



"Welcome to Mexico!"

The Organizing Committee of the 53rd annual IAVS symposium extends a warm invitation to members of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) – and to plant ecologists who have not yet joined IAVS – to attend the 53rd annual IAVS symposium in **Ensenada, Baja California Norte, Mexico**. Host institutions include the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California (UABC) and Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE). The theme of the meeting is “**Changing Gradients in Vegetation and the Environment**”. The symposium begins in the afternoon of Sunday, 18 April 2010 and concludes with an evening banquet on Friday, 23 April. For more information, access to registration, and instructions for the submission of abstracts, visit the website (www.IAVS2010.org).

Ensenada is a coastal city facing the Pacific Ocean, with a population of 400,000. It is located in the northwestern part of the Peninsula of Baja California, an hour's drive south of the international border with California, USA. It sits at the juncture of several biogeographic regions, such as (1) a winter-wet mediterranean-type climate with associated scrubs and woodlands; (2) a semi-arid winter- and summer-wet Sonoran Desert climate with the world's most bizarre

succulent woodlands in the world, dominated by 5-20 m tall cacti, yuccas, and boojum trees (*Fouquieria columnaris*) that overtop a matrix of evergreen and deciduous shrubs, short trees, and ephemeral herbs; and (3) a cool-temperate montane climate with associated meadows, aspen groves, and old-growth mixed conifer forests. Enjoy excursions before, during, and after the meeting that will visit all of those regions.

The meeting itself will feature a half-dozen internationally known invited speakers and more than 100 contributed talks and posters. Sessions will be devoted to such topics as: succession following disturbance pulses or climate change, human impacts on vegetation and approaches to restoration, mediterranean-type, semi-arid, and wetland ecosystems throughout the world, biodiversity along abiotic gradients, and the comparison of plant functional types in disjunct vegetation. As usual, the daily pace will be purposely slowed with many breaks, allowing attendees time to meet and discuss common interests. Mexican cuisine, music, and culture will be highlighted at the Friday night banquet.

Nos vemos! (we'll see you there)

IAVS Management



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Impressum

IAVS Bulletin is an occasional electronic newsletter of the International Association for Vegetation Science (www.iavs.org)

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© Photograph on Page 1: *F. columnaris*, iconic plant of northern Mexico.

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IAVS Administrative Officer: Nina Smits (Wageningen, The Netherlands); E-mail admin@iavs.org

Publications: IAVS publishes this Bulletin and two international journals: *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*. Consult our website www.iavs.org for the information on subscription of the Journals.

Membership: To become a member of IAVS, contact Nina Smits at admin@iavs.org

Membership fee: 20 € / 20 \$ US. 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

Website: www.iavs.org

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Professor Panayotis Dimopoulos, the President of the Organizing Committee of the IAVS Chania, Greece meeting in discussion with colleagues during the memorable Symposium Dinner.

On the 52nd IAVS Symposium in Greece (Chania, Crete) by Panayotis Dimopoulos

The 52nd IAVS Symposium held in Chania, Crete is now history and the new one in Ensenada, Baja California, México is *ante portas*. In this very successful and productive meeting (generally and commonly accepted) 265 friends and colleagues from 36 countries of all continents travelled in Crete in May and June 2009 to attend the IAVS annual symposium – first ever IAVS meeting in Greece.

Those four (4) full days (31st May till 4th June 2009), not including the opening day, and 2nd of June (mid-symposium excursions) were filled with 116 lectures (in 26 sessions), presentation of 100 posters (in 2 sessions), and special management meetings.

Seven (7) plenary talks given by our invited speakers (Erwin Bergmeier, Michael Barbour, Frederic Médail, John Halley, Christian Körner, Alessandro Chiarucci, Meelis Pärtel) coming from 7 countries, enriched and substantially contributed to the main theme of the IAVS symposium: “Vegetation Processes and Human Impact in a Changing World”.

Summarizing the seven organized excursions:

- two (2) pre-symposium field trips were organized in Eastern Crete (25-30 May 2009, 6 days, 36 participants) and on the island of Santorini (26-29 May 2009, 4 days, 25 participants),
- four (4) mid-symposium field trips (2nd June 2009, in Omalos Plateau (more than 110 participants), Imbros Gorge (about 30 participants), Amari-Thronos village (about 70 participants), Elaphonisos (about 45 participants),
- one (1) post-symposium excursion in Peloponnisis (4-9 June 2009, 6 days, 30 participants).

Organizing a meeting of this size and format (a symposium + 3 long field trips) was a gruelling experience. Undoubtedly all those thousands of emails, phone calls and hundreds of most unusual queries have hijacked our lives full time for about a year, but we have no regrets. It was great to have so many friends around to share our beautiful country with us.

