalists. Damage to swamps has accelerated post-European settlement (Hope 2003).

Many plant taxa in peatbogs (eg epacrids) are fire sensitive and do not regenerate readily except from seed while a key taxon, *Sphagnum* grows very slowly in the absence of shade. Destruction of peat barriers in streamways allows single channels to form and erode, draining small pond systems (staircase ponds, string bogs). Fire thus alters the floristic composition for decades and also changes the physical characteristics of 100% infiltration and substantial short term water storage in cushions and ponds. *Sphagnum* bogs have been shown to be in a state of retreat throughout the region (Whinam and Chilcott 2002).
Rehabilitation thus must first restore the maximum water retention to the communities and secondly seek to accelerate the recovery of key species of sedges, restiads such as *Empodisma* and *Sphagnum*. Steps taken in the ACT and NSW include:

- Blocking mire “grips” or drainage with sterile straw bales, or mechanical barriers across slopes.
- Diverting drainage lines onto bog areas and dispersing stream lines
- Replanting peat fire burn areas with sedge and tussock to impede flow
- Providing shade to surviving *Sphagnum* areas
- Trialling low release fertiliser on moss areas
- Transplanting *Sphagnum* divots into moist peats

[1]Dept Archaeology and Natural History, Australian National University
[2]Nature Conservation Branch, Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry, Water and Environment

Hope, G.S. 2003. The mountain mires of southern New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory: their history and future. Pp 67-79 in J. Mackay and Assoc. (eds.) Celebrating mountains. Proceedings of an International Year of the Mountains Conference. Jindabyne, Australian Alps Liason Committee.
Whinam, J. and Chilcott, N. 2002. Floristic description and environmental relationships of *Sphagnum* communities in NSW and the ACT and their conservation management. Cunninghamia 7, 463-500.

The Global Peatland Initiative has a new website.
Surf to

www.globalpeatlands.net

and see what they have to offer.

Small grants for Wetlands Programme

The Small grants for Wetlands Programme (SWP) is managed by the Netherlands Committee for IUCN (NC-IUCN) with funds from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The SWP financially supports small-scale wetland conservation and sustainable management projects that are designed and implemented by local NGOs in developing countries. The list of eligible countries has been considerably extended and now includes some 130 countries.

This new phase of 3 years enables to plan new rounds for the selection of projects to be financially supported by SWP. The next deadline for the submission of project proposals by local NGOs to SWP is now set on 1st September 2004. For 2005 deadlines will be on 1st February and 1st September, but interested NGOs are strongly advised to check the website for confirmation.

Please refer to www.wetlands.nl or contact wetlands@wetlands.nl for further information on the current criteria for funding (including the list of eligible countries) and the latest version of the format for project proposals.

Agora – Online access to research for low income countries

Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture (AGORA) is an initiative to provide free or low-cost access to major scientific journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to public institutions in developing countries. Launched in October 2003, AGORA provides access to over 400 journals from the world's leading academic publishers.

Led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the goal of AGORA is to increase the quality and effectiveness of agricultural research, education and training in low-income countries, and in turn, to improve food security. Researchers, policy-makers, educators, students, technical workers and extension specialists will have access to high-quality, relevant and timely agricultural information via the Internet.

Blackwell Publishing, CABI Publishing, Elsevier, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, Springer-Verlag, and John Wiley & Sons are the founding publishers of AGORA, providing access to over 500 of their journals. Additional publishers will be invited to participate in AGORA.

The AGORA Publisher Partners are opening access free to relevant institutions in countries, generally with an annual GNI per capita per annum of US$1000 or less at 31 December 2000. The countries currently include: Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tokelau, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Within these countries AGORA will benefit not-for-profit national academic, research or government institutions in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences. Eligible institutions whose staff and students may have access to the journals are: universities and colleges; research institutes; agricultural extension centers, government offices, and libraries. Potential users will be required to register with FAO, and access to AGORA will be password controlled.

Participating institutions will need computers connected to the Internet with a connection of 56k baud rate or higher. The system is designed to work best with Internet Explorer version 4.0 or higher, or Netscape version 6 or higher. Users will also need an Adobe Acrobat viewer for journal articles in PDF format.

