



IAVS Bulletin 14

Lyon (France), 19 June 2011

Editors: L. Mucina & N. Smits

The Organizing Committee of the 54th annual IAVS Symposium invites all members of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) and the whole community of plant ecologists to attend the **54th annual IAVS symposium in Lyon, France**. Host scientific institutions are the University of Lyon (Université Lyon 1) and the CNRS (National Centre for Scientific Research). The symposium will begin on Monday morning, the 20th of June 2011 and will conclude on Friday, the 24th of June. For more information, access to registration, and instructions for the submission of abstracts, visit the website (<http://iavs2011.univ-lyon1.fr/en/>).

All aspects of plant ecology are welcome and the special theme will be: **Vegetation in and around water: patterns, processes and threats**. This special theme is motivated by the particularly high vulnerability of vegetation communities in wetlands and aquatic ecosystems in the framework of global change. The Symposium will offer opportunities for networking and exchange of knowledge regarding all aspects of vegetation science through lectures, workshops and poster sessions. We hope this Symposium will promote and reinforce discussions and international collaborations about all aspects of vegetation science. Several key speakers have been invited, including PA Keddy (Canada), JP Grime (UK), JS Rodwell (UK), C Körner (Switzerland) and E Garnier (France).

This Symposium will also present the opportunity to enjoy the exceptional ecological heritage of the Rhône-Alpes Region. Several mid-symposium excursions to areas surrounding the City of Lyon will showcase the ecosystems of the region, which will include wetlands, peatlands, calcareous grasslands, lakes and mountainous-forested ecosystems. A visit to the City of Lyon and the botanical garden "Parc de la Tête d'Or" will also be organized for symposium participants.

Lyon reveals its architecture through its districts, several of which are included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites. The Lyon site encompasses the historic districts of the Vieux Lyon, the hill of Fourvière, Croix Rousse and the Presqu'île which represent 500 hectares of outstanding unspoilt beauty. Lyon was the former capital of the Gauls, which was founded in 43 BC. The city has preserved many archaeological relics. Today Vieux Lyon is the largest, most homogenous Renaissance site in France and the second in Europe after Venice in Italy. There are also typical courtyards and wells, shops, famous "traboules" and the magnificent Saint-Jean Cathedral. Nowadays, several hundred chefs maintain the reputation of Lyon for fine cuisine that was established centuries ago. The Lyon region contains the greatest number of "starred" Chefs. From Beaujolais and Burgundy in the north and Côtes du Rhône in the south, some of France's finest vineyards begin at the gates of Lyon. Lyon is easily reached from all countries by train (TGV from Paris and Roissy Charles de Gaulle), air (Saint-Exupéry Airport) and car.

Please, continue to check the symposium website for up-to-date information and join us from the 20th until the 24th of June 2011 in Lyon for this exciting event!

Au plaisir de vous accueillir dans la capitale des Gaules!



IAVS Management



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President



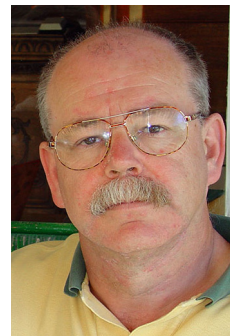
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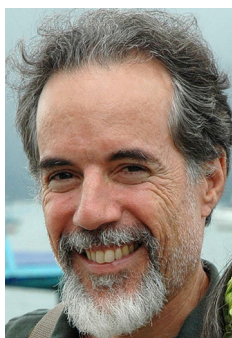
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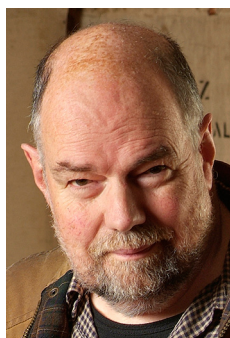
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Impressum

IAVS Bulletin is an occasional electronic newsletter of the International Association for Vegetation Science (www.iavs.org)

Editor: Ladislav Mucina (Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Australia), assisted by the members of the Executive Committee of the IAVS and N. Smits

Layout and production: Keith Phillips Images, P.O. Box 5683, Helderberg 7135, South Africa

Date of Publication: 19 June 2011

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President: R. Peet (Chapel Hill, USA).

Secretary-General and Treasurer: L. Mucina (Perth, Australia).

Vice-Presidents: M. Diekmann (Bremen, Germany, Publication Officer), J. Loidi (Bilbao, Spain), V.D. Pillar (Porto Alegre, Brazil), J.H.J. Schaminée (Wageningen & Nijmegen, The Netherlands), M. Zobel (Tartu, Estonia).

IAVS Administrative Officer: Nina Smits (Wageningen, The Netherlands); E-mail admin@iavs.org

Publications: IAVS publishes this Bulletin and two international journals: *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. Consult our website www.iavs.org for the information on subscription of the Journals.

Membership: To become a member of IAVS, contact Nina Smits at admin@iavs.org

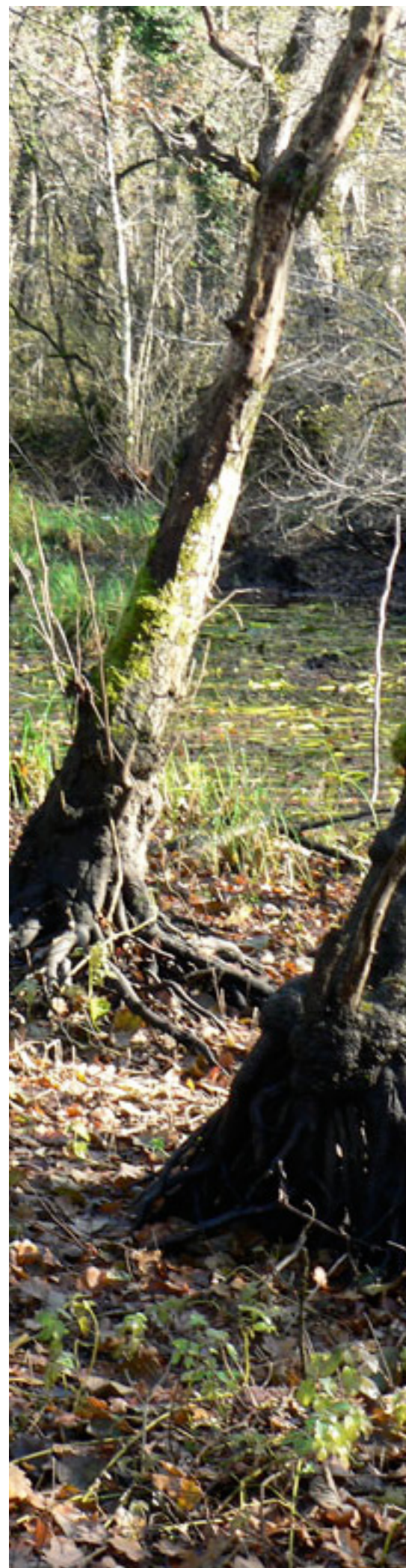
Membership fee: 20 € / 20 \$ US. Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, Renkum, The Netherlands.

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Message from the President

Introduction.

My term as President of IAVS concludes in June at our annual meeting in Lyon. It has been a pleasure to serve you over the past four years and to get to know many of you through direct interactions. My fellow members of the Executive Committee (Martin Diekmann, Javier Loidi, Laco Mucina, Valério Pillar, Joop Schaminée and Martin Zobel, together with our Administrator Nina Smits) have been a delight to work with, and all of them have contributed very generously of their time and intellect to make IAVS a better organization and to better serve your needs. The Members of Council have been consistently helpful, supportive and available. Our Chief Editors have shown extreme dedication and have indirectly provided the financial life blood for our organization, despite receiving no direct compensation for their service to the Association. And, there are many, many others who have helped us advance the Association and our science such that I cannot begin to name them all

At my first IAVS meeting in Nijmegen in 1979 (the Working Group for Data Processing), I was amazed that an organization could be so international, so forward-looking and so collaborative. This immediately made IAVS my favorite among the many professional organizations for ecologists, and it remains in that position to this day for the same reasons. My personal mission as President has been to make sure that we maintain and enhance those essential attributes that I perceived in Nijmegen so many years ago.

We live in a period of rapid change and it can be difficult for a modest-sized profession association to keep up with and take advantage of that change. When I was approached to stand for President in 2007, I was at first reluctant, but I saw that IAVS was starting to lag and that changes needed to be made if IAVS was to survive and prosper. Below I describe five areas in which I think we have made significant progress over the last 4 years and have built the foundation and infrastructure necessary for the Association to flourish. I then suggest five areas that deserve special attention over the next four years as we continue to develop and advance IAVS.

What we have done.

1. Publications and finance. Our publications, *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*, are clearly our most important assets. When we established these in the 1990s we worked with the small firm of Opulus Press, which was technologically on the cutting and a very wise choice for us. However, four years ago it was clear that rapid changes in scientific publication had placed small firms at a significant disadvantage, both in economies of scale and in marketing power. After a careful consideration of potential

publishers, we opted to move to Blackwell Publishers, which in turn quickly became part of John Wiley & sons. This move provided access to the newest technology, a stable company well buffered from chance events, much broader circulation through participation in large packages, and significantly greater income. Our profit under Opulus had been around 4000 € per year, whereas our 2010 profit under Wiley was 107,000 €. This substantial increase in income has allowed IAVS to do many things not previously possible, while at the same time the cash assets of the Association have climbed from 36,000 € in January 2007 to 160,000 € in January 2011.

2. Governance. As of 2007, the IAVS Council was totally inactive between annual meetings and the Executive Committee communicated rather little. Moreover, the Association was technically controlled by the General Assembly, the meeting of members that occurred annually with the symposium and which was at best highly inconsistent in who was able to attend and significantly skewed toward whichever country hosted the meeting. In 2007 our new Executive Committee set out to modernize our governance. The Executive Committee met regularly via digital tools such as Skype. The Council was consulted on important issues by email and held occasional digital meetings. Using these methods we held extensive discussions on the optimal form of governance and then drafted a new set of Statutes and Bylaws that would shift the ultimate power from the unpredictable annual meeting of the Assembly to the elected Council, which is much more representative of the Association membership and which could meet and deliberate by digital means. To facilitate and streamline future changes, we moved many minor details from the Statutes (which are difficult and expensive to change) to the Bylaws (which are easy to change).

3. Membership and mission. Many small and medium-sized professional associations have declined in membership over the last decade, in no small part because journals are now available in digital format through libraries. IAVS has been part of this group. The Executive Committee felt that if the organization was to prosper and retain its membership, it needed a clear sense of its mission and needed to articulate this to current and potential members. Committees were formed and we drafted and adopted a crisp, forward-looking vision statement (posted on our website) and a list of member benefits, both of which should help guide our activities over the next several years.

4. Committees and member participation. As of 2007, the only standing committee of the Association other than the Executive Committee was the Global Fund Committee, a committee largely becoming irrelevant with the onset of digital access to journals. The Executive Committee reviewed the need for standing committees and five such committees are now recognized in the new Bylaws. The Global Sponsorship

Committee, currently chaired by Martin Zobel, replaces the Global Fund Committee, but has a broader charge aimed at many forms of assistance for vegetation scientists facing financial challenges. An Awards Committee has been established and is currently chaired by Joop Schaminée. That committee has provided greater coordination for the young scientist awards given for papers at our annual meetings and has regularized the awards for senior scientists. While previously the Association would occasionally honor a set of scientists by making them honorary members, we now present a major award every year and invite the recipient to present a lecture. Moreover, in addition to the Honorary Membership award for sustained contributions to the Association or the field, we present (for the first time in 2011) the Alexander von Humboldt Medal intended to honor scientists who have contributed greatly to the intellectual development and advancement of vegetation science. Maintenance and growth of membership is a definite challenge for an organization such as ours. Mike Palmer has chaired our new Membership Committee, which has presented a set of valuable suggestions for retaining and recruiting members. The Meetings Committee, chaired by Valério Pillar, has worked to plan and coordinate future meetings, and the Publications Committee, chaired by Martin Diekmann, oversees the publications of the Association.

