

ROTTERDAM
ROTTERDAM

Annual Report 2018



Secretary General's Review

Mission Accomplished!

In mid-2018, the Executive Board (EB) nominated four of its members to set up a team to recruit a full-time IPS Secretary General. I headed the recruitment team, which included other EB members Donal Clarke, Samu Valpola and Erki Niitlaan. Believe it or not, I received 81 applications from around the world. Of these applicants, five were invited to interviews with our recruitment team.

To our own astonishment, the applicant who matched the requirement profile best was Dr Gilbert Ludwig, who lives just four kilometres from the IPS headquarters! WELL DONE team! You will have read more about Gilbert in edition 4.2018 of Peatlands International, and I am sure that you will hear and read much more about him in his position as Secretary General. Gilbert, we are happy to have you on board!

2017/2018 was also a period of staffing our Expert Groups with knowledgeable people. This is still an ongoing process. Considering that these experts devote a great deal of time for the benefit of IPS, it is worth saying "THANK YOU!"

Two special highlights in 2018 were the "Global Peatland and Peat Summit" and the "IPS 50th Jubilee and 2018

Convention", both held in September in Rotterdam. Reports on both events were given in Peatlands International and briefly in this Annual Report.

The main objective of the Summit was to inform industry companies on how their businesses are affected by international processes and engagements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and policies that originate from various international, national and regional bodies. The presentations were all excellent, but I must add that industry attendance was below the level expected. That is a pity, or should I say, "Wake up industry!"

The Summit Communique - a release that was agreed upon by the invited Convention speakers and the IPS - states the following: "It was concluded that there is already a large amount of evidence and many recommendations giving a framework for truly sustainable peatland management. To be able to adapt to this rapidly changing world there is also a need for further high-quality research and better understanding of the importance of peatlands and the role they play in maintaining and improving environmental quality."

One of the Rotterdam invited talks was entitled "The World's Need for Growing Media, 2020 to 2050". It was emphasized that there will be an enormous increase in the demand



Participants of the Annual Assembly 2018 in Rotterdam. Photo: Susann Warnecke

for growing media worldwide and that demand cannot be satisfied by using only growing media constituents other than peat. That fact must also be accepted by decision-takers and policymakers.

Looking Ahead

In 2019, the focus will be on peat, growing media and constituents other than peat. The organization of three international events started in 2018 and will be completed in good time.

- Bremen, Germany, 13-15 May: Symposium on Economy meets Environment and Society - Future Use of Peat and Substitutes in Horticulture (jointly organized by the IPS National Committee of Germany and the IPS)
- Milano, Italy, 24-28 June: International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis (jointly organized by the International Society for Horticultural Science and the IPS)

- Qingdao, China, 16-21 September: "Symposium on Growing Media for Food and Quality of Life: International Peat-based Products and Technology Expo" (jointly organized by the IPS National Committee of China and the IPS).

For me, this statement given at the Rio UN Conference is the basis for what IPS stands for, and is a principal IPS guideline:

"Protection of the environment is only feasible if politics considers economic and social aspects at the same time. If any pillar is weak then the whole system of Sustainable Development is not sustainable."

I encourage all NGOs to follow these words of wisdom.

Gerald Schmilewski

Acting Secretary General
(until the end of 2018)

Report of the Executive Board

Main Activities

New Secretary General

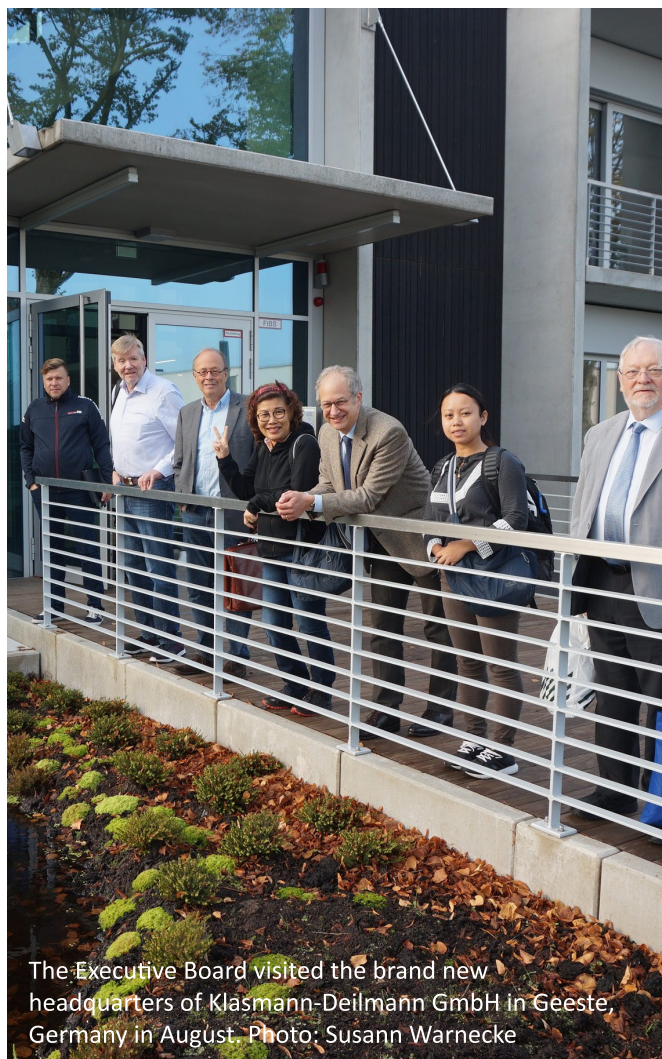
The Executive Board has put much time and effort in 2018 into recruiting the first full-time Secretary General for the IPS. Success was achieved in the autumn, and Dr Gilbert Ludwig started work on 1 January 2019.

Conferences and Other Events

The 2018 Annual Convention was held as a 50th Jubilee Symposium in Rotterdam on 11-13 September 2018, hosted by the Dutch National Committee of the IPS. About 180 persons participated in the conference and its excursions to trade, horticultural, agricultural and historical sites. This was an open symposium with 48 presentations, a jubilee reception and other networking events.

