

Working Group on EcoInformatics

2006

The Eco-informatics Working Group will sponsor a symposium at the annual IAVS meeting to be held in New Zealand in February 2007. This symposium has been organized for the working group by Susan Wisser of LandCare. In December 2006, Robert Peet represented IAVS at a meeting about data archives and data sharing held for representatives of professional societies at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara California. Susan Wisser, Nick Spenser, and Bob Peet have organized a meeting to be held 24-27 April, 2007 at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, NC. The objective of the meeting will be to draft an international exchange standard for vegetation plot data. A broadly international team of approximately 12 persons has been invited. Costs are being covered by a grant obtained by Susan Wisser from the New Zealand government. North American ecology has been lagging significantly behind European ecology in the compilation of plant traits. This past year Robert Peet endorsed on behalf of the Eco-informatics Working Group a research coordination network proposal to the US NSF specifically to develop a trait database for North American taxa. We have recently learned that the proposal will be funded. The initial steering Committee is expected to consist of D. Bunker (Chair), S. Diaz, S. Naeem, M. Schildhauer, and R. Peet.

The Working Group maintains a website as well as an E-mail mailing list to which you can subscribe:

<http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/iavs-ecoinfo/>

http://lists.unc.edu/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=vegdata%20