

Commission and National Committee Reports 2018

Reports and Contact Details of Commissions

Peatlands and Economy

FORESTRY

Last year was practically the foundational year of the group, and currently we have 14 members from Finland, Sweden, the UK, the USA and Canada. We have actively researched the form and the best working methods, and this work is continuing. Our objective is to increase the number of our members from different countries. All our members are research scientists, but we hope that we can also recruit practical foresters.

Increasing the sustainability and acceptability of forestry on peatlands is one of the most important areas of research and communication related to this land use form. The right level of motivation for international collaborations, which are at “the core” of this Expert Group (EG), is necessary. Many of our members are working on research projects which aim to identify new solutions and tools to decrease the environmental costs of peatland forestry and increase its ecological and economic impact. One of these subjects is continuous cover forestry, which is now a “hot topic” in peatland forestry, and the aspects of this theme connect our members in one way or another. The following tasks are on the agenda of the Peatlands for Forestry EG for the year(s) ahead:

- Joint Skype meetings (at least one a year) and discussions via email.
- Joint project funding applications.
- Finalization of the new book project which has recently launched in Finland. The aim of this project is to produce a new updated textbook on peatland forestry. So far, the book has been written in Finnish.
- Participation in the planning and execution of IPS projects.
- Collaboration with IUFRO, particularly with the Peatland Forest Science Unit, e.g., joint meetings in connection with symposia and congresses of IUFRO. The next such meeting will be organized in Curitiba, Brazil, in October 2019. However, it is still unclear, how many members of our EG are going to participate.
- Participation in the planning and preparation of the peatland forestry session at the International Peat Congress in Tallinn in 2020.