

## IAVS Meetings Committee

### Report for the IAVS Council meeting at Bozeman. July 2018

**Javier Loidi** (Chair)

**Guillaume Decocq**

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Forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

**2019**

### **Bremen, Germany**

**62th Annual Symposium of the IAVS, Presented by Martin Diekmann**, Vegetation Ecology and Conservation Biology. FB 2, University Bremen, Leobener Str. 28359 Bremen, Germany

#### **General**

Bremen is one of the larger cities (with about 560.000 inhabitants) in the north of Germany, situated at the river Weser ca 60 km from the sea. It is a green city with short distances, the international airport is only 15 min away from the city centre. It offers a wide variety of hotels at reasonable prices (July is low touristic season here), many of them being in walking distance to the envisioned conference venue close to the railway station.

Bremen has a diverse and outstanding scientific environment, in the natural sciences with a strong focus on marine research. The University of Bremen has been recognized as one of the 11 Excellence universities in Germany. The city harbors also the City University of Applied Sciences and the private Jacobs University, as well as famous research institutes such as the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology and (located in the sister city Bremerhaven) the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI).

#### **Venue**

Centrally located in the heart of Bremen and consolidated under one roof – the Exhibition and Conference Centre Bremen (CCB) offers a perfect setting for the meeting. The CCB is located right in the middle of the city center, directly adjacent to the main train station in the South and the green 200-hectare *Bürgerpark* (city park) in the north. Exhibition space, meeting rooms and also a four-star hotel are all easy-to-reach inside the same building.

#### **Accommodation**

Bremen offers a wide range of accommodation with over 100 hotels (ca. 11.000 beds), about half of them within walking distance of the CCB. Participants of the IAVS meeting will not need time for longer bus or taxi rides. Guests may choose between superior hotels, small privately run hotels, budget design hotels, hostels and youth hostels. Among the hotels there are several international chains such as Swissôtel, Courtyard by Marriott, Maritim, and Best Western.

The envisioned time for the meeting in the middle of July is low tourist season in Bremen. Because of this fortunate situation we will be able to negotiate beneficial deals with the CCB and the hotels.

The Bremen Convention Bureau (BTZ) will support the meeting and provide sufficient room capacities with best available rates exclusively for participants of the meeting.

### ***Getting there***

Bremen has an international airport located only 6 km from Bremen's city center and the CCB. There are several daily direct connections to major cities such as Frankfurt, Munich, Amsterdam, Paris and London. Other international airports (Hamburg, Hannover) are in only about 100 km distance from Bremen and can be easily reached by train.

A tram stop is located right in front of the airport, enabling passengers to be in the heart of the city within less than 20 min for 3 €. A taxi ride takes about 15 min and costs approximately € 16.

Germany has a liberal policy for short-term visitors. Thus, many nationalities don't need a visa at all, and all other nationalities will get visas without problems to attend the conference. The organizers will care for the rapid provision of invitation letters for all participants that require a visa for entering Germany.

### ***Budget***

We anticipate ca. 400 to 500 participants, based on the experience from other IAVS symposia in Central Europe. As the costs for the Conference Centre are relatively low (low season: an offer from the CCB has already been received!), we are confident that the fees from the participants will cover most of the costs. In addition, about one year before the symposium, we will try to apply for support from several national and regional sources, but also from the University of Bremen.

### ***Scientific program***

A suggestion for an overarching theme of the symposium is:

#### **Vegetation Science and Biodiversity Research**

How can the research conducted by the members of our association and vegetation science in general contribute to answer some of the most pressing questions in biodiversity research and to provide data for counteracting the loss of biodiversity?

Sessions may include:

- The significance of long-term vegetation data for biodiversity research
- Methodological problems associated with long-term vegetation data
- Vegetation science and floristic mapping
- Vegetation data can reveal the ecological niches of species
- Progress in applications of species indicator values

- Relationship between plant species richness and animal species richness on different spatial scales
- Homogenization of the vegetation and biodiversity
- Climate change: evidence from vegetation data
- Vegetation Science and Citizen science

Suggestions for other themes and topics are welcome.