5. Communications. One of the most important roles of a professional association is to promote communication, both among the members and with other potentially interested parties. Our journals and annual meetings serve us well in this regard, but our Executive Committee quickly realized that we can do more, especially by exploiting digital tools. Toward this end we developed a completely new and much more modern website and were greatly aided in this endeavor by our partners at Wiley. This site contains a number of important resources for our members as well as bulletin boards for announcing meetings and jobs. We also promoted a public email list for member communication (iavs@listserv.unc.edu). Finally, this year we shifted our Council election from postal ballot to digital ballot and saw the level of participation jump from 6.5% in 2007 to 56% in 2011.

What we need to do.

While IAVS has advanced greatly over the past four years in terms of improved infrastructure, governance and member services, there remains much that should be done. Below I list the areas where I think we have the greatest needs and opportunities for improvement our Association.

1. Membership. We must constantly strive to maintain and increase membership in the Association. This presents a significant challenge now that journal subscriptions provide little incentive for membership. We need to be vigilant in our efforts to retain members and ever perceptive and creative

in providing and advertising benefits for members. Here the Global Sponsorship Committee can play a role, providing membership sponsorship for potential members with limited financial resources or from countries where digital payment is difficult.

2. Internationalism. IAVS is impressively international. Many nations are represented in our meetings and in the active membership. A count of 739 current members showed 71 countries to be represented. Nonetheless, we could do better. We have very few members from outside Europe, North America, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Our new Council is diverse with 19 countries represented among the 40 members, but all are from Europe, USA, New Zealand or Japan. This leaves broad areas unrepresented. The new Statutes provide a mechanism for partial solution; each Regional Section and Working Group needs to be represented on Council, and to achieve this the member with the highest number of votes in the Council election is automatically appointed as a member of Council, even if not in the top 40 candidates. We should use this mechanism to encourage formation of more regional sections and to increase the geographic breadth of the Council.

3. Meeting organization. Our meeting organization is inefficient in that each year the infrastructure for registration, payment and submission of abstracts needs to be reinvented. In addition, there is no one working on the organization of any given meeting who has worked on meeting organization for us in previous years. While it remains valuable for regional hosts to have a major role in meeting organization, much more could be centralized and in the process made more efficient and cost effective.

4. Administration. As IAVS has increased in income and activities, so has it increased its need for staff with special skills. We would benefit by having staff familiar with investments, membership management, public communication, law, meeting management and other special skills. However, we are too small to hire more than at most one full-time person. The best solution is likely to be to partner with other professional organizations who could then share staff with multiple critical skills.

5. Communication. While we have made great progress in promoting communication among vegetation scientists over the past four years, much remains to be done. The *Bulletin* could be profitably expanded and published more frequently than once per year, and new features could be added to both the Bulletin and the website. An area where we have had very little experience is communication beyond our membership. We should strive to provide better communication of important findings to the broader public, and we should consider communicating key findings and activities to pre-university teachers.

Concluding remarks.

I feel honored to have been able to serve as your President. My interactions with you over the past four years have given me considerable stimulation and satisfaction, to say nothing of optimism for the future of the Association. IAVS strives to be and has the potential to be the intellectual home for all vegetation scientists, worldwide. I feel we are making great progress toward realizing this goal and I look forward to continuing to work with you in various capacities to help realize our full potential.

Robert K. Peet
President, 2007-2011

Vision Statement

International Association for Vegetation Science

IAVS – The Home of all Vegetation Scientists

Vegetation Science is a scientific discipline devoted to study of vegetation at all levels of complexity spanning populations, plant communities and biomes. It attempts to explain vegetation patterns and the processes governing vegetation assembly and dynamics at all temporal and spatial scales. Vegetation Science, as an ecological discipline, is concerned with questions regarding the relationships between plants and all aspects of the environment including human activities. This interest makes Vegetation Science a socially and politically critical discipline serving the good and progress of human society and the sustainable use of its natural resources. Vegetation Scientists cooperate closely with scientists in other disciplines such as paleoecology, geology, soil science, climatology, geomorphology, biogeography, population biology, ecophysiology, and evolutionary biology to enhance integration and progress in science.

IAVS is a registered charity established in 1939 to advance Vegetation Science. So as to best achieve this goal it is committed to responsible and transparent management of its daily business. This includes:

- ensuring financial sustainability by prudent and responsible management of financial and intellectual assets,
- generation and use of assets for charitable purposes in accord with the general aims and goals of the Association as defined in its Statutes and this Strategic Plan,
- maintenance and improvement of democratic structures that govern the Association and its activities.

IAVS is dedicated to

- developing and advancing vegetation science as a scientific discipline,
- developing careers of vegetation scientists,
- applying vegetation science for the good of society,
- promoting vegetation science within curricula,
- advancing communication about vegetation science through publication of scientific journals,
- advancing communication among vegetation scientists and with others through regular scientific meetings,
- creating and developing institutional cooperation.

Towards these ends, the International Association for Vegetation Science will

1) Develop and advance vegetation science as a scientific discipline by

- supporting the development of theoretical, functional, environmental, descriptive and applied vegetation science in order to achieve a better understanding of global ecosystems,
- consolidating the position and connections of vegetation science with other scientific disciplines such as population biology, functional ecology, paleobotany, evolutionary ecology, paleoecology, plant taxonomy, floristics, biogeography, conservation biology, and genomics that could enhance or benefit from the study of plant communities,
- improving the development of vegetation science as a basis of conservation biology, habitat management and landscape planning, and in particular by advancing the application of vegetation science at both the community and landscape scales as central to biodiversity inventory and conservation planning,
- providing a secure, comprehensive and usable source of information on global vegetation, and
- advancing the contribution of vegetation science to the understanding and solution of challenging yet critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, eutrophication and land-use change.
- assisting in creation science-policy interfaces in order to raise the voice of vegetation scientists both regionally and internationally.

2) Develop careers of vegetation scientists through

- actively attracting young scientists to become involved in vegetation science,
- offering a platform for discovery and dissemination of study and employment opportunities for both aspiring and established scientists,
- continuing to create and develop intellectual and logistic platforms that support young vegetation scientists and facilitate their participation in the activities of IAVS,
- assisting established vegetation scientists to respond to international funding opportunities by creating networking facilities and lending the weight and reputation of IAVS in support of funding opportunities when found to be in alignment with the goals and values of the Association,
- assisting colleagues from less-affluent countries and/or colleagues facing personal financial challenges to participate actively in IAVS,
- recognising the life-time contributions of colleagues to vegetation science and to the good of IAVS using appropriate symbolic as well as concrete logistic measures, and
- assisting older colleagues to participate fully in the field of vegetation science and in activities of IAVS, and
- referring members to organizations offering employment possibilities for vegetation scientists.

3) Apply vegetation science for the good of human society by

- maintaining IAVS as a non-profit, charitable organization,
- serving as review authority to be consulted by national and international bodies,
- serving as a source of expertise available to private, national and international organisations,
- providing expert panels for NGOs, national governments and international scientific and civic organizations to respond to questions of interest to vegetation science, science in general and the needs of human society.

4) Promote vegetation science within curricula by

- promoting inclusion of vegetation science in teaching curricula at universities (and analogous tertiary-education

facilities) at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels,

- motivating and promoting publication of textbooks featuring the aims, methods and goals of vegetation science to assure the high-quality of tertiary education in vegetation science, and
- developing educational materials and curricula for use within secondary and tertiary level curricula.

5) Advance communication about vegetation science through publication of scientific journals that

- provide information in an accurate and clear way to make available current knowledge about the vegetation of the Earth and its interactions with soil, climate and human activity,
- increase awareness of the importance of vegetation for ecosystem functioning and conservation, and highlight the key role of vegetation science for the understanding of ecological concepts,
- are of interest to all people concerned with vegetation ecology, including professional ecologists, students, and conservationists, and
- promote the application of methods and results of vegetation ecological research.

6) Advance communication among vegetation scientists and with others through regular scientific meetings and other activities by

- organizing annual symposia that can serve as the major platform for the exchange of ideas, both within IAVS and beyond,
- organizing field excursions and conferences, and
- promoting and supporting specialised working groups, regional sections and committees that serve specialized interests of the IAVS membership as well as associated scientists from other disciplines.

7) Create and develop institutional cooperation by

- facilitating bi- and multilateral international contacts by bringing together and facilitating communication among vegetation scientists from different countries,
- advancing the development of postgraduate students and young scientists, as well as scientists from the third world, by facilitating their integration into the international community of vegetation scientists,

- sponsoring topical working groups and specialized symposia that promote collaboration, synthesis, and cooperative research by vegetation scientists from different countries,
- facilitating the planning of institutional collaboration and preparation of joint research proposals in order to initiate and advance collaborative research,
- promoting strategic alliances with related societies at national, regional and global scales, as well as with members of other scientific disciplines, and
- providing an umbrella for international discussion groups addressing regional or global environmental concerns.

**Adopted by Council,
Ensenada, Mexico,
20 April 2010**

The IAVS Report Ensenada 2010

The 2010 IAVS meeting in Ensenada was visited by 180 persons representing 33 countries. There were 105 papers and 45 posters presented. Unfortunately, a significant number of Europeans had to cancel participation at the last moment owing to disruption of air travel caused by the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

Participation & presentation data reflect 126 known participants plus 54 others listed in the program, some of whom did not manage to attend.

The IAVS Editors' Report

In the 12 months to mid May, 492 manuscripts were submitted to the *Journal of Vegetation Science* and 255 to *Applied Vegetation Science*. This is double the number we were receiving under *Opulus*. This may partly reflect the greater number of scientific papers being written, but it also reflects our greater visibility with Wiley-Blackwell.

Applied Vegetation Science is in great demand for special features. One on Ecoinformatics was moved to *J. Veg. Sci.* to make space, and will comprise the August issue (but as papers for the special features are accepted, they will be published in Early View on the journal's web site). Following the decision in IAVS Crete, vegetation survey is now a speciality of *Appl. Veg. Sci.* rather than being spread across the two journals, which we hope will increase its visibility. To highlight this, there will be

a special feature on this topic, perhaps in the October issue of the journal. Editing is now underway for a third feature, on Vegetation Restoration, that will appear early in 2012. We were forced to decline a fourth suggestion for a special feature due to lack of space.

There has been a restructuring of Chief Editors. Ale Chiarucci and Meelis Pärtel now look after *J. Veg. Sci.*, and Milan Chytrý (who is worth two ordinary men) looks after *Appl. Veg. Sci.*, whilst Bastow Wilson does overall stuff and fills in. However, all four Chief Editors discuss general policy. We see this arrangement as enabling the journals to develop their own character, whilst ensuring that they co-operate to work for the interests of IAVS and vegetation science, rather than competing.

**J. Bastow Wilson,
Chair of the Editors.**

Minutes – Annual IAVS Council Meeting Ensenada, Mexico – 2010

Proceedings of the Council Meeting, Part 1.

Monday, 19 April 2010

Participants Part 1: Members present: Robert Peet (Pres.), Ladislav Mucina (Secr.), Javier Loidi (Vice Pres.), Valério Pillar (Vice Pres.), Michael Barbour, Milan Chytrý, Nikolai Ermakov, Kazue Fujiwara, Michael Palmer, Franco Pedrotti, Otto Wildi, J. Bastow Wilson. Proxy votes: Jan Bakker (Palmer), Elgene Box (Fujiwara), Alessandro Chiarucci (Palmer), Martin Diekmann (Loidi), Deborah Goldberg (Peet), Tomáš Herben (Chytrý), Eddy van der Maarel (Peet), Dieter Mueller-Dombois (Peet), Jörg Pfadenhauer (Pillar), Sandro Pignatti (Mucina), Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil (Wilson), Joop Schaminée (Mucina), Nina Smits (Pillar), Martin Zobel (Palmer). Total votes: 12 + 14 = 26. Guest: Sun-Kee Hong (2012 Organizing Committee).

