

IAVS Meetings Committee
Report for the IAVS Council meeting at Bremen. July 2019

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Forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2020

Vladivostok (Russia)

63rd Annual Symposium of the IAVS, Vegetation in the Anthropocene, presented by Pavel Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute, Vladvostok, Russia

I invite the IAVS to the 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; this area may be known to the international public as Ussuri taiga, after the Oscar winning movie 'Dersu Uzala' by Akira Kurosawa.

The venue will be the Far Eastern Federal University, on Russkii (Russian) Island, connected with the City of Vladivostok by the world's biggest cable-stayed bridge over the Stark strait. The university conference facilities can easily accommodate about 1000 participants. Far Eastern Federal was established in 1920 from the Eastern Institute, which was created in 1899 to support a variety of types of relationships with Asian countries, including economic, political, military, scientific and educational. Far Eastern Federal now comprises nine schools and 18 academic departments. The university is home to over 40 000 students. The university owns student dormitories, which can be a good alternative to hotels for budget accommodation.

Vladivostok (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladivostok>), established in 1860 as the eastern Russian harbor and naval base, remained closed for foreigners until 1991. It has a rich history and its own very special spirit that makes it different from other Russian cities. The history of the city is full of facts that may be surprising for potential participants of an IAVS symposium. In the beginning of the 20th century Vladivostok had the world's strongest marine fortifications, it was the place of the first European

business in eastern Russia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunst_and_Albers) and it is a place, where all nations can find the footprints of their culture.

Russia is rather big. The typically homogenous northern vegetation explodes with a variety of unbelievable colors, plant combinations, adaptations and traits. During this symposium we hope to give you the opportunity to see very different aspects of the vegetation of Russia. The region of the Russian Far East is the best part of Russia to see intact temperate forest ecosystems, vegetation diversity in conditions of continuous permafrost and vegetation in volcanic areas.

Excursions. Now we are working on the logistics for pre- and post-symposium excursions in four different areas: The North Caucasus (group leader Vladimir Onipchenko), the Altai Mountains (Nikolai Ermakov) and Kamchatka (Pavel Krestov). Of course, we will also have an excursion near Vladivostok to the Sikhote-Alin Mountains. Because of long distances to be covered by all excursions, we will reserve a minimal time period for each excursion of eight days, except for in Sikhote-Alin, where it will be possible to plan 2, 4 and 7-day excursions.

The **four** major excursions can be described briefly as:

1. Caucasus (Vladimir Onipchenko). The excursion will cover different types of mountain vegetation in two areas: 1) the oceanic west Caucasus with montane dry grasslands, broad-leaved forests, coniferous forests, subalpine shrubs and tall-herb meadows, alpine grasslands and meadows as well as sub-nival rocky vegetation, 2) the central Caucasian continental vegetation near the highest European peak - Elbrus (5642 m) with dry grasslands, petrophytic vegetation in dry valleys, pine and birch forests, subalpine and alpine vegetation. The excursion will include several areas in Kabardino-Balkaric Republic (Baksan valley) and Karachai-Cherkessian Republic (Kuban, Teberda, Arkhyz). We also will visit the National Park "Prielbrus'e" and Teberda Biosphere Reserve.

2. Altai (Nikolai Ermakov). This is one of the most important biodiversity centers in Northern Eurasia. The wide range of altitudes, climate humidity and continentality allow the formation of a large number of zonal vegetation types. The excursion route will take place along the geographical transect crossing the ultra-humid, humid and arid geographical sectors of the mountain system. Participants will have the opportunity to visit the natural communities of North Asian and European-Siberian dark coniferous and light coniferous forests, the zonal types of West Palearctic and Central Asian meadow-steppes, typical steppes and desert-steppes, as well as various types of high mountain vegetation. We will see remarkable landscapes of the Katun river valley, Kuraiskaya and Kosh-Agachskaya intermontane basins and the surrounding high mountain ridges.

3. Kamchatka (Pavel Krestov). One of the most extreme corners of the world's boreal zone with a variety of vegetation you would never expect at these latitudes elsewhere in a world. Very nice *Betula ermanii* forests that survive probably the deepest snow in Northeast Asia, endless *Pinus pumila* thickets, tall-herb (really tall) meadows and a

variety of tundras adapted to continental and oceanic conditions. The major highlights are volcanoes; 300 are dormant and 30 are active. Some of them are very active now. We will visit two major groups of volcanoes: Klyuchevskaya group (includes Klyuchevskoy Volcano itself, Bezymyanny, Tolbachik) and Avachinskaya group (home volcanoes for Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky city. They are superb natural laboratories to study plant succession, and therefore we plan a field excursion here.

