

## Historical Vegetation Ecology Working group of the IAVS Annual report 2018-2019

- The Historical Vegetation Ecology Working group (HVE WG) was created in July 2018 during the annual symposium of the IAVS in Bozeman (MT, USA). During this symposium:
  - 1- A workshop was organized on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July by Radim Hédli and Guillaume Decocq (see <http://iavs.org/2018-Annual-Symposium/Program/Workshops.aspx>). This workshop aimed at promoting discussion on the aims and focus of the newly proposed IAVS working group.
  - 2- The IAVS Council approved the creation and the bylaws of the new WG.
  - 3- A special session entitled “Historical ecology in vegetation science” was organized on Thursday 27th July 2018. A number of talks and posters were presented. Part of these communications are being compiled for a special issue of *Journal of Vegetation Science*. This should be completed by the end of 2019.
- The end of 2018 was dedicated to the collection of members and the election of the Steering Committee of the HVE WG:
  - An invitation to become a member of the WG was sent to all IAVS members via the membership e-mail list. As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the WG had 173 members, of which 138 were IAVS members. This is quite a large number of members and reveals that the creation of the working group meets the expectations of many vegetation scientists.
  - From 19th September to 19th October 2018 voting for the election of the Steering Committee (2019-2022) took place via an electronic ballot. Fifteen members were candidates for the election. Of the 130 voters, 72 (55.4%) have effectively voted. Based on the results of the ballot, the five following candidates were officially elected as members of the Steering Committee (Fraction of votes): Guillaume DECOCQ (83.3%), Radim HÉDL (61.1%), Peter POSCHOLD (36.1%), Péter SZABÓ (51.4%), and Kris VERHEYEN (45.8%).
  - Guillaume DECOCQ and Radim HÉDL were subsequently elected as Chair and Deputy chair, respectively, during the first meeting of the newly elected Steering Committee (14th November 2018).
- An Internet page presenting the HVE WG has been prepared and added to the IAVS web site at the beginning of 2019 (see <http://iavs.org/Working-Groups/Historical-Vegetation-Ecology.aspx>).
- In January 2019 a first *Information Letter* was distributed to all WG members and posted on the IAVS website (see <http://iavs.org/getattachment/Working-Groups/Historical-Vegetation-Ecology/HVE-WG-Information-letter-1.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>).
- The beginning of the year 2019 was dedicated to two actions:
  - 1- Assembling a directory within the HVE WG, to facilitate internal communication. For this purpose, all members were invited to complete a one-page formatted document.
  - 2- Conducting an on-line survey, to help the Steering Committee define priorities for the coming years.

- The HVE WG will meet in Bremen, during the 62<sup>nd</sup> IAVS annual symposium and will also organize a special session entitled “The legacy of the past in the biodiversity of current vegetation”.