In addition, the Executive Board organized a special "Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit" for management representatives of corporate IPS members on 10 September, where invited speakers presented information on the work of international conventions and the state of global perception of peat and peatlands. That day there were 75 participants and the summit closed with an interesting panel discussion. The IPS 2018 Summit Communique summarizes the outcome of this important event.

The Second Tropical Peatland Round Table was held in Batam, Indonesia, on 12-13 November, organized by the Indonesian and Japanese National Committees. Many of



The Executive Board visited the brand new headquarters of Klasmann-Deilmann GmbH in Geeste, Germany in August. Photo: Susann Warnecke



A very successful Expert Group kick-off meeting was held in Amsterdam on 6-7 February. Photo: Susann Warnecke

the 100 participants also joined the subsequent excursion to Meranti Island, which has smallholder agriculture and tropical peat swamp forest as well as restoration destinations.

Much efforts were directed to the Expert Group kick-off meeting that was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with 19 participants from all around the world on 6-7 February.

A smaller but very important meeting took place on 31 January 2018 in Espoo, where 10 representatives of the IPS' industry associations discussed the further funding of the IPS over the next three years.

Other conferences, workshops and field trips were organized by our National Committees, for instance, in Finland, Germany and Estonia.

The 2019 Annual Convention will be held in Bremen, on 13-15 May 2019, while the next International Peatland Congress will be held in 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia. IPS national representatives also voted that the 2024 Congress would be hosted by the Chinese National Committee.

A list of IPS and related events can be found in this report, and more information is included in the reports of the Commissions and National Committees on the IPS website.

IPS Strategy and Structure

The Executive Board (EB) and the SAB of the IPS continued to implement the "IPS Strategy 2016-2020". Work continued on

staffing the expert groups with volunteers who are eager to carry out practical activities for the IPS. Furthermore, the IPS was present at international conventions and other meetings of global importance. The most important of these in 2018 was the Ramsar meeting in Olomouc, Czech Republic.

The Society is also strengthening its efforts to achieve true professional, geographical, gender and age balances across all of its bodies and activities. This was partly achieved by electing three women, including two Asian representatives, to the Executive Board.

Commissions

The work of the IPS is carried out by three Commissions and their expert groups.

Peatlands and Economy, Chair: Ingrida Krigere (since February 2018)

- Peatlands for Agriculture
- Peatlands for Forestry
- Peat Harvesting Techniques and Technology
- Peat for Growing Media and Energy

Peatlands and Environment, Chair: Bernd Hofer

- Peatlands and Climate Change
- Peatlands and Biodiversity
- Peatland Restoration
- Tropical Peatland Round Table

Peatlands and Society, Chair: Marie Kofod-Hansen

- Peatlands Education, Communication and Publicity
- Peatland Conventions and International Affairs

- Peatlands and Culture
- Peatlands and People

The IPS Commissions and their expert groups foster information exchange, suggest projects and initiate international conferences and other events. Commission membership is informal and open to all IPS members - just contact the chairs. All Commission chairs are members of the IPS' Scientific Advisory Board.

The reports of the Commissions and their Expert Groups, together with all contact details, will be posted on the IPS website: www.peatlands.org/about-us.

Conventions

As in previous years, members of the Executive Board, Commission chairs and other experts participated in meetings and in the work of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), to name but a few. It is one of the tasks of the IPS to present science-based facts to decision-makers. This can best be done in a face-to-face and balanced manner.

Among others, Professor Jack Rieley participated in the Ramsar "Regional Pre-COP Meeting for Europe" in Olomouc, Czech Republic, on 19-23 March. IPS President Gerald Schmilewski attended the "Third Meeting of the Partners of the Global Peatlands Initiative", and the GPI's Steering Committee Meeting, in Brazzaville, Congo, on 21-23 March, as well as numerous seminars, conferences and face-to-

face meetings in Germany and the Netherlands, and other countries.

IPS Projects

IPS has worked on a number of projects in 2018.

- Peat for food and quality of life projects:
 - 1) Peat demand in China: report published in Peatlands International
 - 2) Worldwide peat demand (Chris Blok): presentation in Rotterdam
 - 3) Future peat supply (Bernd Hofer): ongoing.
- Sphagnum farming: unfortunately, our COST funding application was not successful.
- Peat production and peatland areas: Hannu Salo continued with data collection.

IPS Membership

As of 31 December 2018, the IPS had 1,407 members in 39 countries, comprising 1,044 individual members, 226 corporations, 68 students and 45 honorary members (NCs and IPS), as well as 12 research institutes and 12 governmental institutes. Most members of the IPS live in Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Poland and the Netherlands. The membership database on the IPS intranet is updated in collaboration with our National Committees and directly by our members, at least once a year.

The IPS is represented locally by 16 National Committees with a total of 1,363 members. Of these, 11 operate in Europe, two in North America and three in Asia. There are currently 25 men and 11 women serving as chairpersons and secretaries of these NCs. National Committees operate on behalf of the IPS in countries with significant peatland resources and/or an active peatland or peat industry, where



Representatives of IPS ten largest industrial members met IPS' Presidents in Espoo, Finland on 31 January to discuss services, funding and future cooperation.



The spring meeting of the IPS Executive Board was held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Photo: Susann Warnecke

they promote the environmental, societal and economic values of peatland and peat and provide a forum for information exchange.

In other countries, the IPS has 23 individual, 10 corporate, six student, four honorary and one institutional member. For full member statistics see the appendices.

In 2018, the IPS gained 152 new members or contact persons for corporate/institute members, but 182 members took up other challenges, resulting in an overall loss of 30 members compared to last year. Anyone interested can join the IPS at www.peatlands.org/join-us.

Publications

Peatlands International

Four issues of the IPS magazine were published in 2018 and distributed to our members by email. Due to GDPR data protection rules in the EU, the number of members who receive the magazine dropped in May from approximately 1,200 to 600. Reminders to opt in were sent twice. The Chief Editor was Acting Secretary General Gerald Schmilewski and editing and layout tasks were carried out by Communications Manager Susann Warnecke.