During the preparatory phases of the 52nd IAVS symposium, all secretarial work was on the shoulders of Sandy Coles, but in items related with session distinction and arrangement of talks and posters, I was assisted by a team of colleagues of my Faculty as the following: Thanasis Kallimanis, Nikolaos Koutsias, Maria Panitsa, Vasiliki Kati.

Sincere thanks go to all above-mentioned colleagues, as well as to Thanasis Kallimanis, Foula Nioti, Magda Pleniou who helped run the daily proceedings of the symposium in Chania. Our small symposium booklet was designed by friend George Terzis (owner of KATAGRAMMA publisher office) and edited by Sandy Coles and me. The publication of the book of abstracts was sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell and we thank them, together with our other sponsors. Special thanks should also be given to Athens Travel for all accommodation and travel arrangements and Plantech for website construction hosting and updates.

We hope you all had a good time in the island of Crete, seen some of the most beautiful natural areas in Crete, Santorini and Peloponnisis, made some new friends and expanded your networks. “Ευχαριστούμε” to all who came, seen, drank and ate well, and simply enjoyed time with us.

We hope to see you again soon!



2009 IAVS Council Meeting

30 May – 4 June 2009, Chania, Crete

Minutes

Participants Part 1. Saturday 30 May (16.00-17.45)

Council members: Michael Barbour, Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Ulrich Deil, Martin Diekmann, Kazue Fujiwara, Valério De Patta Pillar, Ladislav Mucina, Robert Peet, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, Nina Smits, John Bastow Wilson, Martin Zobel.

Others: Panayotis Dimopoulos, Anna-Maria Fossaa, Sun-Kee Hong, Joe-Eun Kim, Daniel Sánchez-Mata.

Participants Part 2. Sunday 31 May (19.30-22.00)

Council members: Michael Barbour, Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Martin Diekmann, Sandra Díaz, Ulrich Deil, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, Ladislav Mucina, Valerio De Patta Pillar, Robert Peet, Nina Smits, Otto Wildi, John Bastow Wilson, Martin Zobel.

Guests: Panayotis Dimopoulos, Liz Ferguson (Wiley-Blackwell), Anna-Maria Fossaa, Sun-Kee Hong, Joe-Eun Kim, Meelis Partel, Davina Quarterman (Wiley-Blackwell), Rachel Robinson (Wiley-Blackwell), Daniel Sánchez-Mata, Grant Wardell-Johnson.

Participants Part 3. Thursday 4 June (14.15 – 15.30)

Council members: Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Ulrich Deil, Sandra Díaz, Martin Diekmann, Javier Loidi, Ladislav Mucina, Valerio De Patta Pillar, Robert Peet, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, Nina Smits, Otto Wildi, John Bastow Wilson, Martin Zobel.

Guests: Alicia Acosta, Jürgen Dengler, Jason Fridley, Matt Pacey (Wiley-Blackwell), Meelis Partel, Davina Quarterman (Wiley-Blackwell), Grant Wardell-Johnson.

Announced proxy votes:

K. Fujiwara & E.O. Box (M. Barbour), M. Palmer A. (Chiarucci), N. Ermakov, T. Herben & J. Rodwell (M. Chytrý), K. Dierßen & R. Pott (U. Deil), M. Hermy (M. Diekmann), M. Austin & D. Goldberg (R. Peet), H. Dierschke & S. Pignatti (A. Schwabe-Kratochwil), J. Schaminée (N. Smits), J. Bakker (M. Zobel).

Opening

Robert Peet opened the meeting at 16:10.

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting (held in Stellenbosch) sent in advance by email to the Council were approved. The meeting in Stellenbosch (2008) was highly successful, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the local organizing committee.

Status of the Meeting

Panayotis Dimopoulos mentioned that over 254 participants had registered for this meeting, representing 41 countries. The pre-symposium excursions were very successful.

Finances

Financial report for 2008

A summary of the financial report for 2008, as well as the financial projections for 2009 was presented (see below). IAVS assets have increased from 35,796 € on 31 December 2006 to 51,116 € on 31 December 2007 to 62,025 € on 31 December 2008, and are expected to increase further to approximately 131,414 € by 31 December 2009. There was no profit from Opulus Press paid to IAVS for the years 2007 and 2008.

General fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2007	18,541.90
Interest	305.25
Profit Opulus Press 2006	4,337.00
Loan IAVS Symposium Wales	7,314.07
Cash: 31-12-2008	30,498.22

General fund: Cash account

Cash: 31-12-2007	7,830.52
Membership dues	2,386.63
Global fund contributions, from Opulus Press	0.00
Salaries	2,495.00-
Bank expenses	74.62-
Office expenses	466.85-
IAVS Symposium Wales	3,358.16
JVS editorial services (Opulus Press default)	1,000.05-
Cash: 31-12-2008	9,538.79

Global fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2007	9,112.32
Interest	127.99
Profit Opulus Press 2006	4,574.00
Global Fund dues	410.00
Wales 2007 profit	7,764.57
Cash: 31-12-2008	21,988.88

Total Assets 31-12-2008 **62,025.89 €**

Financial projection for 2009

For 2009 the financial projection is looking good (see table below), although there are still some uncertainties. New expenses include travel expenses for editors, executive committee and the administrator for the meeting in Crete. Furthermore, there is a onetime extra expense for editorial services.

General fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2008	30,498.22
Interest (3%)	914.95
Cash: 31-12-2009	31,413.17

General fund: Cash account

Cash: 31-12-2008	9,538.79
Interest (3%)	286.16
Membership dues	7,000.00
Wiley-Blackwell income for 2009	99,023.23
Opulus income for 2008	0.00
Travel for Editors	18,000.00-
Travel for Executive Committee	6,000.00-
Travel for administrator	1,500.00-
Salaries	2,495.00-
Bank expenses	500.00-
Tax ? (was still unknown at the time, but no tax is relevant)	5,000.00-
Office expenses	1,000.00-
JVS Editorial Services (One time; Opulus Press default)	4,000.00-
Cash: 31-12-2009	77,353.18

Global fund: investment account

Cash: 31-12-2008	21,988.88
Interest (3%)	659.67
Cash: 31-12-2009	22,648.55

Total Assets 31-12-2008 **62,025.89 €**

Total Assets 31-12-2009 **131,414.90 €**

Council voted to approve continuation of the travel allocation for editors, executive committee members and the administrator to attend the annual meeting with the same level of support as for the current year (up to a maximum of 1000 € for associate editors, 1500 € for Chief Editors and 1500 € for Executive Committee members).

Tax status of the IAVS

The significant increase in IAVS income derived from the partnership with Wiley-Blackwell has necessitated that the tax-exempt status of IAVS be verified and documented. Smits has sent a letter of inquiry to the Dutch tax authorities to find out whether IAVS needs to pay taxes on its publishing revenues. We are still waiting for an official answer, although we have already received verification that we are exempt from one of the two forms of taxes.

Membership

Membership report

Due to some internal problems at Wiley-Blackwell, our annual membership letters were sent out rather late. Up to now, the total amount of members is 340; 226 of whom have a journal

subscription. There are 12 student memberships. These data are not complete, as some members have directly contacted the administrator's office and paid directly to IAVS.

The annual fee is currently 20 €, and 10 € for students (= \$28 and \$14). These rates were discussed and Council voted to retain the current rates for 2010. For the gratis memberships, there should be a checkbox in the application form, and these will be checked by the Global Fund Committee and will have to renew every year.

Section reports

All section reports received to date are included in IAVS Bulletin 12.

Malaysia is interested in organizing a Regional Section.

Working Group reports

All working group reports received to date are included in IAVS Bulletin 12.

Anna-Maria Fossaa presented the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping WG as a potential IAVS Working Group. The Council voted to accept this group as a new working group of IAVS.

The Nomenclature Commission is inactive. Heinrich Weber, the chairman of the Commission indicated his intention to step down, but there is no obvious new candidate for chairmanship. Jean-Paul Theurillat will be approached ad interim as contact person and Ladislav Mucina will work towards reestablishment of the Commission.

Publications Committee

There is as yet no general report for 2008 as IAVS has received no financial overview from Opulus Press. Martin Diekmann and Robert Peet will draft a letter to Opulus Press that will address some remaining open issues (the 2008 financial overview, unresolved issues with the 2007 report, access to back issues, handing of new manuscripts, missing reprints for authors, misleading aspects of the Opulus Press website, etc.).

Report from Wiley-Blackwell

The transfer of the journals from Opulus Press to Wiley-Blackwell was challenging. Now, the new website is up and running. New modules will be added this summer including login for members.

There are up to 250 combined subscription and memberships with 86 % renewed in total.

Many institutions had access via BioOne and have not yet been directly targeted by Wiley-Blackwell who assured us that they are developing a plan to approach these institutions. JVS has had 11,000 downloads thus far this year, and AVS has had 3000.

The website is developing a bit more slowly, but good progress is being made.

The Executive Committee had to sign a revision of the contract between Wiley-Blackwell and IAVS due to errors in the subscription levels reported by Opulus Press used in the original contract negotiations. This will lead to a modest decrease in the revenues from Wiley relative to those projected in the financial projections above.

IAVS will send mail to all lapsed members as soon as website works to invite members to return.

Report on status of the journals & current operations

The transition from Opulus Press to Wiley- Blackwell was far from seamless, owing to the lack of performance by Opulus Press despite its contractual obligations. Some manuscripts were lost in the Opulus Press system for many months. Opulus Press performed no services for the final six months of 2008, leading to a slow-down in manuscript processing. Due to a large load of manuscripts, extra editorial services was sought, and found. Currently there is a high flow of manuscripts. The support from editors is excellent and new associate editors will be appointed. Bastow Wilson thanks the IAVS for the trust and is worried that the Opulus Press problems will have consequences for the impact factor, in particular because of late publication of the final issues. Impact factor decreased slightly for *JVS* in 2009, and increased slightly for *AVS*. The acceptance rate is currently about 30%.