President Peet called the meeting to order at 19:58. He noted that a significant number of Europeans had to cancel participation at the last moment owing to disruption of air travel caused by the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano, but several members of the Council who had planned to attend did make last-minute reassignments of their votes to other Council members. Proxy representation of 14 members was reported and approved (see above).

1. Approval of the previous minutes

- The minutes of the annual meetings of the IAVS Council

and the General Assembly held in Chania, Crete in 2009 were approved unanimously.

2. Annual Meetings of IAVS

- **France 2011 (Lyon):** V.P. Pillar informed Council that the latest information about progress toward the 2010 Lyon meeting was not available for Council owing to the unfortunate absence of Local Organizing Committee Chair Gudrun Bornett. A colleague of Bornett attending the meeting in Ensenada, Elise Buisson, will be approached and asked to provide further information during the General Assembly.
- **Korea 2012 (Mokpo):** On the opening day of the symposium Sun-Kee Hong, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, presented a public invitation to the membership to attend the 2011 Symposium in Korea. A report by Hong to the Executive Committee discussing the progress of preparations leading to the Symposium was acknowledged. Council suggested a readjustment of the proposed fees to include at least \$100 difference between non-members and members attending the symposium. The Council discussed coordination of timing between the upcoming World Expo 2012 (in Korea) and the IAVS symposium with particular emphasis on potential negative financial implications if the two were too close together (such as high prices for local accommodation).
- **Estonia 2013 (Tartu):** A formal proposal was presented by V.D. Pillar (for M. Zobel and his team who could not attend). The proposal was approved unanimously. Information about the meeting will follow during the General Assembly. In the absence of Martin Zobel, Inga Hiiesalu will make the presentation.
- **Australia 2014 (Perth):** L. Mucina proposed to organize the 2014 Symposium in Perth, Western Australia. He made a short presentation to the Council and proposed to make a detailed presentation during the General Assembly. Council expressed concerns about the projected high fee for participation. L. Mucina assured Council that the Local Organizing Committee would attempt to revise the fees downwards, the details depending on support from sponsors. Student rates for meetings will apply only for members; students should join before or at the same time. The Australian proposal was approved unanimously by Council.

General issues:

- It was agreed that organizers of upcoming IAVS symposia should be in touch with the Chairman of the IAVS Meetings Committee (currently V. Pillar) to strengthen

cooperation and thereby facilitate and assure the quality of the meeting.

- Council urged that the Meetings Committee develop plans for a reusable cyber infrastructure for meeting organization and registration. Use of IAVS funds for development of such an infrastructure was suggested as possible and proposals should be sent to the Executive Committee.
- J. Loidi suggested creation of an award for organizers of a symposium and/or excursion of exceptional quality as an incentive, to be implemented on perhaps a 5-year cycle. Council reached no conclusion respect to this proposal, but referred the matter to the Awards Committee.
- R. Peet reported that detailed instructions for organizers of both annual symposia and excursions have been posted on the IAVS website. He thanked Loidi, Pillar, Box and Mucina for help with their preparation.
- R. Peet suggested that evaluation of candidates for the Young Scientist awards should be changed and streamlined. J.B. Wilson suggested that use of age as a criterion (currently 35 years or less) might not be legal in some countries (because of the age-discrimination issues). Council agreed that rewarding colleagues at the start of their careers has an encouraging effect (and might in addition serve to attract new young members). Council referred the issue to the Awards Committee for resolution.

3. Activities of the Executive Committee (EC) since the last Symposium

- R. Peet informed the Council about eight Skype meetings held by EC since the previous symposium and briefly described the topics handled. Major topics included development of a strategic plan, work toward possible revision of the Statutes, activities of the Publications Committee, attempted interactions with Opulus Press, organization of the Ensenada meeting, activities of the Awards Committee, interactions with Wiley Press regards the membership database and the website, organization of the Nomenclature Commission, records of IAVS history, policies regards Sections and Working Groups, possible establishment of a small grants program, management of the Global Fund, and possible establishment of a Business Office.
- Council agreed that the minutes of the EC are an internal matter, available in full only to members of Council and only upon request. Council agreed that they do not need to know all the details. M. Chytrý suggested that perhaps only controversial issues need to be communicated to or

discussed with Council. Council agreed that detailed minutes do not need to be distributed.

4. Agenda for 2011

R. Peet suggested that the following four major issues should be handled by EC and Council in 2010-11 as a matter of priority:

- Revision of the Statutes and Bylaws,
- Organization and consolidation of the membership database,
- Establishment of a Business Office, and
- Organization of the election of a new Council.

5. Membership

- R. Peet reported on problems with the database run by Wiley, largely resulting from incompatibilities arising from the recent merger of Wiley and Blackwell.
- Peet reported that the IAVS membership list is a bit uncertain. Combining the old (Opulus) membership list and the new Wiley database as of December 31, 2009 revealed 1562 unique persons. This number includes; 418 prior members who last paid prior to 2006, 397 prior members who last paid in 2006, 2007 or 2008, 78 members who first joined in 2009, and 669 members renewed (actively or automatically) for 2009. The 756 active members (78+669) include: 41 free memberships (editors, associated with journals), 249 gratis members, 8 honorary members, 440 ordinary members (286 of them with journal subscriptions), and 18 student members.
- Council agreed that members should be notified and encouraged to register when the web-based registration really works.
- R. Peet further reported that the IAVS website is reasonably functional and that IAVS has presented Wiley with a list of proposed revisions. Wiley has promised to have the site ready for renewals in September.
- Council agreed that a new Web Committee (3-4 persons) should to be identified and 1 person could be paid a modest honorarium for maintaining our website.

6. Publications

- J.B. Wilson presented a summary report, based on the

Report of the Chief Editors to Council 2010.

- J.B. Wilson presented a proposed new layout for the journals. All members of Council present expressed a favorable impression with the new design.
- S. Díaz has resigned as a Chief Editor. Council expressed its gratitude to S. Díaz for her long-term and outstanding service to IAVS and its journals.
- M. Chytrý was proposed by Wilson, on behalf of the continuing Chief Editors, as a new Chief Editor of both JVS and AVS. This nomination was unanimously approved by the Council.
- The future of the Forum Section, heretofore organized by Díaz, has not been decided.
- Council was requested to approve page budgets for JVS and AVS for 2011. The 2009 and 2010 page budgets were 1196 for JVS and 550 for AVS. An increase in the page budgets would carry at least an initial decrease in revenue to the Society. Given the world economic situation, we could not expect this to be made up for in increased revenue for a number of years. Several special features are in production or have been proposed for AVS, and these would require extra pages. One is a special feature on vegetation description designed to promote this aspect of the journal, and another is based on papers from an ecoinformatics meeting held in Hamburg organized by Jürgen Dengler. Both of these are in production. Dengler had also proposed a third special feature that would be derived from papers presented at the annual meeting of the European Dry Grasslands Working Group. The Chief Editors consulted with staff at Wiley who then prepared a set of budget scenarios. The Chief Editors suggested that Council increase the page budget for AVS to 612 for 2011, and retain the current budget for JVS of 1196 pages. The added cost of going to a still larger AVS (720 page scenario) seemed too risky, at least for 2011. A consequence would be that the Chief Editors would have to decline the third proposed special feature.

7. Approval of the proposed changes of Statutes

- R. Peet submitted proposals for changes to two articles of the Statutes aimed at empowering the Council (a regularly meeting and well-functioning governing body of IAVS) by transferring to it some of the powers of the General Assembly (often not a representative sample of the membership). The proposed changes had been sent to the Council prior to this meeting for scrutiny. The revised Statutes would read as follows (new parts in bold italics, and deleted parts lined out):

Article 16

1. *These statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those full and honorary members of the Association voting by a mail or email ballot. Proposed changes must first be approved by a majority vote of the members of the Council.*

~~1. Changes in the Statutes can only be made through a decision at the General Assembly in the call for which meeting the proposal for changes shall be announced.~~

~~2. Those who have issued a proposal shall make the text of the proposal available at a place suitable for the Members for at least five days prior to the end of the day on which the proposal is to be discussed.~~

~~3. Changes in the Statutes can only be made by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes. If fewer than 50 members are present or represented, voting must be by postal ballot.~~

~~4. Changes in the Statutes become effective after they have been notarized. Each Member of the Executive Committee is authorized to sign this document.~~

~~5. The sub-articles 1 and 2 are not applicable if all members with voting right are present or represented at the General Assembly and the decision on changes in the Statutes is unanimous.~~

~~6. After the changes have been inserted, the Executive Committee shall put an authentic copy of the resolution for a change and of the full text of the Statutes at the register of the Chamber of Commerce.~~

Article 18

1. The **Council** General Assembly can establish by-laws on topics which are not or not sufficiently covered by these Statutes.

2. By-laws shall not contain clauses which violate the law or these Statutes.

3. Article 16 sub 1, 2 and 5 apply to changes in by-laws as well as their establishment. *The Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds vote by the members of the Council, providing that the proposed changes shall have been sent to all members of the Council at least one month prior to the vote.*

- The proposed changes were unanimously approved by the Council and forwarded to the General Assembly for final vote.

Council recessed at 21:36.

Proceedings of the Council Meeting, Part 2.

Tuesday 20 April 2010

Participants Part 2: Members present: Robert Peet (Pres.), Ladislav Mucina (Secr.), Javier Loidi (Vice Pres.), Valério Pillar (Vice Pres.), Michael Barbour, Milan Chytrý, Nikolai Ermakov, Kazue Fujiwara, Michael Palmer, Franco Pedrotti, Otto Wildi, J. Bastow Wilson. Proxy votes: Jan Bakker (Palmer), Elgene Box (Fujiwara), Alessandro Chiarucci (Palmer), Martin Diekmann (Loidi), Deborah Goldberg (Peet), Tomáš Herben (Chytrý), Eddy van der Maarel (Peet), Dieter Mueller-Dombois (Peet), Jörg Pfadenhauer (Pillar), Sandro Pignatti (Mucina), Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil (Wilson), Joop Schaminée (Mucina), Nina Smits (Pillar), Martin Zobel (Palmer). Total votes = 12+14=26.

President Peet reconvened the Council Meeting at 14:33.

6. Publications (continued)

- R.P. Peet summarized the annual report from Wiley, in the absence of Matt Pacey who had expected to give the report. Subscription income for 2009 was only 86% of the projection owing to Opulus having reported significantly more subscriptions than really existed. Overall profit to IAVS was 72425£ (= ~81840€). Membership fees were folded into subscriptions, so no separate membership fees were delivered for subscribers. Approximately 14,000 and 73,000 full text downloads were reported for 2009 for AVS and JVS respectively.
- Council continued deliberations about the increase of printed pages of JVS and AVS.
- Council approved 2011 pages budgets of 612 pp for AVS and 1196pp for JVS.
- R. Peet will ask Wiley to estimate the financial implication for IAVS of a possible increase of printed pages to 720 pp per volume for 2012.
- New institutional subscription rates were submitted by R. Peet (on behalf of Wiley). The current and recommended rates were (in British pounds):

	C2010	C2011	A2010	A2011
P	876	928	370	392
O	876	928	370	392
P+O	964	1067	408	451

(C refers to a combination of JVS & AVS, and A refers to AVS alone, P refers to paper and O refers to online access.)

Council approved the suggested rates.