A few of our corporate members support the IPS by placing advertisements in the magazine. Members receive Peatlands International for free. The magazine is supported by an Editorial Board, which consisted of the following members at the end of 2018:

- Rachel Carmenta, UK
- Lydia Cole, UK
- Catherine Farrell, Ireland
- Marie Kofod-Hansen, Sweden
- Juhani Päivänen, Finland
- Jack Rieley, UK
- Anne Jelle Schilstra, The Netherlands
- Paul Short, Canada
- Lech Szajdak, Poland
- Michael Trepel, Germany
- David Wilson, Ireland

Previous issues of Peatlands International can be found via the IPS document database, while most of the printed issues (before 2013) can be ordered from the IPS online store.

To publish in the magazine, please contact Susann Warnecke at susann.warnecke@peatlands.org. Deadlines are at the end of February, May, August and November.

Peatland Snippets

Eleven issues of the IPS newsletter Peatland Snippets were published in 2018. The monthly electronic newsletter of the IPS is sent out by email to all members, with numbers also dropping from 1,200 to 600 due to GDPR rules as of May 2018.

All newsletters from 2020-2016 can be downloaded from the members' intranet. Members and friends of the IPS are very welcome to contribute to the newsletter – just contact the IPS Secretariat.

Briefing Notes

In 2018, the IPS distributed three Briefing Notes (7-9) to all corporate members, to inform them about current developments at an international level and other issues.

Mires and Peat Scientific Journal

During 2018, the scientific online journal Mires and Peat, owned jointly by IPS and IMCG, published its regular Volume 21 (2018) as well as special volumes 20: Growing Sphagnum (2017/2018), 22: Tropical Peatland Biodiversity and Conservation in Southeast Asia, and 23: The Flow Country Peatlands of Scotland. The latest (2017) impact factors are 1.326 (two-year impact factor) and 1.638 (five-year impact factor).

A very successful first editor's meeting was held in Leeds, England, in October. IPS supported the meeting with €1,000, and the UK National Committee with a similar amount.

Dr Olivia Bragg continued as Editor-in-chief and Professor Jack Rieley as Deputy Editor-in-chief, with a team of 12 Editors making up the Editorial Board. There are 28 Associate Editors who review the manuscripts submitted. Michael Trepel is the Website Administrator.

Mires and Peat is the peer-reviewed open-access scientific journal of the IPS and the IMCG, which is freely available (www.mires-and-peat.net) to all those interested in peat, peatland and mire research. The IPS supports the journal with €5,000 annually.

The journal is indexed by Thomson Reuters Web of Science, Elsevier Scopus, EBSCO Environment Complete, CABI Abstracts, CSA and the Directory of Open Access Journals. Papers are given a DOI and safely archived via Portico. High-quality papers are welcome, to maintain this important publication.

Other Publications

IPS opened a new online shop in November 2018 on the popular Holvi platform, which allows easy purchase of about 60 publications, including proceedings, Peatlands International, the International Peat Journal and printed peat(land) books. Sales have increased during the first weeks of use. Visit www.holvi.com/shop/peatlands.

IPS Website

A new IPS website is planned for the summer of 2019. The current pages at www.peatlands.org contain, in the public section, basic information on the IPS, an events calendar, contact details for the EB, the Commissions and National Committees, general information on peat and peatlands, a list of publications, open positions and other information on the society and its work.

For members, we offer an online document database for conference proceedings, brochures and other publications, a searchable member database and the option to post open positions. Additional resources are still needed to enable the uploading of all previous IPS proceedings to the document database.

Our Irish National Committee visited the Cuilcagh Mountains, Co. Fermanagh for their 2018 field trip and seminar. Photo: R. Casey



Social Media

The IPS shares information about its own and related activities, press articles and conference announcements, via its Facebook and LinkedIn pages. In addition, the Secretariat posts on Instagram, mostly during IPS events.

At the end of 2018, 920 people, mostly aged between 25 and 34, were following IPS information on Facebook, most of whom were not members of the society. The discussion group on the same page had 49 members in early 2019.

The IPS LinkedIn group, which allows networking between around 400 peat and peatland professionals, has also proved to be a great tool for sharing and collecting information quickly and making new contacts. In 2018, we also established a “company page”, which has 99 followers and allows easier sharing of official information than via the group.

Public Discussion

Resilience, climate change and biodiversity, as well as phasing out energy peat, were important topics with respect to peatland management in the media in 2018. Other topics varied slightly from country to country.

The IPS regularly follows Google News and various Google Scholar alerts on peat, mire and peatland topics, and shares these via email with the EB, SAB, experts and National

Committees, as well as in Peatland Snippets and on its Facebook page, whenever possible.

Peat and Peatland Events

The following conferences, convention meetings and other international events were of relevance to the IPS and its members in 2018:

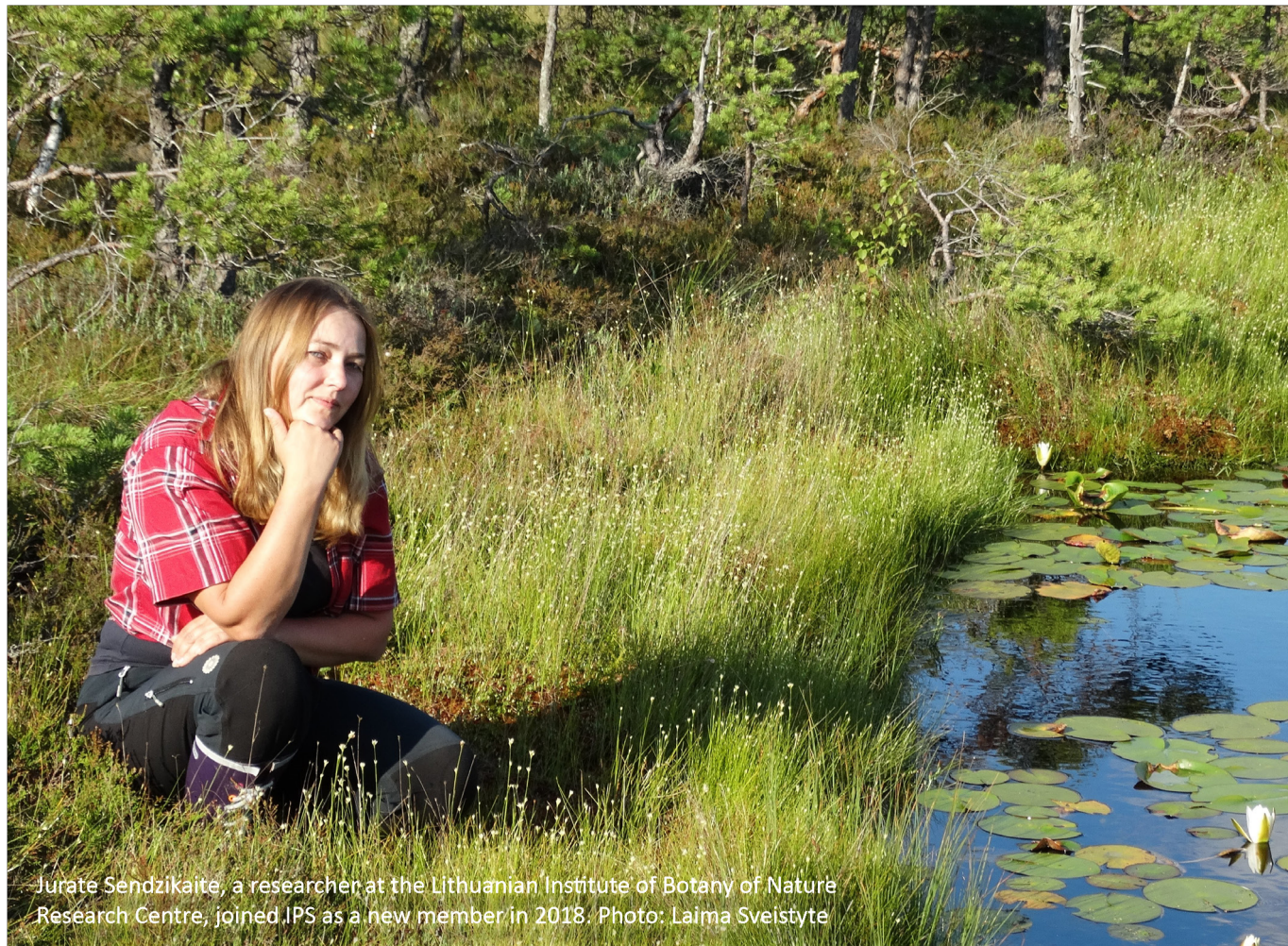
Ramsar STRP21
Gland, Switzerland, 15 - 19 January 2018
www.ramsar.org

Industry Member Meeting (invited persons)
Espoo, Finland, 31 January 2018
www.peatlands.org

2nd Finnish Peatland Day
Helsinki, Finland, 2 February 2018
www.suoseura.fi

IPS Expert Kick-off Meeting
Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 6 - 7 February 2018
www.peatlands.org

24th GRET PERG
Peatland Restoration Symposium
Université Laval
Québec City, Canada, 15 February 2018
www.gret-perg.ulaval.ca



Jurate Sendzikaite, a researcher at the Lithuanian Institute of Botany of Nature Research Centre, joined IPS as a new member in 2018. Photo: Laima Sveistyte



9th European Ramsar Meeting (ERM9)
Olomouc, Czech Republic, 19 - 23 March 2018
www.ramsar.org

Global Peatlands Initiative
Third Partners meeting
Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 21 - 23 March 2018
www.globalpeatlands.org

Indonesian National Committee
Annual Meeting + International Seminar
Jakarta/Bogor/Denpasar, April 2018

German National Committee
17th Seminar „Moor und Torf“
Zeven, Germany, April 2018
www.dgmtv.de

German National Committee
Mire Conservation in Lower Saxony
Alfred Toepfer Akademie für Naturschutz
in cooperation with DGMT
Schneverdingen, Germany, 18 - 19 June 2018
www.dgmtv.de

Finnish Peatland Society
Summer Excursion
Lauhanvuori Geopark, 14 - 15 August 2018
www.suoseura.fi/2018/05/21/kesaretki-2018

IPS Global Peatland and Peat Industry Summit
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 10 September 2018
www.ips50summit.nl

50th IPS Anniversary Jubilee Symposium
“Peatlands: past, present and future”
Rotterdam, Netherlands, 11 - 13 September 2018
www.ipsjubileesymposium.nl

European Wood Pastures: past, present, & future
Sheffield, UK, 5 - 7 September 2018
www.ukeconet.org/events.html

Baltic Peat Producers Forum 2018
Tartu, Estonia
10 - 12 October 2018
<https://balticpeatproducersforum.eu>

Editor Meeting of Mires and Peat
Leeds, UK, 11 - 12 October
More info: jack.rialey@btinternet.com

Irish & UK Peatland Societies
Annual Meeting and Study Tour
Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, 16 - 17 October 2018
More info: tony.mckenna@bnm.ie

German Peat and Humus Day
Bad Zwischenahn, Germany, 18 October 2018
www.ivg.org

Finnish Peatland Society, Luke & SNS-120 Project:
Soil greenhouse gas balance in drained organic
forest soils seminar
Helsinki, Finland, 31 October 2018
www.lyyti.fi/reg/31_10_SNS_120_final_seminar

For all related events attended by IPS members, please visit
www.peatlands.org/past-event.

Cooperation

The IPS cooperates internationally with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, FAO, UNFCCC, CBD, the Global Peatlands Initiative (GPI), the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG) and the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), as well as Energy Peat Europe (EPE), Growing Media Europe (GME) and the Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association (CSPMA).

Finances and Funding

The IPS is fully funded by membership fees, amounting to €145,000 in total. In addition, IPS still benefits from the Commission payments of the International Peat Congress in Kuching and the Annual Convention in Aberdeen (2017), which will be used in the period 2018-2020.

The Income Statement of the IPS shows a deficit of €22,200 for the 2018 financial year. This is according to budget, due to using the surplus of €81,000 of 2017 gradually to fulfil the IPS Strategy.

Bad debts amounting to €1,200 (unpaid invoices) had to be removed from the Income Statement. Receivables, mainly membership fees, amounted to €41,000 at the end of the year.

The IPS continues searching for additional core and project funding from outside sources. This has been successful

already in securing funding for a full-time Secretary General for 2019-2021. The total income of the IPS was €159,400, with expenditure amounting to €181,600. The depreciation in the value of equipment amounted to €600 (25%). Assets and liabilities were €228,800 on 31 December. More details can be found in the financial appendices on the IPS website.

