



**From source back to sink: Peatland restoration & SDG goals**

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Peatland restoration is definitively among one of the best nature-based solutions to mitigate climate global warming and to engage IPS members in participating to the protection of nature globally. For the past 30 years, IPS members have been 1) supporting R&D in peatland restoration, 2) engaging in trials and errors to better manage environmentally degraded peat extraction sites, or 3) holding workshops on seeking solution to the after-use of peatlands. All these actions have made it possible to assist the recovery of Sphagnum peatlands that had been degraded or damaged. Science-based evidences of successful recovery will be presented : such as biodiversity recovery for flora, insects or microbial populations, good control of invasive plants, resilience of a restored peatland to fire post-restoration (a first demonstration in the science of ecosystem restoration) and the last but not least, the fantastic return of the most emblematic ecological function of peatland ecosystem : that is the recovery peat accumulating function in less than 15 years.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) launched this year the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). IPS is in a very good position to respond to the call. We know how to restore and rewet cutover bogs successfully on ecological attributes ; only good will actions are needed for field implementation in our respective country. Fen and swamp restoration post-peat extraction still require knowledge development and consequently we should continue to invest in R&D for those types of peatlands. The IPS Society should embrace the compilation (inventory) of acreage of peatland ecosystems restored by its members and communicate better its contribution towards achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through ecosystem restoration.