- Council expressed concern that IAVS lacks clarity as to how revenue from Wiley's package sales as distributed to participating journals.
- The problem of the back issues has still not been resolved. Opulus Press (still in possession of these issues) is not responding to our queries. R. Peet and M. Diekmann will construct a new letter to J. van der Maarel addressing this lingering problem. Council expressed a willingness to forgive Opulus' debt to IAVS of 5000€ in exchange for the back issues.
- R. Peet reported that if we get the back issues (considered our property) back, Wiley would accept them and manage distribution.
- J.B. Wilson reminded Council that we still have no idea what has happened to the projected Opulus Press profit from selling our journals for the years 2007 and 2008 as no satisfactory financial report (required by contract) has been received.
- L. Mucina reported that *Bulletin* 13 was produced prior to the Ensenada Meeting. Editorial work on *Bulletin* 14 (containing an invitation to the Lyon symposium) will commence once we have received first circular of the Lyon symposium).

8. Treasurer's Report

- Tax exemption for IAVS income has been finalized thanks to the initiative of N. Smits. Council thanks N. Smits for her effort leading to this important achievement.
- IAVS end-of-year holdings of assets has been steadily increasing: 2007=51,116€, 2008=62,025€, and 2009=108,990€. We project an end of 2010 total of 170,974€.
- Profit from Wiley for 2009 was 76,602€, and for 2010 is projected at 80,000€.

9. Business and governance

- One of the major tasks for IAVS in 2011 is to consider establishment of a business office to assist the governing bodies of IAVS and assist the local organizing committees of upcoming IAVS symposia as well as the meetings of the Working Groups and Regional Sections. As the activities and the budget of IAVS have grown, increased pressures and expectations have been placed on its volunteer leaders. IAVS needs assistance in financial management, legal affairs, membership management, fund raising, meeting coordination, and simple day-to-

day management. A large professional society would have one or more persons assigned to each of these activities. If our leaders are to have time and energy for scientific leadership, we need to find a mechanism for covering these other needs. IAVS is too small to support multiple staff, but we might share resources with one or more other professional organizations. The Executive Committee has considered that IAVS might contribute on the order of a half of a full-time position to such a partnership.

- The British Ecological Society was informally approached in summer 2009 as potential partner. BES expressed interest, but requested a statement of the values and aims of IAVS (a Strategic Plan) so as to be able to make an informed decision in case of official approach by IAVS for sharing facilities. IAVS subsequently engaged in formulation of a Strategic Plan, now renamed as a Vision Statement (see section 10 below).
- Council discussed the concept of a shared business office and charged the Executive Committee with identifying possible partners and discussing possible conditions of partnership.

10. Strategic Plan

- L. Mucina coordinated formulation of the Strategic Plan. All members of Executive Committee contributed to this document, which was submitted to Council for approval. (British Ecological Society's *Strategic Plan 2008-2014* served as a blueprint for our Strategic Plan.)
- Council briefly discussed the proposed Strategic Plan and established that the document in its current format might better be considered a Vision Statement. This document was unanimously approved by Council under provision of incorporating the following changes:
 - o "Strategic Plan (2010-2016)" should be replaced by "Vision Statement"
 - o "phytosociology" (page 2) should be deleted (as it is implicitly included in the concept vegetation science)
 - o Date of adoption of this Vision Statement should be added at the end of the document.
- The final version will be posted on the IAVS website.

11. Nomenclature Commission

- L. Mucina informed Council of past actions leading towards re-establishment of a fully functional Nomenclatural Commission (a follow up from a Council decision during the 2008 Stellenbosch meeting). H.

Weber resigned as Chairman of the NC. J.-P. Theurillat has been approached with a request to serve as the new Chairman and to lead a re-structuring of the NC, which would formulate its own Statutes. J.-P. Theurillat agreed to establish a new NC and submit proposed Statutes to the Executive Committee for approval in October 2010.

Council unanimously voted in favor of adoption of the proposed budget for 2010.

- Council agreed that the membership dues (20€ for regular member, 10€ for student member) should remain the same for 2011.

12. Small Grants

- The possibility of introducing a small-grant program supported by IAVS income was discussed. Council unanimously agreed that it was a good idea and suggested that perhaps two awards could be awarded in 2011 (of up to 2500€) on competitive basis. The proposal was delegated to the Awards Committee to evaluate potentially implement.

13. Awards Committee

- R. Peet reported (on behalf of J.H.J. Schaminée) on the activities of the Awards Committee.
- J.S. Rodwell has agreed to accept the 2010 IAVS Honorary Member Award. He will attend the Lyon meeting and present an invited lecture.
- Phil Grime has agreed to accept the 2011 IAVS Honorary Member Award. He too will attend the Lyon meeting and present an invited lecture.
- The young-scientists awards (for lectures and posters at the annual symposia) were further discussed and it was agreed that registration for the competition must be done early enough (at the time of registration of the lecture/poster) to allow judges to be recruited.

14. Global Fund

- R. Peet reported (on behalf of M. Zobel) that the Global Fund contains approximately 22,000€ and neither the principal nor the interest is currently being spent. This is largely because Wiley is willing to provide a reasonable number of free digital subscriptions to individuals designated by the Global Fund Committee. Council discussed the best use of the Global Fund and referred the matter back to the Global Fund Committee for recommendations.

15. Budget for 2010

- R. Peet and L. Mucina submitted the financial report for 2009 (see attached).
- R. Peet and L. Mucina (assisted by N. Smits) prepared and submitted the budget for 2010 (see attached).

The meeting adjourned at 16:08

Financial statement 2009

General fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2008	30,498.22
Interest (over 2008)	534.30
Profit Wiley-Blackwell	50,000.00
Cash: 31-12-2009	81,032.52

General fund: Cash account

Cash: 31-12-2008	9,538.79
interest (over 2008)	0.00
membership dues	764.77
Wiley-Blackwell income for 2009	26,602.13
Opulus income for 2008	0.00
Travel editors	(14,650.08)
Travel EC	(6,969.45)
Travel admin	(1,374.00)
Salaries 2008 administrator	(2,495.00)
Bank expenses	(74.22)
Tax	0.00
Office expenses	(596.00)
Editorial services	(4,000.05)
Young scientist Award 2008	(1,000.05)
Cash 31-12-2009	5,746.84

Global fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2008	21,988.88
Interest (over 2008)	222.73
Cash: 31-12-2009	22,211.61

Total Assets 31-12-2008

62,025.89 €

Total Assets 31-12-2009

108,990.97 €

Minutes – Annual Meeting of the IAVS General Assembly

Ensenada, Mexico – 23 April 2010

Opening

The meeting was opened by IAVS President Robert Peet. He reported that the 53rd IAVS meeting in Ensenada was attended by ~200 participants from ~35 countries. Attendance was remarkably strong given a significant number of Europeans had to cancel participation at the last moment owing to disruption of air travel caused by the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano.

Membership report

As of December 31, 2009 IAVS had 756 active members including 440 ordinary members (286 with journal subscriptions), 41 service members (mostly editors), 18 student members, 8 honorary members and 249 gratis members.

Financial report

The assets of the IAVS grew from 51,117€ at end of 2007 to 62,026 (2008), to 108,990 (2009), and are projected to reach 163,771€ at the end of 2010. We will be looking into using some of this income for increased administrative efficiency, members services, and student support.

Awards

The Honorary membership Award is the highest award the IAVS confers. Current holders of life membership include Hartmut Dierschke, David Goodall, Eddy van der Maarel, Akira Miyawaki, Dieter Mueller-Dombois, Alessandro Pignatti, and Salvador Rivas-Martínez. The 2010 Honorary Membership Award is given to John Rodwell. He will receive his award at the 2011 meeting in Lyon where he will present an invited lecture.

President Peet read from Rodwell's letter of acceptance.

"It is a great pleasure and privilege to accept the IAVS award of Honorary Member for 2010/11. And it was with great regret that I had to decline the offer of attendance at this year's conference to receive this award. ... I look forward greatly to being with you at the IAVS Conference in Lyon in summer 2011. ..."

Susan Wisner announced the winners of the 2010 young Scientist Awards.

Best oral presentation:

S. Vanderplank: The perennial vegetation of greater San Quintin, Baja California, Mexico.

Honorable mention, oral presentation:

A. Fidelis: Short-term changes caused by fire and mowing in Brazilian Campos grasslands.

A. Lumbreras: Ecology of aquatic Ranunculus communities in the west of the Iberian Peninsula: a center of water crowfoot biodiversity.

Best Poster presentation:

M.R. Wong: Vegetation and soil food web responses to resource availability in a perennial tussock grassland, south-eastern Australia.

Honorable mention, poster:

A. Fidelis: Floristic similarities of wet-grasslands in the Brazilian cerrado biome.

Vision Statement and Benefits Statement

President Peet reported on both the new IAVS Vision Statement and the new IAVS Membership Benefits Statement. Both documents are available on the IAVS website.

Management for IAVS

The Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of sharing a professional office with one or more other professional organizations so as to provide increased access to critical services such as accounting, legal advice, investment advice, meeting organization and members services.

2011 Elections

Elections will be held in spring 2011 for membership on the IAVS Council. IAVS Members are encouraged to send nominations to one of the members of the Executive Committee.

Changes in the Statutes and Bylaws

The Current Council is working toward revision of the IAVS Statutes and Bylaws. One of the most important changes proposed is to transfer decision-making power from the General Assembly to the Council. The reason is that the Council is an elected, representative body with well-defined mechanisms for decision making. The General Assembly consists of those persons who happen to be at a particular annual symposium and decide to attend the Assembly meeting. Toward this end the Council at its meeting earlier in the week approved changes in the Statutes to change how changes are made in the Statutes and Bylaws. These were advertised in advance and were presented to the General Assembly for vote. They were moved, seconded and approved unanimously. The exact wording is presented in the minutes of the Council meeting.

Future meetings

A series of presentations summarized plans for future IAVS annual symposia.

2011: In the absence of Local Committee Chair Gudrun Bornett, Elise Buisson presented a summary of plans for the 2011 meeting to be held in Lyon, France.

2012: Local Committee Chair Sun-Kee Hong was not able to stay for the entire meeting, but during the opening session he presented a summary of plans for the 2012 meeting to be held in Mokpo, Korea.

2013: In the absence of Local Committee Chair Martin Zobel, Inga Hiiesalu presented a summary of plants for the 2013 meeting to be held in Tartu, Estonia.

2014: Local Committee Chair Laco Mucina presented a summary of plans for the 2014 meeting to be held in Perth, Australia.

Thanks to local organizers

IAVS thanked with a standing ovation the organizing committee and especially the Chair

José Delgadillo Rodríguez

Thank you José!

This was a wonderful meeting and it would not have been possible without you.

IAVS also especially thanked for assisting in the meeting organization

Steve Bullock and Michael Barbour

Concluding remark

With deep sadness and a period of silence, IAVS recognized the contributions to the symposium of Carlos Alberto Arambula, 23 years old, who we had all seen active at the front desk for the meeting for several days and who very unexpectedly passed away the evening before the final Assembly.

2011 IAVS election results

The election of the new IAVS Council to serve 2011-2015 has been completed and the results are shown below.

We had a very impressive turnout of voters. This year 407 members voted (56.69%). For comparison, in 2007 97 voted (6.5%), in 2002 150 voted (~10%), and in 1998 187 voted (12.5%).