The accounts and financial statements of the IPS were audited by Authorized Public Accountant Jenni Kovanen, of Inkeröinen & Himanen Oy.

Administration

Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of National Representatives was held on 13 September 2018 in Rotterdam, attended by representatives of 14 National Committees (Canada, China, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK and the USA) and many observers.

The Assembly confirmed the Annual Report of 2017, the Plan of Activities, Budget and Membership Fees for 2018 and the interim budget and membership fees for 2019. The Assembly also elected a new Executive Board and the Auditors for the IPS for 2018; and chose China to host the 2024 International Peatland Congress.

An Extraordinary Assembly to elect a new auditor (Jenni Kovanen) was held by email on 28 January - 2 February 2019, as the previously elected auditor (Arto Saarinen) became unqualified, due to a company merger.

National Committees

At the end of the year, IPS was represented locally by the following National Committee Chairs and Secretaries, in 16 countries:

Canada

Dr Jean-Yves Daigle,
jydaigle@nb.sympatico.ca
Paul Short,
cspma@peatmoss.com

China

Prof. Wang Shengzong,
szwang@nenu.edu.cn
Prof. Meng Xianmin,
mengxm3711@163.com

Estonia

Erki Niitlaan, erki@turbaliit.ee
Margit Pulk (2018)

Finland

Dr Tapio Lindholm (2018)
Dr Jaana Salomäki,
suoseura49@gmail.com





Suoseura, the Finnish National Committee of the IPS, celebrated World Wetlands Day on 2 February 2018 with a multi-session seminar. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Germany

Dr Andreas Bauerochse, bauerochse@dgmtev.de
Jörn Kasch, kasch@dgmtev.de
Arne B. Hückstädt, hueckstaedt@ivg.org (industry)

Indonesia

Prof. Supiandi Sabiham, supiandi@yahoo.com
Prof. Fahmuddin Agus, fahmuddin_agus@yahoo.com
Prof. Budi Intra Setiawan, budindra@ipb.ac.id

Ireland

Dr Catherine O'Connell, bogs@ipcc.ie
Pat Fitzgerald, pat.fitzgerald@bnm.ie

Japan

Prof. Mitsuru Osaki, mosaki@chem.agr.hokudai.ac.jp

Latvia

Ingrida Krigere, ingrida@peat.lv

Lithuania

Giedrius Kavaliauskas,
giedrius.kavaliauskas@klasmann-deilmann.com
Giedrius Giparas, giedrius.giparas@peat.lt
Ugne Radziunaite-Sutjeviene, ugne.radziunaite@lpk.lt

Malaysia

Dr Lulie Melling, luliemelling@gmail.com
Frederick Haili Teck, fhteck@gmail.com
Sharon Yu Ling Lau, lauyuling@gmail.com (treasurer)

The Netherlands

Drs Guus van Berckel, vanberckel@griendtsveen.de
Dr Anne Jelle Schilstra (2018),
secretaris@veengenootschap.nl

Poland

Prof. Dr Lech Wojciech Szajdak, szajlech@man.poznan.pl
Dr Katarzyna Styla, styla.katarzyna@gmail.com

Sweden

Torbjörn Claesson, torbjorn.claesson@svensktorv.se
Ingrid Kyllerstedt, ingrid.kyllerstedt@svensktorv.se
Dr Sabine Jordan, sabine.jordan@slu.se

United Kingdom

Prof. Susan E. Page, sep5@le.ac.uk (acting chair)
Prof. Jack Rieley, jack.rieley@btinternet.com

USA

Donald N. Grubich, dngrubich@gmail.com
Dr Thomas J. Malterer, tmalter2@d.umn.edu

National Committee and Commission reports will be published, and full contact details are available at www.peatlands.org/about-us/national-committees.

Executive Board

A new Executive Board was elected on 13 September in Rotterdam, which includes, for the first time, three women. Of these, two are Asian representatives.

Six EB members have an industrial background, while five come from the science community. The members of the EB at the end of 2018 and their terms of office were/are as follows:

President
Gerald Schmilewski, Germany
2016-2020

1st Vice President
Guus van Berckel, the Netherlands
2016-2020

2nd Vice President
Samu Valpola, Finland
2016-2020

Ordinary Members:

Donal Clarke, Ireland	2016-2020
Paul Short, Canada	2016-2020
Erki Niitlaan, Estonia	2018-2020
Zhengping Wang, China	2018-2020
Sabine Jordan, Sweden	2018-2022
Jack Rieley, United Kingdom	2018-2022
Lulie Melling, Malaysia	2018-2022
Frank Tamminga, Germany	2018-2022

Professor emeritus Juhani Päivänen, Honorary President of the IPS, also has the right to attend all EB meetings.

The main administrative meetings of the IPS EB in 2018 were held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 16 - 17 April; Geeste, Germany on 29 - 31 August; Rotterdam, Netherlands, on 9 and 13 September; and Tallinn, Estonia on 2 - 5 December. Additional EB meetings were held by telephone on 16 January, 21 February, 6 June and 24 October.

The decisions of these meetings were disseminated through Peatland Snippets and Peatlands International and by email to the National Committees and Commissions.

Scientific Advisory Board

The SAB held its first expert's kick-off meeting in Amsterdam on 6 - 7 February 2018, attended by 21 Commission chairs, vice chairs and expert group coordinators. The meeting was very productive. A second meeting is planned for February 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia.

The SAB provides the IPS with advice and information on matters of scientific, technical and cultural importance, drawing upon the pool of knowledge available from the Commissions and elsewhere, along with promoting and disseminating research results. It normally meets twice a year in conjunction with other IPS meetings. As in previous years, the IPS has provided funding for travel of up to €500 per member. The amount was increased to €12,000 in total in 2018, to make the first expert meeting possible.

Members of the SAB at the end of 2018 were as follows.

