

Minutes – Annual IAVS Council Meeting Mokpo, Korea – 2012

Tuesday, July 24, 18:00-21:15

Participants

Members present: Martin Diekmann (Pres.), Susan Wiser (Secr.), Alicia Acosta (Vice Pres.), Javier Loidi (Vice Pres.), Michael Palmer (Vice Pres.), Valério Pillar (Vice Pres.), Michael Barbour, Elgene Box, Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Guillaume Decocq, Jürgen Dengler, Kazue Fujiwara, Pavel Krestov, Ladislav Mucina, Joop Schaminée, Nina Smits, Otto Wildi, Bastow Wilson = 20 votes

Proxy votes: Sándor Bartha (Ladislav Mucina), Erwin Bergmeier (Martin Diekmann), Ulrich Deil (Martin Diekmann), Deborah Goldberg (Michael Palmer), Jessica Gurevitch (Susan Wiser), Tomas Herben (Milan Chytrý), Martin Hermy (Guillaume Decocq), Jan Lepš (Milan Chytrý), Yukito Nakamura (Kazue Fujiwara), Meelis Pärtel (Bastow Wilson), Robert Peet (Michael Palmer), Janos Podani (Ladislav Mucina), Marcel Rejmánek (Milan Chytrý), John Rodwell (Joop Schaminée), Angelika Schwabe (Helge Bruelheide), Martin Zobel (Martin Diekmann). 16 votes.

Absent: Renée Bekker, Sara Cousins, Sandra Diaz, Klaus Dierssen

Guests: Avelina Helm (IAVS venue 2013: Tartu, Estonia), Monika Janisova (EDGG representative), Dieter Mueller-Dombois (PABITRA working group), John Hay (Proposed IAVS 2016 venue: Brasilia, Brasil).

President Diekmann opened the meeting at 18:00.

1) Announcement of proxy votes (Wiser)

Proxy representation of 16 members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: 20 + 16 = 36.

2) Proposals for changes in IAVS Bylaws (Diekmann)

a. Proposed amendments to articles 11.3 and 11.2

The Governing Board submitted a proposal to change the IAVS bylaws to better meet the needs of IAVS Sections and Working Groups.

Following a discussion surrounding why steering group members of working groups may or may not want to be members of IAVS, Diekmann proposed that the amended bylaws be approved.

The Bylaws as amended were approved (**see Attachment 1**), with two Council members against and the remainder in favour of the proposal.

b. Potential issues of clarity in article 2.6

The Council also discussed whether more clarity was needed around Bylaw 2.6 in terms of procedures for Council members to formally submit agenda items to the President before the annual Council meeting, an issue raised by Dengler. Most members felt the degree of flexibility we currently have is suitable and sufficient. Any Council member can send a discussion item for the annual Council meeting to the entire Council before the meeting. It was generally agreed that there is no problem in the society about this issue, so no clarification in the bylaws is required. If the potential problem identified by Dengler appears in the future, the Governing Board will propose a solution.

3. Finances

a. Report for 2011 (Smits)

(see Attachment 2)

b. Budget for 2012 and approval (Diekmann)

The budget projection for 2012 was approved unanimously (see Attachment 2).

c. Budget for 2013 and approval (Diekmann)

Diekmann indicated we have previously approved the budget for the previous year only. By approving the 2013 budget now we will be on track for approving only one budget per year and this will be the upcoming budget. Additionally, the budget for the current year will be reviewed and proposed adjustments will be voted on.

The contract negotiation with Wiley is already starting and should be completed prior to the 2013 meeting in Tartu. Under consideration is moving from an 'intermediate' level of editing to a 'high' level of editing, which could increase the cost, beyond current projections.

The budget projection for 2013 was approved unanimously (see Attachment 2).

d. Appointment of auditors (Diekmann).

The need for a commission, comprising at least two members who are not members of the Governing Board, to assess the reliability of the annual financial reports and budget projections is specified in Article 7 of our Statutes. The Governing Board has asked two members of the Council (Ulrich Deil, Otto Wildi) to serve in this role for 2012. Their appointments were approved unanimously.

Action item: Smits will send the commission the necessary financial documents for 2011 immediately, and for 2012 in January 2013. The auditors will then provide a report on their assessment to the Council.

4. Financial support to Working groups / Regional sections (Diekmann)

The Governing Board submitted a proposal to develop some principles and rules around providing financial support to Working groups and Sections

Discussion points raised included: (i) whether Working Groups and Regional Sections should be required to have a website; although desirable most Council members did not feel this is essential at the current time; (ii) the third type of support specified in the proposal is too restrictive (i.e. that at most 2 awards of 3000 Euro for special activities will be funded per year) and this should be left to the discretion of the Governing Board; (iii) when individuals are being supported financially, it is desirable that they be IAVS members; (iv) the level of support given to a Working Group could be tied to the number or proportion of the members of the group that are also IAVS members.

The proposal was approved unanimously (**see Attachment 3**), with the proviso that the wording of point three be made less restrictive.

5. Reports on publications

a. Publications Committee (Wilson)

Wilson presented the report of the Publications Committee that was posted on IAVS website in advance http://www.iavs.org/uploads/PublicationsOfficerReport_2011-12.pdf (**see Attachment 4**).

b. Book series in Vegetation Science (Mucina).

