

# Bylaws

## The Ecoinformatics Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science

### Article 1. Name and status

The name of this organization shall be “The Ecoinformatics Working Group”. It shall be a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS).

### Article 2. Objectives

The objectives of the Ecoinformatics Working Group include:

- (a) facilitating communication among scientists studying community ecology through exploration and synthesis of large databases comprising vegetation-plot and related ecological data;
- (b) facilitating access to these data;
- (c) establishing standards for exchange of these data to facilitate data sharing;
- (d) providing tools for identification, access, integration, storage, and analysis of these data.

As a Working Group of IAVS, the Ecoinformatics Working Group shares the IAVS goals and supports its activities. The Ecoinformatics Working Group is subject to the Statutes and Bylaws of the IAVS.

### Article 3. Membership

Membership in the Ecoinformatics Working Group is open to all persons, and membership in the IAVS is optional. Membership in the Ecoinformatics Working Group is obtained by:

- (a) written application to the Ecoinformatics Working Group Secretary, or
- (b) specification when joining or renewing membership in IAVS, or
- (c) subscribing to the Ecoinformatics List Server.

Membership is discontinued by submission of a written statement (electronic or hardcopy) to the Working Group Secretary that the member no longer wishes to be member of the Working Group.

Members are responsible for providing the Secretary with a functioning e-mail address. Membership is discontinued when no functioning e-mail address is available to either the Working Group Secretary or the IAVS Secretary.

### Article 4. Business meeting

A business meeting shall be held annually in conjunction with the annual IAVS Symposium. All members attending may vote in the business meeting. A member may assign a proxy vote for the business meeting to another member by notifying the holder of the proxy and the Working Group Secretary. Any one participant may carry up to three proxy votes.

### Article 5. Steering Committee

The Working Group shall have a Steering Committee (SC) with five elected members. All SC members shall be members of IAVS. In case of a tie for the fifth position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected. Each SC member shall be elected for a period of four years, with the possibility of re-election. Elections shall take place at least two months

prior to the business meeting at which the regular four-year term of the SC is ending, or following a vacancy. At least one month prior to the start of an election, it shall be announced to the members via e-mail by the Secretary, who then shall receive nominations made by any member by e-mail or in person. Elections take place by means of an electronic ballot over a period of one month. The SC shall elect a Chair and a Secretary from its members for a period of four years. All decisions on behalf of the Working Group except those explicitly assigned otherwise are made by the SC by majority.

**Article 6. Duties of the Steering Committee members**

- (a) The SC members promote the interests of the Working Group, and supervise Working Group operations and scientific activities.
- (b) The SC may call upon members of the Working Group or appoint committees to assist with the Working Group affairs.
- (c) The Chair presides at the SC meetings as well as the Working Group business meetings held during the annual IAVS Symposia and supplies the annual report to IAVS.
- (d) The Secretary keeps records of the Working Group and its members and conducts elections and ballots.

**Article 7. Finances**

The Ecoinformatics Working Group financial assets shall be held by and managed through the accounts of IAVS.

**Article 8. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members participating in an electronic ballot extending over a period of one month. Such an electronic ballot can be required by a majority vote of either the SC members or the participants at the annual business meeting, or by at least 10% of all Working Group members. Changes in the Bylaws are contingent on approval by the IAVS Council.