



# The International Mire Conservation Group

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## Network

The International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) is a network of

- government agency specialists
- representatives from NGO's
- peatland conservation managers
- research scientists
- active supporters of peatland conservation programmes

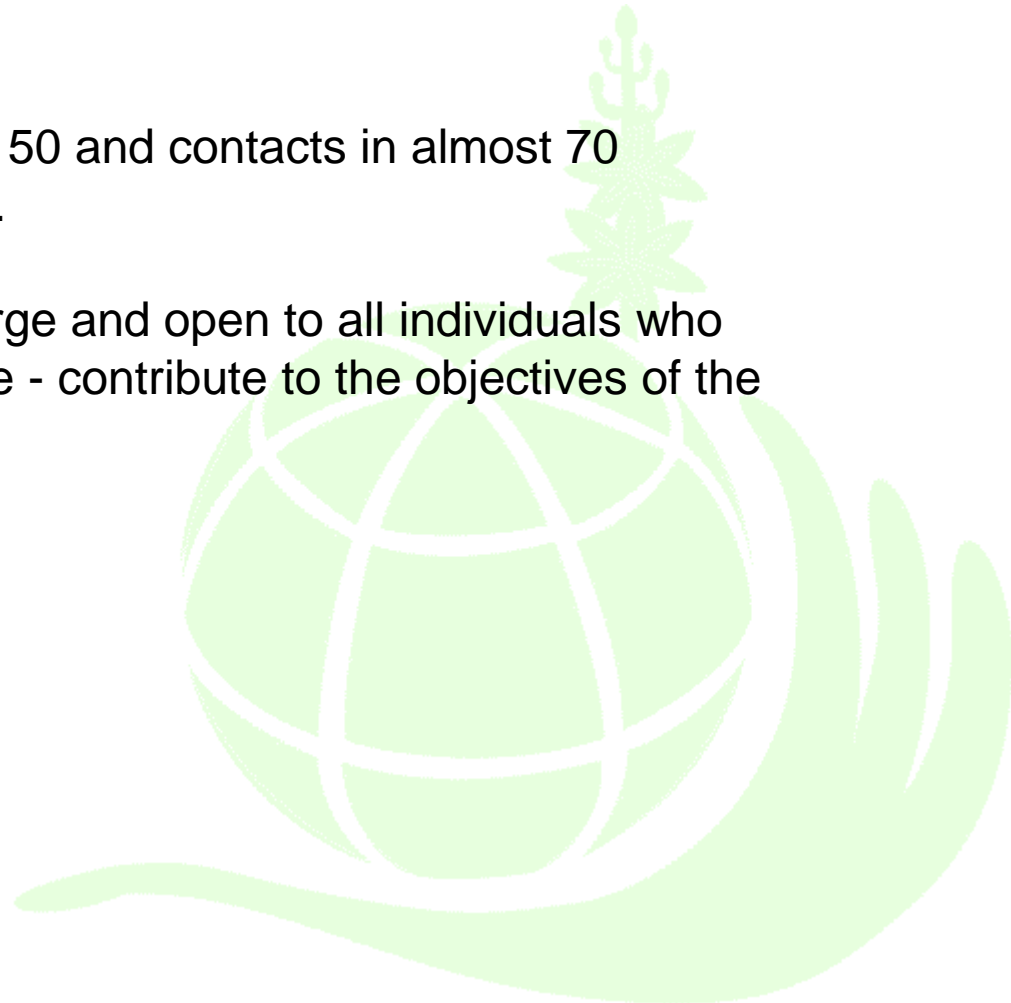




## Members

Currently, IMCG has members in 50 and contacts in almost 70 countries, covering all continents.

IMCG membership is free of charge and open to all individuals who endorse and - in the widest sense - contribute to the objectives of the IMCG.





## History (1)

The IMCG was founded in 1984

Initially the focus was “Western” Europe

The IMCG has been meeting on a regular basis to discuss national and international aspects of mire conservation in a relatively unstructured but open forum.