Participation

Members invited to vote	718
Members who voted	407
Percent of members who voted	56.69%

Approval of New Statutes

	Votes	%
Yes	403	99.02
No	4	0.98

IAVS Council for 2011-2015

Rank	Candidate	Votes	%
1	Robert K. Peet (US)	325	79.85
2	Martin Zobel (EE)	287	70.52
3	Milan Chytrý (CZ)	245	60.20
4	Jan Lepš (CZ)	241	59.21
5	Sandra Díaz (AR)	234	57.49
6	Martin Diekmann (DE)	226	55.53
7	J. Bastow Wilson (NZ)	219	53.81
8	Laco Mucina (AU)	216	53.07
9	Michael W. Palmer (US)	210	51.60
10	Tomáš Herben (CZ)	197	48.40
10	Joop H.J. Schaminée (NL)	197	48.40
12	Michael G. Barbour (US)	196	48.16
12	John Rodwell (UK)	196	48.16
14	Helge Bruelheide (DE)	187	45.95
15	János Podani (HU)	186	45.70
16	Alessandro Chiarucci (IT)	180	44.23
17	Elgene O. Box (US)	179	43.98
18	Deborah E. Goldberg (US)	178	43.73
19	Valério D. Pillar (BR)	171	42.01
20	Alicia T.R. Acosta (IT)	170	41.77
21	Otto Wildi (CH)	169	41.52
22	Nina Smits (NL)	167	41.03
23	Meelis Pärtel (EE)	163	40.05
24	Renée Bekker (NL)	156	38.33
25	Kazue Fujiwara (JP)	155	38.08
26	Sara Cousins (SE)	153	37.59
27	Jessica Gurevitch (US)	152	37.35
28	Susan Wiser (NZ)	150	36.86
29	Jürgen Dengler (DE)	142	34.89
30	Marcel Rejmánek (US)	141	34.64
31	Erwin Bergmeier (DE)	137	33.66
32	Martin Hermy (BE)	135	33.17
33	Javier Loidi (ES)	134	32.92
33	Yukito Nakamura (JP)	134	32.92
33	Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil (DE)	134	32.92
36	Ulrich Deil (DE)	132	32.43
37	Sándor Bartha (HU)	123	30.22
38	Pavel V. Krestov (RU)	121	29.73
39	Guillaume Decocq (FR)	119	29.24
39	Klaus Dierssen (DE)	119	29.24*

IAVS Financial Statement (in Euros except as noted)	Financial overview for 2010	Financial Projection for 2011
General fund		
Starting Cash, December 31	86,779.36	139,429.69
Interest	2,472.59	2,000.00
membership dues	199.72	0.00
Travel	(15,839.71)	(30,500.00)
Election expenses		(1,000.00)
Salaries	(2,495.00)	(2,495.00)
Bank expenses	(71.78)	(100.00)
Office expenses	(972.04)	(1,000.00)
Notary and translator expenses		(3,500.00)
2010 Meeting in Ensenada reimbursement		(600.00)
Awards and associated expenses	(1,042.90)	(7,000.00)
Wiley-Blackwell income for 2010	70,399.45	94,000.00
Ending Cash: 31 December	139,429.69	189,234.69
Global fund: investment account		
Starting Cash: 31 December	22,211.61	22,752.68
Interest	541.07	250.00
Awards for Manuscript editing		(2,000.00)
Ending Cash: 31 December	22,752.68	21,002.68
Total Assets		
12-05-2011	202,303.90 €	
31-12-2010	160,615.11 €	
31-12-2009	108,990.97 €	
31-12-2008	62,025.89 €	
31-12-2007	51,116.88 €	
31-12-2006	35,796.71 €	
31-12-2005	34,611.14 €	
31-12-2004	21,001.10 €	

Statutes of the International Association for Vegetation Science

April 13, 2011

Article 1. Name, Languages and Seat

1. This Association shall be known as the International Association for Vegetation Science.
2. The seat of the Association shall be in the municipality of Wageningen, The Netherlands.

3. The official languages of the Association shall be Dutch and English. Other languages may be designated for regional meetings. All official documents shall be published in English except as required by the laws of The Netherlands, in which cases those documents shall be available in English translation.

Article 2. Objectives

1. The objectives of the Association shall be to:
 - a. develop and advance vegetation science as a scientific discipline,

- b. promote research and education in vegetation science,
 - c. promote the publication of research results in vegetation science and disseminate knowledge about vegetation,
 - d. advance the education of the public in the subject of vegetation science as a branch of the natural sciences and to advance the support of research and education in that field,
 - e. facilitate scientific and personal communication among vegetation scientists of all countries and,
 - f. promote appropriate application of vegetation science for the good of society, particularly in environmental management and public decision making.
2. These objectives may be achieved by:
- a. organization, promotion and administration of scientific meetings,
 - b. establishment of subject area Working Groups, regional Sections and Committees,
 - c. publication and distribution of scientific journals, books and data and information resources,
 - d. encouragement and facilitation of communication among vegetation scientists and with policy makers at all levels of government as well as private and public organizations,
 - e. provision of awards, grants, scholarships or other assistance to any charitable organizations, societies, associations, companies or persons that advance the objectives of the Association and
 - f. other mechanisms, provided they are not contrary to the stated objectives of the Association and do not jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Association.

Article 3. Membership and Dues

1. Membership in the Association is open to all persons who are interested in vegetation science and are willing to support the objectives of the Association.
2. The Members' Council may establish different classes of membership and establish the annual dues required of each class of membership.
3. All members may participate in all meetings of the Association and vote in the election of the members of

the Members' Council.

4. Membership is obtained by application to the Secretary of the Association, directly or through electronic services, and after receipt of membership dues.
5. Membership terminates
 - a. through death of the member,
 - b. through notice by the member,
 - c. through termination or expulsion by Council.
6. If a member does not pay the established dues for more than one (1) year, the Association has the right to terminate the membership.
7. Termination occurs at the end of the year and only four weeks subsequent to notification having been sent.
8. Membership is personal and is, therefore, not subject to transfer or inheritance.

Article 4. Members' Council

1. Responsibilities.
 - a. The Members' Council (hereafter referred to as the Council) shall be the primary governing body of the Association.
 - b. The Council exerts authority in any matters not allocated to other organs by law, these Statutes, or by Bylaws adopted by the Council.
2. Membership and Elections.
 - a. The Council shall consist of forty (40) members elected by the membership of the Association. The members of the Council shall be elected for terms of four years. Members of the Council may be re-elected. In the event of ties, the size of the Council shall be increased so as to include all of those tied for the last seat.
 - b. Each Section and Working Group shall be represented on Council. If a Section or Working Group is not represented among 40 elected members, the candidate from that Section or Working Group receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected
 - c. Elections of members of Council shall be held at intervals of either two or four years as specified in the Bylaws. The ballot shall contain between 2 and 3

times as many candidates as there are positions to fill.

- d. Candidates for election to Council shall be selected or approved by the Council. Write-in candidates may be added to the ballot by voters.
3. Meetings and activities.
 - a. The Council shall hold an Annual Meeting once per calendar year, and any other regular meetings as called by the Governing Board.
 - b. All regular meetings of Council shall be announced at least two (2) weeks in advance.
 - c. Meetings of Council may be held in person or by electronic communication or by a combination of these mechanisms following any procedures established in the Bylaws.
 - d. A group constituting at least one tenth of the elected members of the Members' Council may request a special meeting. If such a request is made, the Governing Board shall convene a meeting within four (4) weeks after the request has been made. If within two (2) weeks of the request no date has been established, the members themselves may convene a meeting.
 - e. Regular meetings of Council are presided over by the President, by the Secretary when the President is absent, or by the oldest member of the Governing Board when both the President and Secretary are absent. At a special meeting, the participating members elect a member to preside.
 - f. Actions by Council shall require a quorum of at least 25 members participating in person or by assignment of proxies. No one member of Council may carry more than 3 proxies.
 4. Minutes of Council meetings shall be recorded by the Secretary or by a person designated by the presiding officer. These minutes shall be approved by a vote of Council and distributed to the membership.

Article 5. Officers and the Governing Board

1. Election and terms.
 - a. The Council shall elect for four-year terms a Governing Board consisting of a President, a Secretary, and five Vice Presidents. Council may dismiss members of the Governing Board by a two-thirds majority of Council members participating in the vote.

- b. If the number of members of the Governing Board is reduced to fewer than seven, the Governing Board is nevertheless authorized to govern the Association. The Governing Board shall ask the Council to fill the vacancies within four months.

2. Roles and responsibilities.

- a. The Governing Board shall be in charge of the daily affairs of the Association.
- b. The Governing Board represents the Association. Responsibility for representation may also be assigned by the Governing Board to the President, or the Secretary for specific purposes.
- c. The Governing Board may enter into agreements concerning the acquisition, alienation or encumbering of registered goods and enter into agreements where the Association is committed as surety or co-debtor, supports a third party or offers security for the debt of another party.
- d. During the Annual Meeting of the Council, the Governing Board shall present a report on activities of the Association since the last meeting and future activities planned for the period prior to and including the next Annual Meeting.
- e. During the Annual Meeting of the Council, the Governing Board shall present a financial statement summarizing income and expenses during the previous fiscal year (see 7.1), a financial projection for the current fiscal year, and a proposed budget for the next fiscal year.

Article 6. General Assembly

1. The Governing Board shall organize an annual General Assembly to be held in conjunction with the Symposium of the Association. All members of the Association and others invited by the Governing Board or the Council shall be admitted to the General Assembly.
2. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the President, or by the Secretary when the President is absent, or by the oldest Member of the Governing Board when both the President and Secretary are absent.
3. During the General Assembly, the membership shall receive the annual reports of the President, Secretary, and Vice Presidents. The Assembly receives member-submitted items, votes on significant policy matters as forwarded by the Council, reviews the budget of the Association, including changes in dues, and discusses

proposed changes in the Bylaws.

- Minutes of a General Assembly shall be recorded by the Secretary or a person designated by the presiding officer. The Governing Board shall approve the minutes and distribute them to the membership.
- Any member of the Association may raise an issue or appeal a decision of the Council or the Governing Board by placing a matter before the General Assembly for discussion and vote. Any proposals voted on and passed at the General Assembly must be forwarded to Council for consideration and vote.

Article 7. Business and Publication Activities

- The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.
- During the annual meeting of Council, the Council members shall review the financial report for the previous fiscal year (see 5.2.e) and adopt a budget for the next fiscal year. The Council may at any meeting amend the budget.
- If there is no report from an accountant on the reliability of the documents mentioned in 7.2, the Council appoints, yearly, a commission of at least two members who are not members of the Governing Board. The Governing Board is obliged to provide this commission with all information required to show the cash and assets, and to show the financial documents of the Association. In case special book-keeping expertise is needed, the commission can, at the expense of the Association, ask an expert to assist. The commission reports to the Council.
- The publications of the Association shall include the Bulletin and may include scientific journals and other such publications as the Council may authorize. The Governing Board is responsible for selection of publishers, with the restriction that copyright of all Association publications must remain with the Association. This provision shall not be interpreted as precluding sharing of rights through policies approved by the Council.

Article 8. Sections, Working Groups and Committees

- Members of the Association may organize regional Sections. Sections shall have a Chair or Co-chairs and adopt bylaws. Sections and their bylaws must be approved by the Council and Sections may be dissolved by the Council.
- Members with a common interest in a subdiscipline of vegetation science may establish a Working Group.

Working Groups shall have a Chair or Co-chairs and adopt bylaws. Working Groups and their bylaws must be approved by the Council and may be dissolved by Council.

- Each Section and Working Group shall elect its own officers and present an annual report on its activities to the Council.
- The President shall appoint Standing Committees designated in the Bylaws and appoint Special Committees as needed.

Article 9. Bylaws

- The Council may establish Bylaws that interpret and implement these Statutes, or that address topics that are not sufficiently covered by these Statutes. Bylaws shall not contain clauses that violate the law or these Statutes.
- Bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed by a two-thirds majority of those Council members participating in a vote, providing that the proposed changes shall have been sent to all members of the Council at least one month prior to the vote.