Wiley kindly offered to sponsor the Editors' Award with a certificate and 100£ for books.

Bulletin

The next IAVS Bulletin will be ready by the end of this year.

Website

Currently the new IAVS website (www.iavs.org) is up and running. This summer the login option for members will be made ready, and we will try to include as much information as possible from our meetings (power points, photo's, etc.).

Possible new journal "Vegetation Survey"

Robert Peet started with a clarification of the situation. Ladislav Mucina presented a proposal, which was circulated among various members of IAVS and the Executive Committee, to establish a new IAVS journal entitled *Vegetation Survey*. During this annual meeting members of the Executive Committee met with representatives of Wiley-Blackwell to discuss this possibility. The Wiley-Blackwell representatives reported that the current financial climate makes it unfeasible to establish a new journal at this time and they endorse the suggestion that there be a new section of *Applied Vegetation Science* would be dedicated to this topic. In particular, this will help them expand the journal from four to six issues a year (which increased time from submission to publication and keeps the content more current) and broadens its clientele. This situation was reported to Council and there was general agreement to follow the advice of our publisher.

From the Chief Editors there was the response that they are currently already open to vegetation surveys, and can appoint new editors if there is a need to do so. The suggestion for a soft approach was taken into account. The generally accepted plan is now to advertise the fact that AVS will focus more on vegetation survey (via editorial messages, the IAVS website, etc.) and see how much interest there is. The Publication Committee will review the matter and proposals from the

Chief Editors and will submit a proposal to the Executive Committee and afterwards to the Council sometime during the fall with the expectation that the plan will be implemented 1 Jan 2010.

Meetings Committee

2010: Ensenada, Mexico, 18-23 April 2010: 300 possible participants, with excellent and exciting excursions planned.

2011: Lyon: no additional information

2012: Although there had been discussion with some members in Alaska, no specific proposal materialized. A group from South Korea proposes to host the 2012 meeting and a presentation was provided by Sun-Kee Hong. The meeting would be held in the southwest of the Korean Peninsula, which would require a significant distance of ground transportation from available airports. However, the Council was assured that efficient transportation could be organized and that the government has already confirmed significant financial support. The council voted to accept the invitation to hold the 2012 meeting in South Korea.

2013: Estonia: The group from Tartu expects to present a proposal at the 2010 meeting in Ensenada.

2014: Western Australia: Ladislav Mucina and Grant Wardell-Johnson reported that they are interested in presenting a proposal for hosting a meeting in 2014.

The meetings committee is working on guidelines for future meetings, and guidelines for excursions

The council voted in favour of subsidizing one journey at a level of up to up to 1,000 € for travel by a confirmed future organizer to attend an IAVS annual meeting sometime in the two years preceding the proposed meeting.

For the present, the Council advises that the registration fee for the annual meeting be at a significantly reduced rate for IAVS members. The Council will consider making this a rule in the near future, but such an action will require that a link to the IAVS membership database be provided.

Administration Committee

The possibilities for establishing a central IAVS office with at least a part-time staff person were discussed. Such a central office should share staff with other organizations. Peet has had preliminary discussions with British Ecological Society (BES) and Ecological Society of America (ESA) about the idea of sharing staff and this idea received positive responses. The central office could have services like legal advice, accountants, investment advisors, tax experts and meeting organizers. The Council voted to pursue such a partnership. Preliminary conversations with BES and ESA suggested that we first need a strategic plan and a clear statement of desired services. The

Executive Committee will look into drafting such documents for review by Council. In particular, the strategic plan will be written by the President R. Peet and Secretary L. Mucina and will be discussed in the Executive Committee before presentation to Council.

Awards Committee

A committee report was sent by Awards Committee Chair Joop Schaminée to Council in advance of the meeting. Currently IAVS has an annual award for young scientists (< 35 years) for the best oral presentation and the best poster, as well as two honorable mentions in both categories. The Council voted in favor of making these awards permanent and for the winners to receive 1000 € toward travel expenses for participation in one of the next two IAVS symposia.

Global Fund Committee

The global fund committee is working on the status of the fund, and the possibilities to expand the way these funds are used.

Governance Committee

Over the past year communications within the Executive Committee have taken place via skype. This has worked relatively well. Due to future possible changes to include digital communication within the Council, the committee will prepare draft a revisions of the Statutes and Bylaws that would assure that business could be conducted in various digital formats. The general expectation is that all council members can propose items, that voting by the council will take three weeks (and can be changed within the period), and that the Executive Committee will count the votes.

2009 IAVS General Assembly 3 June 2009, Chania, Crete Minutes

Opening

The meeting was opened at 5.15 pm by IAVS President Robert Peet. Approximately 70 members attended the General Assembly.