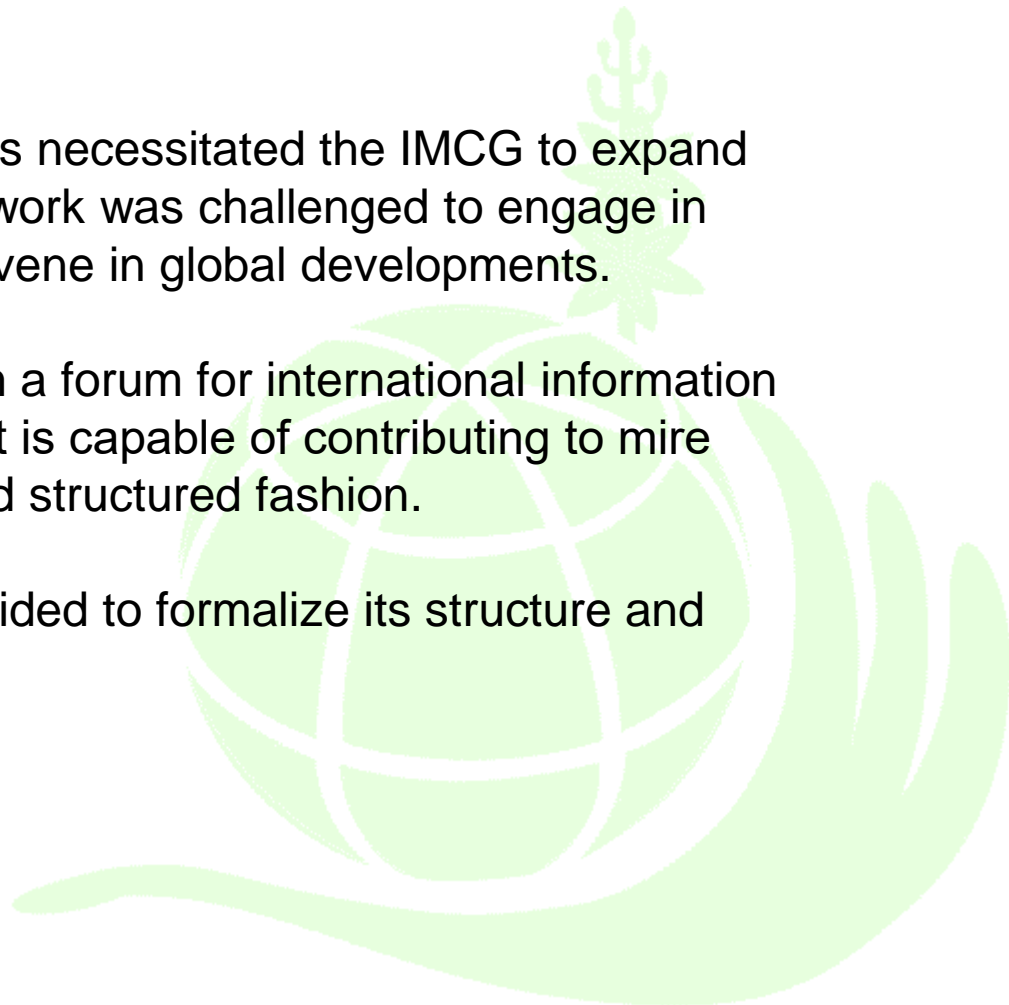


## History (2)

Global developments of the 1990s necessitated the IMCG to expand to many more countries. The network was challenged to engage in international projects and to intervene in global developments.

Gradually the IMCG evolved from a forum for international information exchange to a “global player” that is capable of contributing to mire conservation in a coordinated and structured fashion.

Consequently, in 2000 IMCG decided to formalize its structure and objectives.





