



International Peatland Society

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More than 1400 members from 43 countries for the Wise Use of peatlands.

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## Statutes of the International Peatland Society 2015

### Article 1

#### **Name and registered office of the Society**

The Name of the registered association is the International Peatland Society (IPS), a scientific and technical organization for the study of peat and peatlands, hereinafter referred to as “the Society”. The place of domicile of the Society is the city of Jyväskylä, Finland, where the office of the Society is also located.

### Article 2

#### **Vision:**

To be the leading international organisation promoting the responsible management and wise use of peatlands and peat.

#### **Mission:**

To serve all those involved in peatlands and peat through the promotion, gathering, exchange and communication of knowledge and experience, by means of events and projects which address key issues, including climate change, biodiversity, the need for responsible use and restoration.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

##### *Responsibility to members*

To assist its members through communication on education, research and advocacy in matters related to the members’ business, scientific and environmental activities.

##### *Research and development*

To promote research into peatlands, peat and their use, including both conservation and non-use, and to disseminate the information obtained.

##### *Communications*

To communicate pro-actively within IPS membership and beyond, providing information on the role of peatlands and peat in the environment and the economy, and their wise use.

##### *Public policy*

To cooperate with governmental, intergovernmental, and international organisations and to provide them with science-based information relevant to policies directly or indirectly affecting peatlands and peat and their use.

### *Partnerships*

To work through partnership, networking and cooperation.

## Article 3

### **Members**

Membership of the Society is open to all scientific, industrial, commercial and other organizations with the status of a legal entity and to any individual person interested in the study, conservation and utilization of peatlands and peat. Members of the Society can be of three categories as follows:

#### *Category A: National Committees*

Only one IPS National Committee with the status of a legal entity or some other organization with the status of a legal entity to which the Executive Board of the Society has granted the status of an IPS National Committee, will be recognized in each country. In the countries with a National Committee all interested organizations, corporations, foundations and individuals are affiliated to the Society through the National Committee concerned.

#### *Category B: Supporting corporate members in countries without a National Committee*

In countries without a National Committee there may be supporting corporate members. Such members must be legal entities and may be corporations, foundations or organizations of a scientific, industrial, commercial or similar nature. Such supporting corporate members are directly affiliated to the Society.

#### *Category C: Supporting individual members in countries without a National Committee*

In countries without a National Committee there may be supporting individual members, who are directly affiliated with the Society.

Admission to membership of the Society is subject to approval of the National Committee or, in case of countries without a National Committee, of the Executive Board.

Any member shall be free to withdraw from the Society upon giving notice of withdrawal by means of a letter to the Executive Board or to the Society's President or by announcing its/his/her withdrawal in the Annual Assembly of the Society to be recorded in the minutes. Such withdrawal comes into effect at the end of the year in which the announcement of resignation has been received. The member must meet his obligations under these Statutes towards the Society till the end of the year.

Any member failing to abide the rules of the Society or who damages the interests of the Society, may be expelled by means of a resolution of the Executive Board. In such a case membership will cease immediately.

To do honour to a person who has rendered particular service to the Society or international co-operation in the mire and peat sector, the Executive Board may confer on him/her the title of Honorary President or Honorary Member of the Society.

Affiliation fees and annual membership fees of the Society will be determined by the Annual Assembly of national representatives separately for each membership category. In addition, the

Society may levy industrial or other fees to be established by the Executive Board on the basis of criteria set by the Executive Board.

In countries without a National Committee, the supporting corporate and individual members shall be charged a membership fee which shall be the same for all members in categories B and C, but may be different between categories B and C. These fees shall be revised and confirmed by the Annual Assembly.

Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members have no membership fee obligations towards the Society.

#### Article 4

##### **Executive Board**

The Society shall be managed by the Executive Board which shall consist of the chairman, who is called the President of the Society, of the First and Second Vice Presidents and of 2 to 6 permanent members.

The Secretary General of the IPS will also be the secretary of the Executive Board.

The term of office of the ordinary members of the Executive Board shall be four years so that 50% of the members will change every two years. If a member is replaced during his or her term of office, the new member will be appointed for the balance of the term. Executive Board members shall be eligible for re-election, subject to the restrictions on the re-election of the Presidency contained in Article 5.

The Executive Board shall assemble by invitation of the President or, if he cannot act, by invitation of a Vice President or two (2) Executive Board members.

The Executive Board shall have a quorum when at least half of its members are present. The quorum shall not be constituted unless the President or one of the Vice Presidents is present.

All decisions will be made on a simple majority basis. In the event of votes being equal, the President will be entitled to a casting vote except in the case of an election, where a tie will be decided by drawing lots. In the voting every Executive Board member has one vote.

#### Article 5

##### **President and Vice Presidents**

The President and the Vice Presidents of the Society shall be elected by the Annual Assembly of national representatives which shall be held in the year of the quadrennial International Peat Congress.

The term of office of the President and of the Vice Presidents shall be four (4) years. With the unanimous approval of the Annual Assembly of national representatives, the term of office of the President may be extended by one more quadrennial period.

In the event that the President is unable to remain in office during the term of his/her appointment, the First Vice President will preside over the Society until the next regular meeting of the Annual Assembly, at which a new President will be appointed for the balance of the term of office.

## Article 6

### **Secretary General**

The President shall appoint the Society's Secretary General with the approval of the Executive Board and shall define and supervise his activities.

The Secretary General runs the Secretariat and appoints such staff as he/she considers necessary to maintain the efficiency of the Secretariat. The appointment of staff is subject to the approval of the Executive Board.