Chair:
Samu Valpola, Finland, 2nd Vice President

Members (Commission Chairs):
Ingrida Krigere, Peatlands and Economy, Latvia
Bernd Hofer, Peatlands and Environment, Germany
Marie Kofod-Hansen, Peatlands and Society, Sweden

Secretary:
Susann Warnecke, IPS Secretariat



The IPS Executive Board 2018-2020 at their meeting in Estonia in December. Left to right: Frank Tamminga, Gilbert Ludwig (Secretary General), Jack Rieley, Donal Clarke, Guus van Berckel, Lulie Melling, Sabine Jordan, Erki Niitlaan, Samu Valpola and Gerald Schmilewski, missing: Zhengping Wang. Photo: Susann Warnecke

Secretariat and Staff

The IPS Secretariat is situated at the StartUp Leipomo Centre for Young Enterprises at Nisulankatu 78 B, 40720 Jyväskylä, Finland; mobile: +358 40 418 4075; email: ips@peatlands.org or firstname.lastname@peatlands.org.

President Gerald Schmilewski and Second Vice President Samu Valpola continued to share the tasks of the Secretary General, with Mr. Schmilewski receiving a salary from IPS since his retirement from work in June 2018. Three business meetings were held in Jyväskylä and Helsinki, to increase networking and to hold recruiting interviews.

In the autumn, a full-time Secretary General, Dr Gilbert Ludwig, was recruited, with funding provided by a dozen IPS corporate members and other companies. Dr Ludwig started work on 1 January 2019.

The IPS Communications Manager, Susann Warnecke, took care of the administration, communications, event management and finance of the IPS, supported by the accounting office TietoAkseli, the Auditor and IT, as well as other service providers.

Honours

Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals

In 2018, the IPS sponsored the “Allan Robertson Grants for Research Students and Young Professionals” (€500) with a budget of €4,000.

Funding was made available from the IPS, with generous contributions from IPS members and the National Committees of UK and Estonia. The winners were:

- Danielle Rupp, Michigan Technological University, USDA (Forest Service) Northern Research Station: Elucidating carbon cycle pathways in a boreal rich fen using a pulse-chase experiment
- Elisa Männistö, University of Eastern Finland: Travel and participation fee for EGU General Assembly 2018
- Henk Pieter Sterk, Environmental Research Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands, UK: PAR sensors funding for upscaling peatland condition research in Scotland
- Hui Zhang, University of Helsinki: To attend 5th European Conference on Permafrost
- Jasmijn E. Sybenga, University of the Highlands and Islands: Seeing the Wood for the Trees: A palaeoecological approach into the research of past natural woodland in the Scottish Highlands
- Jerome Blewett, University of Bristol: Biomarkers and genomics to constrain biogeochemistry in modern/ancient peatlands

In 2018, regular meetings of the Acting Secretary Generals and the Communications Manager were held at the IPS Secretariat in Jyväskylä.
Photo: Salla Aarnio



- Kirsten Lees, University of Reading: Measuring carbon sequestration in peatlands using remote sensing
- Martha Ledger, University of Nottingham: Determining regional-scale carbon losses from tropical peatlands using InSAR.

The deadline for the 2019 Allan Robertson Grants is 31 January. Funds of approximately €1,100 have been obtained through the Malaysian National Committee in Rotterdam, which is much appreciated. Reports will be published in Peatlands International.

Honorary Members

At the end of the year, the IPS had 22 honorary members. Honorary membership is conferred by the EB on persons nominated mostly by National Committees, who have made outstanding contributions to the IPS and to international cooperation on peatlands and peat.

Current honorary members are as follows.

Belarus:	Ivan I. Lishtvan
Canada:	Jean-Yves Daigle, Gerry Hood
Finland:	Matti Hilli, Markku Mäkelä, Yrjö Pessi, Juhani Päivänen, Jaakko Silpola, Raimo Sopo
Germany:	Hartmut Falkenberg
Hungary:	F. Baranyai
Ireland:	Paddy Hughes
Latvia:	Ansis Snore
Poland:	Piotr Ilnicki
Russia:	A.K. Dergunov, B.N. Sokolov
United Kingdom:	David Bellamy, Richard Clymo, Neil Godsmen
USA:	Don N. Grubich, Tom Malterer, Nick van de Griendt

Sadly, Patrick McEvilly passed away in early 2018. In Tallinn in December, the Executive Board appointed Nick van de Griendt as a new honorary member, following the nomination of the US National Committee.