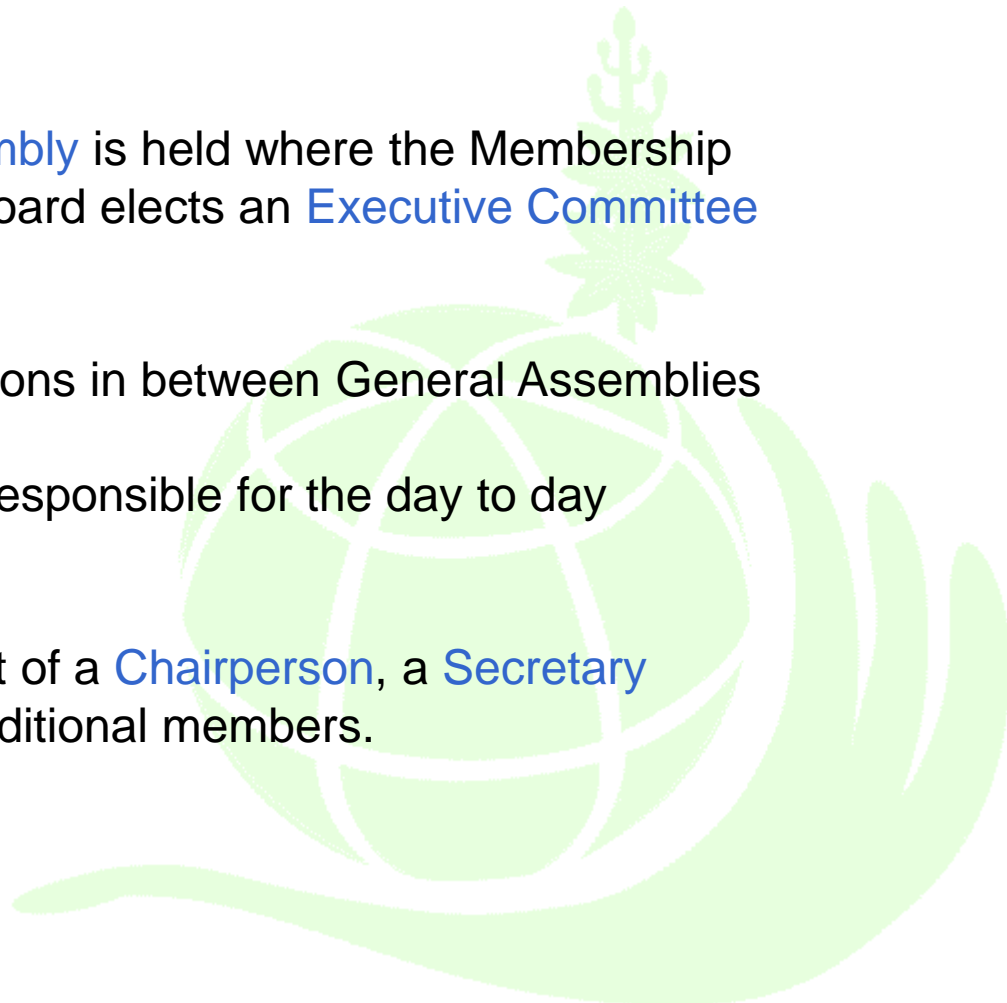
## Organisational structure

Every two years a **General Assembly** is held where the Membership elects a **Main Board**. The Main Board elects an **Executive Committee** from among its members.

The **Main Board** (15) takes decisions in between General Assemblies

The **Executive Committee** (5) is responsible for the day to day management.

The Executive Committee consist of a **Chairperson**, a **Secretary General**, a **Treasurer**, and two additional members.