To join, please complete the online AGORA registration form under:
http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/registration.php
Only one registration is required per institution.
For more information:
http://www.aginternetwork.org/en/about.php

Moor = meer = more = mehr

The project a Moor is More features three reclaimed peatland regions in England, Germany, and the Netherlands that share certain geological, historical, cultural and economic characteristics. All three went through similar phases of settlement, pioneering hardships, development, and stagnation. Their villages lie on sandy ridges or along canals and in all three regions monasteries played an important role in the first reclamations that were carried out during the Middle Ages. In the nineteenth century the church and socialism exerted strong influence, the former committed to 'socialising' the inhabitants, the latter to raising their political awareness. Each region has a well-developed infrastructure of water-courses that serve drainage purposes and accommodate shipping, and each has a centuries-old tradition of water management resulting in the today water boards. In all three a central waterway functioned as the axis of development. The project A Moor is More aims to visualise the three main stages of development of peatland landscapes. In England it is the agricultural landscape of North Kesteven near Lincoln, in the Netherlands a nature conservation area, the polder in the Bargerveen moorland near Emmen, and in Germany a landscape near the village of Twist where large-scale peat extraction takes place.

The three regions are at the crossroads again today. It is in the context of development versus stagnation that artists together with the local population designed walking routes for each of the project locations. Each route is highlighted by a work of art that alludes to the special character of peatland. The works of art take three forms as their inspiration: a bench to symbolise periods of 'slowth' and stagnation, a bridge as a metaphor of crossing borders and exploring new worlds, and a tower to symbolise vision and renewal, planning and reflection.

The stories and experiences of the inhabitants are expressed in the works of art. The benches have been placed along the banks of the river Witham to sit on and contemplate the landscape. The bridge quite literally connects the peatlands in Germany and the Netherlands. The tower is a project that will be realised in the future; at this stage it symbolises the intensified collaboration between the three regions.

For more information surf to www.moorismeer.nl

Regional News

News from Latvia
Three new Ramsar sites

Latvia has designated three new wetlands for the Ramsae List of Wetlands of International Importance, bringing that Party's total number of Ramsar Sites to six. Two of the new sites are at the national frontiers and at least one of them has the potential to become part of a Transboundary Ramsar Site, managed collaboratively by the Parties concerned, in this case between Latvia's Northern Bogs and Estonia's Nigula Nature Reserve.

The Lubana Wetland Complex (48,020 ha; 56°49'N 026°54'E) in Madona, Rezekne, Balvi, and Gulbene administrative regions is a nature reserve and the largest wetland in Latvia, with a shallow freshwater lake, 7 raised and transitional bogs and fens, inundated grasslands, fishponds and wet forests – in total, 15 protected habitats of European importance are represented. The site is important for maintaining bog-specific and rare bird species and wetland characteristic plant species and communities. The main human activities are forestry, marginal non-intensive agriculture, and fishery. Drainage and dam constructions have damaged the wetland structure and threaten the fish population. A LIFE-Nature project approved in 2003 is intended to implement an environmental management plan to achieve sustainable development by 2010. Ramsar site no. 1384.

The site called Northern Bogs (Ziemelu purvi) (5,318 ha., 57°58'N 024°50'E) in Limbazi and Valmiera regions is both a protected nature area and part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The site comprises two large raised bogs which are divided by the border with Estonia. Together with Nigula Nature Reserve in Estonia (Ramsar site no. 910) located 1 km westwards from the Kapzemes bog, the area comprises one of the largest untouched wetland complexes in the Baltic Republics. It supports an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable and endangered species of birds and plants, some of them occurring in great numbers or densities especially during migration. The wetland complex plays an important role in stabilising runoff. Land use is essentially restricted to berry picking and local fishing. Decline in agricultural lands outside the wetlands has a negative impact on food availability for some birds and mammals. Various state monitoring programmes are carried out within the complex. A joint management plan for the transboundary wetland complex is currently being developed with Nigula Nature Reserve (Estonia). Ramsar site no. 1385.

