

THE IAVS BULLETIN

The IAVS Bulletin is a newsletter for the members of
the International Association for Vegetation Science

8 2004



The 48th Symposium of the IAVS will be held in Lisboa, Portugal, from 24 to 29 July 2005. The main theme of the meeting will be 'Marginal landscapes (and nutrient-poor ecosystems) – processes and adaptations'.

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From the Secretary General

Dear IAVS Members, Colleagues and Friends,

During the last IAVS meetings and following e-mail exchanges, some discussion has taken place about the desirability of a paper version of the IAVS Bulletin, as the information is available on the internet (www.iavs.org). Nevertheless, it is obvious that many people still welcome a version they can read without being attached to a computer screen, so we will continue to publish our yearly newsletter in the way we have done before. This time, the IAVS Bulletin will be accompanied by an updated version of the IAVS Membership List, kindly produced by Opulus Press (Joost van der Maarel) in cooperation with our IAVS Administrator Nina Smits. As the present newsletter actually is dealing with two calendar years (2003-2004), some of the information is somewhat outdated, but for reasons of completeness, we have not deleted the sections concerned. During the annual meeting in Naples (June 2003), a new IAVS Council was installed, as some of the sitting members of the board expressed their wish to give over their tasks to a new generation. So, we had to take leave of Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Akira Miyawaki. It will be far from easy to replace them, but I am sure that the 'newcomers' Martin Diekmann, Kazue Fujiwara and John Rodwell will do their best. In 2005, the annual symposium of the IAVS will be held in Lisboa, Portugal, and I warmly invite you to participate. Let's meet in Lisboa in July!

Wageningen, December 2004

Joop H.J. Schaminée

The International Association for Vegetation Science

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Membership fee: 20 EUR / 20 USD. Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, Renkum, the Netherlands. Use BIC/Swift code: SNS BNL 2A, and/or IBAN code: NL40 SNSB 0921 5290 23

www.iavs.org

Minutes of the Council Meeting in Naples on 9 June 2003

Council members present: E.O. Box (US), U. Deil (DE), M. Diekmann (DE), H. Dierschke (DE), K. Dierßen (DE), K. Fujiwara (JP), J. Loidi (ES), E. van der Maarel (NL), L. Mucina (ZA), A. Miyawaki (JP), F. Pedrotti (IT), R.K. Peet (US), S. Pignatti (IT), R. Pott (DE), J.S. Rodwell (GB), J.H.J. Schaminée (NL) and A. Schwabe-Kratochwil (DE). The meeting was also attended by J. van der Maarel (Opulus Press), M.D. Espírito-Santo (organizing committee IAVS meeting 2005), and P. Coker and H. Thomas (organizing committee IAVS meeting 2007).

1. Opening

The president of the IAVS, Elgene Box, opened the meeting at 20.10 with a word of welcome.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, in Porto Alegre (as published in Bulletin 7) were approved.

3. Financial Report

The financial situation of the IAVS during the year 2002 was reported by Hartmut Dierschke. The income for 2002 was 4 127.97 EUR, of which 3 541.61 EUR were from membership fees and 586.36 EUR from interest. The expenses were 4 347.05 EUR, divided among 2 505.27 EUR for the office in Wageningen (Nina Smits), 1 706.86 EUR for notarial charges (second account), and 134.92 EUR for bank costs. The balance for 2002 was –219.08 EUR. This makes the total balance on 31.12.2002 for the IAVS 30 611.72 EUR.

Richard Pott brought forward a letter from Dieter Mueller-Dombois on financial support for the Hawaii symposium in 2004. After a long discussion, the request was granted to the amount of 5 000 EUR – the same support was given to the Naples symposium and earlier symposia had also received some subsidy. However, the financial situation of the IAVS does not allow such grants to continue. This subject will be put on the agenda of the next meeting of the IAVS Council. So far, each request for financial support has been voted on by the Council. When support is granted, the money may be used as a backup first and later to facilitate the attendance of young scientists. The organizing committee is free to spend this grant, provided: (1) the person or persons in question must present a paper or a poster at the IAVS symposium, and (2) it must be announced somewhere that participation at the symposium was made possible by a grant from the IAVS.

The council stated again that the IAVS cannot take any financial responsibility for the annual symposium, as the organisation does not have such a strong financial position itself.

This will be the last financial report Hartmut Dierschke presented. Hartmut has served the IAVS as Secretary and Treasurer for many, many years indeed. He has been an anchor in our association during the period of rapid growth from around 500 members during the 1980s to ca. 1500 at the moment. The IAVS owes really very much to Hartmut's continuous excellent service.

4. Report of the Publication Officer

Eddy van der Maarel presented his report of the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2002. It deals with several aspects of the journals, *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. This will be his last report. From the beginning of *JVS* in 1989, Eddy has been the contact person between Opulus Press and IAVS, and editorially active. He has now resigned as Publication Officer, but he continues his help with the final editing of the journals. To give some credit to the work of Eddy, we here publish large parts of his full report, showing his dedication to the journals.