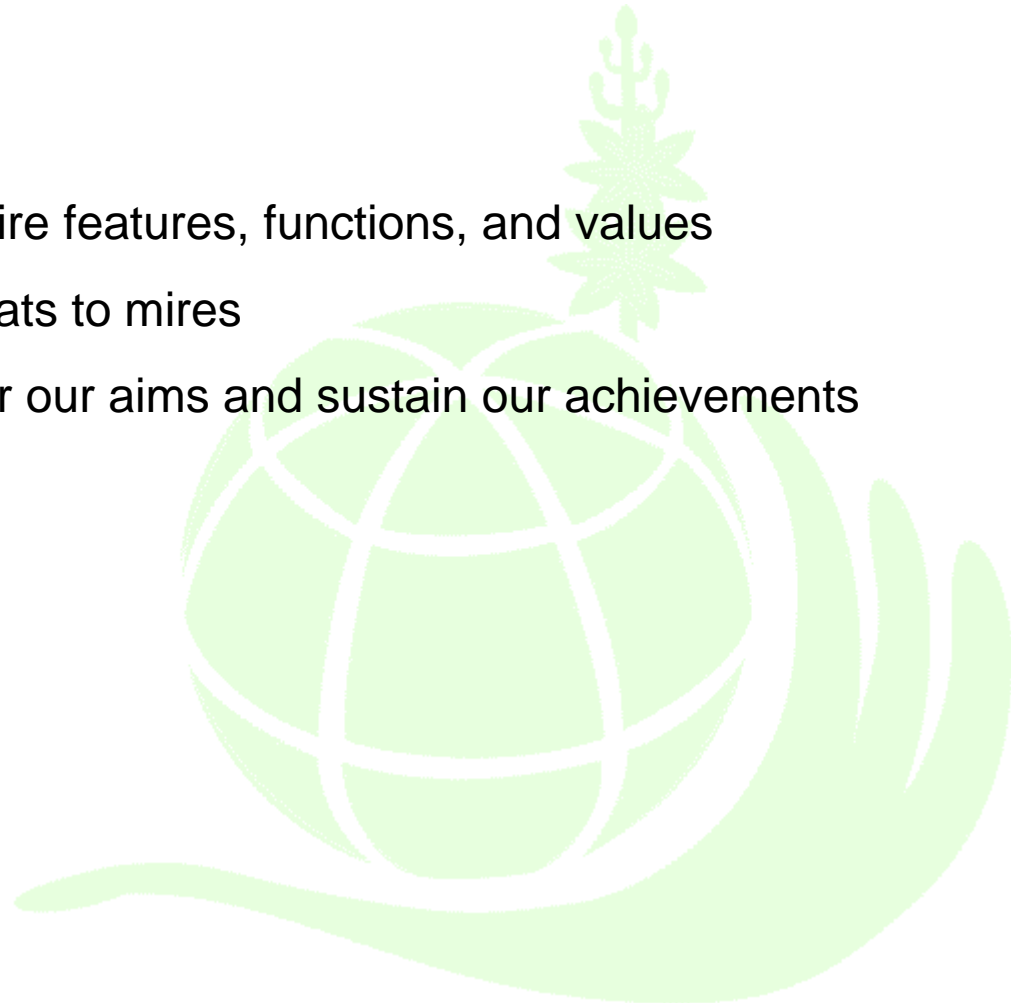




## Objectives (1)

The objectives of IMCG are to

- identify the global diversity of mire features, functions, and values
- reduce the most significant threats to mires
- explore mechanisms that further our aims and sustain our achievements





## Objectives (2)

IMCG tries to achieve these objectives by

- facilitating worldwide exchange of information and expertise
- assisting co-ordination of efforts and resources
- promoting positive action
- increasing understanding and awareness





## Activities (1)

IMCG works through

- e-mail contact
- newsletters (4 x a year)
- a webpage ([www.imcg.net](http://www.imcg.net))
- publications (proceedings, reports, books)
- workshops on topical issues (classification, terminology, biogeography, ...)
- conferences on international conservation
- ...





## Activities (2)

- biennial field symposia dealing with peatland conservation issues in the host country
- biennial congresses to discuss and decide the work-programme
- resolutions to governments and organisations
- involvement in international conservation policy development (Ramsar, CBD, UNFCCC)
- on the ground activities including awareness raising

Recent Biennial Congresses and Field Symposia were held in Canada (2000), France (2002), and South Africa/Lesotho (2004). Future meetings are planned in Tierra del Fuego Argentina (2005) and Finland (2006).



## Funds

IMCG is financed through

- personal commitment of members
- support of institutions (universities, governments)
- participation in projects (EU, GEF, national level)
- GPI ([www.globalpeatlands.net](http://www.globalpeatlands.net))