Last year Springer contacted the Governing Board and Mucina concerning a book series; Wiley-Blackwell is also interested. This motivated Mucina to prepare a proposal outlining the vision for such a book series that would focus on the current practical issues (incl. terminology, field sampling methodology, data handling and pattern inference, vegetation mapping etc.) as well as application for those in the fields of biodiversity conservation, global change research, etc. Currently the preference is for Wiley-Blackwell to be the publisher. Mucina will continue to develop the series and will consult the Governing Board and Council as appropriate.

In a related effort, Franco Pedrotti has initiated the series 'Geobotanical Studies' to be published by Springer as a successor to *Braun-Blanquetia*. Springer reports that the series includes "outstanding monographs and collections of papers on a given topic in the following fields: Phytogeography, Phytosociology, Plant Community Ecology, Biocoenology, Vegetation Science, Eco-informatics, Landscape Ecology, Vegetation Mapping, Plant Conservation Biology and Plant Diversity." The Springer series definition is sufficiently broad that there is no current indication that it will duplicate the IAVS series. Mucina anticipates that the IAVS series if established with Wiley-Blackwell will consist of a more focused set of volumes with larger print runs and lower prices than the Springer series.

6. Reports of Working groups

a. European Dry Grasslands Group (Dengler)

A short oral report was presented. The working group is very active with a meeting and one excursion annually. The group has also been involved with five special features in JVS/AVS. New Bylaws were presented for approval (**Attachment 5**). The Bylaws were approved unanimously.

b. European Vegetation Survey Group (Chytrý)

A short report was presented (**see Attachment 6**)

New Bylaws were presented for approval (**Attachment 7**). The Bylaws were approved unanimously.

c. Ecoinformatics Working Group (Wiser)

A short report was presented (**see Attachment 8**). A recent highlight was the Special Feature in JVS in 2011. Wiser and Dengler will work with the membership to develop a set of Bylaws for approval by Council.

d. Circumboreal Vegetation Map (Krestov)

Key areas of focus and appropriate working scales have been determined. A report was presented (**see Attachment 9**)

e. North American Section (Palmer)

No report was presented. The section has been relatively inactive, but does meet annually jointly with the Vegetation Section of the Ecological Society of America.

f. Pacific Islands Section -- PABITRA (Mueller-Dombois)

There is no more funding for this section. Mueller-Dombois is looking for someone else to run it. Council will review the status of the Section at the 2013 meeting.

7. Reports of Committees

a. Awards Committee (Schaminée).

A short oral report was presented. Bastow Wilson has been selected to receive the Honorary Membership award. He will receive the award at the 2013 meeting in Estonia.

b. Meetings Committee (Pillar).

The 2012 meeting was a great success, but the same cannot be said of the planning process for it. Pillar described some of the frustrations. Although the Meetings Committee made a diligent effort to provide guidance for the meetings organization, the Korean organizers were less communicative than the Committee desired, perhaps owing to language difficulties. Pillar suggested that the establishment of a central office for IAVS, an option currently under consideration by the IAVS Governing Board, would facilitate input of the IAVS Meetings Committee and result in more consistent and efficient meeting organization.

c. Global Sponsorship Committee (Acosta)

Acosta reported that this year 24 free members were approved and 18 members were provided free access to journals. A report was submitted (**see Attachment 10**) concerning

how the Committee thinks that applications for free membership and free journal access should be handled. The Committee decided to make this a rolling application process instead of once a year.

Diekmann asked if Wiley Blackwell should be giving online subscriptions for free as IAVS has been offered 50 free subscriptions and we probably aren't using them all. He suggested that it may make more sense for the Committee to focus sponsorship on enabling Symposia attendance.

Acosta stated that there were no applications for attendance to this year's symposium, but on the other hand this option was not advertised. In a discussion that followed, it was concluded that availability of the global sponsorship awards needs to be better publicized. Potential mechanisms for this may be via botanical societies and ecological societies in the Third World, and via periodic messages on the IAVS member listserver and website.

c. Membership Committee (Palmer)

The Membership Committee provided a report to the Governing Board in June 2012 (see **Attachment 11**). Palmer reported that membership is not increasing at the same rate at which IAVS finances are increasing. The Membership Committee has been brainstorming this year and has come up with a range of ideas:

- Revising current promotional materials to appeal to a broader range of vegetation scientists
- Personal invitations to potential new members might be very effective
- It would be good to develop a mechanism to allow gift memberships (e.g. advisor to doctoral student, graduate student)
- The Committee wants to collaborate more with Web and Social Media Committee
- The Committee needs to collaborate with the Meetings Committee
- A discussion with the Governing Board around about gift memberships and fellowships for young scientists would be useful.

d. Vegetation Classification Special Committee (Loidi)

Loidi briefly reported on the initial work of the Vegetation Classification Special Committee and its interaction with the Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission. A special Workshop about vegetation classification procedure is planned for the near future and is being promoted by Miquel De Cáceres. That workshop would take place either at Tartu (in association with next meeting of IAVS) or at Rome (in association with next meeting of EVS).

e. Special Committee on Professional Ethics (Diekmann)

Diekmann announced the establishment of a new Committee on Professional Ethics to be chaired by Kerry Woods.

8. Status of the Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission (Diekmann)

A document that had been circulated before the meeting (see **Attachment 12**) was discussed. Bruelheide then proposed that the PNC be made a Working Group. Mucina

seconded. This was approved unanimously. Note this decision is provisional upon the agreement of members of the PNC, who were not represented at the Council meeting.