### **Field trips**

For the one day mid-symposium excursions we will offer various field trips to areas and habitat types typical for the lowlands in northern Germany:

- One of the oldest nature reserve of the country, the "Lüneburger Heide" S ca 70 km east of Bremen offers a traditional cultural landscape with *Calluna* heathland rich in *Juniperus*, acidic *Nardus* grasslands and a rich cultural heritage;
- The forest nature reserve "Hasbruch" 30 km west of Bremen is famous for its large number of very old *Quercus* and *Carpinus* trees being remnants of the former management of the forest as wooded pasture and coppice. The reserve is the habitat for a large number of threatened vascular plants and cryptogams, insect and bird species.
- North sea excursion to the area of Cuxhaven / Sahlenburg 100 km north of Bremen offering salt marshes and *Calluna* / *Empetrum* heathlands;
- Mire excursion to the last remaining ombrotrophic bogs (*Oxycocco-Sphagnetea*) in the NW of Germany and wet heaths on acidic soils;
- Wet grassland excursion to important NATURA 2000 sites (Wümmewiesen, Hollerland and Teufelsmoor) in or close to Bremen, including species-rich *Molinietalia* communities, diverse water vegetation with large numbers of rare species and a rich bird life;
- Lake Dümmer: An eutrophic lowland lake with one of the largest wetland restoration sites in Germany;
- Urban ecology excursion to the harbor of Bremen with many interesting ruderal species and to the local rubbish dump with spectacular neophytes;
- Bremen park excursion: Rhododendronpark with the second largest collection of *Rhododendron* species in the world, including the Botanical garden and the *botanika*, the green discovery centre. A second target will be the *Bürgerpark*, the park of the people of Bremen in the city centre with a mixture of forest and grassland.
- *Sieben Berge*, a low mountain chain ca 150 km south of Bremen with a diverse forest vegetation (incl. Carici-Fagetum), forest fringes and calcareous grasslands.

### Pre- (or post-) Symposium Excursion

- Wadden Sea island(s): The East Frisian Islands in the Wadden Sea of the German North Sea are part of the coastal National Parks and offer the opportunity to see saline habitats with a gradient from pioneer vegetation on tidal flats on sandy to muddy substrates (*Spartinetea*, *Therosalicornietea*) to perennial salt marshes (*Juncetea maritimi*) between the southern fringe of the islands and the mainland, as well as the dune series at the northern, exposed side of the islands with pioneer vegetation in fertile strandlines (*Cakiletea maritima*), white dunes (*Ammophiletea*) and grey dunes (*Corynephorretalia*) farther away from the shore. Dune slacks are small in size, but are floristic hotspots of the islands. The East Frisian islands and the Wadden Sea are also famous for their rich avifauna with many interesting breeding birds and especially migratory birds.

### Post- or pre-symposium excursion

- Harz and Kyffhäuser region: The Harz is the highest mountain chain in Central Germany, with an altitudinal range from ca 200 m asl to about 1,000 m asl and strong gradient in temperature and precipitation. At the same time it offers a wide variety of bedrocks and soils supporting a large number of different habitat types, including beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) forests and montane spruce (*Picea abies*) forests, calcareous grasslands (*Festuco-Brometea*) at lower altitudes and montane mesic mown meadows (*Trisetion*) and oligotrophic pastures (*Nardo-Agrostion*) at higher altitudes, bog vegetation (*Oxycocco-Sphagnetea*) and also heavy metal vegetation on slag heaps in former mining areas.

SE of the Harz Mountains is the Kyffhäuser region - being situated in the rain shadow of the Harz, this is one of the driest and most continental regions of Germany, with an extremely rich flora and some of the best preserved dry grasslands (*Cirsio-Brachypodion*, *Festucion valesiaca*) of the country.

### **Accompanying persons program**

The city of Bremen is situated at the River Weser and looks back on over 1,200 years of history. Main attractions include the Weser Renaissance town hall and the Roland statue on the market square (a joint UNESCO World Heritage site since 2004), Bremen's oldest quarter - the *Schnoor*, the quaint buildings in Böttcherstrasse and the cathedral. The best-known monument of the city and is the statue of the Town Musicians featuring the donkey, dog, cat and rooster from the fairytale of the Grimm brothers.

An extensive day trip for accompanying persons could include sportive trips (such as bicycle trips), art events (such as trips to the artist villages Worpswede and Fischerhude plus Bremen art galleries Kunsthalle, Böttcherstrasse, and Museum Weserburg Teerhof) and a river Weser tour.

Town Musicians of Bremen (Bronze statue by Gerhard Marcks,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bremen.band.500pix.jpg#/media/File:Bremen.band.500pix.jpg>)

### **Local organizing Committee**

Prof. Martin Diekmann (University of Bremen): Conference chairman; overall coordination, conference management, fund-raising

and (already agreed):

- Prof. Norbert Hölzel (University of Münster)
- Prof. Helge Bruelheide (University of Halle)
- Prof. Michael Kleyer & Dr. Cord Pepler-Lisbach (both University of Oldenburg)
- PD Dr. Maike Isermann (University of Bremen)

Bremen Convention Bureau (BTZ): Professional local conference organizer; overall coordination, conference management and accommodation, coordinator of accompanying persons program

**2020**

## **Vladivostok (Russia)**

**63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by Pavel Krestov**, Botanical Garden-Institute, Vladvostok, Russia

I invite the IAVS annual symposium in Vladivostok, Russia, in the last pristine temperate region in the northern hemisphere. Vladivostok is located inside the middle (or cool) temperate zone with temperate deciduous broadleaved and mixed forests, that may be known to international public as Ussuri taiga, after the Oscar winning movie 'Dersu Uzala' by Akira Kurosawa.