On the Journals

The number of member-subscribers to *JVS* (including free editorial board, adoptees), was: 864 on 01.03.2003 (against 872 on 01.06.2001); 31 subscribers (last year 25) take only the on-line version, and 7 (5) the combination of paper and electronic versions. The number of on-line subscriptions, although rising, is still disappointing. The number of library subscriptions increased. This is probably due to our agreement with SPARC (see below).

For *AVS*, the number of member-subscribers (including free editorial board, adoptees) is 521 (481). Of these 16 (11) take the on-line version only and 4 (3) take both. By far most of the *AVS* subscribers also take *JVS*. The number of library subscriptions is 104 (99).

There are four Editors, who serve both *JVS* and *AVS*. (These are currently Jan P. Bakker, Sandra Díaz, Peter S. White and J. Bastow Wilson, who act as Chairperson.) Bastow has been very active in raising issues of editorial policy, always involving the Publication Officer. The number of Associate Editors was further increased in order to improve the procedures for manuscript review and decisions about acceptance or rejection. *JVS* now has no fewer than 16 Associate Editors. The number of members of the Editorial Board has further decreased. Book Review Editor Carol Baskin resigned after seven years of service. She will be succeeded by Scott L. Collins. The Computer Program Review Editor Mike Palmer has started his work.

The number of manuscripts submitted, at least to *JVS*, is still growing. During 2002 almost 300 new manuscripts were received, as against 220-250 in earlier years. The popularity is certainly related to the high impact factor the journal has. The number of papers published in 2002 was 90, with an average size of 9.8 pp. In 2001, 98 papers were published with an average size of 9.5 pp. The size of *JVS* has not changed much in the last few years.

The time between acceptance and publication varied between 4 and 6 months. Unfortunately there was a serious delay in the publication of issue 13-6. This was mainly because of technical problems, especially printing and mailing. (Since these problems have been solved and the Editorial Office has speeded up the handling of manuscripts as much as possible, issues are now published promptly.)

The situation around *AVS* is stable. Interest in publishing in the journal is not growing, which has to do with the delay in accepting the journal for Current Contents and the Science Citation Index.

On the Adoption system

AVS has a Global Fund and an Adoption Committee that has, unofficially, functioned since the beginning of *JVS*. Since the Bilbao meeting (1999), the Committee has the following members: the IAVS Publication Officer as secretary, the IAVS Secretary as Treasurer and Administrator, and IAVS members Michael W. Palmer and Tomáš Herben. Consultations within the Committee are entirely by E-mail. Usually Eddy van der Maarel sends a proposal for adoptions through Global Fund and a survey of colleagues adopted more personally. The candidate adoptees receive a letter asking for an explanation that the adoption is still needed and for a list of local colleagues profiting from the adoption.

For 1996-2002 the number of adopted colleagues was ca. 40. However, the situation changed in 2002. First of all, the Global Fund, managed by the bankers of Opulus Press in Uppsala, suffered from the big losses on the stock market. Second, only a few colleagues pay directly for an adoption and almost all adoptions have to be paid from the profits of the Global Fund. Third, several adoptees had not answered an annual letter for several years. Fourth, we were behind with the yearly settlement of ins and outs between IAVS and Opulus Press regarding the Global Fund. As a result we decided to adopt only 21 colleagues for 2002. It was also arranged in principle that *JVS* adoptees could get an electronic subscription. Eddy van der Maarel arranged with Opulus Press that the firm should only take 100 SEK in administration costs (ca. 11 EUR) per electronic adoption. We had also agreed on starting with adoptions for *AVS*, but in view of the uncertain financial situation this has been postponed.

In order to make a fresh start for 2003, Eddy first cleared up the matter of financial settlement, and, to our pleasure, Opulus Press offered to consider the financial relation as settled. This means that Global Fund did not need to pay to Opulus for the adopted subscriptions over the last few years. This

may mean an extra grant from Opulus of more than 15 000 SEK. We will now arrange with the bankers in Uppsala that the shares be sold and the money transferred to the special Global Fund account of IAVS which the Secretary and Administrator opened in Wageningen. (At the moment we have 6100 EUR on the account).

Eddy also proposed to the Adoption Committee and Opulus Press only to pay electronic subscriptions from the Global Fund and that adoptions for the printed version should be realized only from direct personal adoptions – of which few are left. Eddy arranged with Opulus Press that we would have to pay only 10 EUR for each electronic subscription. A further proposal was to carry out a ‘campaign’ in Naples to get more money for the Global Fund and to encourage colleagues to adopt a colleague, at least for an electronic subscription. Finally Eddy suggested that centres for which a *JVS* subscription can be arranged should send in exchange a selection of publications to a generally accessible library, for which he suggested the Alterra Library in Wageningen.