9. Future meetings

- 2013. Aveliina Helm made a short presentation on the meeting to be held in Tartu in June

- 2014. Mucina summarized plans for the Perth meeting, currently expected to be held in August or September

- 2015. There have been two suggestions: the Czech Republic (Chytrý), and Sicily (Guarino). Chytrý will prepare a formal proposal. Box will check whether Guarino could arrange for the symposium to be held in Sicily in 2017.

- 2016. John Hay delivered a short presentation on plans for a meeting to be held near Brasilia

There was some discussion around whether there is interest in holding a future meeting in North America. Palmer will discuss this with other members of the North American Section.

10. Other business

- Membership database (Wiser).

Wiser described that R scripts have now been written to reconcile the periodic current membership data provided by Wiley with our master database. Discussions with Wiley have lead us to believe that many of our ongoing problems will be solved by actions expected to be taken by Wiley in September.

- Central Office (Wiser).

There has been no progress to date owing to other issues confronting the Governing Board. Wiser felt it was more important to get the issues around the membership database sorted out before attempting to hand the maintenance of it onto a third party. Pillar volunteered to join the Special Business Committee to represent the needs of the Meetings Committee.

The meeting was closed by the president at 21.15 hrs.

Attachment 1



IAVS

Governing Board

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VEGETATION SCIENCE

To: IAVS Council

Subject: Proposal to change IAVS bylaws to better meet the needs of IAVS Sections and Working Groups.

Background: The IAVS Statutes adopted in May 2011 require IAVS Sections and Working Groups to have Bylaws approved by Council (Articles 8.1 and 8.2). Several Working Groups have multiple members that are not members of IAVS and have no desire to be members of IAVS (e.g. European Dry Grassland Group, Circumboreal Vegetation Map Working Group, European Vegetation Survey). Article 11.3 of the Bylaws adopted June 21, 2011 reads “Full voting membership in Sections and Working Groups is limited to members of the Association, though Sections and Working Groups may accept as non-voting Associate Members individuals who are not formal members of the Association”. In addition, it is important that each Section and Working Group have at least one officer who is a member of IAVS and who shall serve as the official representative.

Proposal 1. Article 11.3 of the IAVS Bylaws of June 2011 shall be eliminated.

Proposal 2. Article 11.2 of the IAVS Bylaws of June 2011 shall be amended to contain the following sentence to be inserted between the current two sentences. “Each Section and Working Group shall select from among its elected officers one individual who is a member of IAVS to serve as the official representative of the officers of the Group or Section to IAVS. This person may be, but is not required to be, the same person as is appointed to represent the Group or Section on Council as specified in IAVS Statutes Article 4.2.b.”

Attachment 2

Year (in Euros, except as noted)	2011		2012	2013
	Financial projection	Financial overview	Financial projection	Financial projection
General fund				
Starting Cash, December 31	139,429.69	139,429.69	205,177.94	236,582.94
Interest ¹⁾	1,500.00	18.19	1,500.00	1,500.00
Membership dues ²⁾	0.00	460.00	0.00	0.00
Wiley-Blackwell income ³⁾	85,190.57	112,820.44	100,000.00	120,000.00
Travel editors ⁴⁾	-15,000.00	-14,376.00	-15,000.00	-15,000.00
Travel Governing Board ⁵⁾	-9,000.00	-10,510.00	-9,000.00	-9,000.00
Travel Administrative Officer	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	-1,500.00	-1,500.00
Salaries Administrative Officer	-2,495.00	-2,495.00	-2,495.00	-2,495.00
Support working groups/sections ¹⁴⁾				-17,000.00
Bank expenses ⁶⁾	-100.00	-74.51	-100.00	-100.00
Office expenses ⁷⁾	-1,000.00	-4,303.81	-1,000.00	-1,000.00
Notary and translator expenses ⁸⁾	-3,000.00	-4,346.73	0.00	0.00
Tax	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Business Office ⁹⁾	-30,000.00		-30,000.00	-30,000.00
2010 Meeting in Ensenada ¹⁰⁾	-600.00			
New honorary members – expenses ¹¹⁾	-3,000.00	-1,944.05	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
Young Scientist Award	-3,000.00	-3,000.28	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
Allocation to Global Fund	-4,000.00	-5,000.00	-5,000.00	-5,000.00
Ending Cash: 31 December	153,425.26	205,177.94	236,582.94	270,987.94
Global Fund				
Starting Cash: 31 December	22,752.68	22,752.68	27,755.67	31,005.67
Interest ¹⁾	250.00	2.99	250.00	250.00
Awards for Manuscript editing ¹²⁾	-2,000.00	0.00	-2,000.00	-2,000.00
Allocation from General fund ¹³⁾	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Ending Cash: 31 December	25,002.68	27,755.67	31,005.67	34,255.67
Total Starting Assets: 31 December	162,182.37 €	162,182.37 €	232,933.61 €	267,588.61 €
Total Ending Assets: 31 December	178,427.94 €	232,933.61 €	267,588.61 €	305,243.61 €

Total assets, history	
31-12-2011	232.933,65 €
31-12-2010	160.615,11 €
31-12-2009	108.990,97 €
31-12-2008	62.025,89 €
31-12-2007	51.116,88 €
31-12-2006	35,796.71 €
31-12-2005	34,611.14 €
31-12-2004	21,001.10 €