The Pape Wetland Complex (51,725 ha; 56°10'N 020°55'E) in Liepaja district borders Lithuania at the south and is unique in the diversity of ecosystems concentrated in relatively small territory, including coastal lagoon, oligo-mesotrophic waters, natural eutrophic lakes, coastal dunes, and raised bogs. The

area is an internationally significant breeding, migrating, and wintering site for birds and includes BirdLife Important Bird Areas. The site is an important place for other species considered as vulnerable or endangered within international frameworks and shows also 6 habitats of EU importance, from which 5 are identified as priority.
Prior to World War II, most economic activities in the area were connected to fishing and there were more than 100 households within the site. During the Soviet era, fishing was prohibited because of the proximity to the border, and with the consequent loss of employment young people tended to leave the area -- presently there is a population of about 100 people, and the average age of the inhabitants is said to be somewhat above 56 years. Human activities are berry picking (in mires), recreation, fishing and reed cutting, and small scale tourism is developing. Surrounding areas are used for extensive grazing by Konik horses. Factors adversely affecting the site are the overgrowing of reeds, eutrophication of the lake, and unregulated tourist use of the area. A Nature Centre was established in 2002. A management plan for Lake Pape was prepared in 1997 and should be updated in 2004. Ramsar site no. 1386.

Source: www.ramsar.org/

News from Ukraine: Danube estuary threatened by a waterway project in Ukraine

The Ukraine Government plans to build a navigable waterway through the Ukrainian part of the Danube Delta. The course currently chosen for this waterway appears likely to affect seriously and irreversibly the ecological character of the Kyliiske Mouth, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and one of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Reserves.
The Ramsar Secretariat called upon Ukraine to adhere to the international agreements it has signed, in particular the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Several other international organizations, and, indeed, several governments, share concerns on this matter.
Despite all the efforts, Ukraine's Minister for Transports, Mr. Georgiy Kirpa, was intended to lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the project on 8 May, but the event was eventually delayed until 11 May because of bad weather. It is clear that there are several solutions which would allow conservation and development to co-exist and fulfil the spirit of the wise use principle and of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002). Ramsar has offered to work with the Government and other interested parties to find a solution that would result in a 'win-win' situation. A report available at www.ramsar.org/ram_rpt_53e.htm proposes alternatives that would ensure the ecological character of this site of international importance, one of Europe's foremost, largest and most valuable natural coastal areas, allowing, at the same time, its appropriate development.
The German construction company began building of the 3 km deep-water channel last week.

Source: www.ramsar.org

News from Ireland Fenor Bog

The Minister for the Environment, Mr. Martin Cullen T.D., is officially launching an important wildlife area of fen habitat in County Waterford as a National Nature Reserve at 2pm on Friday 28th May. Fenor Bog is jointly owned by The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) and the Móin Fhionnúrach Development Association (MFDA), who bought the 32 acre site in March 1999. Since the purchase of the site, the IPCC have worked closely with the MFDA to manage the fen as a wildlife reserve. A one-kilometre boardwalk made from recycled plastic has been constructed on the site and is due to be completed this summer. This boardwalk is elevated above the high water level of the fen to protect both the users of the boardwalk and the sensitive flora and fauna of the Nature Reserve. It was constructed by hand to ensure the sensitive site was not unduly disturbed, with both the MFDA and IPCC volunteers doing the work. A hydrological study of the fen has been funded in part by the Department of the Environment and Local Government.
Like all natural areas, Fenor Bog is affected by the surrounding landuse and the IPCC and the MFDA were delighted with the support of local families the Queallys and Currans. These families own farmland surrounding the fen and they agreed that their land immediately adjoining the fen should be included in the National Nature Reserve in order to act as a buffer between the fen and the impacts of any surrounding landuse. The two families will manage their land within the NNR agreement.
Fenor Bog provides habitat for up to 200 species of plants and animals such as bog bean, tussock sedge, heath spotted orchid and the otter. In 2002, the rare Emperor Dragonfly was recorded at Fenor Bog, the first record in County Waterford for this species. The designation of this fen as a National Nature Reserve is a great achievement for the MFDA and IPCC and the local people. Through their vision they have saved it from becoming a dump. Caroline Hurley, IPCC¹s Conservation Officer stated, "Much of the funds raised by the IPCC to buy this fen came from our Symbolic Share Fund, which members of the public have contributed to over a number of years and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this fund and helped make the conservation of this beautiful wilderness possible." Fenor Bog is located in the village of Fenor, three miles from Tramore on the coast road from Tramore to Dungarvan.
For more information on Fenor Nature Reserve, visit www.ipcc.ie.

