

The International Peat Society (IPS) is an international, non-governmental and non-profit organization of scientific, industrial and regulatory stakeholders. It is dedicated to fostering the advancement, exchange and communication of scientific, technical and social knowledge and understanding for the wise use of peatlands and peat.

## Last Call for Peatland Certification Meeting

As announced earlier, IPS Commission II on the “Industrial Utilisation of Peat and Peatlands” will hold a meeting on peatland certification on **19 November** at 12:00 hrs at Helsinki Airport. The aim of the meeting is to discuss the draft for a Certification Scheme for Sustainable Management of Peatlands (available at [www.peatsociety.org](http://www.peatsociety.org)). If you have not registered for the meeting yet, please visit [www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=239](http://www.peatsociety.org/index.php?id=239) for more information and a registration form. The meeting is especially important for all corporate members; peat producers as well as peat consuming companies. However, all other peatland experts are also welcome to attend. Please also remember to send any comments on the certification plan as soon as possible to Secretary General Jaakko Silpola, e-mail: [jaakko.silpola \(at\) peatsociety.org](mailto:jaakko.silpola@peatsociety.org), phone: +358 50 406 4836.

## New Study on Importance of Peat in EU Horticulture

A new study reveals that the peat and growing media industry is the main contributor to the sustainability of modern horticulture in Europe, accounting for a turnover of EUR 1.3 billion and 11,000 jobs. The horticulture industry is estimated to have a turnover of approx. EUR 60 billion and provides for over 750,000 jobs. Among growing media constituents, peat represents 69% (hobby market) and 86% (professional market) of all constituents due to its unparalleled properties for stimulating plant growth. This is the conclusion of a study on the “Socio-economic impact of the peat and growing media industry on horticulture in the EU” published by a Luxembourg-based marketing consultancy CO CONCEPT and commissioned by the European Peat and Growing Media Association (EPAGMA). The full study and a press release can be downloaded at [www.epagma.org](http://www.epagma.org). It is the first time that data on the horticulture peat and growing media business and its socioeconomic impact has been gathered and published in such a comprehensive way.

## Finnish Greenhouse Impacts Study Available Now

The Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has now published the English version of the final research report on “Greenhouse Impacts of the Use of Peat and Peatlands in Finland” (Finnish: Turpeen ja turvemaiden käytön kasvihuonevaikutukset Suomessa, ISBN 987-952-453-349-2, julkaisu 11/2007). The publication was edited by Sakari Sarkkola and translated by Jaakko Mäntyjärvi and Graham Whitfield of the English Centre Helsinki Oy. The 68-pages colour report contains six chapters, an appendix on component projects and a foreword by Prof. Jukka Laine who also chairs the IPS Climate Change Working Group. The research report is listed as publication No. 11a/2007 and can be downloaded free of charge at [www.mmm.fi/fi/index/julkaisut.html](http://www.mmm.fi/fi/index/julkaisut.html).

## Intecol 2009 Registration and Abstract Submission Open

The 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Ecology entitled “Ecology in a Changing Climate, Two Hemispheres, One Globe” will be held in Brisbane, Australia on **16 - 21 August 2009** and covers

all possible aspects of ecology in science and practice. INTECOL Congresses are organised every 4<sup>th</sup> year by the International Association for Ecology. The Organising Committee has now published its first call for papers: abstracts for oral or poster presentations can be submitted electronically at [www.intecol10.org/abstract.asp](http://www.intecol10.org/abstract.asp) until **4 March 2009**. Moreover, special early-bird registration rates are offered until **16 May 2009**. In addition to the scientific sessions, a large number of workshops, field trips and other tours is planned. The Congress will be hosted by the Ecological Society of Australia in partnership with the New Zealand Ecological Society.

### Call for Papers: Bioenergy Conference 2009

The Bioenergy Association of Finland has launched the Second Announcement and Call for Papers for its 4<sup>th</sup> International Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition, to take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on **31 August - 4 September 2009**. Abstracts for oral and poster sessions can be submitted until **15 February 2009** to the organising committee. The conference features a pre-tour, presentations on 15 different subjects, an exhibition, several technical tours as well as a post-conference excursion. More information can be obtained from [www.finbioenergy.fi/bioenergy2009](http://www.finbioenergy.fi/bioenergy2009).