Explanation:

- 1) 2011: Interest was much lower than expected, because we changed savings accounts at the end of 2010 and the interest over 2010 was therefore transferred in 2010 itself (see Bulletin 14 with the overview of 2010)
- 2) Wiley lumps dues into Wiley revenue. 2011: 460 euro was transferred by members to IAVS directly
- 3) Wiley-Blackwell income is paid in three parts: two in the same calendar year, and a final part at the beginning of next calendar year. Note also that we are anticipating a few-year drop in income of approximately 12,000 € starting in 2012 owing to an increase in the number of pages in AVS. For 2011: 48,937.10 was still for 2010, 63,883.34 are advance payments for 2011.
- 4) 2012 projection: we expect good attendance at the Mokpo meeting
- 5) 2012 projection: we expect good attendance at the Mokpo meeting
- 6) 2012 projection: is based on 2011 costs
- 7) 2011: This included: Bulletin 14 (2011), membership Chamber of Commerce 2011, paintings 2 Awards, manufacturing 5 medals and the internet voting 2011
- 8) 2011: Expense for adoption of new Statutes
- 9) Proposed -- to be discussed by EC & Council
- 10) 2011 projection: \$800 allocated for cost overrun
- 11) 2011: Two Honorary members came to the Lyon meeting (2010 and 2011 Award winners)
- 12) New use of Global fund approved by EC for 2011 and further
- 13) Was decided by EC & Council
- 14) Proposed financial support for working groups and sections



To: IAVS Council

Subject: Financial support to IAVS Working Groups and Regional Sections

Background: The IAVS wants to improve its work and service to its members, who in most cases are organized in Working Groups and Regional Sections of the Association. As the financial recovery of the IAVS during the last years permits us to allocate more money to various activities, we should develop some basic principles and rules for financial support to Working Groups and Regional Sections that do not have their own income through membership fees or journals, and thus do not have their own assets.

Proposal

General pre-Conditions for support

A Working Group or Regional Section can only be financially supported if it has Bylaws approved by the IAVS Council that ensure that the chair/s is/are properly elected.[For the first year we can excuse lack of bylaws if there is a commitment to develop them over the coming year.] The group or section should also show some substantial activity, keep a website linked to the IAVS website and regularly report on its activities in the IAVS Bulletins.

Types of support

1) Participation of the chair or one of the officers of the group / section in the annual IAVS meeting

This would ensure good communication between the IAVS Council and the group / section. The support should normally be 1 000 EURO comparable to the support given to the Associate editors. The money can be shared between two or more officers of the group / section. An officer already receiving a honorarium as (Associate) Editor or GB member or via another group / section is not entitled to get this support (no double support), but the funds can be transferred to allow a second person to attend. The respective chairs of the group / section decide about how the money is allocated in a manner consistent with their bylaws.

2) Automatic support of 500 EURO per year to each group / section

The respective chairs of the group / section decide about how the money is allocated in a manner consistent with their bylaws. The money should not be spent for the participation in the annual IAVS meeting.

3) Each group / section can make applications for up to 3000 EURO for special activities

At most 2 of these will be funded per year.

4) Support for start-up meetings for new groups / sections or new initiatives of existing groups / sections

Applications can be made for up to 5000 EURO on a one-time basis. The application needs to indicate the purpose of the group and to provide evidence that there will be a critical mass of participants.

5) Support to IAVS Committees

Also Committees can apply for financial support, but these will be handled individually based on need and available money.

No regular support should be given to the organization of meetings, workshops and excursions of the groups / sections. This would overstrain the IAVS, and these activities should basically be treated similar to the annual IAVS meetings which are also financially self-sustaining. Applications from members from low- or middle-income countries for financial support for participation in any activities of Working Groups or Regional sections should be addressed to the Global Sponsorship Committee.

Implementation

The evaluation of applications and decision is the responsibility of the Governing Board. The financial support for Working Groups, Regional Sections and Committees should be included in the annual budget to be approved by the Council.

Attachment 4

Report of the IAVS Publications Officer: 2011-2012

1. State of the Journals

The IAVS journals are doing very well as judged by nearly any metric. Here I summarize some of the most important of these.

Online Readership

Full text downloads for *Applied Vegetation Science* increased from 14,345 in 2009 and 28,812 in 2010 to 44,741 in 2011.

Full text downloads for *Journal of Vegetation Science* increased from 72,916 in 2009 and 139,378 in 2010 to 187,666 in 2011.

Impact Factor

Applied Vegetation Science's Impact Factor for 2011 is 1.678, down from 1.802 for 2010 but up from 1.349 for 2009.

Journal of Vegetation Science's Impact Factor for 2011 is 2.770, up from 2.457 for 2010 and 2.376 for 2009.

Production time

Times from receipt of a final manuscript at the publisher to publication in (1) early view, (2) the online issue, and (3) the print issue have steadily improved over the last two years and are now very competitive with other journals (see below for details).

