IMCG Bulletin: May 2015

INTERNATIONAL MIRE CONSERVATION GROUP

www.imcg.net

Word from the Chair

Dear mire friends

In the previous issue of the IMCG Bulletin we reported on the peat fires in the eastern seaboard of South Africa, partially as a result of exotic Eucalyptus plantations but also as a result of a severe drought ravaging parts of southern Africa at present. Peat fires have also been reported in Namibia and the karst mires of the North West Province in South Africa. We are interested to compose a database of peat fires globally and early warning methods in detecting fire prone peatland areas. If you can contribute or have advice please contact Althea Grundling at Agricultural Research Council - Institute for Soil, Climate and Water, South Africa, althea@arc.agric.za.

The 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP12) was held in Punta del Este at the Conrad Resort, Uruguay, from 1 to 9 June 2015. The theme of the conference was *Wetlands for our Future*. We will bring you more news on the convention and the latest peatland resolution

The IMCG network is only as strong as its members are active. Let's hear more about your work and events in your district, country or region! Do you know your Main Board members? Read more about Bev Clarkson our Oceania representative in this issue of the IMCG Bulletin.

Contributions for the next IMCG Bulletin can be sent by 25 June 2015 to Piet-Louis Grundling - peatland@mweb.co.za.

Get to know your Main Board members - Featuring:

Beverley Clarkson

Bev is mire researcher specialising in plant ecology at Landcare Research, a New Zealand Crown Research Institute. She leads the government-funded research programme on wetland functioning and restoration. This research is important as 90% of New Zealand's original wetlands have been destroyed and remaining wetlands are in mostly poor condition. Recent outputs from the programme include a wetland restoration book (http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/books/wetlands-handbook) and a tool for delineating wetlands (http://datastore.landcareresearch.co.nz/dataset/a-vegetation-tool-for-wetland-delineation-in-new-zealand).

Throughout her career Bev has been a strong advocate for the protection and enhancement of wetlands, particularly mires. Her research focus is on understanding biotic-environmental patterns and processes in peatlands, and she is currently involved in developing national standards and limits for monitoring of wetland ecological condition

Bev is the Oceania representative on the IMCG Main Board and maintains research links with international mire researchers, including several in Australia, the country with the most closely related peatland ecosystems. She assists monthly in editing the IMCG Bulletin

Mires and Peat

Olivia Bragg (o.m.bragg@dundee.ac.uk)

News from *Mires and Peat*

Mires and Peat is the open-access peer reviewed journal of IMCG and the International Peat Society (IPS). Find it online at http://mires-and-peat.net/ and in the *Thomson Master Journal List* (*Web of Science*).

The recent and imminent new articles for the journal are:

Mires in the Maluti Mountains of Lesotho (P-L. Grundling, A. Linström, W. Fokkema and A.P. Grootjans) [Volume 15, Article 09]

Effects of shading on relative competitive advantage of three species of *Sphagnum* (J.Z. Ma, Z.J. Bu, X.X. Zheng, J.L. Ge and S.Z. Wang) [Volume 16, Article 04]

Also, the long-awaited interim **Foreword** has been added to Volume 15 (*Mountain Peatlands*). This includes photos of a peatland found by Russell Anderson at 5000 m a.s.l. above the Spiti Valley in Himachal Pradesh Province, India, which may be the highest non-airborne peat reported in *Mires and Peat* so far. We currently

have four more manuscripts under consideration for this volume, which must close at the end of 2015. If you are still drafting your contribution, please do try to finish and submit it during June.

We are now receiving manuscripts for the next special volume, *Peatland Strategies and Action Plans*. Those who have promised material for this volume but have not yet submitted are reminded to do so, and there is still room for further offers. Contact the Editor-in-Chief (see below) or Peter Jones (peter.s.jones@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) to discuss contributions to this volume. There is also a proposal for a special volume on *Growing Sphagnum*, both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*, for example for peatland restoration and Sphagnum farming purposes, and Stephan Glatzel (stephan.glatzel@univie.ac.at) is keen to hear from you if you would like to contribute.

For our continuing series of standard volumes, we are always happy to receive new manuscripts on any topic relating to mires, peatlands and peat. Please send these to the Editor-in-Chief o.m.bragg@dundee.ac.uk, for:

- friendly editorial management by eminent peatland specialists (O.M. Bragg, R.S. Clymo, S.N.P. Glatzel, A.P. Grootjans, P.M. Jones and J.O. Rieley);
- minimal publication delays (the average turnaround time from submission to publication is currently less than 230 days); and
- free global exposure of your work in an ISI journal.

News from our regions

Poland

Lesław Wołejko (ales@asternet.pl)

Renowned researcher of mires celebrates 90th birthday

Prof. Dr, Hab. Janina Jasnowska (in center of photo) - a renowned researcher of mires and peatlands in Poland and teacher of several generations of nature students celebrates her 90th birthday in 2015. She is still very active in the field of study and nature protection and a scientific conference 'Mires of Poland – protection, restoration, monitoring' is planned for September this year to celebrate Janina's many achievements (refer to the 1st announcement in the Symposia announcements of the Bulletin)

Germany

Greta Gaudig (info@greifswaldmoor.de)

Greifswald grows

Already since 200 years, Greifswald (Germany) is home to research on mires and peatlands. The increasingly wide and interdisciplinary expertise has now been bundled in the new Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC). The GMC

hosts more than 50 peatland experts from various disciplines, who work together on the interface between science and policy, covering peatland related questions on the local to the global level.
The GMC offers science-based solutions for social challenges such as

- Climate change mitigation: Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands
- Climate change adaptation: Ecosystem-based solutions
- Biodiversity: Conservation and restoration of peatlands
- Sustainable use: Paludiculture
- Innovative financing: Monetization of ecosystem services, including carbon credits

In addition, the GMC coordinates the IMCG Global Peatland Database, the largest database on the distribution and status of peatlands worldwide. The GMC is the new umbrella brand for all mire related activities in Greifswald. It combines the efforts of its three constitutional institutes: the Institute of Botany and Landscape Ecology of the Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de), the Michael Succow Foundation (http://www.succow-stiftung.de) and the Institute of Sustainable Development of Landscapes of the Earth (http://www.duene-greifswald.de). The comprehensive library "Peatland and Nature Conservation International Library" (PeNCIL) (http://www.succow-stiftung.de/moorbibliothek.html) is also part of the GMC.