The Secretary General shall be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the Society in accordance with these Statutes and Internal Regulations made under the Statutes and for the implementation of the decisions taken by the Annual Assembly of national representatives and the Executive Board.

The Secretary General shall attend each Annual Assembly and the meetings of the Executive Board. The salary and other benefits of the Secretary General shall be determined by the Executive Board.

## Article 7

### **Signing on behalf of the Society**

The right to sign on behalf of the Society shall rest with the President, Vice Presidents and Secretary General.

## Article 8

### **Accounts**

The Society's financial year shall extend from January 1st to December 31st of each year. The balance sheet for the past financial year with related documents and the annual report, prepared by the Executive Board, shall be given to the Auditor not later than by the end of February.

The Auditor shall give an official audited statement in writing to the Executive Board not later than by the end of March. The statement shall be directed to the Annual Assembly of national representatives.

## Article 9

### **Assemblies of the Society**

The assemblies of the Society shall be convened by the Executive Board. Invitation to the assemblies shall be sent in writing to each National Committee. The invitation letter to National Committees is sent and the invitation is published in the Society's publications not later than 40 days and not earlier than 60 days before the assembly.

#### *General Assembly of Members*

There shall be every fourth year a General Assembly of Members in conjunction with the International Peat Congress.

In the General Assembly of Members all the members of the Society, representatives of the National Committees as well as supporting corporate and individual members have the right to attend.

The General Assembly of Members shall receive reports from the outgoing President on the activities of the previous four years and from the Secretary General an outline of future plans of the Society.

#### *Annual Assembly*

The Annual Assembly of national representatives shall be held once a year but not later than on 30th August, on the date and place determined by the Executive Board. The agenda for the meeting shall be sent to National Committees not later than 40 days and not earlier than 60 days before the Annual Assembly by the Executive Board.

Each National Committee has the right to send one official representative to the Annual Assembly, where he or she is obliged to present a due proxy. Each official representative has one vote at an Annual Assembly. Supporting corporate members, supporting individual members, Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members may attend the meeting as observers, but they have no vote.

In addition to their official representative, National Committees can send to the Annual Assembly one or more non-voting observers.

All decisions in the Annual Assembly are made by a simple majority of votes. In the event of votes being equal, the chairman of the assembly will be entitled to a casting vote except in the case of an election, where a tie will be decided by drawing lots. If any of the official National Committee representatives attending the Annual Assembly so demands, voting in an election shall be by secret ballot.

#### *Extraordinary Assembly of national representatives*

Members of the Society will be invited to an Extraordinary Assembly of national representatives if the Annual Assembly thus decides, if the Executive Board of the Society considers that there is cause for an extraordinary assembly or if at least one tenth (1/10) of the National Committees of the Society demands an assembly from the Executive Board in writing, stating the reason for the extraordinary assembly.

### Article 10

#### **Agenda of the Annual Assembly**

In the Annual Assembly the following items must be on the Agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Election of the chairman, secretary, two (2) scrutinisers of the minutes, and two (2) counters of votes.
3. Ascertaining that a quorum is present.
4. Approval of the agenda.
5. Presentation of the annual report, balance sheet and the Auditor's Report
6. Confirmation of the balance sheet and granting a discharge to the Executive Board and the Secretary General.
7. Approval of the plan of activities, budget and determination of the affiliation fees and the membership fees of the Society for the current year
8. Election of the President and the Vice-Presidents every fourth year and election of permanent Executive Board members every second year in place of the retiring members.
9. Election of one permanent Auditor and one substitute Auditor
10. Discussion on other matters and proposals taken up by the Executive Board or by the members of the Society and mentioned in the invitation.

## Article 11

### Languages

The official language of the Society shall be Finnish and the working language English.

## Article 12

### Internal Regulations

The Executive Board shall adopt and may amend internal regulations compatible with these Statutes in order to ensure the smooth running and administration of the Society.

## Article 13

### Amendment of the Statutes

The amendment of the Statutes can only be decided by an Annual Assembly of national representatives. A resolution amending these Statutes shall be valid only if at least three fourths (3/4) of the votes given at the Assembly are in favour of the amendment.

If an amendment is to be discussed at the Annual Assembly of national representatives, the amendment of the Statutes of the Society must be mentioned in the invitation.

## Article 14

### Dissolution of the Society

The dissolution of the Society can only be decided by an Annual Assembly of national representatives. If at least three fourths (3/4) of the votes given at the Assembly are in favour of the dissolution, the Annual Assembly has the right to dissolve the Society.

If dissolution of the Society is to be discussed at the Annual Assembly, the dissolution must be mentioned in the invitation.

Upon dissolution of the Society, the Annual Assembly of the Society shall decide on the apportionment of the net balance of the Society's funds, which must be allocated in conformity with the Society's aims and in accordance with Finnish law.

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Statutes, 10.1.1997

Approved by the National Board of Patents and Registrations of Finland (Register of Associations), Kari Pekka Helminen 17 March 1997

Amended by the Annual Assembly of National Representatives in Tampere on 11 June 2004, registered with the Board of Patents and Registrations of Finland in November 2004.

Amended by the Annual Assembly in Québec City, Canada on 14 June 2011.

Amended by the Annual Assembly in Leiden, the Netherlands on 20 June 2013.

Amended by the Annual Assembly in Riga, Latvia on the Netherlands on 28 August 2014.

Amended by the Annual Assembly in Tullamore, Ireland on 11 June 2015.