On the Relation IAVS - Opulus Press

Due to rising costs in Sweden, the net income for 2001 was negative. The prognosis based on the preliminary figures for 2002 shows a continuing negative trend, which has been reinforced by a decrease in the number of reliable private subscribers. On the other hand, the number of library subscriptions is growing. Opulus has taken decisive steps to break the negative trend. By moving the office to another location, Opulus has been able to cut costs on a number of in-house items. Since December 2002, *JVS* and *AVS* are now being printed in Latvia, resulting in 30% lower printing costs. We are further investigating alternative ways of dispatching the journals, with a possible outcome that all journals will be dispatched from the US. (In the end the UK was chosen!) Due to the ca. 10% increase in library subscriptions, as well as the overall reduction in costs, we are optimistic for 2003 and expect a positive net result for the first time in several years. (This was indeed achieved.)

Opulus Press wishes that fees for private subscriptions be raised by 10 EUR. Library subscriptions should be raised by 10%, as prices have not been raised for the past four years. We propose to quote 2004 prices in USD and EUR only.

As to the renewal of the agreements concerning *JVS* and *AVS* between IAVS and Opulus Press, Eddy will prepare copies of the agreements which can be signed during the meeting at Naples.

Miscellaneous items

AVS was accepted by the Institute of Scientific Information for inclusion in Current Contents and the Science Citation Index. This will certainly contribute to an increase in the number of submitted manuscripts and the number of library subscriptions. (Meanwhile the impact factor for *AVS* was published for the first time.)

The negotiations with SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, have resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Research Libraries, the organization running SPARC, Opulus Press and IAVS regarding support of *JVS*. Eddy van der Maarel signed the Agreement on behalf of IAVS. One of the benefits of this agreement is that all libraries supporting SPARC will promise to enter a subscription to *JVS*. It seems that this effect is already clear!

BioOne will provide uniquely integrated, cost-effective access to a thoroughly hyperlinked information resource focused on biological, ecological and environmental sciences. Electronic versions of BioOne journals, basically journals published by small publishing houses and societies, are offered as a package to research libraries as a complement to the journal packages offered by the big commercial publishers. BioOne is supported by SPARC, which makes it all the more interesting to join it. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization. *JVS* and *AVS* have been accepted by the BioOne organization, and the journals have been included in the BioOne aggregation since the autumn of 2002.

5. Election of the new Executive Committee 2002-2005

Hartmut Dierschke, Eddy van der Maarel and Akira Miyawaki want to end their involvement in the Executive Committee; Elgene Box is available again as president; Joop Schaminée is available again as Secretary General & Treasurer; and Martin Diekmann is available as Publication officer. The present members of the Council voted anonymously, with the following result:

Executive Committee 2002-2005:

President: Elgene O. Box

General Secretary & Treasurer: Joop H.J. Schaminée

Publication Officer: Martin Diekmann

Vice-Presidents: Kazue Fujiwara, Javier Loidi, Ladislav Mucina and John S. Rodwell

6. Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

During the meeting in Uppsala in 1998, it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections should provide an annual report to the Council and that these (short) reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. These annual reports can be found elsewhere in this bulletin and are also made available on the Internet (www.iavs.org).

7. Activities in the coming years

Options were discussed with regard to the organization of the annual symposia for the next years:

2004: Symposium in Hawaii.

2005: The Council voted for Portugal (offer made by Maria Dalila Espírito-Santo).

2006: Several options, but the first choice is New Zealand (offer made by Jill Rapson), as they were also in the running for 2004. Other possibilities are a symposium in South Africa (offer made by Laco Mucina) or in Russia (informal offer made by Irina Safronova). Irina has also shown interest in organizing an excursion, maybe possibly in combination with a symposium in Trondheim.

2007: The Council voted for Wales (offer made by Paddy Coker and Hilary Thomas).

8. Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 22.50.

Minutes of the General Assembly in Naples, on 12 June 2003

Information was given on issues discussed during the Council meeting, as reported in the relevant minutes. Also the outcome of the election of the new Executive Committee was announced. The departing members were honoured by the audience. In addition to warm applause, they received a T-shirt showing a portrait of Braun-Blanquet. Information was also given about future meetings, and options were presented for publishing papers of certain sections of the symposium.

Nina Smits reported the decisions by the jury judging the student posters. The job was difficult because many excellent posters had to be compared. The following Posters were awarded. Two second prizes went to Imelda Somodi (Eötvös Lorand University, Budapest) and Roberto Costi (Roma), and the first prize went to M. Ghobadnejhad (University of Teheran, Teheran).

Sandro Pignatti invited everyone to the Conference Dinner just following the Assembly meeting, and Elgene Box closed the Assembly.

Minutes of the IAVS Council Meeting on 19 July 2004 in Kailua-Kona (Hawaii)

Minutes are recorded by Bob Peet (USA).