The IAVS meeting in Crete was attended by 254 participants from 38 countries.

President R. Peet and Secretary L. Mucina informed the Assembly of actions taken by Council and of upcoming events. The announcement of young scientist awards (oral

presentation and poster) was postponed to the closing session on the last day. The winners of the awards are listed at the end of this report.

Report from the Council Meeting

Financial report

A short financial report was provided. The assets of the IAVS grew from 51,117 € in 2007 to 62,026 € at the end of 2008. The text of this report is available in IAVS Bulletin 12. Financial projections for 2009 and 2010 foresee continued increases in assets. Attendees of the General Assembly were asked for suggestions as to how to use these funds most effectively. Student support was also mentioned.

Towards more professional management for IAVS

The Executive Committee is exploring the possibility of sharing a professional office with one or more other professional organizations so as to provide increased access to critical services such as accounting, legal advice, investment advice, meeting organization and member services.

Membership report

The website is being upgraded to facilitate member renewal. Anticipate posted and emailed requests for you to join or renew your membership.

Publications

Publication officer

The IAVS is happy with its relationship with its new publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. There were some rough periods during the transition from Opulus Press, mostly due to problems at Opulus. The Publication Officer, Martin Diekmann, apologized for these problems and discussed many of the benefits to IAVS and its members of this transition.

Bulletin

IAVS Bulletin 12 is ready and available through our website. Expect *IAVS Bulletin* 13 to become available around the end of the year.

Future meetings

2010 (18-23 April) Ensenada, Mexico – José Delgadillo & Michael Barbour

2011 Lyon FR – July, Gudrun Bornette

2012 Mokpo, Korea – Sun-Kee Hong

2013 – formal proposal from Estonia is pending

2014 – formal proposal from Western Australia is pending

Other Business

The local organizers thank the sponsors and Athens travel for their support and help.

Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 6.00 pm.

Addendum – Young Investigator Awards

IAVS awards annual prizes to young scientists (< 35 years of age) for their outstanding work and presentation skills. One award was presented for the best oral presentation and one for the best poster presentation. The winners each receive an IAVS travel grant of 1000 € one of the next two IAVS meetings

This year IAVS congratulates to Best Oral Presentation delivered by

Miquel De Cáceres Ainsa (University of Montreal, Canada) for his paper entitled

“Improving diagnostic species analyses by considering combinations of groups”, and to

Jan Plue (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) for his Best Poster Presentation entitled *“How to sample a forest soil seed bank?”*

Honorable mentions for oral presentations went to

Carly Stevens (The Open University, Milton Keynes, England) for her lecture entitled *“Impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition on European calcifuge grasslands”* and to

Vanessa Minden (University of Oldenburg, Germany) for her lecture entitled *“Plant functional traits in relation to disturbance in salt marshes of NW Germany”*.

Honourable mentions for the poster presentations went to

Krista Takkis (University of Tartu, Estonia) *“Contrasting responses of two grassland species to habitat fragmentation”* and to

Tanaka Furukawa (Yokohama National University, Japan) *“Abrupt vegetation change along human disturbance gradient in an urban tropical dry forest, Nairobi, Kenya”*.

Thanks to local organizers

IAVS thanked Panayotis Dimopoulos for organizing the meeting.

IAVS thanked Sandy Coles, Athanasios Kallimanis, Magdalini Pleniou, and Foula Nioti for assisting with the administration of the meeting.

IAVS thanked the Athens Travel Service and Fofi Mazeraki for logistical support.

Financial statement	2008	2009
General fund: investment account		
Cash: 31-12-2007 and 31-12-2008	18,541.90	30,498.22
Interest (over 2007 and 2008)	305.25	534.30
Profit Opulus Press 2006 and Wiley-Blackwell	4,337.00	50,000.00
Loan to IAVS Meeting Wales	7,314.07	
Cash: 31-12-2008 and 31-12-2009	30,498.22	81,032.52
General fund: Cash account		
Cash: 31-12-2007 and 31-12-2008	7,830.52	9,538.79
Membership dues	2,386.63	764.77
Global Fund contributions from Opulus Press	0.00	
Salaries (2007 and 2008)	2,495.00-	2,495.00-
Bank expenses	74.62-	74.22-
Office expenses	466.85-	596.00-
IAVS Meeting Wales profit	3,358.16	
JVS editorial services (Opulus Press default)	1,000.05-	4,000.05-
Wiley-Blackwell income for 2009		26,602.13
Opulus Press income for 2008		0.00
Travel editors for Chania IAVS meeting		14,650.08-
Travel EC for Chania IAVS meeting		6,969.45-
Travel admin for Chania IAVS meeting		1,374.00-
Young Scientist Award 2008		1,000.05-
Cash: 31-12-2008	9,538.79	5,746.84
Global fund: investment account		
Cash: 31-12-2007 and 31-12-2008	9,112.32	21,988.88
Interest	127.99	222.73
Profit Opulus Press 2006	4,574.00	
Global Fund dues	410.00	
IAVS Meeting Wales 2007 profit	7,764.57	
Cash: 31-12-2008 and 31-12-2009	21,988.88	22,211.61
Total Assets 31-12-2008 and 31-12-2009	62,025.89 €	108,990.97 €