Article 10. Amendments

- These statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Council members casting votes, in person or proxy, at the annual meeting.
- A call for changes in the Statutes must be distributed to the Council at least 5 days prior to the meeting at which it will be considered.
- After the changes have been approved by the Council, the Governing Board shall convey the full text of the revised Statutes to the appropriate agency within The Netherlands. An amendment shall not take effect until after they have been notarized.. The Governing Council is required to prepare an authentic copy of the amendment and the amended statute and to deposit them at the office of the trade.

Article 11. Limitations

The Association shall not directly or indirectly engage in any activity that would prevent it from qualifying as a tax-exempt, charitable organization described in the laws of the Netherlands, as now in effect or as may hereafter be amended, or cause it to lose such status, or carry on any activity not permitted to be carried on by an organization, contributions to which are tax deductible or exempt.

Article 12. General Prohibitions

1. The International Association for Vegetation Science shall be organized and operated exclusively for scientific and educational purposes within the meaning of the laws of The Netherlands. No part of the net earnings of the International Association for Vegetation Science shall, or may, under any circumstances inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, any individual or other private persons, except to the extent that the Association may present merit-based and need-based awards, grants, and fellowships that are consistent with the objectives of the Association as described in Article 2, or hire staff or engage individuals or businesses to conduct its business.
2. No substantial part of the activities of the International Association for Vegetation Science shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation except as otherwise permitted by the laws of The Netherlands.
3. The International Association for Vegetation Science shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements concerning) political campaigns on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidates for public office.
4. The International Association for Vegetation Science shall not be organized for profit. The Association shall not lend any part of its income or corpus without the receipt of adequate security and a reasonable rate of interest, pay any compensation in excess of a reasonable allowance for salaries or other compensation for personal services actually rendered, make any purchase of securities or any other property for more than adequate consideration in money or money's worth, sell any securities or other property for less than adequate consideration in money or money's worth, engage in any other transaction that results in substantial diversion of its income or corpus to any officer, employee, member of the Council, or substantial contributor to the Association.

Article 13. Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the International Association for Vegetation Science, all of the remaining assets and property shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities and obligations of the International Association for Vegetation Science and for necessary expenses thereof be distributed to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, scientific or educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as tax exempt organization or organizations under the laws of The Netherlands or the country in

which it is located as the Council shall determine. In no event shall any of such assets or property be distributed to any individual member, director, or officer or any private individual.

2. In the event of dissolution, the Council shall decide on disposal of the assets of the Association, as far as possible in line with the aims of the Association. The financial settlement shall be carried out by the Governing Board.
3. Documents of the dissolved Association shall be kept for ten years after the settlement by a party designated by those involved in the settlement.

Annual Report IAVS Working Group Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM)

Contact: Stephen S. Talbot

Email: stephen_talbot@fws.gov

Reporting Period: May 2009-February 2011

We made substantial progress toward a Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM): several international workshops were held and two reports were published. Prior to being named an IAVS Working Group, we held a workshop to plan an initial strategy for the CBVM. In order to integrate Arctic interests into global conservation efforts, cooperation and a shared knowledge base is necessary among the countries with arctic lands. Toward this end, botanists from eight Arctic States—Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States—convened at the Fourth International Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Flora Group Workshop (CFG) held from May 15-18, 2007 in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. Presentations addressed ongoing scientific work concerning northern flora and vegetation — these included regional vegetation studies from western North America, Alaska, Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Newfoundland; perspectives in floristics; methods related to ecological land classification; integrated optical-radar; Global Observation Research Initiative in Alpine (GLORIA) Environments; Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map (CAVM); permafrost studies; flora and vegetation databases; and the creation of the CBVM Group within the Arctic Council. Specialists from outside the CFG membership were invited to participate. We published a report from this workshop to provide a summary of the individual workshop presentations in the form of edited extended abstracts and papers (Talbot 2008). Significantly the workshop helped pave the way for further mapping progress and a facilitated the acquisition of

funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers by Finland for a major mapping workshop in Helsinki, Finland.

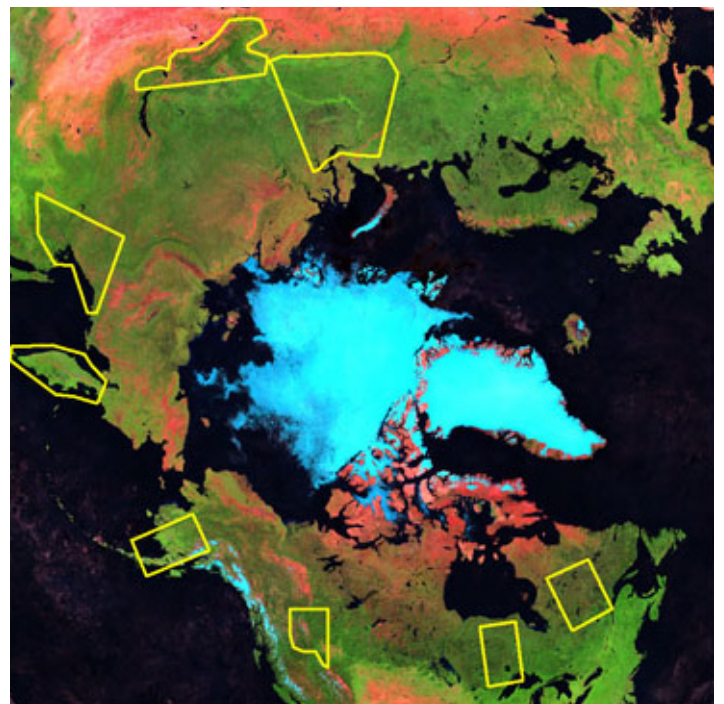
In November 2008, an international CBVM workshop was convened in Helsinki, Finland (Talbot et al. 2010). The workshop was attended by 50 vegetation scientists from 10 northern countries. This gathering was a major step toward achieving the CBVM goal to provide a common international framework for understanding the boreal region. Currently, various maps already exist of the boreal biome, but these do not rely on a unified international method for classifying and mapping boreal vegetation. By recognizing the boreal region as a single geocosystem with a common set of cultural, political and economic issues, the CBVM will be the first detailed vegetation map of the entire global biome. Such a map is needed for a wide variety of purposes related to resource development, land-use planning, studies of boreal biota and biodiversity, education, anticipated global changes and human interaction. A common legend and language for describing boreal ecosystems is essential for answering questions at a global scale. Boreal forests are particularly appropriate for unified classification because of their high level of floristic, physiognomic and syntaxonomic similarity across the entire biome. A circumboreal vegetation map will have numerous other application uses for boreal scientists and managers such as impact studies on wildlife and feedback mechanisms in models or increased emission of greenhouse gases. The CBVM will also contribute to global efforts to improve understanding and communication with policy-makers.

The CBVM group serves under the Arctic Council as part of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Program within the CAFF Flora Group (CFG). Participants at the 2008 Helsinki workshop expressed overwhelming support for the CBVM project and recommended follow-up workshops to deal with major tasks. Accordingly, further discussions were held at the 6th International CAFF Flora Group and CBVM Joint Workshop, Uppsala, Sweden, April 1-3,

2009. A North American CBVM Team workshop was convened at Sault St. Marie, Canada, December 1-2, 2009; the goal Canadian workshop was to develop a plan for the delivery of the North American component of the CBVM, including a consistent approach to mapping legend, map scale, data sources, critical tasks, expertise, financial resources, governance and timing of delivery. A third CBVM Workshop was then held in Helsinki, Finland, March 10-14, 2010 to further develop the legend. Presentations from these three CBVM workshops are published as CAFF Proceedings Series Report No. 1 (Talbot 2011) and help document the overall progression of the CBVM project.

In late February 2011 a CBVM Workshop was convened in Akureyri, Iceland as part of the Conservation of Arctic

Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Biennial. The major purpose of the workshop was to assess the proposed map legend within prototype map areas selected to include representative areas from North America and Russia. Indication of the location and size of the prototype areas are delimited by yellow lines in the Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) image given below. Workshop presentations are available on the web <<http://www.caff.is/workshops/akureyri-2011>>. Solid progress was made and we plan to publish the results as CAFF report. In addition we are preparing a CBVM Concept Paper to facilitate outreach and project understanding. During the workshop we received word that the CBVM was endorsed by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC).



For his major contributions to vegetation science and to the CBVM project, CAFF Technical Report No. 21 was dedicated to our friend **Udo Bohn**, who passed away on 13 August 2011. His work was a true inspiration for the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map (CAVM) and continues to be as we move forward with the Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM). Udo may have been the only person who still had the full European vegetation mapping heritage in his blood and who could integrate the Braun-Blanquet approach with mapping at big scales. We will move forward in his absence, but we really needed him. His death is big loss for the project both from a scientific standpoint and on a personal level. We enjoyed his warm presence at our workshops. He was a great person.

The following CBVM references are available on-line (see below) and hardcopy reports may be received by emailing the CAFF Secretariat, Akureyri, Iceland <caff@caff.is> with your request and institutional address.

Talbot, S.S., ed. 2008. Proceedings of the Fourth International

Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Flora Group Workshop, 15-18 May 2007, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. CAFF Technical Report No. 15: 1-90. (Internet address: <<http://www.caff.is/document-library/technical-reports>>)

Talbot, S.S., Charron, T., & Barry, T. (eds.). 2010. Proceedings of the Fifth International Workshop: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) Flora Group, Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping (CBVM) Workshop, Helsinki, Finland, November 3--6, 2008. CAFF International Secretariat, CAFF Flora Expert Group (CFG), CAFF Technical Report No. 21: 1-188. (Internet address: <<http://www.caff.is/document-library/technical-reports>>)

Talbot, S. S. (ed.). 2011. Papers from the CAFF Flora Group (CFG) and Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) Workshops: 2009-2010. CAFF International Secretariat, CAFF Proceedings Series Report No. 1: 1-88. (Internet address: <http://caff.is/images/stories/Proceedings_report_nr1_final_low_res.pdf>)

Annual Report

IAVS Working Group for Ecoinformatics

May 2011

In 2007 Susan Wisser, Nick Spenser, and Robert Peet organized on behalf of the IAVS Ecoinformatics Working Group an initiative to establish an international exchange standard for vegetation plot data. Meetings were held in 2007 and 2008 at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, NC, USA. After the meetings a core group consisting of Miquel De Cáceres, Martin Kleikamp, Jerry Cooper, Michael Lee, Matt Jones, Robert Peet, Nick Spenser, and Susan Wisser developed a draft schema. Nick Spenser presented this schemat to TDWG (the Biodiversity Information Standards organization) at its meeting in Perth in October 2008. This led to the formation of a Vegetation Observations Data Exchange Task Group as a subgroup of the TDWG Observations and Specimen Records Interest Group. The current draft schema can be seen on the TDWG website (<http://wiki.tdwg.org/Vegetation/>). Subsequently, the core elements of the schema were expanded and developed as a manuscript for *Journal of Vegetation Science* to be published in fall 2011 (Wisser, S.K., N. Spenser, M. De Cáceres, M. Kleikamp, B. Boyle, & R.K. Peet. 2011. Veg-X -- An international exchange standard for plot-based vegetation data). We hope the resultant exchange standard will be endorsed and adopted by both TDWG and IAVS, and will facilitate the rapid development of vegetation plot data sharing internationally.