Council Members present: Elgene Box, Valerio De Patta Pillar, Kazue Fujiwara, Georg Grabherr, Tomáš Herben, Dieter Mueller-Dombois, Bob Peet, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, and Bastow Wilson. Other Attendees: Julie Denslow (local organizer), Anselm Kratochwil (Germany), Jill Rapson (organizer for New Zealand 2007), Joost van der Maarel (Opulus Press), Thomas Wentworth (USA), and Susan Wisser (New Zealand).

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 7 pm by the President, Elgene Box. This was the first IAVS meeting that anyone could remember with both the Secretary-General and Publication Officer absent.

2. Executive Committee Report

A report on the financial situation of the IAVS (Göttingen and Wageningen offices) was read by Box. The balance for 2003 at the Göttingen office was very negative (minus 8 184.96 EUR), due to payouts for two annual meetings within the same calendar year. The balance at the Wageningen office was moderately positive (+ 602.48 EUR) (see details below). The financial situation of the IAVS from 1985 through 2003 was also listed.

A major problem is the financial support given in recent years to the organizers of each annual meeting, for supporting participants from less rich countries. The IAVS does not have the money nor the income potential to continue providing this support unless some changes are made, such as raising the annual dues. There is a buffer in advance for the Portugal meeting (2005), so this financial problem will not occur next year. Portugal and New Zealand have not requested support money.

For the Hawaii meeting, 51 000 USD were raised by the organizers. The amount of support needed depends on the location, for example the costs were lower in Brazil in 2002. Guidelines are needed for support provided from the IAVS treasury. In general, meeting costs are lower on university campuses, but meeting time may be constrained by the university operating calendar.

Some confusion remains concerning payment of section dues. Most payments come from Germany and Japan. Some new process may be necessary in order to simplify payments.

A new membership list is being prepared and should be ready by the end of 2004. It was suggested that the list could be made available on the IAVS website (with password protection).

A report from the Publication Office was given by Joost van der Maarel. The number of library subscriptions to *JVS* has increased from 407 (in 2003) to 446 (for 2004), and there is a further increase due to library subscriptions through BioOne. For *AVS*, private subscriptions have increased from 266 (in 2003) to 365 (in 2004), and library subscriptions have increased modestly from 92 (in 2003) to 109 (in 2004). Some discussion followed concerning paper versus electronic subscriptions.

No reports were presented from Working Groups, Commissions or Regional Sections.

3. Activities in coming years

2005, Portugal: Pre-symposium excursion 18-24 July 2005, in Madeira; Symposium 25-29 July (Monday-Friday) in Lisboa; post-symposium excursion to northern Portugal, about one week (possibly including Galicia).

2006: Two possibilities were proposed by New Zealand, November 2006 (Nov. 20 - Dec. 14) and February 2007 (Jan. 29 - Feb. 22). The February schedule falls more within the growing season and is logistically easier for the local organizers, but February 2006 would be too soon. Council participants (from Europe, Japan, N and S America) voted to accept the proposal from New Zealand, with the February 2007 schedule (vote: 12-0-0).

Further information was provided by Jill Rapson (see further under 'IAVS Symposia'): probable costs (including excursions) about 2 000 NZD (New Zealand dollar), pre-symposium excursion to northern North Island, post-symposium excursion to South Island, including Nelson, Fox Glacier, Queenstown, Dunedin, Arthur's Pass, and Christchurch.

If there is no IAVS meeting during calendar year 2006, an effort will be made to organize a major working-group meeting or similar.

2007: Wales: Already accepted (for July 2007).

2008: Proposals have been received from South Africa and from Trondheim (Norway), as well as more informal inquiries from Korea and Russia (excursions only). No one was present to provide further information.

4. Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 9 pm.

Minutes of the IAVS General Assembly on 23 July 2004 in Kailua-Kona (Hawaii)

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 1:35 pm by the President (Elgene Box).

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the 2003 meetings (posted on web site) were approved.

3. Report from the Council Meeting

Box noted that the Secretary-General and other officers were not present for a complete Executive Committee Report. The financial report (see Council minutes) was read by Box, who also explained the negative balance for 2003 and the recent problem arising from supporting participants at the annual meetings without any mechanism for a corresponding increase in IAVS income. A report on the journals was given by Bastow Wilson.

4. Activities of the IAVS

Reports on recent activities were given by Peet for North America and Fujiwara for East Asia.

Some information was given on activities during coming years (see further under 'Minutes of the Council meeting'):

Vienna. An invitation to the International Botanical Congress in Vienna, in July 2005, was presented by Georg Grabherr.

Portugal. The members were reminded of the dates for the IAVS annual meeting in Portugal, in July 2005, which had already been presented in detail the previous year.

Montreal. The members were reminded of the dates for the INTECOL Congress to be held in Montreal in 2005, immediately after the IAVS post-symposium excursion in Portugal (August 7-12).

New Zealand. An invitation, dates and details for the '2006' annual meeting, in New Zealand, were provided by Jill Rapson, the local organizer. The meeting is to be held during February 2007.

Wales. Members were reminded of the 2007 IAVS meeting in Wales.