Applied Vegetation Science

Year	Volume	No. of issues	No. of pages	No. of articles	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to EarlyView publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to online issue publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to print publication
2011	14	4	606	51	44	147	153
2010	13	4	546	48	45	175	179
2009	12	4	516	45	72	120	132

Journal of Vegetation Science

Year	Volume	No. of issues	No. of pages	No. of articles	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to EarlyView publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to online issue publication	Av. no. of days from receipt at W-B to print publication
2011	22	6	1154	104	36	111	121
2010	21	6	1186	104	40	117	123
2009	20	6	1192	114	109	130	140

Revenue

Revenue received by IAVS from Wiley-Blackwell has remained strong with receipts of 113,512€ in 2010 and 114,975€ in 2011. If current trends continue IAVS should receive approximately 140,000€ for 2012.

Reaching new and developing markets

Applied Vegetation Science and *Journal of Vegetation Science* are now available in 5,978 institutions in the developing world.

2. Deliberations of the Publications Committee

The IAVS Publications Committee consists of Robert Peet, Chair (US), Helge Bruelheide (DE), Hans Henrik Bruun (DK), Jessica Gurevitch (US), Tomáš Herben (CZ), Michael Manthey (DE), Bastow Wilson (NZ), and Martin Zobel (EE).

The Committee met once by Skype (February 2012) and exchanged considerable email. Below I summarize a few of our primary topics of deliberation.

The IAVS Bulletin

The committee agrees with continued digital publication of the *Bulletin* and feels that initially there should be two issues per year, though if there is sufficient content available more issues would be fine. One issue should be released shortly after the annual meeting to report the events at the meeting including the minutes of the Council meeting and the minutes of the General Assembly. Another issue should appear approximately 4-5 months prior to the annual meeting to advertise that event.

The role of the *Bulletin* was discussed. At present, it primarily serves as a home for permanent records about the Association, such as minutes of meetings and reports of Committees, Working Groups and Sections. However, these roles could be served equally well by the IAVS website. The more important role of the *Bulletin* is to keep the membership engaged and aware of IAVS by promoting communication and by keeping the membership informed. To succeed in this role it will be important to identify a person (or persons) to serve as Editor with this being his/her/their primary role within IAVS.

Types of content that could be added were discussed. The usual candidates were mentioned, such as included essays and obituaries. It was suggested that if there were a means for posting comments on a topic or content (rather like digital newspapers now often include), this could increase interest, though such comments would need to be moderated. Another suggestion was to feature perhaps two or three research groups each issue (perhaps a half page of text and a photo for each). These could also be linked separately from a place on our homepage, and groups could be allowed to update their postings.

IAVS Book Series

During the IAVS meeting in Lyon there were organized discussions about a possible IAVS book series. Several publishers expressed an interest in publishing such a series. Laco Mucina was charged by the Governing Board with exploring options. In December he submitted a formal proposal, which the Governing Board referred to the Publications Committee.

The Committee is enthusiastic about the proposed book series. There might be a large market for books or manuals containing methods, protocols and best practices for postgraduate students and for practitioners in the conservation and management communities. Topics might primarily focus on sampling and monitoring of vegetation environment. The Committee advised the Governing Board to move ahead with the proposal and to encourage Mucina to take next steps, both in contacting publishers and in recruiting possible volume authors/editors. Management was discussed and the Committee favors an Editor-in-Chief (initially Laco) who would be the primary leader and promoter, but who would work with a small Advisory Board whose members would share in making the key decisions. Final negotiations with publishers would need to involve the Publications Committee and/or the Governing Board.

Plan for review of the journals and the Chief Editors

IAVS Bylaw 5.6 reads “The Publications Committee shall oversee the publications of the Association. The Chair of the Committee shall be the Publications Officer and shall be one of the Vice Presidents. The Chair shall be responsible for interactions with the Chief Editors and with the publisher. The Committee shall review and approve proposals from the Chief Editors for major changes in the structure and content of the journals, and shall be responsible for a recurring 4-year review of the Chief Editors. The Committee shall advise the Council on reappointment of Chief Editors and evaluate candidates to fill vacancies among the Chief Editors. The Chief Editors shall select from among themselves a representative to serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Committee, except during evaluations of Chief Editors.”

The review process for the four-year review of the journals and the Chief Editors was discussed. As the last review was conducted in 2009, we anticipate that this will next be undertaken in late 2013 or early 2014. The Committee needs to prepare a brief document that describes the process and which can be reviewed and discussed by Council in 2013 and subsequently implemented by the Governing Board. One complication for implementation is that several members of the Publications Committee are involved in the editing of the journals. It will be necessary to identify a small set of persons without such conflicts of interest to conduct the review, and selection of this group will need to be done in consultation with the Governing Board. It would be best if the results of the review could be discussed in person with the Chief Editors at the annual meeting in Perth in 2014.

Review of the IAVS contract with Wiley-Blackwell

The initial IAVS contract with Blackwell was for 2009-2013, after which there is automatic renewal unless one party asks for renegotiation at least 1 year in advance. The Committee felt that both the Committee and the Governing Board should review the currently contract during 2012 and decide whether there are any important changes we would like to have in place by January 2014. The Publications Officer brought this matter up with our representatives at Wiley-Blackwell and they will prepare a proposed new contract for our consideration. They anticipate having this completed by the end of August. Meanwhile, the Committee solicits suggestions as to changes that might be needed in an updated contract. All such suggestions should be addressed to the Publications Officer and should be received by the end of August.