Jürgen Dengler, Florian Jansen, Falko Glöckler and nine other Working Group members have developed and described GIVD, the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (<http://www.givd.info>). GIVD is an index of digital plot databases and currently described in excess of 132 databases containing more than 2.44 million plots with More than 4.54 million plots observations. The vegetation-plot data registered

in GIVD constitute a major resource for biodiversity research, both through the large number of species occurrence records and the storage of species co-occurrence information at a small scale, combined with structural data and plot-based environmental data. The database and associated data will be described in more detail in a forthcoming issue of *Journal of Vegetation Science* (Dengler, J., Jansen, F., Glöckler, F., Peet, R.K., De Cáceres, M., Chytrý, M., Ewald, J., Oldeland, J., Finckh, M., Mucina, M., Schaminée, J.H.J., & Spencer, S. 2011. The Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases: a new resource for vegetation science). Additionally, all databases registered in GIVD will be represented in a standardized manner in Database Reports to be published in a Special Volume of *Biodiversity & Ecology* (eds. Dengler, Chytrý, Ewald, Finckh, Jansen, Lopez-Gonzalez, Oldeland, Peet & Schaminée), due in fall to winter 2011. This volume thus will give a comprehensive overview of existing databases and will be available also open access online. Databases not yet registered in GIVD are invited to do so to increase the utility of GIVD and the visibility of their database – filling in the online forms only needs approx. half an hour.

In February 2010, the 9th international Meeting on Vegetation Databases was held in Hamburg, Germany, with a theme of “Vegetation databases and climate change.” It was jointly organized by the German working group on vegetation databases (a section of NetPhyD) and by the IAVS Working Group for Ecoinformatics. With 142 participants from 28 countries, it was one of the largest and most diverse ecoinformatics conferences ever. Fourteen selected contributions of this conference are in press as a Special Issue of JVS (due in fall 2011), further papers will follow in a Special Volume of *Biodiversity & Ecology*. The next international Meeting on Vegetation Databases organized by the NetPhyD section will be held 19-21 September 2011 in Freising (near Munich) with an organizing theme of “vegetation databases and spatial analysis.” For further information contact Jörg Ewald (joerg.ewald@hswt.de).

Respectfully submitted,
Robert K. Peet

Annual Report IAVS Working Group European Vegetation Survey (EVS)

Contact person: John Rodwell, Lancaster, United Kingdom,
email: johnrodwell@tiscali.co.uk

The 19th Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey was held from 29 April – 2 May, 2010 in Pécs, Hungary, at the invitation of Professor Éva Salamon-Albert and Dr Zoltán Botta-Dukát and under the hospitality of the University of Pécs.

There were 171 participants in total with 18 countries represented, including 41 Hungarians, 24 from the Russian Federation, 20 from the Czech Republic, 17 from Italy, 14 from Germany, 12 from Romania, 11 from Slovenia and 7 from Bulgaria.

The Workshop had three themes 'Flora, Environment & Land-Use at large Scales' (19 lectures, 46 posters), 'Vegetation of European Rivers & Floodplains' (11 lectures, 27 posters) and 'Use and Abuse of Ecological Indicator Values' (6 lectures, 22 posters).

There was a two day pre-Workshop Excursion. On 27 April the party visited the Odvas-Hegy rocky grasslands near Budaörs on the outskirts of Budapest (with open, closed and *Stipa* dolomite grasslands, slope and rocky steppe and forest steppe meadow) and the loess steppes and forest steppe meadows near Máriahalom (steppe meadows, meadow steppes, hilltop steppes). On 28 April, the excursion visited Duna-Tisza Köze in the Danube-Tisza interfluvium: oak forest-steppe transitions at Nagykőrös (open calcicole and calcifuge grasslands, closed steppe grasslands, closed oak woodland and steppe woodland), sand dunes at Fülöpháza (annual and open perennial grasslands, closed grasslands, juniper-poplar woods), fens at Kisizsák (open water vegetation, *Molinia* fen, woodlands), salt lakes at Fülöpszállás (inland salt-marsh, alkali steppe) and loess grasslands and fens at Császártöltés (open water vegetation, fens and grasslands). The Mid-Workshop Excursion was to the Mecsek Mountains (scrub forests, thermophilous scree forests, oak-hornbeam forests, turkey & sessile oak forests) and to the Villány (Szársomlyó) Hills (grasslands, steppes, karst woodlands). After this excursion, there was a party in the Botanic Garden including a tasting of a variety of Hungarian wines.

In the EVS business meeting, Dr Jürgen Dengler provided reports of the European Dry Grassland Group and outlined the fast developing project to develop a Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases. Professor Valentin Golub and Dr Alexey Sorokin of the Togliatti Phytosociology Laboratory extended a warm invitation to participate in an Expedition to the Lower Volga Valley from 2-14 August. Advance notice was also given of the 54th IAVS Symposium in Lyon, France 20-24 June 2011. Professor Salamon-Albert and Professor Spada of the EVS Italia team outlined the various possibilities for publication of the papers from the 19th Workshop and the EVS Committee thanked the Organising Committee at Pécs for all their hard work.

At the kind invitation of Professor Francesco Spada and Professor Sandro Pignatti of the University La Sapienza, Rome, the 20th EVS Workshop will be held from 6-10 April 2011 at the Orto Botanico in Rome. This will be a joint meeting with the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping Group and the first topic of the Workshop will be 'Boreal Vegetation'.

The second theme will be 'Original Aims revisited: Vegetation Survey, Data Analysis and Information Systems, Applications'. There will be a mid-Workshop excursion to Monte Cecubi and Tempio di Giove and a post-Workshop Excursion 11-14 April to the Gully landscape of Tuscany.

At the invitation of Dr Wolfgang Willner, the 21st EVS Workshop will be in Vienna 24-27 May 2012.

The main topics will be 'Vegetation Classification', 'Biogeographical Patterns' and 'Vegetation and Global Change' and, in addition to a Mid-Workshop excursion, there will be a one-day Post-Workshop Excursion on 28 May.

Annual Report IAVS Working Group Nomenclature Commission

Following the official resignation of Prof. Heinrich Weber from the presidency, and in accordance with the restructuring of IAVS, the Executive Council (EC) appointed a small working group to reactivate the Nomenclature Commission (NC) and to reflect on the activities of the latter in the future. As a main task, the working group is asked to make proposals to be approved by EC both about the organisation of NC, and an active, efficient way for its functioning.

In the mean time, the Committee for Nomina Conservanda, Ambigua, Inversa & Mutata proceeded to work out many proposals that will be published soon in *Phytocoenologia*. The registration of new names of syntaxa and typifications of syntaxa proceeded also in part.

Jean-Paul Theurillat, on behalf of the NC working group



Annual Report IAVS Working Group European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG)

The European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG), an IAVS working group since autumn 2009, as of 24 January 2011 had 586 members from 48 countries. EDGG is a network of dry

grassland researchers and conservationists, covering all dry grassland-related aspects from vegetation science, via botany, mycology, zoology, soil science, and landscape ecology to conservation, restoration, and agriculture. EDGG is governed by an Executive Committee of four members (Monika Janišová, Slovakia; Solvita Rūsiņa, Latvia; Michael Vrahnakis, Greece; Jürgen Dengler, Germany) and has no membership fees. Presently, four regional subgroups have organised themselves within EDGG: the German *Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen*, the *Working Group on Dry Grasslands in the Nordic and Baltic Region*, the *Working Group on Mediterranean Dry Grasslands* (Med-DG), and the *Southeast European Dry Grassland Group* (SEEDGG).

In 2010, the major activities of the EDGG were:

- 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Smolenice, Slovakia, 27 May – 1 June, attended by 100 grassland scientists from 20 countries
- 2nd EDGG Research Expedition to Central Podilia, Ukraine, 10–25 July, attended by 18 grassland scientists from 8 countries
- Publication of issues 6 to 9 of the quarterly *Bulletin of the European Dry Grassland Group* (ISSN 1868-2456), each containing approx. 30 full-colour pages (see <http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm>)
- Publication of the *Smolenice Grassland Declaration* (available from and to be signed at <http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/574.html>)
- Two Special Features for international journals (*Plant Biosystems* and *Tuexenia*) with contributions from the conference in Smolenice are presently in preparation under the guest-editorship of teams of EDGG members

The next EDGG events are:

- 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Uman', Ukraine, 13–17 June 2011. Topic: *Dry grassland of Europe: biodiversity, classification, conservation and management*. Deadline for registration: 28 February 2011. Homepage: http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2011.html
- 3rd EDGG Research Expedition to mountains in NW Bulgaria, 14–24 August 2011. Contact: Iva Apostolova (iva@bio.bas.bg) and Jürgen Dengler (see below).

Further information on EDGG can be found on our homepage at www.edgg.org. If you wish to join EDGG, just send an e-mail to the membership administrator, Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de).

Jürgen Dengler (on behalf of the Executive Committee of the EDGG)

Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD) – a new web-based tool and resource for vegetation scientists

A group of vegetation scientists spearheaded by Dr Jürgen Dengler (Hamburg, German) has recently launched the **Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD)**. This major initiative, which is supported among others by the Ecoinformatics Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), aims at making metadata on as many vegetation databases around the world as possible available on one single platform in order to raise the awareness about this underestimated source of high-value biodiversity data and to facilitate their use in joint research projects.

So far 133 databases from around the world and representing more than 2.4 million relevés have uploaded their metadata.

All colleagues involved in regional and national vegetation-banking management and curation as well as those having major interests in exploring the wealth of vegetation data for large-scale studies and far-reaching ecological questions are encouraged to join the initiative and check the website at www.givd.info for further information.

Those who register during the next weeks will benefit by getting a 1-page Database Report about their database published for free in the international open access online and print journal *Biodiversity and Ecology* in a Special Volume entitled *Vegetation Databases for the 21st century*. Don't miss this opportunity.

Further Information:

DENGLER, J., JANSEN, F., GLÖCKLER, F., PEET, R. K., DE CÁCERES, M., CHYTRÝ, M., EWALD, J., OLDELAND, J., FINCKH, M., LOPEZ-GONZALEZ, G., MUCINA, L., RODWELL, J. S., SCHAMINÉE, J. H. J., SPENCER, N. (2011): The Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD): a new resource for vegetation science. – *J. Veg. Sci.* 22. DOI: 10.1111/j.1654-1103.2011.01265.x.

North American Section Report

Contact: Don Faber-Langendoen, section (Chair) & Nita Tallent-Halsell (Secretary/Treasurer)

Don_Faber-Langendoen@naturereserve.org or nita_tallent-halsell@nps.gov

Introduction

IAVS-NA members elected Don Faber-Langendoen to the post of Chair and Nita Tallent-Halsell to the post of Secretary/Treasurer in fall 2009. Many thanks to Kerry Woods for his service since 2007 and to Susan Will-Wolf for her many years of thoughtful and tireless support to the section.

IAVS-NA did not have representation in Crete in 2009 or Baja in 2010.

ESA Vegetation Section / IAVS-NA meeting

The Section held its annual meeting with the Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America at the ESA annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA in August 2010.

- IAVS President Robert Peet reported on the IAVS meeting in Baja, Mexico which was attended by about 20 members of the North American Section. He again urged all ESA Vegetation Section members to join IAVS, and promoted the Lyon, France IAVS meeting schedule in June 2011.
- Don Faber-Langendoen briefly introduced himself and his goals as Chair of IAVS-NA. Two key goals are to
 - develop tools that allow vegetation ecologists to access vegetation plot data available in databases from state, federal, academic, and other organizations,
 - to promote North American vegetation classification efforts underway through the U.S. NVC and Canadian NVC, and encourage collaboration with Mexican vegetation classifications.
- We co-sponsored with the ESA Vegetation Section the Toni Damman Award for best student oral presentation of vegetation science research at the annual meeting by donating a 1-yr electronic subscription for JVS/AVS to the winner.

We encourage IAVS members to attend the joint ESA Vegetation and IAVS-NA social/business meeting at ESA in Austin, Texas, USA on Monday, 8 August 2011 6:30 – 8:00 pm during which time we invite members to participate in a discussion on how the section can better meet their needs and non-members to learn more about IAVS and IAVS-NA alike.