Report of the Natural Disturbance Dynamics Working Group

Contact: Igor Drobyshev
Email: igor.drobyshev@uqat.ca

In 2007 Natural Disturbance Dynamics group held its 5th workshop entitled *Climate Change Impacts on Boreal Forest Disturbance Regimes* in Fairbanks, Alaska (May 30 - June 2007). The meeting was hosted by The School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences Department of Forest Sciences and the Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research Program at the University of Alaska. Information about this event can be found at <http://www.icddb.uaf.edu/>.

In the year 2010, the Working Group plans a meeting focused on primeval boreal forests. The conference entitled *Northern Primeval Forests: Ecology, Conservation and Management* will be held in Sweden, August 9 - 13, 2010. The website of the conference is <http://www.prifor2010.org/scicom.html>.

Another meeting is planned in Chicoutimi, Québec, Canada in 2011. Further information on this event is available from Hubert Morin (hubert_morin@uqac.ca).

Report of the Working Group European Vegetation Survey

Contact: John S. Rodwell
Email: johnrodwell@tiscali.co.uk

The 18th Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey was held from 25–28 March, 2009 in Rome, at the invitation of Professor Sandro Pignatti and under the hospitality of Professoressa Loretta Gratani, the Director of the Orto Botanico.

There were 149 participants, the highest ever attendance in Rome, with 24 countries represented, including Egypt, Turkey and South Africa. Altogether, there were 44 papers in 9 sessions and 46 posters, presented in three sessions.

The central theme of the workshop was 'Thermophilous Vegetation' with the opportunity for various interpretations – the classification and syntaxonomy of thermophilous vegetation types, relationships between vegetation and climate at various scales and the impacts of climate change. There were also sessions on 'Vegetation Change & Conservation Status' and on 'Informatics'. Some individual presentations reported progress in national vegetation survey programmes. The results of a new questionnaire on vegetation data bases and plot numbers across Europe were presented and there was an update on the *Checklist of high-ranked syntaxa of European vegetation*.

In the EVS Business Meeting, delegates noted with great pleasure the publication this last year of *Diagnostic, Constant & Dominant Species of Higher Vegetation Units of Slovakia* (Jarolímek & Šibík, eds, 2008) and *Grasslands of the White Carpathian Mountains* (Jongepierová, ed. 2008).

Professor Spada and Dssa Savoia summarised the possibilities for publication of the papers presented at the workshop in *Annali di Botanica*. The EVS Committee thanked these and their fellow organisers of the evs-Italia team, Dssa Laura Casella and Dr Emiliano Agrillo for all their work in preparing and hosting the Workshop and the Excursions. The proceedings closed with a very enjoyable Festa di Saluto in the Orto Botanico with typical Neapolitan music.

The <http://www.evsitalia.eu/Annali%20di%20Botanica.htm> website provides further details and images of the Workshop.

The mid-workshop excursion on Friday 27 March was to Lake Bracciano Nature Reserve with its celebrated *Betula pendula* groves. The post-workshop excursion 30 March to 2 April started from Rome, travelling through the Abruzzo Mountains to the Abetini di Rosello Nature Reserve with intrazonal *Abies alba* woods in the altitudinal sequence of *Quercus*, *Castanea sativa* and *Fagus sylvatica* woodlands. It continued through the Lago di Serranella Reserve with pioneer *Salix triandra* and *S. purpurea* groves and mature *Salix alba*, *Populus alba* and *Alnus glutinosa* woodlands to the Lecce di Torino di Sangro scarp with *Quercus pubescens* and *Q. ilex* forests, and *Q. robur* on the plain below. On the Gargano Peninsula overlooking the Adriatic, there were *Quercus cerris* groves at Monte Verrone, *Q. ilex* woodlands at Valazzo, *Fagus* forests at Monte Nicola and the macchia vegetation of Torre di Monte Pucci and Monte Sant'Angelo. Unforgettable cultural elements of the trip included the typical cuisine of the Abruzzi and Gargano, sight of the traditional fishing techniques of the *trabucchi* and the ubiquitous presence near the Adriatic of Padre Pio.

At the kind invitation of Professor Attila Borhidi and Dr Éva Salomon-Albert, the 19th EVS Workshop will be held from 27 April – 2 May 2010 at the University of Pécs in Hungary, a city which is European Capital of Culture for that year. The main topic will be 'Large-scale Studies of Land-Use (Including Databases)' with the subsidiary themes 'Flood-plains of Europe and the Mediterranean' and 'Indicator Values – Use & Misuse'. There will be a pre-workshop excursion on 26 April and a post-workshop excursion from the evening of 2 April. The 2011 Workshop will be held in Rome and, at the suggestion of Dr Wolfgang Willner, Vienna is a possible location for the 2012 Workshop.