News from Canada: Ontario Peat Company Planning New Peat Power Plant

Peat Resources Inc, an Ontario company, is planning a CA$14 million plant as the first step towards building a large-scale peat burning power station.
The plant, estimated to cost CA$108 million, will use approximately one million tonnes of peat per year. Within the next 10-15 years production of some 20 million tonnes per year is projected

Source: Canadian Peat News May 2004

News from Indonesia: Loss of forest in Kalimantan

A recent article on the loss of forest cover in Kalimantan, Indonesia, since the 1997-1998 El Niño reveals a significant threat to the region's biodiversity. The forest cover in Kalimantan, Indonesia, was mapped in 2002. Comparison of the maps with Indonesian government data from 1996 revealed that almost 3 million ha of forest were lost in Kalimantan since the major El Niño event of 1997-1998, when a drought produced unprecedented burning in the region. Over two-thirds of the deforestation occurred in proposed and existing protected areas, especially those of 100,000-250,000 ha. The loss of forest in proposed and existing protected areas suggests that Kalimantan's protected-area network is no longer viable and it is suggested that alternative conservation strategies, such as timber certification and improved monitoring and enforcement, are needed to preserve remaining forest habitats there.
Source: Fuller, D. O., Jessup, T. C. & Salim, A. (2004) Loss of Forest Cover in Kalimantan, Indonesia, Since the 1997-1998 El Niño. Conservation Biology 18: 249-254.

News from Ramsar: Carpathian Wetland Initiative Workshop.

A workshop on the possible development of the Carpathian Wetland Initiative was held in Brezovica, Oravsky dvor, Slovakia from 28 to 30 April 2004. It was organised by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and attended by most of the countries sharing a part of the Carpathian Mountains as well as a number of representatives from international conventions and NGOs. The objective was to investigate the possibility of launching a regional wetland initiative along the lines of Resolution VIII.30 of the Ramsar Convention, and also within the context of the Carpathian Convention. The meeting adopted a number of recommendations for undertaking further steps in the direction of developing a knowledge base and a regional collaboration for the protection of Carpathian Wetlands.
A report of the meeting can be found at the Ramsar website: www.ramsar.org/mtg_carpathian_2004a.htm

Transboundary Wetland Sites

On 28-29 April 2004, a seminar on transboundary wetland sites took place in the town of Lida (Republic of Belarus), organized by the Environment Ministries of Belarus and Lithuania. This was the culmination of work undertaken under the coordination of Saulius Svazas of "OMPO," the non-governmental organization working for "Migratory Birds of the Western Palearctic," with support of Ramsar's Small Grants Fund. The second day was devoted by the 30 participants to the preparation of a specific project for joint management activities for one of the first transboundary Ramsar Sites: the Cepkeliai-Kotra wetland complex, situated on both sides of Kotra (Katra) river that forms the border between Lithuania and Belarus. A report by Tobias Salathé explains the issues and views the relevant sites in the area, and shows why transborder management cooperation can be so productive here and elsewhere. Read the report here:
www.ramsar.org/ mtg_belarus_transboundary.htm

New and recent Journals/Newsletters/Books/Reports

Nordic Wetland Conservation

The Nordic Council of Ministers has recently published a 176-page book entitled Nordic Wetland Conservation. The book covers 30 years of conservation experience in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden and includes self-governing territories like Greenland, Åland, and the Faeroes. Available from bookstores in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, and English versions, it provides coverage of general wetland issues, the wise use concept, the Ramsar Convention and other international regimes, and the status of wetlands in each of the Nordic countries.
The book was launched at a meeting held 4-7 May (www.ramsar.org/mtg_nordic_ramsar_2004.htm).
For more information, surf to www.ramsar.org/w.n.nordic_book.htm

Turning Dirt into Dollars

An activist guide to the peat industry,
including where peatlands are, which companies are involved in extraction and how and where peat is sold.