Proposals from South Africa and from Trondheim (Norway) were mentioned for 2008 and after.

5. Other business

It was announced that there were no plans for publishing the Symposium proceedings. Participants were invited to pursue publication possibilities for particular topics or sessions.

A short report on the Hawaii meeting was provided by Julie Denslow. There were 227 registered participants from 35 countries, presenting 133 papers. Kent Bridges presented certificates of appreciation for local organization helpers. IAVS awards for the best student posters were presented by Susan Will-Wolf. *First Prize:* Hiroko Kurokawa, Kyoto University, for 'Factors explaining plant defensive investments in tropical rainforests in Borneo'. *Second Prize:* Teresa Hollingsworth, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, for 'Environmental controls on floristic variability in Black spruce communities of interior Alaska'. *Third Prize:* Haruka Ohashi, Tokyo University, for 'Effect of Shika deer (*Cervus nippon*) on species composition and plant species diversity of forest vegetation'.

6. Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 3 pm.

Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

DISTURBANCE DYNAMICS IN BOREAL FORESTS

Contact person: Ola Engelmark, Umeå, Sweden

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The 5th International Conference on Disturbance Dynamics in Boreal Forests was held in Russia (Dubna, Moscow region, 1-5 August, 2004). All types of disturbances and their ecological effects in boreal forests were discussed (logging, wind throw, pest outbreaks, fire, herbivory and other types), and the meeting was attended by a wide range of forest ecologists, vegetation scientists, forest managers, and governmental and non-governmental organizations interested in forest management and nature conservation issues.

EUROPEAN VEGETATION SURVEY

Contact person: John Rodwell, Lancaster, United Kingdom

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The 11th Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey was held at the Orto Botanico in Rome from 6-9 September 2002. Over 50 participants from 12 countries attended the workshop where papers and posters were presented on the main theme 'wetlands' and a one-day excursion to the Abruzzo national park in the Apennines. In addition, a pre-Workshop meeting of the SynBioSys Scientific Steering Committee was held in the Orto Botanico Library on 5 September and an EVS Business Meeting on 9 September at Civitella Alfedena. Sandro Pignatti opened the Workshop and welcomed the participants, while highlighting some achievements of EVS members during the previous year: the publication of *The Diversity of European Vegetation* by an EVS team; and the appearance of Volume 2 of the *Atlas of Plant Communities of the Netherlands* and Volume 3 of the *Vegetation of Slovakia*. On behalf of the SynBioSys Europe team, Joop Schaminée and Stephan Hennekens gave a presentation of this major new information system, while John Rodwell provided an outline of links between the software and EUNIS habitats. Details of progress in national vegetation surveys were provided for the Czech Republic by Jaroslav Moravec, for Slovakia by Milan Valachovic, and for Hungary by Attila Borhidi. Laco Mucina gave an update on the publication of the scientific text of the Overview of European Vegetation (due 2003). At the Business Meeting, Ulrich Deil provided an update on the Pignatti Festschrift – a special two-volume edition of *Phytocoenologia* which will include papers from the 10th Workshop and some others on 'Halophytic Vegetation', scheduled for publication for the IAVS Napoli meeting in June 2003. Sandro Pignatti and Dr. Ubrizsy-Savoia gave an update on the publication of papers from the 8th and 9th EVS Workshops, which had been held up because of production difficulties with *Annali di Botanica*. These are now resolved and publication is expected in 2003. The meeting decided simply to publish abstracts of this year's papers in *Annali*, with encouragement for participants to seek full publication elsewhere or to expand papers for the IAVS meeting in Napoli.

The 12th Workshop would comprise two jointly organized sessions within the IAVS Napoli meeting: one on 'Ephemeral Vegetation of Wet Habitats' on the morning of 10 June, and a second on 'Databases and Information Systems for Vegetation Science' on the morning of 12 June, 2003. Following an original offer at the 10th EVS Workshop, Panyotis Dimopoulos presented further details of a possible venue for the 13th EVS Workshop in Ioannina in northwestern Greece, some time from late April to mid-May 2004, with possible themes of 'Abandonment and Vegetation' and 'Sub-Mediterranean Vegetation' and excursions to the Vikos-Aoos Gorge and southern Albania. This offer was very warmly accepted. In March 2005, the 14th EVS Workshop will revert to the Rome venue.

LONG-TERM VEGETATION DYNAMICS

Contact person: Jan Bakker, Groningen, The Netherlands

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The Working Group Long-Term Vegetation Dynamics held its 10th Meeting 24-26 August in 2000. The Macaulay Land Use Research Institute kindly hosted the meeting, organized by Dr. Robin Pakeman. The meeting was attended by 20 delegates; 12 oral presentations were given. An excursion was organized to see the effects of different management regimes on grassland vegetation. The results of the 10th meeting of the Working Group in Aberdeen in 2000 have been published in 2002 in a Special Feature of *Applied Vegetation Science*, 5(1): 1-126.