Report of the European Dry Grassland Group

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The *European Dry Grassland Group* (EDGG) was founded in autumn 2008 by the union of two regional dry grassland networks and developed very dynamically since then. In autumn 2009, EDGG became an official IAVS Working Group. On 19 March, 2010, EDGG has 482 members from 42 nationalities, including most of the European plus some extra-European countries. EDGG is governed by an Executive Committee of four members (Monika Janišová, Slovakia; Solvita Rūsiņa, Latvia; Michael Vrahnakis, Greece; Jürgen Dengler, Germany) and has no membership fees. Presently, four regional subgroups have organised themselves within EDGG, such as the German *Arbeitsgruppe Trockenrasen*, the *Working Group on Dry Grasslands in the Nordic and Baltic Region*, the *Working Group on Mediterranean Dry Grasslands* (Med-DG), and the *Southeast European Dry Grassland Group* (SEEDGG).

EDGG is a network of dry grassland researchers and conservationists, covering all dry grassland-related aspects from vegetation science, via botany, mycology, zoology, soil science, and landscape ecology to conservation, restoration, and agriculture. The basic aims of EDGG include:

- compilation and dissipation of information on research and conservation in dry grasslands beyond national borders, and
- stimulation of active cooperation among dry grassland scientists (exchanging data, common data standards, joint projects).
- For this purpose, EDGG provides seven basic facilities, such as:
 - European Dry Grassland Meetings, international scientific conferences organised annually in different places throughout Europe (see <http://www.edgg.org/events.htm>)
 - EDGG Research Expeditions to sample baseline data of little known grassland regions
 - EDGG vegetation databases
 - Special Features from European Dry Grassland Meetings, published in various peer-reviewed journals
 - EDGG Bulletin (ISSN 1868-2456), the quarterly

electronic journal of the EDGG, with reports, announcements, and scientific articles (see <http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm>)

- EDGG homepage (<http://www.edgg.org>)
- EDGG mailing list for announcement of urgent issues.

The next EDGG events include:

- 7th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Smolenice, Slovakia, 28 May–1 June, 2010 (registration closed)
- EDGG Research Expedition to Central Podilia, Ukraine, 10–25 July, 2010 (registration open)
- 8th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Uman', Ukraine, 13–17 June, 2011.

If YOU wish to join EDGG, just send an e-mail to the membership administrator, Jürgen Dengler (dengler@botanik.uni-hamburg.de).

9th International Meeting on Vegetation Databases

Co-organised by WG on EcoInformatics & European Dry Grassland Group

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Since nine years, the German Working Group on Vegetation Databases (now a Section of NetPhyDe.V.), organises an annual conference in the field of ecoinformatics. The 9th Meeting, entitled “Vegetation Databases and Climate Change”, was held from 24 February–1 March, 2010 in Hamburg, Germany. It was supported and co-organised by several organisations and institutions, among them two of the IAVS Working Groups (EcoInformatics and European Dry Grassland Group). With nearly 150 participants from more than 30 countries, this was by far the biggest conference of the series, and it was also likely the biggest Ecoinformatics conference so far.

Three keynote lectures, 25 talks, more than 60 posters as well as four workshops dealing with specific software solutions in the field of ecoinformatics and one with the foundation of a supranational vegetation database for grasslands in SE Europe were all very well received by the international audience. For the first time, there was a conference dinner, and Young Investigator Prizes were awarded for the best oral (Dr. Cécile Albert, Grenoble, France) and the best poster presentation (Lidewij Keser, Berne, Switzerland).

Presently, three major publications from the conference are in preparation:

- Special Feature “Ecoinformatics and Global Change” in *Applied Vegetation Science*, guesteditors: J. Dengler, J. Ewald, I. Kühn, and R. K. Peet (registration closed)

- Special volume on of *Biodiversity & Ecology*, “Vegetation Databases for the 21st century” edited by M. Finckh, J. Dengler, J. Ewald, F. Jansen & J. Oldeland (submission deadline: 30 June, 2010)
- *World Index of Plot-Based Vegetation Databases*. This is a comprehensive meta-database of available digitized relevé data, for which already 54 databases with approx. 1.5 million relevés have registered. It will be published both open access online (continuously updated) and in a once-off attractive print volume (submission deadline: 30 June, 2010). The citation of the print volume allows giving credit to the authors of large databases when their data are used for analyses. If YOU (including non-participants!) wish to have your database included in the World Index, please register it at <http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/373.html>. It takes only one minute, and you then will be informed when the upload of metadata starts.