Respectfully submitted, July 11, 2012

Robert K. Peet, IAVS Publication Officer

Attachment 5

Bylaws of the European Dry Grassland Group

– Version of 10 May 2012 –

(Accepted on 30 September 2011 by the general membership of the EDGG in an electronic ballot [44 yes; 0 no]; modified on 10 May 2012 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee [6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions])

Article 1. Name, Affiliation

1. This Group shall be known as the European Dry Grassland Group (hereafter EDGG).
2. EDGG is a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (hereafter IAVS), and consequently these Bylaws are subsidiary to the Statutes and Bylaws of IAVS.

Article 2. Objectives, Activities, Facilities

1. The objectives of the EDGG shall be to:
 - a. develop and advance research on any aspect (vegetation, flora, fauna, soils, etc.) of western Palaearctic dry grasslands and steppes,
 - b. promote education on dry grasslands,
 - c. promote the publication of research results on dry grasslands,
 - d. facilitate scientific and personal communication among scientists who are interested in Palaearctic dry grasslands,
 - e. promote appropriate application of dry grassland research for the good of society, particularly in environmental management and public decision making, and
 - f. promote policies and legislation towards protection, proper management, and restoration of high nature value grasslands in general.
2. These objectives may be achieved by the following activities:
 - a. organization, promotion and administration of scientific meetings, research expeditions, and field trips,
 - b. establishment of Regional or Topical Subgroups, or Special Committees,
 - c. publication, editing and distribution of journals, special features, articles, books, data resources, and other media dealing with dry grasslands,
 - d. encouragement and facilitation of communication between grassland scientists and policymakers at all levels of government, as well as with private and public organizations,
 - e. provision of awards, grants, scholarships and other financial assistance to charitable organizations, societies, associations, companies or persons that advance the objectives of the EDGG, and

- f. other mechanisms, provided they are consistent with the stated objectives of the EDGG.
3. To achieve its aims, the EDGG provides four major facilities for information exchange among dry grassland researchers and conservationists:
- a. the Bulletin of the EDGG,
 - b. the EDGG mailing list,
 - c. the EDGG homepage,
 - d. the European Dry Grassland Meetings, organized annually in different places throughout Europe.

Article 3. Membership and Fees

1. Membership of the EDGG is open to all natural persons who are interested in dry grasslands and who are willing to support the objectives of EDGG.
2. Membership of the EDGG is free of charge, and membership of the IAVS is optional.
3. Membership is obtained by
 - a. written application to the EDGG Membership Administrator,
 - b. registration for participation in a conference, expedition or fieldtrip of the EDGG, or
 - c. authorship in an EDGG-edited publication or Special Feature.
4. Membership can be terminated by any member and at any time by means of a written request addressed to the Membership Administrator.
5. It is the responsibility of members to provide the Membership Administrator with a functioning e-mail address. Membership is terminated when no functioning e-mail address is available to the Membership Administrator.

Article 4. Executive Committee

1. Responsibilities.
 - a. The Executive Committee shall be the primary governing body of the EDGG.
 - b. The Executive Committee represents the EDGG and shall be in charge of the daily affairs of the EDGG.
 - c. The Executive Committee exerts authority in any matter not allocated to other organs by the Bylaws.
 - d. The Executive Committee will have the following main responsibilities:

- i. Publication of the Bulletin of the EDGG;
- ii. Maintenance of the EDGG homepage;
- iii. Organisation of the European Dry Grassland Meetings in cooperation with the Local Organising Committees;
- iv. Organisation of General Assemblies and of elections to the Executive Committee as well as conducting electronic ballots of the General Membership as required;
- v. Internal communication with members and Subgroups and coordination of all EDGG activities;
- vi. External communication with IAVS, other organisations, institutions and individuals

2. Election

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of three to seven members.
- b. The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for terms of two years. Membership automatically terminates at the time of the General Assembly, which is held in uneven years. Members of the Executive Committee may be re-elected. The new Executive Committee takes over its duties before the General Assembly.
- c. Prior to the election, the General Membership shall be invited to provide nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee. Any EDGG member may be nominated as a candidate for the Executive Committee by any member of the EDGG, including himself/herself.
- d. Only those nominees who agree to take the seat if elected will be accepted and listed as candidates.
- e. The elections will be conducted via electronic forms among all members. The duration of the election period will be four weeks. In the election, each member can vote for up to seven candidates. Those three candidates with the highest number of votes are elected. Additionally, the candidates with the fourth to seventh highest numbers of votes are elected, provided they were voted for by at least half of the voters. In the case of a tie, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected.

3. Termination of Membership

- a. A Member of the Executive Committee can resign from his/her position at any time.
- b. A Member of the Executive Committee can be dismissed by a majority vote of a Qualified General Assembly (i.e. an Assembly of 40 EDGG members from at least 10 different countries) or in an electronic ballot among the General Membership.
- c. In case of resignation or dismissal, the remaining Executive Committee members may appoint a replacement to fill any such vacant positions until the following General Assembly.