NOMENCLATURE COMMISSION

Contact person: JeanPaul Theurillat, Champex, Switzerland

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The 3rd edition of the International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature (ICPN) was published in December 2000 in the *Journal of Vegetation Science*, 11: 739-768, prepared by the Standing Committee of the Nomenclature Commission on behalf of the Nomenclature Commission of International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) and the Fédération Internationale de Phytosociologie (FIP), based on the 2nd edition. Major changes are, among others: (1) The possibility of retaining names in current use (NCU) as *nomina conservanda* (conserved names). (2) 'Association names' of the Uppsala School, published before 1.1.1936 (with the exception of names of moss and lichen communities), are no longer regarded as valid names within the modern hierarchical system of syntaxa governed by the Code, since these names correspond in reality to the 'sociations' of that School. (But some NCU names based on these 'associations' and used for a long time in accordance with their types might be maintained as *nomina conservanda*). A new *Committee for Nomina Conservanda, Ambigua, Inversa & Mutata* (CNC) has been established (Secretary: Prof. G. Grabherr, Department of Vegetation Ecology and Nature Conservation, University of Vienna, Althanstrasse 14, A-1090 Wien, Austria). Proposals dealing with these names are to be sent to him, together with supporting documents as listed in ICPN, Appendix II. Dr. J.-P. Theurillat, Centre Alpien de Phytogéographie, Fondation J. M. Aubert, CH-1938 Champex, Switzerland, is in charge of the registration of new names of syntaxa, new combinations, and new typifications. Authors are requested to send a copy of their publications to him. An annual report on these names and typifications will be published. Versions of ICPN in other languages are in print.

WORKING GROUP ON VEGETATION THEORY

Contact person: Eddy van der Maarel, Groningen, The Netherlands

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This Working Group has been dormant since many years. Theoreticians from younger generations are invited to revitalize this group!

REGIONAL SECTION NORTH AMERICA (UPDATE MAY 2003)

Contact persons: Chair Michael Barbour or Secretary Susan Will-Wolf

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Information provided by Michael Barbour, Chair, and Susan Will-Wolf, Secretary/Treasurer.

During the Fall of 2001, members of IAVS-NA elected a new Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer, who assumed their duties at the IAVS-NA joint annual business meeting with the Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America (ESA <http://www.esa.org/>) during ESA's annual meeting, August 2002,

in Tucson, Arizona. Current officers of IAVS-NA and their terms are: Chair Michael Barbour (2000-2003), University of California at Davis (mgbarbour@ucdavis.edu); Vice-Chair (and Chair-Elect) David Roberts (2002-2003), Utah State University (dvrbtn@nr.usu.edu); and Secretary/Treasurer Susan Will-Wolf (2002-2004), University of Wisconsin-Madison (swwolf@wisc.edu).

At the 2002 annual meeting, members voted to support workshops concerning a developing National Vegetation Classification (NVC) during the August 2003 meeting of ESA. They also voted to support an NSF proposal by means of Oregon State University, USA, and others to promote expanding the program package BIOPAK for all of North America. Chair Michael Barbour reported on the 45th IAVS symposium in Brazil and urged all who can to attend the 46th symposium in Italy, June 2003. Vice-Chair David Roberts has created an IAVS-NA web page, located at <http://labdsv.nr.usu.edu/iavsna>, where information about the Chapter and notices of interest to members are posted. The next newsletter will be posted in late June, as soon as it has been sent to members.

Over the past year, officers of the chapter have arranged with IAVS officials and Opulus Press to collect NA chapter dues with IAVS dues and journal subscriptions, starting with 2004 dues/subscription renewals. Dues will be \$3-4 US per year, and the revenue will be used to support international travel by students and other members of the NA chapter. The officers are attempting to update and correct an E-mail roster of members and to gain an accurate count of members. During 2002-3, membership was estimated at more than 300 individuals.

In February 2003, two officers of IAVS-NA (Barbour and Roberts) attended a joint meeting of the ESA's Panel on North American Vegetation Classification and the Federal government's Vegetation Subcommittee. The two-day meeting, in Washington, DC, successfully summarized the suite of nationwide vegetation-classification and mapping projects that are concurrently under way. A common theme of insufficient funding was apparent. Panel members voted to send their document 'Standards for Associations and Alliances of the US National Vegetation Classification' to the Federal Vegetation Subcommittee for their consideration and eventual ratification. The Standards document reached the subcommittee in April, and the comment period by federal agencies is still underway. The ESA Panel expanded its membership for that joint meeting to include representatives from Canada (Serguei Ponomarenko), the Czech Republic (Marcel Rejmánek), Mexico (Alejandro Velazquez Montes), Russia (Ayzik Solomeshch), and Spain (Daniel Sanchez-Mata).