Reports, a photo gallery, and many contributions from the 9th International Meeting on Vegetation Databases are available at <http://www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/workshop2010.html>. The forthcoming 10th International Meeting will be hosted by Alterra, Wageningen, The Netherlands, in February 2011.

Report of the North-American Regional Section of IAVS

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Current membership of the Regional Section is about 400-500 members (uncertain pending final steps in Wiley-Blackwell handling of most memberships).

IAVS-NA Chair Kerry Woods represented the Section at the IAVS meeting in Stellenbosch, SA in October 2008. The Section held its annual meeting with the Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America at the ESA annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA in August 2009. We co-sponsor with the ESA Vegetation Section the Toni Damman Award for best student oral presentation of vegetation science research at the annual ESA meeting, by donating a 1-yr electronic subscription for JVS/AVS to the winner. The 2008 winner was David Harris, for his talk, “When will species homogenize or differentiate communities? An occupancy-based null model of the effects of species invasions.” The 2009 winner will be selected in fall 2009.

IAVS President Robert Peet reported on the IAVS meeting in Stellenbosch, urged all ESA Vegetation Section members to join IAVS, and reviewed the future meetings schedule.

Members expressed great satisfaction with the move of journals publication to Wiley-Blackwell.

We also co-sponsor, with the ESA Vegetation Section, symposia and Organized Oral Sessions related to vegetation science at the annual ESA meeting. Anyone seeking section co-sponsorship of a symposium or OOS proposal for the 2010 ESA meeting should contact the officers as soon as possible with a title, description, and proposed speakers – the submission deadline for both is September 15, 2009.

The section will hold elections for Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer in fall 2009.

Prestigious award for John S. Rodwell



The IAVS congratulates Professor John Rodwell, who has been awarded the 2009 President’s Medal by the Institute of Ecology & Environmental Management, the UK’s leading professional body for ecological practitioners. The award was given for his ‘distinguished contribution to the advancement of vegetation science in Britain and Europe’.

He follows in the footsteps of Sir David Attenborough who won the award for his contribution to the public understanding of ecology in 2006 and Professor Tony Bradshaw, for his lifelong work on land restoration in 2007.

“I am honoured to think that my work has made such a difference to the quality of environmental professionals and the way we can understand and care for the natural world in this country and more widely,” said Professor Rodwell.

John Rodwell coordinated the UK’s National Vegetation Classification and edited the five-volume *British Plant Communities*. He is the Secretary of the IAVS European Vegetation Survey Working Group and was one of the authors

of its first overview of vegetation types across the Continent - *The Diversity of European Vegetation*. He has directed skill-transfer programmes for vegetation scientists in Siberia, Latvia, Albania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, provided training for the US Nature Conservancy and advises the European Environment Agency.

Until recently Professor of Plant Ecology at Lancaster University in the UK, John Rodwell now works full-time as an independent consultant. Recent projects include studies of European lowland grasslands (<http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3922>) and of landscape-scale relationships between

ecological and socio-economic functionality in the post-industrial setting. He also leads projects at the interface between nature and culture in the UK and Italy.

A priest of the Anglican Church for over 30 years, he is directing an Anglo-German project 'Belonging and *Heimat*' based at Manchester University where he also serves as an Honorary Research Fellow of the Lincoln Theological Institute. This is exploring less quantifiable values of the natural environment and how people comprehend a sense of place, where humankind and nature can belong together (<http://www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/lti/projects/heimatandbelonging>).

Joop Schaminée receives the prestigious 'Prins Bernhard Cultuurfondsprijs'



IAVS congratulates Professor Joop Schaminée, who has been awarded the 2009 'Prins Bernhard Cultuurfondsprijs' for Nature Conservation, one of the highest scientific accolades in the Netherlands. The jury was impressed by the series of five books "The Vegetation of the Netherlands", and the way in which Joop disseminates his work to a broad audience, both in print and in practice.

Joop completed his degree in Biology in 1983 *cum laude* at the University of Nijmegen. He subsequently completed his PhD on the vegetation types of the Mont du Forez region of France. Since 1987 he has been employed as a researcher at Alterra in Wageningen, and he became Professor at Wageningen University and at the Radboud University in Nijmegen in 2007.

Joop was the project leader and the first author of a series of five books describing the vegetation of the Netherlands published between 1995 and 1999. In 1989, he started the Dutch Society for Phytosociology (PKN) together with Professor Victor Westhoff, and since 1998 he has been a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association for Vegetation Science. He plays a lead role in the development and implementation of the information system 'SynBioSys,' which currently has versions in use for the Netherlands, Europe, Kruger National Park and the Fynbos Biome of South Africa. European Nature in the Netherlands (Natura 2000) is another of Joop's current projects, and this has recently resulted in publication of the last of a new series of five books.

The 'Prins Bernhard Cultuurfondsprijs' is presented once every three years and includes a prize of 50.000 €, three quarters of which is expected to be spent to support research projects within the winner's area of expertise.