4. Assignment of Responsibilities

a. The Executive Committee designates from its membership one Officer for each of the six required functions:

- i. Representative to the IAVS, who must be a member of the IAVS.
- ii. Membership Administrator who maintains the membership list and is responsible for general communication with the members.
- iii. Secretary-General, who prepares and archives all official documents of the EDGG, such as the Bylaws and minutes of meetings of the General Assembly and Executive Committee, as well as the results of elections and ballots and make these available to the general membership.
- iv. Editor-in-Chief of the Bulletin of the EDGG, who is in charge of the everyday business of the Bulletin of the EDGG.
- v. Editor-in-Chief of the EDGG homepage, who is in charge of the everyday business of the EDGG homepage.
- vi. Meetings Coordinator, who collects ideas for future venues of European Dry Grassland Meetings, communicates with potential meeting hosts, and supports the Local Organising Committees as the representative of the Executive Committee.

b. The Executive Committee may also designate Deputy Officers for each of the six required functions, as well as Officers for other responsibilities.

c. A member of the Executive Committee may hold more than one of the named functions.

d. The Executive Committee will keep the membership informed regarding the responsibilities of its Officers. The Executive Committee may reorganize the arrangement of these responsibilities at any time.

5. Representation and Decisions

a. Each member of the Executive Committee is entitled to publicize activities of the EDGG to members and non-members. At the IAVS, the EDGG is represented by the IAVS Representative or his/her Deputy.

b. All decisions of the Executive Committee are taken by the whole Executive Committee unless they belong to the specific responsibilities of a certain Officer. Also, fundamental decisions regarding the Bulletin of the EDGG, the EDGG homepage and the European Dry Grassland Meetings are to be made by the whole Executive Committee. The majority of the Executive Committee can overrule any individual decision of one of its Officers.

c. Decisions by the Executive Committee are made by a simple majority of its members (not votes), except in issues which require a three-quarter majority in accordance with these Bylaws.

d. Meetings of the Executive Committee may be held in person, by remote communication or by a combination of these.

6. Reporting.

Each year during the General Assembly, the Executive Committee shall present an annual report of its activities since the previous General Assembly and those planned for the future. A copy of this report shall be submitted to the Secretary of IAVS.

Article 5. General Assembly

1. The Executive Committee shall organize General Assemblies on an annual basis, to be held in conjunction with the European Dry Grassland Meetings.
2. During the General Assembly, the membership shall receive the annual reports of the Executive Committee.
3. Any member of the EDGG may raise an issue or appeal a Decision of the Executive Committee by proposing the matter for consideration by the General Assembly. Members may, by submission of a petition signed by at least ten members of the EDGG, request that an item proposed by a member of the EDGG during the General Assembly meeting be voted on by the General Assembly.
4. If at least 40 EDGG members from at least 10 different countries are represented in a General Assembly and no country represents more than one third of these members (Qualified General Assembly), its decisions are binding over the Executive Committee; otherwise they are recommendations that can be overruled by the majority of the Executive Committee.
5. The Executive Committee shall approve the minutes, and the Secretary-General shall distribute them in the Bulletin of the EDGG.

Article 6. Decisions by General Membership

1. If required by either the General Assembly or the Executive Committee, final decisions on important issues can be delegated for resolution by an electronic ballot of the General Membership of EDGG.

Article 7. Regional or Topical Subgroups and Special Committees

1. Members of the EDGG may organize Regional or Topical Subgroups. The establishment, reorganization and renaming of such Subgroups needs to be approved either by the Executive Committee, General Assembly or by an electronic ballot of the General Membership
2. Subgroups can be dissolved by a three-quarter vote of the Executive Committee or by a simple majority of either a Qualified General Assembly or an electronic ballot of the General Membership.
3. The Executive Committee can appoint Special Committees that support its work within specific fields. Special Committees consist of one or more members from the Executive Committee and any number of ordinary EDGG members. Their terms of duty terminate with

that of the Executive Committee that appointed them or by dissolution through the Executive Committee.

4. The Executive Committee shall appoint Teams of Editors for EDGG Special Features in scientific journals and for other publications, jointly with the respective Editor(s)-in-Chief.

Article 8. European Dry Grassland Meetings

1. Each potential future European Dry Grassland Meeting (venue, date, topic, excursions) has to be presented and discussed in at least one General Assembly prior to a decision. After such a presentation, a Qualified General Assembly can decide (a) to accept the proposal; (b) to delegate the decision to the Executive Committee; or (c) if the presentation is at least two years prior to the proposed meeting, postpone the decision to the subsequent General Assembly

2. All fundamental issues not decided by the General Assembly after such a presentation (because the General Assembly was not qualified, because it delegated them or left them open) are decided by a majority decision of the Executive Committee.

3. For each European Dry Grassland Meeting, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Local Organising Committee consisting of one or more persons proposed by the meetings host(s) plus the Meetings Coordinator or his/her Deputy.

4. All fundamental decisions regarding a European Dry Grassland Meeting are made by the Local Organising Committee jointly with the Executive Committee. This particularly applies to financial issues such as fees, applications for financial support and the use of financial surpluses.

Article 9. Modification of the Bylaws

The Bylaws can be modified by

- a. a majority vote of the General Membership in an electronic ballot, or
- b. a majority vote of a Qualified General Assembly, or
- c. through a vote by three quarters of all Executive Committee members.

Article 10. Status as IAVS Working Group

The status of being a Working Group of the IAVS can be terminated at any time by a

- a. two-third vote of a Qualified General Assembly or a majority vote of an electronic ballot among the EDGG General Membership, or
- b. decision of the IAVS Council.

Article 11. General Prohibitions and Finances

1. The General Prohibitions stated in Article 12 of the IAVS Statutes apply to the EDGG.

2. If the EDGG is to handle its own financial assets, this must be done through the accounts of the IAVS. The EDGG Executive Committee shall arrange with the IAVS Governing Board that ensures that such money is exclusively used according to the intentions of the EDGG.

