IAVS Meetings Committee
Report for the IAVS Council meeting, September 2023

Javier Loidi (Chair)
Guillaume Decocq
Jason Fridley
Gudrun Bornette
Meelis Pärtel
Valério Pillar
Jodi Price
Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil
Franklin Scott
Otto Wildi

Present and forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2023
Coffs Harbour (New South Wales, Australia)

65th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by John Hunter


Theme: The Future of Vegetation in the 22nd Century

3-8 September 2023, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia

Local Organizing Committee (LOC): We are currently hoping to include further local assistance but at present our LOC includes:

  Adj. Professor John T. Hunter
  Emeritus Professor Nick Reid
  Dr Eda Addicott
  Dr Rhiannon Smith
  Dr Sarah Luxton
  Dr Donna Lewis
Pre-Symposium Workshop

- Introduction to the ‘rgge’ package in R. Learn how to retrieve and manipulate satellite images using the Google Earth Engine in R, and study vegetation change at large scale!

Special sessions:

- Climate change impacts on global ecosystems
- Impacts of megafires on biota
- Fire management in a warming planet
- Monitoring biodiversity
- Plant genomics, conservation and management
- Vegetation decline and its mitigation
- Indigenous stewardship and vegetation management of natural areas
- Mining offsets and vegetation management
- Grazing management and biodiversity conservation
- Protected area management for the 22nd century
- Vegetation management and restoration in agricultural landscapes
- Climate change and revegetation
- Revegetation for ecosystem service provision
- International vegetation classification
- Classification of the world’s biomes
- Vegetation mapping

Travel and Location: Getting to Coffs Harbour is easy as it has several flights per day from Sydney and Brisbane (just over 1 hr) and daily bush and train services. Coffs Harbour is a regional city (population ca. 26,000) located within the North Coast of New South Wales - a sub-tropical coastal region. The city is within easy access of a larger range environments within a few hours’ drive including rainforest (including cool temperate montane *Nothofagus* to sub-tropical), montane environments, wetlands and coastal vegetation to name a few. It is surrounded by National Parks and extensive forests. The North Coast of NSW is a global biodiversity hotspot and includes the McPherson-MacClay phytogeographical overlap where the northern tropical Asian influence flora meets the original southern Gondwanan flora. This region of NSW is known to contains approximately 3,500 vascular taxa of which many are still being named. The city has its own botanic gardens (https://coffsbotanicgarden.com.au/) and extensive walking trails throughout the city taking in many of the natural environments. The city has a wide range of accommodation facilities as it is a tourist city and has backpacker hostels, numerous hotels and motels and AirB&B. The timing of the conference is during the non-tourist season so accommodation should be easy to obtain and at a reasonable price.

Getting to Coffs Harbour is easy as it has several flights per day from Sydney and Brisbane (just over 1 hr) and daily bus and train services.
Pre- and post-symposium excursions and mid-symposium excursions.

Final details of these are yet to be determined. However, we do propose excursions that likely will require between 7-10 days. The University of New England and Southern Cross Universities have and large range of expertise available to lead each excursion and Coffs Harbour of NSW has many resident botanical experts.

A. Pre-symposium excursion to visit Tertiary volcanoes and Jurassic/Triassic Sedimentary Basins Field Trip

B. Post-symposium excursion to visit Tertiary volcanoes and Jurassic/Triassic Sedimentary Basins Field Trip

C. Mid-symposium excursions. Coffs Harbour is within less than 2 hrs drive of mountain environments up to 1600 m altitude and thus includes an enormous range of vegetation types. Day trips will include:

1. Moonee Beach Nature Reserve
2. Glenugie Peak
3. Bongil Bongil National Park
4. Dorrigo and New England National Parks
5. Dieback, Forest Health and Forest Management

2024

Funchal (Madeira Island, Portugal)

66th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by Jorge Capelo

Venue: Funchal (Madeira Island, Portugal).

Provisional theme: From local to global: vegetation patterns across spatial scales in a changing World.

Local Organizing Committee (LOC): We are currently hoping to include more colleagues among Portuguese, Spanish, French and Capeverdian IAVS members, but at present our LOC includes:

Jorge Capelo (Oeiras, close to Lisbon)

Miguel Sequeira (Funchal, Madeira)

Excursions.
A. Pre symposium excursion. It will be to the Cape Verde archipelago, for one week before the Symposium. Cape Verde are arid tropical islands in the western coast of Africa with Macaronesian vegetation. It will be organized in collaboration with the Cape Verde University and the Fogo Island National Park.