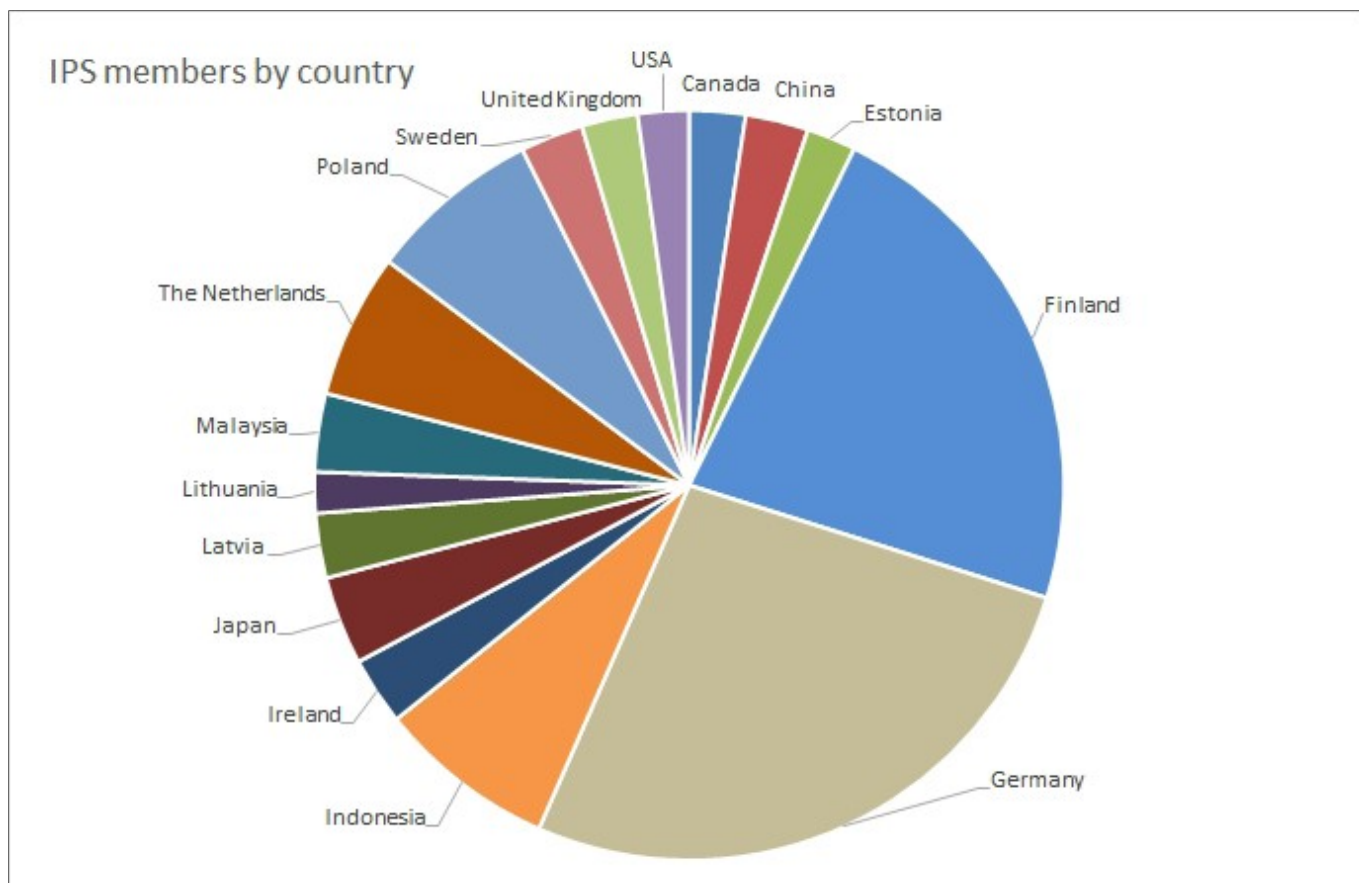
Membership Statistics

	Individual members	Corporate Members	Research Institutes, Universities	Government al Institutes	Honorary Members	Students	TOTAL
Germany	247	57	5	6	12	37	364
Finland	285	2	1	1	10	9	308
Indonesia	104	0	1	0	0	0	105
Poland	98	3	0	0	1	0	102
The Netherlands	60	15	2	1	2	5	85
Japan	48	2	0	0	0	2	52
Malaysia	41	5	0	0	0	0	46
Ireland	32	5	0	1	1	1	40
Latvia	8	23	0	0	7	0	38
China	37	0	0	0	0	0	37
Sweden	12	23	1	0	0	1	37
Canada	6	24	0	0	2	1	33
United Kingdom	20	4	1	1	3	4	33
USA	21	3	0	1	3	2	30
Estonia	0	28	0	1	0	0	29
Lithuania	2	22	0	0	0	0	24
31 December 2018	1021	216	11	12	41	62	1363
31 December 2017	1048	218	12	11	39	59	1387
31 December 2016	1067	230	13	11	38	59	1441
31 December 2015	1070	230	13	11	38	51	1413

	Individual Members	Corporate Members	Students	Honorary Members	Research Institutes, Universities	TOTAL
Hungary	5	0	0	1	0	6
Italy	4	0	0	0	0	4
Norway	1	2	0	0	1	4
Spain	3	1	0	0	0	4
Australia	1	0	2	0	0	3
Denmark	2	1	0	0	0	3
France	0	3	0	0	0	3
Russia	1	0	0	2	0	3
Belgium	1	1	0	0	0	2
Chile	1	0	1	0	0	2
Singapore	1	0	1	0	0	2
Bangladesh	0	0	1	0	0	1
Belarus	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1	0	0	0	1
New Zealand	1	0	0	0	0	1
Peru	0	0	1	0	0	1
Romania	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Turkey	0	1	0	0	0	1
31 December 2018	23	10	6	4	1	44
31 December 2017	23	12	9	4	2	50
31 December 2016	24	18	6	4	2	54
31 December 2015	19	14	2	5	2	42

	December 2017	December 2017	December 2016	December 2015	December 2014	December 2013	December 2012	Balance
NC members	1363	1387	1441	1413	1412	1454	1354	-24
Non-NC members	44	50	54	42	50	57	58	-6
	1407	1437	1495	1455	1462	1511	1412	-30

The National Committees of Belarus, Ukraine, CZ, and Russia are suspended until membership fees are paid.



This Annual Report will be presented to the Annual Assembly in Bremen on 13 May and published on the IPS website at www.peatlands.org together with the official Financial Statement and Auditors Report.



Mires and Peat - the Scientific Journal of IPS and IMCG.
www.mires-and-peat.net

International Peatland Society

Business ID: 1074181-4

Financial statement in accordance with the Accounting Ordinance for
small- and micro-sized enterprises
ajalta 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2018

This financial statement is to be stored until 31.12.2028

Financial statement 01.01.2018 - 31.12.2018

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The financial statement and accounting journals are to be stored for 10 years after the financial year.

Financial year's bookkeeping material is required to be stored for 6 years, beginning from the end of the year the financial year has ended.

This financial statement has been prepared by:
TietoAkseli Oy, authorized accounting firm
Puistokatu 2 C
40100 Jyväskylä
Finland

Contact information for International Peatland Society

Address: Nisulankatu 78, 40720 Jyväskylä

Business ID: 1074181-4

Domicile: Jyväskylä

1074181-4

Balance sheet

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
ASSETS		
NON-CURRENT-ASSETS		
Tangible assets		
Machinery and equipment	1 204,82	1 807,22
Tangible assets in total	1 204,82	1 807,22
NON-CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	1 204,82	1 807,22
CURRENT ASSETS		
Receivables		
Short term		
Trade debtors	38 651,00	27 275,15
Other receivables	1 413,37	399,47
Prepayments and accrued income	895,64	6 935,33
Short-term receivables in total	40 960,01	34 609,95
Total receivables	40 960,01	34 609,95
Cash in hand and at banks	186 632,24	211 001,27
CURRENT ASSETS TOTAL	227 592,25	245 611,22
ASSETS IN TOTAL	228 797,07	247 418,44