Since the Russian Far East, and especially Kamchatka, is one of volcanically most active regions in the Pacific Ring of Fire, and in 2003 we had a great experience in organizing the field symposium "Plants and Volcanoes"; it would be unforgivable to miss the opportunity to repeat such an event in Kamchatka this time.

4. Shikote-Alin Mountains (tbc). The world's wildest place in latitudinal range 40-50 degrees with ecosystems whose food chains end with tiger, the world's biggest cat. This place is populated with indigenous people, who try to keep their own culture in this changing world. We will be able to see the legendary nearly intact broadleaved-Korean pine forests, the vertical vegetation zonation ending with *Pinus pumila* thickets and mountain tundra on the tops and a variety of vegetation type characteristic of this beautiful area. We will visit the National park Bikin, Sikhote-Alin Biosphere reserve, Hanka Lake, and look at North Korea across the state boundary.

Dates of symposium: 20 – 24 July 2020

Themes. Now we all are witnessing a transfer between the two geological epochs: the Holocene and the Anthropocene. Humanity has created a fundamentally new environment, in which it will develop further. New human habitats have acquired new qualities, such as depleted biodiversity, significant changes in the atmosphere, the increasing deposition of “technofossils”, the degradation of terrestrial ecosystems and a sharp increase in population. This has led to changes in vegetation unprecedented in historical times. This symposium focuses on understanding how deep the transformations are that have changed the Earth's vegetation, how new vegetation will be able to serve to needs of a large human population, and how to best fit vegetation science theory and methodology to this new situation.

We anticipate that this symposium will create a common ground not only for vegetation scientists, but also for geophysicists, biochemists, paleobiologists and anthropologists and provide a useful step forward in understanding how these new, large challenges for humanity in the Anthropocene epoch.

The main theme of the Conference: Vegetation in the Anthropocene: This will encompass transformation, new vegetation combinations, the value of relictual vegetation, migrations, and new environments for humanity. We will try to assess how effective existing and developing theories and methodologies will be for the future study of the world's flora and vegetation.

More specifically this main theme will include:

1. Diversity and functioning of natural and artificial vegetation
2. Traditional and new drivers of ecosystem transformations
3. Ecosystems before humans
4. Ecosystems under human impact
5. The Anthropocene changes in vegetation
6. How vegetation science can contribute to sustainable development for humanity.

In addition to papers on these topics, we welcome your proposals for other subjects to be discussed during the Symposium.

2021

Madrid (Spain)

64th 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) ordered a fortress to be built on the river bank of the Manzanares river. 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 to control the mountain passes of the neighboring Guadarrama range. In the IX century, Madrid was incorporated into 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 have a population of over 6 million inhabitants and has a very efficient public transportation network and many international flight connections. The cultural offerings are 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 are near to the capital city, such as Toledo, Segovia, Ávila, La Granja de San Ildefonso, Aranjuez or El Escorial, making possible for one-day visits to those places to be taken. The city has a large accommodation capacity that allows a large population of visitors to be hosted.

The symposium will take place in the Campus Moncloa (International Excellence Campus) of the Complutense University of Madrid, which provides all the facilities needed for such an event. The connection between the campus with the city is very easy and is provided by bus and by subway (only one station). The halls existing in the Faculty of Pharmacy will be available for the Symposium and there will be bar, coffee shop and restaurant facilities too.

The symposium will include an abstracts book, program, and excursions guides specially detailed for the pre- and post-symposium excursions. A conference website will be ready with basic information at least one year before the symposium; announcements will be also provided at the Bremen (2019) and Vladivostok symposia (2020).

Dates: The Symposium will take place between the 5th and 11th July 2021

Excursions:

The Pre-symposium excursion will take place between June 28th and July 2nd across southern Spain (La Mancha, Sierra Morena, Bermeja, Nevada and Cazorla). Objective: high landscape diversity including marsh and saltmarsh inland vegetation, and subbetic-betic mountain ranges (with the remarkable and endemic *Abies pinsapo* forests on serpentized peridotites and the Sierra Nevada National Park, a true hot-spot for biodiversity, including a full hiking-day).

The Post-Symposium excursion is scheduled for July, between the 12th and the 16th. Objective: landscape diversity throughout the Iberian Central System (Spain/Portugal), including a full hiking-day. Preliminary itinerary: Madrid-Navacerrada-Cotos Pass (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park)-Segovia-Ávila-Hoyos del Espino (Sierra de Gredos Mountains Regional Park)-Béjar-Candelario-Peña de Francia-Serra da Estrêla (Portugal).

The Mid-Symposium one-day excursions. At least two or three one-day mid symposium excursions will be organized (Sierra de Guadarrama National Park, Toledo Mountains, southern Madrid areas, etc.).