<http://www.servustv.com/at/Medien/Terra-Mater-Amur-Folge-1>

<http://www.servustv.com/at/Medien/Terra-Mater-Amur-Folge-2>

The venue will be the Far Eastern Federal University, on Russkii (Russian) Island, connected with the City of Vladivostok with a world biggest cable-stayed bridge over the Stark strait. The university conference facilities can easily accommodate about 1000 participants. The university owns student dormitories, which can be a good alternatives to hotels for budget accommodation.

<http://www.dvfu.ru/en/web/fevu/video/-/video/8214794-FEFU>

Geographic location of the venue and pristine nature of the region suggests the best fit theme of this symposium: 'Vegetation before and after people'.

The region of the Russian Far East is the best to see intact temperate forest ecosystems, vegetation diversity in conditions of continuous permafrost and vegetation in volcanic areas. Therefore we plan **three** major excursions, which briefly can be named as:

1. **'Sikhote-Alin'** (intact vegetation gradient from temperate to boreal

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziwKl4wTmRA>),

2. **'Oymyakon, the Pole of Cold'** (ultra continental forests on continuous permafrost and refugia of relictual steppes <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWkItxxhNME>) and

3. **'Kamchatka'** (vegetation in volcanic areas <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ELCd6Q9lsY>).

Vladivostok (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladivostok>), established in 1860 as eastern Russian harbor and naval base, remained closed for foreigners until 1991. But it has rich history and its own very special spirit that makes it different from other Russian cities. History of the city is full of facts that may be surprising for potential participants of IAVS symposium: in the beginning of 20 century Vladivostok had a world strongest marine fortifications, it was place of first European business in eastern Russia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunst\\_and\\_Albers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunst_and_Albers)), it is a birthplace of Yul Brynner ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yul\\_Brynner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yul_Brynner)), it is a place, where all nations can find the footprints of their culture.

**2021**

## **Madrid, Spain**

**64<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of the IAVS, presented by Daniel Sánchez-Mata, Dept. of Plant Biology, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain.**

**Venue:** Facultad de Farmacia, Complutense University, Ciudad Universitaria, Madrid, Spain.

The Symposium will be held in Madrid, the current capital city of Spain. The historical origin of Madrid goes back to the IX century when the emir Muhammad I (852-886) orders to build a fortress in the river bank of the Manzanares. This settlement was known as Mayrit (corrupted to Magerit by the Castilians) and was built over earlier ruins of the Visigoth period (VII century). The fortress was erected in the place currently occupied by the Royal Palace and it was to control the mountain passes of the neighboring Guadarrama range. In the IX century Madrid is incorporated to the Kingdom of Castile by king Alphonse VI (1083) and in 1561 is established as the permanent capital of the Spanish Monarchy by Philip II.

Madrid and its metropolitan area has a population of over 6 million inhabitants and has a very efficient public transportation network and many international flight connections. The cultural offer is very rich, with an important number of outstanding museums, such as Museo del Prado, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Reina Sofía, Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza or the Museo Arqueológico Nacional. A couple of emblematic historic cities surround in vicinity the capital city, such as Toledo, Segovia, Ávila, La Granja de San Ildefonso, Aranjuez or El Escorial, making possible to do one-day visits to those places.

The symposium will take place in the Campus Moncloa (International Excellence Campus) of the Complutense University of Madrid, which provides with all the facilities needed for such an event. The connection of the campus with the city is very fluid and provided by bus and by subway (only one station). The city has a large lodging capacity able to host a huge visitor population. The halls existing in the Faculty of Pharmacy will be at disposal for the Symposium and there will be bar, coffee shop and restaurant facilities too.

**Tentative dates:** The Symposium would be between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> July

The Pre-symposium excursion will take place between June 28<sup>th</sup> and July 2<sup>nd</sup> across southern Spain (La Mancha, Sierra Morena, Bermeja, Nevada and Cazorla), while the Post-Symposium excursion is scheduled for July, between the 12<sup>nd</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup>, across the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal)

The Mid-Symposium one-day excursions will visit the Sierra de Guadarrama and the Montes de Toledo.