

1 **IAVS Bulletin Report**

2 **IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group**

3 Steering Committee: Scott B. Franklin (Chair), John T. Hunter (Secretary), Miquel De
4 Cáceres, Jürgen Dengler, Flavia Landucci & Pavel Krestov

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6 The general scope of the VCWG includes vegetation classification at any spatial or
7 organizational scale, particularly the underlying methodologies and standards,
8 ultimately allowing greater understanding and crosswalks among national
9 classification systems. To that end, the VCWG has developed subgroups focusing on
10 specific activities and maintains a website "The IAVS Vegetation Classification
11 Methods Website" (<https://sites.google.com/site/vegclassmethods/home>) as the
12 official outlet of VCWG activities, including a discussion forum for members and the
13 dissemination of agreed standards. In addition, the website aims to facilitate access to
14 bibliographic and technical resources for vegetation classification (data, programs,
15 tutorials, etc.). The website includes the Bylaws, geographical representation of
16 current membership, and contact information to become involved (by contacting the
17 working group Secretary John Hunter [jhunter8@bigpond.com]). Membership
18 (currently 195 members from 42 countries and six continents) is free and does not
19 require membership in IAVS. Over the next year, elections will be held for a new
20 steering committee.

21 The focus of the Steering Committee at present is a special issue in *Phytocoenologia*,
22 "Global overview of plot-based vegetation classification systems." The purpose of
23 this Special Issue is to provide a common framework describing all approaches of
24 vegetation classification used throughout the world and thus allowing for a thorough
25 comparison among those approaches. Nearly all of the 14 publications are accepted
26 and being edited. Our goal is to publish the special issue in the third volume of 2017.

27 A second endeavor is to help jumpstart a global classification system at the biome
28 level. At the 2017 IAVS meeting, the working group has established a special session
29 and workshop ("Rethinking Biomes") on the issue. The goals of the workshop are: 1.
30 Discuss current biomes classification approaches and systems 2. Start to develop

31 ideas for a new biome classification approaches/system (The goal of the workshop is
32 not a finished product but to kick start an INTL effort) and 3. Elect leaders for a sub
33 group of the IAVS VCWG to forward this effort. The working group received
34 funding from IAVS for the workshop.

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