This document gives an overview of peat use in the UK in an attempt to focus the campaign to stop the destruction of peatlands both in the UK and abroad. It lists facts in an easy to understand and easy to use manner (just copy and paste them into your argumentative letter).
Providing a necessary tool to debunk any false claim it also urges peatland conservationists to base their struggle on something more robust than loud cries of indignity.
Available online as hypertext or dowloadable PDF:
www.corporatewatch.org.uk/publications/peat/peat.htm
The Earth is not dying, it is being killed, and those who are killing it have names and addresses. - Utah Phillips

New Edition of "Peat and its Use in Horticulture"

The book "Peat and its Use in Horticulture" by Viljo Puustjärvi has been reprinted on the initiative of the Association of Finnish Peat Industries (Turveteollisuusliitto ry). The 160-page book, originally published in English in 1977, contains information about the properties of peat as growing media.
The book can be ordered for EUR 15 plus mailing costs from Mrs. Suvi Tuomanen
suvi.tuomanen@turveliitto.fi.

Wasserwirtschaft 5/2004

This special issue on environment friendly land use options of wetlands focusses on a landscape ecological approach to restoration and subsequent use of wetland areas. Viewing wetlands as an integral part of the landscape and its hydrology is essential in successful restoration also of wetland functions beneficial to the environment. The specific eco-hydrological characteristics of an area also need to be considered when deciding upon forms of use. An interdisciplinary approach is necessary and this issue presents some baseline and case studies. (In German)
For more information contact Michael Trepel: michael@ecology.uni-kiel.de

Peatland News (issue 37)

Peatland News is published twice yearly by the Irish Peatland Conservation Counsil. This 22 p. glossy magazine presents news on the ongoing work of the IPCC and some popular background information on peat and peatlands. The last pages are dedicated to Peter Foss, who retired from the staff after 20 years of service. Catherine O'Connell will take over from Peter as Chief Executive.
For more information: bogs@ipcc.ie

Archive für Naturschutz und Landschafts-forschung. Vol 43, Heft 1.

This issue of the "Archives of Nature Conservation and Landscape Research" presents the proceedings of a meeting of the German branch of IPS and focusses on eco-hydrology and eco-chemistry of wetlands with a considerable attention on peatlands. (in German)
For more information: http://www.archivnatur.de/
Or Michael Trepel: michael@ecology.uni-kiel.de

Wise Use DVD

The IPS has produced a documentary film on "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands" will have its premiere at the opening session of the International Peat Congress on Monday, 7 June 2004. The DVD is based on the book "Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands" by Hans Joosten and Donal Clarke and consists of a 17 minutes introduction into the topic, followed by eight detailed films on the development of peat and peatlands, the extent of peatlands, their functions, the use of peat in the horticultural sector, in energy production, peatland use planning, the after-use of cut-away peatlands, and the Wise Use concept. The duration of all video clips together is 60 min. Moreover, the DVD contains still images and essential statistics on the extent of peatlands and their utilization all around the word. For more information: ips@peatsociety.fi

Source: IPS Newsletter

Blanco, D.E. & de la Balze, V.M. (eds) (2004) Los Turbales de la Patagonia (Patagonian peatlands) Wetlands International Publications (19). 149p + app.

This publication results from the project "An inventory of Patagonian Peatlands: towards wise use and biodiversity conservation." different specialists involved with peatland conservation and wise use in Argentina and Chile cooperated in this project, with financial support from de Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the Global Peatland Initiative managed by Wetlands International in cooperation with the IUCN-Netherlands Committee, Alterra, IMCG, and IPS.

The book is written in Spanish and provides a lot of information on the peatlands of Patagonia to stakeholders, the academic community, and general public.

The first section presents some general remarks, including a Spanish terminology, and a general introduction to the main features of Patagonian Peatlands. The following section presents a zonation of the region in six peatland zones as a first step in the inventory. In a second step a more detailed modular approach was used to exemplify the different peatlands types that occurr within Argentina and Chile. Furthermore, there is information about birds, mammals, and macroinvertebrates inhabiting the *Sphagnum* bogs of Tierra del Fuego, as well a chapter dealing with peatland benefits, current uses, and conservation in Argentina. The final chapter is related to the peatlands as wetlands of special concern for the Ramsar Convention.

