
Peatlands in the news

• The melting of the west Siberian peatlands - which cover an area the size of France and Germany combined - could unleash billions of tonnes of methane
  (New Scientist, Dec. 2005)

• 3% of the earth’s land and freshwater surface
• but 1/3 of the world’s soils’ carbon is stored in boreal and temperate peatland

Peatlands in the news

• Bog bodies: source of historical knowledge
  Old Croghan Man
  2300 years old

What do peatlands mean for different people?

• One of the most ancient, near-natural and important ecosystems on the planet
• A carbon store
• A tool to understand our past
• A unique landscape
• A reservoir of biodiversity
• A source of energy
Peat utilisation …

… a burning issue

Threats

- Grassland
- Sheep Grazing
- Afforestation
- Wind farms
- Landfills
- Erosion / slippage
- Development
- Climate change


Peatlands perform important functions which underpin the rationale for their sound management

Apply the principles of sustainability and wise use

BOGLAND: A Protocol for Sustainable Peatland Management

- Develop guidelines for the future management of peatlands in Ireland with the aim of sustaining the environmental and ecological goods and services they provide, as well as the human communities that use them

Approach

- Review current information on physical, environmental, social and institutional aspects of peatland utilisation and management
- Address some of the gaps by carrying out research on different types of peatlands

**22 ‘Work-Packages’**

- Biodiversity
- Characterisation of the physical peatland resource

**Characterisation of the physical peatland resource**

- 3-D map of peatlands in Ireland: volume, classification and land use
- Characteristics: carbon content, gas fluxes
- Hydrology: ecological regeneration
- Effect of extraction, sheep grazing and forestry
- Stability of peatlands where anthropogenic influences occur

**Social, cultural, economic, policy**

- Contribution of peatlands in social, political and economic terms at local and national level

**Leading Group**

- Prof. Jim Curry (Project Co-ordinator)
- Florence Renou (Project Manager)
- Prof. Tom Bolger (Sub-project 2)
- Prof. Shane Ward (Sub-project 3)
- Prof. Frank Convery (Sub-project 4)

Partners

- UCD – School of Biology and Environmental Sciences
  - School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine
  - School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy
  - School of Architecture, Landscape and Civil Engineering
- Trinity College – Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering
- NUI Galway – Department of Engineering Hydrology
- University of Limerick – Centre for Environmental Research
- Teagasc – Athenry and Johnstown Castle
- Bord na Móna
- National Parks and Wildlife Service

Team

World Wetlands Day:
2 February 2006

- Celebrating 35 years of the Ramsar convention to protect wetlands and promote the wise and sustainable use of their valuable resources
- 19 Ramsar sites in Ireland
- Go and visit a peatland!
- www.ipcc.ie

Thank you!

www.ucd.ie/bogland