For a complete overview of the aims, expertise, projects, publications and the network surf to: www.greifswaldmoor.de

Ramsar news

Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP12)

Many IMCG members were involved in getting a new peatland resolution prepared and adopted at COP12. In preparation a policy brief and an extensive report on peatlands and climate effect in the Nordic and Baltic countries were produced for the Ramsar NorBalWet group.

Read more on this crucial contribution at:
http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A806688&dswid=1306
http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A814147&dswid=6864

More news on the convention and the latest peatland resolution in the June issue of the Bulletin.

Symposia

Mires of Poland: protection, restoration, monitoring
Conference and Field Symposium
Szczecin, Western Pomerania, 1-4 September 2015.

Objective: Deliberate the current state of knowledge on Polish mires, major protection problems and restoration prospects will be summarized. In this way we would also like to commemorate the 90 birthday of Prof. Dr Hab. Janina Jasnowska - a renowned researcher of mires and peatlands and teacher of several generations of nature students, still very active in the field of study and nature protection.

Programme: The program will include scientific symposium, field excursion to amongs other the Lower Odra Valley near Gryfino, the lake chalk mires at Miedwie Lake and the mires of the Bytów and

Cashubia Lakelands and the Tuchola Woods. We expect to finish the event in Gdańsk in the evening of 4 September. For interested participants we propose an optional study visit on 5 September to an experimental bog restoration site near Gdańsk.

Oral presentations up to 20 min. and poster presentations are welcome. Please find full details on the program on the IMCG website (www.imcg.net).

Peatland conservation relevant papers

Collected by Hans Joosten: joosten@uni-greifswald.de

1. Quantifying landscape-level methane fluxes in subarctic Finland using a multi-scale approach: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12975/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle
2. Regional air quality impacts of future fire emissions in Sumatra and Kalimantan: http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/10/5/054010
3. Multi-scale analysis of electrical conductivity of peatlands for the assessment of peat properties: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ejss.12251/abstract?campaign=wolearlyview
4. A non-thermogenic source of black carbon in peat and coal: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166516215000439
5. Soil-surface organic layers in Arctic Alaska: Spatial distribution, rates of formation, microclimatic effects: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2015JG002983/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle
6. Isotopic identification of soil and permafrost nitrate sources in an Arctic tundra ecosystem: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JG002883/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle
7. Suspended preservation: Particular preservation conditions within the Must Farm – Flag Fen Bronze Age landscape: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S104061821400799X
8. Detecting and quantifying ongoing decay of organic archaeological remains: A discussion of different approaches: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1040618214005643
9. Derivation of greenhouse gas emission factors for peatlands managed for extraction in the Republic of Ireland and the UK: http://www.biogeosciences-discuss.net/12/7491/2015/bgd-12-7491-2015.pdf
10. Flooding projections from elevation and subsidence models for oil palm plantations in the Rajang Delta peatlands, Sarawak, Malaysia: https://www.deltares.nl/app/uploads/2015/06/Rajang_Delta-Subsidence_Flooding-AH_RV_NM_JK_KMC_MS-1_June_2015-FINAL-web.pdf
11. Peatlands and climate in a Ramsar context - A Nordic-Baltic perspective: http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A814147&dswid=5024
12. Large herbivore grazing affects the vegetation structure and greenhouse gas balance in a high arctic mire: http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/10/4/045001/article
13. Long-wave infrared identification of smoldering peat fires in Indonesia with nighttime Landsat data: http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/10/6/065002
14. A multi-proxy peat study of Holocene vegetation history, bog development, and carbon accumulation on northern Vancouver Island, Pacific coast of Canada: http://hol.sagepub.com/content/25/7/1165?etoc
15. Last Millennium hydro-climate variability in Central–Eastern Europe (Northern Carpathians, Romania): http://hol.sagepub.com/content/25/7/1179?etoc
16. Ebullition of methane from peatlands: Does peat act as a signal shredder?: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2015GL063469/abstract?campaign=woletoc
17. Hydrological disturbance diminishes predator control in wetlands: http://www.esajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1890/14-1505.1

18. Testing peatland water-table depth transfer functions using high-resolution hydrological monitoring data: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379115001699#
19. Biogeochemical indicators of peatland degradation – a case study of a temperate bog in northern Germany: http://www.biogeosciences.net/12/2861/2015/bg-12-2861-2015.html
20. Picea mariana (Mill.) B.S.P Plantation on Cutover Peatland in Alberta (Canada): http://www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca/fileadmin/fichiers/fichiersGRET/pdf/Thesis/GarciaBravo_thesis_MSc_2015_.pdf
21. Drivers of Holocene peatland carbon accumulation across a climate gradient in northeastern North America: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379115002115
22. Rewetting of drained boreal spruce swamp forests results in rapid recovery of Sphagnum production: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.12474/abstract?campaign=wolacceptedarticle

Please send your contribution to the IMCG Bulletin by the 25th of each month: peatland@mweb.co.za