B. Mid-symposium excursion. One-day excursion in Madeira Island. It will include Mediterranean and Temperate scrub and laurel forest and mountain vegetation. Madeira island has one of the best Laurel Forest stretches in the Macaronesia archipelagos, which are UNESCO World Heritage.

C. Post-symposium excursion. It is still being arranged and it will be either to the Azores laurel forest or to the Canary Islands scrub, rock and forest vegetation.

The 66th IAVS Annual Symposium 2024 will be held in Funchal, in Madeira Island, Portugal, from the 7th to the 13th of September 2021. Madeira Island is a large island in the NE Atlantic Ocean about 1000 Km SW of mainland Portugal and is beautiful natural and historical setting: laurel forest, endemic vegetation and the historical city of Funchal. The symposium is being organised by a group of Portuguese, Spanish, French and Capeverdian IAVS members working for long in the islands of Macaronesia. The Symposium will be hosted, primarily, by the University of Madeira, in association with colleagues from the Universities of Porto, Lisbon, Brest (France), the Azores (Portugal) and Cape Verde. If the colleagues of the Canary Islands (La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain) will associate to the organizing committee is still to be negotiated. We also have had already the collaboration of some other members of the committees of the IAVS, which we expect will be involved in the organizing committee (namely Javier Loidi, of the Basque Country Univ., Spain). We have the promise of support by some of the local official entities. The ad hoc organizing committee works around Jorge Capelo (Oeiras, close to Lisbon) and Miguel Sequeira (Funchal, Madeira), both vegetation scientists and plant taxonomists that have been active in western Europe and Macaronesia vegetation studies and have presided to scientific societies dedicated to vegetation study. We already participated in the organization of the 48th IAVS Symposium 2004, in Lisbon and the post-symposium excursion in Madeira at the time. It should be emphasized that the 66th IAVS Symposium will be simultaneous to its section ‘European Vegetation Survey’ Conference, held in the same place, from the 8th to 12th of September 2024. Some events will be shared, for instance, some parallel sessions, the mid-symposium excursion and some social events. EVS will be in the facilities of the Rectory of Madeira University, in the historical center of Funchal which has an auditorium of moderate size. The IAVS Symposium will be held in a hotel with a larger auditorium and more rooms for simultaneous sessions, within walking distance from the EVS Conference. Coordination with EVS Steering Committee has been going on and the invitation to the conference has already presented at the EVS Conference 2023 in Rome. The EVS theme is ‘Vegetation of sea, oceanic and ecological islands in Europe’. Registrations will be separate, because of the different costs involved in EVS Conference and IAVS Symposium, but the possibility to register on both events will exist. Our proposal of theme of the symposium will be “From local to global: vegetation patterns across spatial scales in a changing World”. This is provisional still and could be changed. We, the organizing committee, have been setting up the teams and have been discussing the ideas for the symposium and excursions. Preliminary revising and
compiling effort of the vegetation of Macaronesia for the excursion guidebooks is also being undertaken. Soon, we will have a proposal of session line up, themes and soon a first version of the symposium page will be launched and associated to the IAVS own page. The excursions’ program is still provisional as to the pre and post ones. The mid-symposium excursion will one-day excursion in Madeira Island. It will include Mediterranean and Temperate scrub and laurel forest and mountain vegetation. Madeira island has one of the best Laurel Forest stretches in the Macaronesia archipelagos, which are UNESCO World Heritage. The pre-symposium excursion will be to the Cape Verde archipelago, for one week before the Symposium. Cape Verde are arid tropical islands in the western coast of Africa with Macaronesian vegetation. It will be organized in collaboration with the Cape Verde University and the Fogo Island National Park. Flights there take about four hours from Lisbon (Portugal). The post-symposium excursion is still being arranged and it will be either to the Azores laurel forest or to the Canary Islands scrub, rock and forest vegetation. Both archipelagos are at less than two-hour flying distance directly from Madeira Island.

The Local Organizing Committee of the 66th IAVS 2024  Funchal, Madeira, Portugal.

Jorge Capelo and Miguel Sequeira