A workshop on 'Vegetation Analysis for Defining and Revising the National Vegetation Classification' will be organized by Vice-Chair David Roberts for the August 2003 meeting (Sunday) of ESA in Savannah, Georgia. (See the ESA preliminary meeting program at <http://www.esa.org/savannah/> for additional details.) At that ESA meeting IAVS-NA will hold its annual business meeting with the ESA Vegetation section during the evening of Monday, August 4, 2003, at the annual ESA meeting in Savannah, Georgia, USA.

IAVS-NA members look forward to attending the 47th IAVS Symposium in Hawai'i during July 19-29, 2004. The chapter will support the symposium with both labour and financial contributions to aid the organizing committee.

REGIONAL SECTION SOUTH AFRICA (UPDATE 2 JUNE 2003)

Contact person ad interim: Prof. Laco Mucina, Pretoria, South Africa

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Membership: According to the official membership list (IAVS webpage) there were 12 members in South Africa. The Chapter does however have 'members' who are not paid-up members. It is suggested that the membership issue be discussed at the Council meeting in Napoli during June 2003.

Informal meetings of members present are usually held during the annual congress of the South African Association of Botanists (SAAB), held in January of each year. After the 2002 SAAB congress held in Grahamstown, there was an IAVS excursion of three days, organised by Professor Roy Lubke, to the Suurberg National Park, now united and enlarged with the Addo National Park. South African

vegetation scientists as well as some visitors from abroad participated. No meeting was held at the 2003 SAAB congress held in Pretoria.

Since George Bredenkamp became very involved with University matters the last two/three years, time constraints make it very difficult for him to co-ordinate the SA Chapter, and he therefore wishes to retire as Chairman. Laco Mucina has taken over *ad interim*.

REGIONAL SECTION FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

Contact person: Prof. Dieter Mueller-Dombois

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PABITRA, the Pacific-Asia Biodiversity Transect Network, was first presented in the 43rd IAVS symposium in Nagano, Japan. The theme of the Nagano PABITRA workshop was 'Tasks of Vegetation Ecology in the PABITRA Net'. The 13 presentations were sub-structured under four sub-themes: 1. Assessment and monitoring of plant biodiversity in the Pacific Islands; 2. Analysis of human relationships to island biodiversity; 3. Analysis of freshwater flow, its relation to island biodiversity and ecosystem health; and 4. Historical perspectives on island biodiversity (Nagano Abstract book: 74-80). Following that, P ABITRA received funding from APN (the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research) in Kobe. This funding has been used to run an INITIAL SYNTHESIS meeting (July 15-19, 2002) on the proposed Gateway Transect in Fiji. A Fijian PABITRA group has thereafter been organized by Marika Tuiwawa, Curator of the Herbarium at the USP (University of the South Pacific) in Suva.

REGIONAL SECTION FOR JAPAN

Contact person: Prof. Kazue Fujiwara, Yokohama, Japan

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IAVS Symposia

48th IAVS symposium, July 2005

University of Lisbon, Portugal

The 48th IAVS Symposium will be organized by the Technical University of Lisbon, Superior Institute of Agronomy, and will take place in Lisboa (Lisbon), Portugal, at the Auditoriums of the Academic Administration of the University of Lisbon, from 24 to 29 July 2005. The symposium will focus on plant species and vegetation from marginal landscapes. Altogether, 10 session themes will be offered: (A). Flora and vegetation from marginal sites; (B) Biodiversity hotspot areas; (C) Biodiversity and conservation in marginal landscapes; (D) Invasions in marginal landscapes; (E) Factors affecting ecosystems processes; (F) Experimental evidence in marginal landscapes; (G) Models and predictions of change; (H) Sustainable management of marginal landscapes; (I) Landscape drivers and global change; (J) Other items. It is intended to publish a selected number of papers as Special Features in refereed international journals.

There will be a pre-symposium excursion (18-13 July) to the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo (cost: 850 EUR), and a post-symposium excursion (30 July - 5 August) to the Azores islands (costs: 1200 EUR). On Wednesday, 27 July, there will be a one-day mid-symposium excursion, included in the symposium fee (260 EUR for IAVS members, submitted before 15 February 2005).

As to the venue: apart from the melancholic fado, the Portuguese national song, Lisbon is a joyful and beautiful city, located not too far from the sea and bathed to the south by the Rio Tejo (River Tagus). Some of its monuments are reminders of the Age of Discoveries. Lisbon is a multi-racial and peaceful city that enjoys offering its visitors the traditional grilled sardine at all-night gatherings at Bairro Alto. By metro, from the Symposium's location, you may easily reach anywhere in the city.

Contact:

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49th IAVS symposium, February 2007

Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand

Massey University is situated just outside Palmerston North (75 000 people), a 40-minute flight from Auckland. Buses travel from town to campus regularly, although the distance can be walked in 30 minutes. Massey University, with about 25 000 students, has an attractively planted campus, adjacent to several small patches of native bush. The campus has student hostels, and the town a full range of accommodations from self-contained motels to hotels, B&Bs, and backpackers and camping grounds.

