



**INTERNATIONAL MIRE
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Wind Farms on Peatland

A Symposium

**Santiago de Compostela
Galicia, Spain**
27-30 April 2008

Photo: Xebier Pontevedra





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Background

Block I of IMCG's 2007–2010 Action Plan focuses on the implications for peatlands of energy-related issues. These include the utilisation of oil and gas reserves, fuel peat policy, and the development of renewable energy resources for climate change mitigation (e.g. wind, hydropower, energy crops, biomass). This symposium will be the first activity within the theme, and it will focus on the intersection of European policy for wind farm development with peatland interests. In line with the UNFCCC/Kyoto agenda, it looks as though the European Union will require its members collectively to derive 20% of energy requirements from renewable sources by 2020. Onshore wind power generation is currently regarded as the most viable technology, and already wind farms seem to be appearing everywhere. In oceanic countries, many of the preferred sites are on peatland. It has even been suggested that wind farms compete with peatland for gently sloping upland locations, where the wind resource is most favourable. The environmental impact studies that are carried out for these wind farm proposals usually predict rather small effects on the peatland habitat. Nevertheless, the engineering work (peat removal, drainage, road construction, blasting) required to install a wind farm resembles operations that have in the past been associated with the degradation of peatlands, reduction of their biodiversity and loss of their ability to deliver other goods and services. On the other hand, some of the peatlands targeted are substantially degraded, and opportunities for their restoration are flagged as potential secondary benefits from wind farm development. This symposium will provide a forum for scientists, policy-makers and practitioners dealing with these matters to exchange insights and experience; and to begin working towards a common understanding of the issues, the formulation of principles for 'wise/best practice' and the identification of research needs and priorities.

Topics

Session 1. Peatland wind farms: how much, how many?

- The drivers: policy and economics
- Present and projected extent of wind farm development on peatland

Session 2. Effects on peatland structure and function

- Effects of turbine bases, borrow pits and miscellaneous infrastructure
- Road construction methods, effects of roads
- Hydrological effects
- Peat stability and erosion
- Secondary effects (Collateral and induced activities?)
- Carbon issues

Session 3. Effects on biodiversity, landscape, heritage and people,

- Biodiversity issues
- Effects on landscape
- Archaeological considerations
- Social aspects

Session 4. From EIA/ES to peatland wise use

- What is special about peatlands in this context?
- EIA/ES requirements for peatland wind farms
- How should industrial development on peatland be monitored?
- What can we learn from mistakes?
- How do the principles of peatland wise use apply?
- Case studies demonstrating positive and negative outcomes for peatlands
- What are the 'win-win' scenarios?

We await your further suggestions!

Call for papers and posters

The deadline for submission of abstracts for oral presentations and posters is Thursday 20 December 2007. These should be sent electronically to the Organizing Committee (edccone@usc.es). Please provide title and summary (guideline 500 words) as a MS Word document in 11 pt. type; you may include Figures and Tables but your whole submission must fit on one A4 page with 2.5 cm margins all round. The Committee reserves the right to select oral presentations from the titles submitted; see the Symposium web site for more details. It is the intention that full versions of all presentations will be made available to participants for use during the Symposium, and subsequently considered for publication in the peer-reviewed journal *Mires and Peat*. Therefore, full versions of all oral and poster contributions should be prepared in journal format before the Symposium (deadline 29 February). There will be an opportunity for authors to amend their manuscripts in the light of the experiences of the Symposium before the peer review process begins. For further information about the journal and instructions for authors see www.mires-and-peat.net

Participation fees

Category	Early registration Available until 15 February	Standard registration after 15 February	On-site registration
<i>IMCG Member</i>	€ 350	€ 400	€ 430
<i>Non Member</i>	€ 400	€ 450	€ 480
<i>Student*</i>	€ 250	€ 300	€ 330
<i>Accompanying person</i>	€ 200	€ 220	€ 230

*Student status must be confirmed by a letter from the academic supervisor

Symposium venue

Scientific Sessions will take place at the **Instituto de Cerámica** of the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), located at the south campus, close to the faculty of Biology

Registration

Registration on: <http://wfps.environmentalchange.net/>

Contact information for Organizers

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Accommodation and travel information

There is a wide range of accommodation options in the centre of Santiago. Delegates must choose and book their own accommodation (visit the web site for more information).

Santiago de Compostela International Airport, 12 km from the town centre, is served by several airlines including low-cost companies (e.g. Ryanair, Vueling, Easyjet, Air Berlin) and by connections to the main international airports at Madrid and Barcelona. Other nearby airports are at A Coruña (60 km) and Vigo (75 km), and Porto (Portugal) is within *ca.* 2.5 hours by car.

Preliminary Programme

Sunday 27 April

16:00-20:00 hrs – Registration
21:00 hrs – Reception and dinner

Monday 28 April

08:00 hrs – Full-day excursion to wind farms on blanket bogs in O Xistral and Buio mountains.

Tuesday 29 April

09:00 hrs – Opening session, scientific and poster sessions.

Wednesday 30 April

09:00 hrs – Scientific sessions, synthesis and conclusion,

21:00 hrs – Closing dinner

Post-symposium excursion

Thursday 01 May

08:00 hrs: departure from Santiago towards O Xistral, Cuadramón and Buio mountains; full-day excursion visiting mires, dinner and overnight stay at Lugo.

Friday 02 May

08:00 hrs: departure from Lugo towards Os Ancares mountains; full-day excursion visiting mires, returning to Santiago in the evening.

The post-symposium excursion can be booked using the registration form at € 150 per person. The price includes travel, meals (lunches Thursday 01 and Friday 02 May, dinner Thursday 01 May, breakfast Friday 02 May) and overnight accommodation in Lugo.

Keynote Speakers

Several key note speakers are being contacted to open each session

Additional Information

The official language of the symposium will be English. All abstracts and presentations must be submitted in English.

The registration fee for delegates includes the field excursion (Monday 28 April), admission to sessions, symposium documentation, receptions and all meals (except breakfast) from dinner on Sunday 27 April up to and including the symposium dinner on 30 April, and refreshments (coffee/tea) on Congress days. Please note that places on the field excursion cannot be guaranteed for registrations received after 15 March.

Registration fee for accompanying persons includes the field excursion (Monday April 28), receptions and all meals (except breakfast) from dinner on Sunday 27 April up to and including dinner on Wednesday 30 April (Symposium dinner), plus a programme of guided visits to Santiago de Compostela and the University.

Organizing Committee

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