Tuck-Po, L, de Jong, W & Ken-ichi, A (2003) The Political Ecology of Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia: Historical perspectives. Kyoto University Press, Kyoto; 293 pages

The reasons given for tropical forests degrading or disappearing are often simplistic: loggers remove too many trees, companies convert forest for plantations, and small farmers slash forest for agricultural fields. "The Political Ecology of Tropical Forests in Southeast Asia: Historical Perspectives", edited by Lye Tuck Po (Malaysia's Center for Technology, Environment, and Development), Wil de Jong (CIFOR), Abe Ken Ichi (Japan Center for Area Studies) provides more accurate explanations by identifying the political dimensions of forest resource appropriation, contests over forest benefits, and the role of power in the processes of unsustainable forest use. The book brings together ten chapters from a number of forest experts covering 100 years of tropical forest political ecology in Asia.

Several of chapters demonstrate that modern struggles over forests and forest degradation have their roots in colonial periods. Colonial powers used force and discourse to control forests. Lesley Potter in her chapter demonstrates how colonial forest departments invented the argument that deforestation negatively affects the local climate, to expulse forest farmers from timber rich forestlands. Wil de Jong writes that the control of the lucrative trade in such forest products as rattan was often decided by colonial powers using force against local Sultans. In turn, local Sultans used force against forest dwellers, and powerful forest dweller groups used force against weaker groups.

Although the key actors in Asia's tropical forests landscape have changed, many of the processes of contestation remain the same. National rulers, like Suharto in Indonesia, gave away forest concessions to business cronies and the military for the sake of national economic development, and often to win political support. But according to Steve Rhee, a Yale Ph.D. candidate and CIFOR collaborator, recent decentralisation policies have seen the control over forests increasingly contested at lower government levels, or even at the village level among forest dwellers with different ethnic affiliations.

The political ecology of Asia's tropical forest also has a wider international dimension, and it is not only confined to underdeveloped countries. Fred Gale examines the history of the International Timber Organization and its support for tropical timber producing countries in the face of increasing international concern about the affect of unsustainable logging. John Knight reveals how contemporary economic development thinking has created a set of new problems for forest dependent peoples in Japan where massive imports of foreign timber negatively affects their livelihoods and weaken the links between their forestry existence and their traditional cultural identity.

Further information: n.sabarniati@cgiar.org

Source: http://www.cifor.cgiar.org

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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Peatland Conservation and Sustainable Use

7 - 9 July 2004, Lanzhou City, Gansu, China

Objectives of the workshop and technical visit are:

- Exchange information on peatland values and threats and promote their conservation
- Identify and promote options for sustainable management and community involvement for peatlands conservation and sustainable use.
- Discuss and develop techniques for restoration of degraded peatlands.
- Facilitate international cooperation and exchange on peatland management

for more information contact wicp@public3.bta.net.cn or download the third workshop announcement from www.imcg.net

The 7th INTECOL international wetlands conference

25 - 30 July 2004, Utrecht, The Netherlands

for more information visit http://www.bio.uu.nl/intecol/

32nd International Geological Congress

20 - 28 August 2004, Florence, Italy

The congress hosts a symposium entiteled "Peatlands: basin evolution and depository of records on global environmental and climatic changes"

for more information have a look at http://www.32igc.org/ or contact Peter Martini pmartini@uoguelph.ca

4th European Conference on the Conservation of Wild Plants

17 - 20 th September 2004, Valencia, Spain

A workshop on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation in Europe.

For more information have a look at http://www.nerium.net/plantaeuropa/main.htm

IMCG Field Symposium and General assembly in South Africa

12-26 September 2004

For more information and registration form see previous IMCG Newsletter or surf to the IMCG Homepage.

Anthropogenic influence on wetlands biodiversity and sustainable management of wetlands

23-25 September 2004, Narew National Park, Poland

For more information se previous Newsletter or contact: m.jarecka@levis.sggw.waw.pl

Coastal Ecosystems of West Africa (Biological Diversity - Resources - Conservation)

15-16 February 2005, Brussels, Belgium

For more information contact prcm@iucn.org or download the announcement: www.imcg.net/docum/wa05.doc

IMCG Field Symposium in Tierra del Fuego

16-25 November 2005, Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)

See IMCG Newsletter 2004-1.

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http://www.imcg.net