The IAVS meeting will be held 12-16 February 2007. The preliminary excursion will run for a week beforehand, travelling from Auckland to Palmerston North, and visiting kauri forest, thermal areas, volcanic mountains, and lowland beech and podocarp forest. The post-conference excursion will travel from Palmerston North to Nelson, and then around the South Island, finishing in Christchurch after about 15 days. It will visit a range of lowland and alpine sites, in both wet and dry conditions, and cover all southern vegetation types. Mid-conference excursions are planned to dunes, native forest remnants, Kapiti Island nature reserve, and Mt Taranaki. The accompanying-persons' programme includes Te Papa museum in Wellington, Cape Kidnappers' gannet colony, river rafting, and local gardens.

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Miscellaneous

Jonas Lawesson (1959 – 2002)

From: Martin Diekmann, Bremen

On 5 September 2003, Jonas Lawesson died after a short, severe illness at the age of 44. He leaves behind his wife and two small children. Jonas was born in Uppsala, Sweden, in 1959. He obtained his M.Sc. in 1984 with work on the taxonomy of *Passifloraceae* in Ecuador. He then took up the post as head of the Botany Department at Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos, where he carried out studies on endemic and threatened plant species and communities. Here he organized a workshop on Galapagos botanical research and was one of the main editors of the proceedings.

As a PhD student at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, Jonas conducted studies on the phytogeography and vegetation ecology of Senegal and defended his thesis on the woody flora and vegetation of the country in 1991. After that he worked for two years as a post-doc with the group of Eddy van der Maarel at the Department of Ecological Botany in Uppsala. In 1994, he became a senior researcher at the Department of Landscape Ecology (National Environmental Research Institute) in Kalø, Denmark. Here he built a working group active in various fields of vegetation ecology. For several years he was the leader of the Nordic Vegetation Survey Working Group, a network of vegetation scientists from the Nordic countries. Recently, Jonas went back as a researcher to the University of Aarhus and was involved in various projects, among others in the Faroe islands.

Jonas Lawesson was an active member of the IAVS and attended many recent meetings. He also participated in meetings of the European Vegetation Survey in Rome and kept contacts with vegetation scientist all over the world. At these occasions, we learned to know him as a devoted scientist, but also as an open and social person interested in all aspects of life. He wrote many publications on ecology, phytogeography and systematics. We will miss his activities and expertise, his engagement and companionship. See further the memorial issue of *Nordic Journal of Botany* (23-1, 2004).

Opulus Press

Opulus Press publishes full text versions of accepted (in press) papers on the web (free of charge). They can be found in the Table of Contents (TOC) for each journal under issue 99.99, *In press*. Usually these pre-publication versions are marked as uncorrected proofs, and as soon as an article has been allocated to a new issue, a final version will replace the pre-publication version and will be transferred to the TOC of that issue. The TOC of in-press articles will be updated continuously. We therefore welcome you to subscribe to the (free) E-mail alert service at <http://www.opuluspress.se>.

Vegetation Ecology

Just appeared at Blackwell Publishing, Oxford: *Vegetation Ecology*, edited by Eddy van der Maarel, with chapters by 24 colleagues including many well-known IAVS members: Mike Austin, Jan Bakker, Robert Baxter, Susanne Bonn, Elgene Box, Mary Cadenasso, Bengt Carlsson, Ron de Goede, Kazue Fujiwara, Brian Huntley, Thom Kuyper, Jan Lepš, Christoph Leuschner, Sam McNaughton, Steward Pickett, Peter Poschlod, Petr Pyšek, Marcel Rejmánek, David Richardson, Håkan Rydin, Mahesh Sankaran, Brita Svensson, Oliver Tackenberg and Jelte van Andel. The book will be reviewed in the *Journal of Vegetation Science*.

APPLICATION FORM FOR NEW IAVS MEMBERS

PLEASE USE BLOCK-LETTERS

Name – including title(s):

Address – including post code and country:

Tel. – work; otherwise private:

Fax – work; otherwise private:

E-mail:

Website:

Date:

Journal: None *Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS)* *Applied Vegetation Science (AVS)*

Signature:

For those who would like to become a member without subscribing to a journal (*JVS* or *AVS*), the annual membership fee (20 EUR or 20 USD) has to be paid to Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, 6671 VJ Renkum, The Netherlands. Please mention Swiftcode SNS BNL 2A for bookings from outside The Netherlands. Please also check the banking costs!

Members who would like to subscribe to a journal do not have to pay this annual fee, since membership is included in the journal subscription. Journal subscribers are requested to contact Solveig Bodare, Opulus Press, Gamla vägen 40, 770 13 Grangärde, Sweden. Tel. +46 240641250, Fax +46 240640880, E-mail admin@opuluspress.se

Please send this form to: Joop Schaminée, Secretary General, c/o Alterra, P.O. Box 47, NL-6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands; E-mail: joop.schaminee@wur.nl
or to: Nina Smits, Administrator, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, 6871 VJ Renkum, The Netherlands; E-mail: n.a.c.smits@bio.uu.nl