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	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
LIABILITIES		
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Retained earnings	230 119,26	148 956,11
Surplus (-deficits) for the financial year	-22 176,08	81 163,15
CAPITAL AND RESERVES TOTAL	207 943,18	230 119,26
CREDITORS		
Short term		
Accounts Payables	5 493,40	7 930,02
Other creditors	902,39	929,62
Accruals and deferred income	14 458,10	8 439,54
Short term creditors total	20 853,89	17 299,18
Creditors in total	20 853,89	17 299,18
LIABILITIES IN TOTAL	228 797,07	247 418,44

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Income statement

	01.01.2018-31.12.2018	01.01.2017-31.12.2017
ACTUAL OPERATION		
PUBLISHING		
Income	7 350,06	7 519,00
Expenses	-8 151,16	-6493,96
PUBLISHING TOTAL	-801,10	1 025,04
CONFERENCES		
Income	4 150,00	43 880,76
Expenses	0,00	0,00
CONFERENCES TOTAL	4 150,00	43 880,76
PROJECTS		
Income	0,00	0,00
Expenses	-14 642,00	-11 257,80
PROJECTS TOTAL	-14 642,00	-11 257,80
OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION		
Income		
Income	3 000,00	3 250,00
Expenses		
Wages and salaries	-70 806,64	-49 261,08
Pensions	-9 464,98	-8 665,53
Other insurances required by law	-1 090,31	-1134,30
Depreciations	-602,40	-602,41
Other expenses	-75 620,88	-39 135,78
OTHER ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL	-154 585,21	-95549,10
ACTUAL OPERATION TOTAL	-165 878,31	-61901,10
SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT	-165 878,31	-61901,10
MEMBERSHIP FEES		
Income	144 823,00	145 869,15
Expenses	-1 155,15	-2 820,50
MEMBERSHIP FEES TOTAL	143 667,85	143 048,65
SURPLUS-/TRADING DEFICIT	-22 210,46	81 147,55
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY		
Income	35,13	16,93
Expenses	-0,75	-1,33
INVESTMENT AND FINANCING ACTIVITY	34,38	15,60
SURPLUS-/OPERATING DEFICIT	-22 176,08	81 163,15
SURPLUS (-DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR	-22 176,08	81 163,15

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Notes on the financial statements

Notes on the preparation of the financial statements

The financial statement has been prepared by using the valuation and sequencing presumption of principles and procedures in accordance with the Accounting Ordinance for small and micro-sized enterprises.

Notes on employees and members of governing bodies

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
Average number of employees per annum	1,6	1

Notes on capital and reserves

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
Retained surplus	230 119,26	148 956,11
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	-22 176,08	81 163,15
Capital and reserves	207 943,18	230 119,26

Total income

	31.12.2018	31.12.2017
Total income	159 358,19	200 535,82
Total expenditure	-180 931,87	-118 770,28
Depreciation	-602,40	-602,41
Surplus (-deficit) for the financial year	-22 176,08	81 163,13

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List of accounting records and materials

Accounting records and materials and method of preserving

Financial statement

Financial statement	Separately bound
Balance sheet specifications	Separately bound

Chart of accounts and balance list

Account-specific income statement	Digital archive
Account-specific balance sheet	Digital archive
Account-specific balance sheet	Digital archive

Accounting records

Accounting journal	Digital archive
General ledger	Digital archive
Accounts receivable	Digital archive
Accounts payable	Digital archive
Payroll accounting	Digital archive
Salary/wage ledger	Digital archive

Receipts

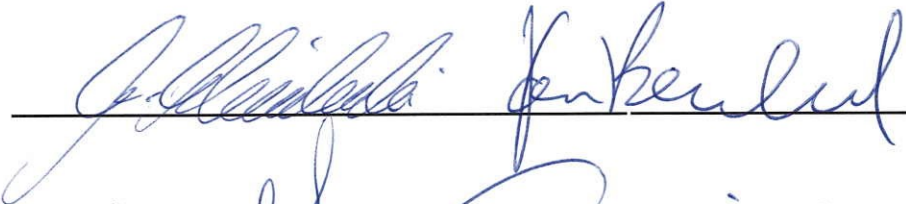
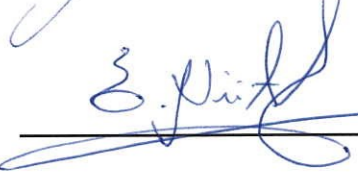

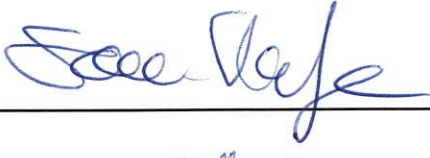


Bank statements	Digital archive
Sales invoices	Digital archive
Purchase invoices	Digital archive
Salary statements and reports	Digital archive
Memo vouchers	Digital archive
Kausiveroilmoitukset	Digital archive
Note vouchers	Digital archive

All material is digitally archived. Backup files are archived on CD-ROM.

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Date and signatures

Brussels 20. March 2019

Auditor's note

Auditor report has been issued today.

Jyväskylä 28. March 2019



Tilintarkastus Inkeröinen & Himanen Oy

Auditor Mrs. Jenni Kovanen , authorized public accountant

AUDITOR'S REPORT (Translation of the Finnish original)

To the Annual General Meeting of International Peatland Society

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of International Peatland Society (business identity code 1074181-4) for the year ended 31 December 2018. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet, income statement and notes.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the society's financial performance and financial position in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with good auditing practice in Finland. My responsibilities under good auditing practice are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable in Finland and are relevant to my audit, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors (Executive Board)

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the preparation of financial statements in Finland and comply with statutory requirements. The Board of Directors is also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to liquidate the society or cease operations, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with good auditing practice will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with good auditing practice, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the society's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events so that the financial statements give a true and fair view.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Other reporting requirements

Other information

The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the report of the Board of Directors. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. My responsibility also includes considering whether the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

In my opinion, the information in the report of the Board of Directors is consistent with the information in the financial statements and the report of the Board of Directors has been prepared in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of the report of the Board of Directors, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Jyväskylä, 28th March 2019


Jenni Kovanen
APA

Midsummer 2020 in Estonia?

Be there.

16th International Peatland Congress

*Peatlands and Peat - Source of
Ecosystem Services*

Tallinn, Estonia

14 - 20 June 2020

www.ipc2020.com