

The underlying text will form the basis of the congress web site.
Comments in italics refer to specific questions to the scientific committee

Carbon in peatlands: state of the art and future research

Wageningen, the Netherlands, 15-18 April 2007

The organizers invite you to participate in this first symposium centred on carbon in peatlands. The meeting is organized in cooperation with PEATNET ([link 1](#)), which is an international interdisciplinary collaborative effort that focuses on the question of how structure and function of peatland ecosystems respond to climate change as well as human and environmental disturbances over past, present and future time scales.

The symposium aims to bring together leading scientists of different disciplinary fields to summarise the state-of-the-art in recent research related to carbon cycling in peatlands, to define directions of future research and to facilitate transfer of knowledge between disciplines.

The 3-day scientific programme will cover a wide range of topics covering contributions on bio-geochemistry, microbiology, paleo-ecology, soil ecology, plant ecology, ecosystem ecology and hydrology. Our aim is to publish contributions to the symposium in a special issue of a peer-reviewed journal (*We are thinking about the following possibilities Global Change Biology, Canadian Journal of Botany, Wetlands*).

Programme

The meeting will have an informal character and will be centred around 6 half-day sessions, each devoted to a different theme. The sessions will combine introductory lectures by keynote speakers with more specialized oral and poster presentations. Ample time will be reserved for discussion.

Keynote speakers (*one speaker within each theme, names are tentative*)

Introductory lecture and welcome: *Juul Limpens (NL)*

Biogeochemistry
Christian Blodau (D)

Microbial ecology
Chris Freeman (UK) or Linda Graham (USA)

Paleo-ecology
Bas van Geel (NL)

Plant Ecology
Håkan Rydin (S)

Ecosystem ecology
Nigel Roulet (CDN)

Ecohydrology
Joseph Holden (UK)

Concluding lecture
Pep Canadell (AUS)

Preliminary programme

Saturday	Evening	Welcome at the bar
Sunday	Morning	Introductionary lecture: peatland carbon in a global perspective
	Afternoon	Bio(geochemistry) Microbial ecology
	Evening	Congress diner (not included in fee)
Monday	Morning	Paleo-ecology
	Afternoon	Plant ecology
Tuesday	Morning	Ecosystem & Landscape ecology
	Afternoon	Ecohydrology
		Concluding lecture: peatland carbon and funding
Wednesday	Whole day	Excursion to the Keukenhof (not included in fee)

Important dates

1 June 2006	Announcement and call for abstracts
1 December 2006	Submission of abstracts
1 January 2007	Announcement of the final programme and call for final registration
1 April 2007	Final registration for participants without oral or poster presentation
15-18 April 2007	Symposium, arrival on Saturday April 14.

Final registration for participants without oral or poster contributions is possible until **1 April 2007** provided that the maximum number of participants (90) has not yet been reached. We will act on first come, first served basis.

Scientific committee (tentative)

Local organisers

Juul Limpens, Gabriela Schaepman, Frank Berendse (NL)

External advisors

Harri Vasander (FIN), Line Rochefort (CDN), Meng Xianmin (CN), Hidenori Takahashi (JAP), Oleg Anisimov (RUS)
David Mc Guire (USA), Ted Farell (IR), Luca Bragazza (IT), Elena Lapshina (RUS), Jos Verhoeven (NL), Leon Lamers (NL), Terry Chapin (USA).

Peatnet

Dale Vitt, Jill Bubier, Merritt Turetsky, Melanie Vile, Kelman Wieder (CND), Jennifer Harden (USA)

Venue

The symposium will be held at the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC) ([link2](#)), Wageningen, the Netherlands.

Call for abstracts

Those wishing to contribute to the scientific programme with an oral presentation (20 minutes) or poster are invited to submit an abstract (max. 300 words) through our web-site before 1 December 2006. All contributions within the themes are welcome and may cover research and modelling exercises within topics such as soil organic matter chemistry, microbial breakdown, C flux dynamics, production, plant competition, environmental pollution, peat formation and remote sensing.

Those wishing to contribute to the special issue will be invited to submit a draft version of a paper ready for peer review at the start of the conference

The scientific committee will decide which contribution will be selected for an oral presentation based on the abstracts received. A portfolio with accepted abstracts and summaries of the presentations by the keynote speakers will be made available at the start of the conference, free of charge to all participants.

Excursion

On Wednesday April 18, a one-day excursion will be organised, with the colourful Keukenhof ([link3](#)) as the highlight of the day. Participation is optional, but we would appreciate your preliminary registration before December 2006.

Congress fee

The congress fee will be 60 euros ([link4](#)) per day of attendance, including coffee and lunch but excluding congress diner and excursion.

Overview of links

Link1: <http://www.peatnet.siu.edu/justification.html>

Link2: http://www.wicc-wir.nl/site.php?language_id=2

Link3: <http://www.keukenhof.nl/>

Link4: <http://www.gcitrading.com/converter.htm>

Accommodation

http://www.wicc-wir.nl/site.php?language_id=2

<http://www.hotel-traveling.com/hotels/en/10976/hotel-de-wereld.html>

<http://www.wageningseberg.com/default.aspx?Language=EN>

<http://www.stayok.com/doorwerth>

Travel and Tourism

Train service

<http://www.ns.nl/servlet/Satellite?cid=1075985690180&pagename=www.ns.nl%2FPage%2FSuperHomepageEnglish&language=en&c=Page>

The Netherlands

<http://www.holland.com/global/>

Tourist attractions in the neighborhood of Wageningen

<http://www.hogeveluwe.nl/default.asp?language=2>

<http://www.openluchtmuseum.nl/english>