Anyone wishing to submit items of interest to the IAVS-NA membership should contact Nita Tallent-Halsell (nita_tallent-halsell@nps.gov) or Don Faber-Langendoen (Don_Faber-Langendoen@naturereserve.org).

The IAVS Global Fund has been created to support vegetation scientists from countries where limited funding precludes membership in IAVS and where the access to IAVS journals (*Journal of Vegetation Science*, *Applied Vegetation Science*) is not available. In addition, limited funds are available to off-set the cost of including color illustrations in IAVS journals and to correct language of accepted papers of high scientific quality, written by non-native speakers. The Global Fund Committee will give preference to applicants from countries with low income, and to junior scientists. When applying for free access to journals, please make it sure that access is not already provided to your library through one of the Wiley-Blackwell programs for journal access in low-income countries.

Global Fund derives from individual donations, contributions from the IAVS Publisher (formerly Opulus Press and currently Wiley-Blackwell), and other IAVS revenues directed to the Fund by the Council.

Individuals may apply to the Global Fund Committee to become an Associate member of IAVS. Associate members do not have to pay the annual membership fee and do not vote in the Assembly or general elections, but otherwise have all the rights and privileges of full members. Currently there are 38 associated members of IAVS coming from 21 countries. New applications for associated membership are due September 15th 2011.

Members and Associate Members may apply to the Global Fund Committee for free electronic access to *Journal of Vegetation Science* and/or *Applied Vegetation Science*. Currently there are 16 associated members coming from 15 countries receiving free access to journals. New applications for access to journals are due September 15th 2011.

During the coming years, limited funds might also be available for financial support to participate in an annual meeting of IAVS. If it will be the case, application information will be available on the website established for the particular meeting.

Members and Associate Members who have had a manuscript accepted for publication in *Journal of Vegetation Science* or *Applied Vegetation Science* wherein inclusion of color figures would greatly improve the impact of the paper may apply to the Global Fund Committee for a grant to cover the fees for the color figures. Applications may be submitted at any time. Proposal to support language correction will be made by Editor in Chief of journals.

Additional information about applying for a Global Fund Award may be obtained from the IAVS homepage, as well as from chair of the Global Fund Committee, Professor Martin Zobel (martin.zobel@ut.ee). Interested persons have to

submit an application by e-mail on the address of secretary (Nina Smits admin@iavs.org) and motivate briefly (up to half page) his/her request.

IAVS Awards

The IAVS supports a set of awards, for which an Award Committee has been assembled and procedures have been established. The awards portfolio has not been systematically reviewed to determine whether it addresses the needs of the Association. Formerly, honorary members were elected episodically, mainly *ad hoc*, without having a clear selection procedure, whereas at most annual symposia, poster awards were given to young scientists. These awards took the form of a simple certificate and an annual subscription to one of the Journals. At the 2008 IAVS meeting in Stellenbosch, awards for oral presentations were given for the first time, along with poster awards, both of which are now associated with a price of 1000 euro. After a series of discussions within the Awards Committee and the Executive Committee, the following proposals were made.

Members of the Award Committee of IAVS

Joop Schaminée (Chair)
Bob Peet
Deborah Goldberg
Jan Lepš
Nina Smits
Susan Wiser

1. Honorary Member Award

Honorary Membership is an award bestowed on an individual member by the IAVS to recognize sustained contributions of extraordinary merit to the Association.

Nomination: In principle, the Award will be granted every two years (on even years), alternating with the Award for Excellence in Vegetation Science. The Award Committee will be in charge of selecting honorary members. Proposals for candidates can be sent to the Committee until six months before the annual meeting. The Award Committee will discuss the proposals and nominate a candidate and this nomination will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Award: The Honorary Member will be invited to the annual IAVS symposium at the expense of the IAVS (travel, accommodation and symposium fee) and will be asked to present a key-note lecture, following official recognition. The laudation will be published in the IAVS Bulletin and on the IAVS website.

2. Alexander von Humboldt/Robert Whittaker Award for Excellence in Vegetation Science

The Alexander von Humboldt/Robert Whittaker Award is an award presented to a senior vegetation scientist by the IAVS for an outstanding piece of work.

Nomination: In principle, the award will be granted every two years (on odd years), alternating with the Honorary Member Award. The Award Committee will select recipients. Proposals for candidates can be sent to the Committee until six months before the annual meeting. The Award Committee will discuss the proposals and nominate a candidate and this nomination will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Award: The Alexander von Humboldt/Robert Whittaker Award consists of a bronze medal and a work of art. The recipient will be invited to the annual IAVS symposium at the expense of the IAVS (travel, accommodation and symposium fee) and will be asked to present a key-note lecture, following official recognition. The laudation will be published in the IAVS Bulletin and on the IAVS website.

3. Young Scientist Oral Presentation Award

Each year the IAVS recognizes the young scientist (under 35 years of age) who has made the most outstanding oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Association.

Nomination: The Award Committee will arrange for the chairperson of the session to randomly distribute a fixed set of evaluation forms among the audience during the oral presentation. The winner will be the person with the highest average score.

Award: The winner will receive a certificate and 1000 euro to be used to attend one of the subsequent two annual meeting of the IAVS. The recipient and two runners-up will be mentioned on the website.

4. Young Scientist Poster Award

Each year the IAVS recognizes the young scientist (under 35 years of age) who has made the most outstanding poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Association.

Nomination: The Award Committee will arrange for a fixed set of evaluation forms to be randomly distributed among the audience during the symposium. The winner will be the person with the highest average score.

Award: The winner will receive a certificate and 1000 euro to be used to attend one of the subsequent two annual meeting of the IAVS. The recipient and two runners-up will be mentioned on the website.

5. Editor's Award

Each year the Editors-in-Chief of JVS and AVS award one outstanding paper in each journal, or as the Editors-in-Chief put it: "Occasionally we see a paper that is ground-breaking, that introduces a new approach, that debunks an old myth, or that just does everything very well."

Award: The Editor's Award consists of a sponsored prize by our publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. The Award winners are published in the journals and can choose books from the publisher up to the value of 100 pounds.

Meetings Committee

Guidelines for the organization of IAVS annual symposia and for IAVS excursions have been elaborated and approved by the Executive Committee. Both guidelines are now available at the IAVS website (<http://www.iavs.org/MeetingGuidelines.aspx>). The Annual Symposium is the most important activity of IAVS. It is a fundamental and widely appreciated tradition of the Association the inclusion of short, mid-symposium excursions, and longer pre- and post-symposium excursions as part of the IAVS Symposium. Any group of members from anywhere in the world can be a candidate group for organizing the Annual Symposium and associated excursions. The Council will consider the following criteria in the review of proposals to organize the IAVS annual symposium: (1) support that will be provided for the organization of the scientific program, (2) planned excursions including types of habitats to be visited, (3) predicted costs and sponsorships, and registration fees and lodging costs for participants, (4) travel logistics and expenses for participants, and (5) geographic balance between continents and climatic types within the IAVS Symposium sequence.

The following IAVS Symposia are already planned:

54th IAVS Symposium, 20 - 24 June 2011, Lyon, France

The symposium will be held at the Rockefeller Campus located in the city center of Lyon. The organizing committee is lead by Dr. Gudrun Bornette and colleagues from the CNRS (National Center of Scientific Research, France), the University of Lyon 1 and other French institutions. Lyon is the second largest city in France, surrounded by the Alps and embedded in a landscape particularly rich in rivers, streams, alpine lakes and ponds. The scientific program will include all aspects of vegetation science, with the special topic on vegetation in and around water-patterns, processes and threats. The scientific program includes invited lectures by Prof. John Rodwell, Prof. Philipp Grime, Dr. Eric Garnier, Prof. Christian

Korner, and Dr. Paul Keddy. Mid-symposium excursions are planned to visit lakes of the Dombes Plateau, riparian fen reserve of Lavours, restoration of Ain River wetlands, semi-arid grasslands and riparian forest, the Miribel Jonage Park, Jura peatbogs, alpine lake of Bourget and Chautagne swamp, regional Nature Park of Pilat, the Botanical Garden of Lyon, and the city of Lyon. The pre-symposium excursion will visit vegetation sites in the Mediterranean area, around Montpellier, and the post-symposium excursion will visit several sites of the Western part of Alps. More information is available at <http://iavs2011.univ-lyon1.fr>.

55th IAVS Symposium, 23-28 July 2012, Mokpo City, Jeollanam-do Province, Korea

The symposium will be held in Mokpo, Jeollanam-do Province, located in the southern part of the Korean peninsula. The organizing committee is lead by Prof. Sun-Kee Hong (skhong@mokpo.ac.kr), Institute for Marine and Island Cultures, Mokpo National University. The main theme of the symposium will be "Vegetation Science in Climate Change: Response and Challenge". Topics for sessions will be on vegetation change, ecosystem monitoring and forest restoration, ecological function of forest, urban and rural forests, vegetation classification and diversity, biocultural issues in forest landscape, and island and coastal landscapes. The pre- and post-symposium excursions will include ecological and cultural diversity from islands to high mountains in Korea. More information is available at <http://www.iavs.org/uploads/IAVS-2012.pdf>. A first circular will be released by July 2011.

56th IAVS Symposium, 2013, Tartu, Estonia

The 56th IAVS Symposium 'Vegetation patterns and underlying processes' will be held in Tartu, Estonia, on 26-30 June 2013. Expected presentations include vegetation patterns, as well as theoretical and experimental papers explaining patterns. Besides natural drivers, anthropogenic impact on vegetation and conservation management will be addressed as well. During pre- and post-conference excursions, various vegetation types (boreal and boreonemoral forests, wetlands, seminatural grasslands, coastal vegetation) will be visited all over Estonia. The contact persons are Prof. Martin Zobel (chairman of the organizing committee, martin.zobel@ut.ee) and Dr. Kersti Püssa (secretary of the organizing committee, kersti.pussa@ut.ee).

57th IAVS Symposium, 2014, Perth, Australia

The symposium will be held in Curtin Institute for Biodiversity & Climate, Curtin University, Bentley Campus, in Perth (Western Australia), during the last week of August or first week of September 2014. The organizing

committee is lead by Professors Ladislav (Laco) Mucina (L.Mucina@curtin.edu.au) and Grant Wardell-Johnson (G.Wardell-Johnson@curtin.edu.au). The main theme of the symposium will be “Biodiversity & Vegetation: Pattern, Processes, Conservation” and the scientific program will include topics on biodiversity patterns in vegetation survey and mapping, community assembly, vegetation science in service of biodiversity conservation, global problems – global questions for vegetation science, climate change and vegetation response. The pre- and post-symposium excursions will visit sites within the Southwestern Australian Biodiversity Hotspot. The pre-symposium excursion (three days) will be in the North of Perth (Yanchep, Enneabba, Kalbarri, Nambung NP). The post-symposium excursion (four days) will be in the South of Perth (Darling Scarp, Stirling Range, Porrongurup, Albany, Walpole-Narnalup NP, Augusta, Bunbury).

Proposals for the organization of the IAVS Symposium of 2015 and following years are welcome.

IAVS members who passed away in 2010:

Odd Eilertsen (Feb 2010)

Udo Bohn (Aug 2010)

Professor John Beard (1916-2011)

Professor John Stanley Beard (1916-2011) passed away peacefully in January 2011. John was British-born, but spent part of his scientific career in the Caribbean, South Africa and finally in Australia. He was the first Director of Kings' Park Botanic Garden in Perth, Western Australia. He almost single-handedly mapped the vegetation of Western Australia for which he was considered one of the most influential Australian vegetation ecologists. John was a champion of the so-called "structural" approach to classification of vegetation (see his influential chapter on the topic in Whittaker's legendary "*Classification and Ordination*" book, 1973). John became a Member of the Order of Australia, an award bestowed on him for his life-long service to science in his adopted motherland. See also http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Stanley_Beard