### IPS/IMCG Terminology Group Recommendations

The Peat and Peatland Terminology Group formed by IPS and IMCG has submitted the minutes of its first meeting, held in Tullamore on **8 June 2008**, to the IPS Secretariat. The Group would like to announce its agreements to the IPS members and asks all peat experts to consider the following in their scientific writing and correspondence:

#### *Background information*

Unmistakable and clear definitions of terms facilitate communication and decisions. In our world of peat and peatlands this is as true as in any other section of science, business or daily life.

Overbeck (1975) reminds us that “every international approach in peatland science and policy is complicated by the multitude of terms, the inconsistencies in their definition, and the different concepts behind similar terms in different languages”. Quoting Hofstetter (2000), who wrote that “communication problems arise out of confusion about or disagreement on connections between terms and concepts”, mirrors the complexity that discussions on terms may have.

Following the IPS/IMCG meeting in Sweden in 2007 a group was appointed to develop definitions of peat and peatland related terms or concepts with policy implications that have caused misunderstandings. The group – together with other warmly welcomed attendees – met in Tullamore for the first time to discuss the best way forward.

#### *Rules*

In general it should be noted that it is not necessary to have a single term for every possible concept. At times it is best to use descriptive phrases instead. Particularly when the use of a single term leads to misunderstanding or conflict over definitions, it is better to avoid the term altogether and revert to stating what you mean in a simple descriptive phrase.

1. terms and definitions should follow common use of words outside our own specialised world as found in general English dictionaries;
2. terms and definitions should follow etymological logic;
3. terms and definitions should be consistent when used in composites;
4. as far as possible follow the term definition of expert groups or learned societies (e.g. restoration from SERi; wetlands from RAMSAR, sustainable from UN).

### *Targets*

With these rules we should arrive at:

1. terms with their preferred definitions – these sets of terms/definitions will be binding for both IMCG and IPS; these terms may ONLY be used with this meaning;
2. terms with objectionable definitions – these terms should not be used to denote these definitions; these terms may NOT be used with this meaning;
3. objectionable terms – terms that are aberrant, illogical or inconsistent; these terms may NOT be used at all (for example change the wording of virgin peatland);
4. maybe to produce a Primer;
5. apply the agreed terminology to the edition of Mires & Peat and Peatland International to promote their proper use;
6. if the two societies do not agree on some terms – then the two definitions should be explained and diffused.

### *Groups of terms*

During the meeting, the working group agreed to first work on the following 7 groups of terms:

1. Mire, peatland and peat.
2. Identify the preferred adjectives: pristine, virgin, natural or intact to use in front of the word peatland.
3. Sustainable peatland management / sustainable use of peat / sustainable use of peatland.
4. Peat extraction, peat harvesting, peat mining, peat production and peat winning.
5. Peat biomass, Sphagnum biomass, biofuel, fossil.
6. Restoration of peatlands / reclamation of peatlands / regeneration of peatlands / rehabilitation of peatlands / renewability of peat / rewetting of peatlands.
7. Define the following adjectives: abandoned, exploited, mined, residual, cutaway, cutover, extracted, and harvested placed in front of the word peatland.

### **Kinship Environmental Leadership Program Open for Applications**

Kinship Conservation Fellows is welcoming applications for a one-month intensive training for conservation leaders. The course will be held at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA, USA from **24 June - 24 July 2009** and is aimed at practitioners in conservation from all over the world. The 18 participants will be trained in the use of market-based approaches to environmental issues and receive the opportunity to apply what they learn to an independent project. Applicants should have a four-year college degree, five years of working experience, at least some exposure to business and economic principles, be deeply committed to conservation and ready to be part of an expanding community of global leaders. Applications can be submitted until **31 January 2009**. For more information on the programme please visit [www.kinshipfellows.org](http://www.kinshipfellows.org).

### **Michel Ecobichon New Chair of French National Committee**

The French National Committee of IPS (CFTT) has elected Mr. Michel Ecobichon as its new Chair after the end of the regular four-year term of Prof. Louis-Marie Rivière. Mr. Ecobichon can be reached at Falienor, Le Ciron, 49680 Vivy, phone: +33 241 525186, e-mail: ecobichon (at) falienor.com. Secretary of the National Committee is Mr. Laurent Largent as delegate of the French Growing Media Organization. His contact details are CAS France, 7 rue Alexandre Fleming, 49066 Angers Cedex, phone: +33 688 785024, e-mail: laurent.largent (at) cas-asso.com. Mr. Jean-Charles Michel was elected Vice-Chair and Mr. Eric Beaudet Treasurer of the National Committee. We warmly thank Prof. Rivière for his cooperation and welcome our new French partners.