Article 12. Dissolution

A decision on the dissolution of the EDGG can only be made by a majority of votes in an electronic ballot among the General Membership.

Attachment 6

European Vegetation Survey (EVS)

The 21st annual meeting of European Vegetation Survey (EVS) took place in Vienna on 24–27 May 2012, with an optional excursion on 28 May, and was organized on a highly professional level by Wolfgang Willner and his colleagues from VINCA (Vienna Institute for Nature Conservation and Analyses) and the University of Vienna. The meeting was attended by 196 participants from 28 countries who presented 58 talks and 90 posters. It was a joint meeting of the EVS with the ‘11th Meeting on Vegetation Databases’, of the German Working Group on Vegetation Databases. The scientific programme focused on three main topics: (1) vegetation databases and large-scale vegetation classification, (2) biogeographical patterns in vegetation, and (3) vegetation and global change. The mid-conference excursions were to the Biosphere Reserve Vienna Woods, Danube National Park and National Park Neusiedler See, and the post-conference excursion was to the Vienna Woods. A highlight of the social part of the meeting was a plentiful dinner in one of the typical Viennese *Heuriger* pubs. We thank our Austrian colleagues for the perfect organization of the meeting and the very friendly atmosphere in Vienna.

New Bylaws of European Vegetation Survey (EVS) as a Working Group of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) were approved by the participants of the Vienna meeting. These Bylaws define EVS members as persons who have registered for some EVS meeting or who ask the EVS Membership Administrator to be included in the EVS e-mailing list. However, there is no fee and no obligations resulting from this kind of membership. EVS members do not need to be members of IAVS, although EVS encourages IAVS membership. Anyone interested in joining EVS is advised to contact the EVS Membership Administrator Emiliano Agrillo (emiliano.agrillo@uniroma1.it).

Following the Bylaws, new EVS Steering Committee for 2012–2016 was elected from a broader pool of candidates. It comprises Erwin Bergmeier, Milan Chytrý, John Rodwell, Joop Schaminée and Wolfgang Willner. The new EVS Secretary, chosen by the Steering Committee members for the same period, is Milan Chytrý. The main tasks for the new Steering Committee include development of closer cooperation between vegetation survey researchers from all of Europe and beyond, and stimulation of coordinated work towards the synthetic overview of diversity of European vegetation. On the longer term this will include the development of a centralized European Vegetation Archive (EVA), its interfacing with the information system SynBioSys Europe and – as a main goal – its use in basic and applied research of European Vegetation. One of the short-term goals is a launch of the EVS website, but already now EVS members who are Facebook users can join the EVS Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EuropeanVegetationSurvey/>.

As a new Secretary, I want to thank the retiring Secretary, John Rodwell, for all his work done for our Working Group over many years and for his tireless dissemination of the spirit of friendly international cooperation within our *scientia amabilis*. I am happy that John will stay with us as a member of the Steering Committee and will further participate in shaping EVS ideas and visions.

Milan Chytrý

Attachment 7

Bylaws of the **Working Group *European Vegetation Survey (EVS)* of the International Association for Vegetation Science**

Article 1. Name and status

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

Article 2. Purposes

The main purposes of the EVS include:

- (a) the development of common data standards in the provision of phytosociological information about vegetation;
- (b) the encouragement of national programmes of vegetation survey across Europe and beyond;
- (c) the development of software and an electronic network for vegetation data exchange;
- (d) the production of an overview of European vegetation;
- (e) the organization of scientific meetings;
- (f) the encouragement of international research collaborations in vegetation survey;
- (g) the support of publications on concepts, methods and results of vegetation survey in Europe and beyond.

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

Article 3. Membership

Membership of the EVS is open to all persons free of charge, and membership in the IAVS is optional. Membership in the EVS is obtained by:

- (a) written application to the EVS Membership Administrator, or
- (b) registration for participation in a conference, workshop or fieldtrip of the EVS.

Membership is discontinued by a written statement (electronic or hardcopy) sent to the EVS Membership Administrator that the member does no longer want to be member of the EVS.

It is the responsibility of members to provide the Membership Administrator with a functioning e-mail address. Membership is discontinued when no functioning e-mail address is available to either the Membership Administrator or the IAVS Secretary.

Article 4. Business meeting

A business meeting shall be held annually in conjunction with an EVS meeting. All members attending may vote in the business meeting.

Article 5. Steering Committee

The Working Group shall have a Steering Committee (SC) with five elected members, each from a different European country. All SC members shall be members of IAVS. Each SC member shall be elected for a period of four years at the next business meeting of the EVS following a vacancy. Nominations shall be received by the EVS Secretary by e-mail or in person at an EVS meeting and may be made by any member. SC members may be elected for further periods of four years. The SC elects a Secretary from its members and appoints a Membership Administrator (who need not be a member of the SC) for a period of four years.

All decisions on behalf of EVS except the election of the SC itself are made by the SC with majority.

Article 6. Duties of the Steering Committee members

- (a) The SC members promote the interests of the EVS, and supervise EVS operations and scientific activities;
- (b) The Secretary presides at the EVS business meetings held during the EVS scientific meetings;
- (c) The Secretary, at his or her discretion, may call upon members or appoint committees to assist with the EVS affairs, e.g. the Membership Administrator;
- (d) The Secretary keeps records of the EVS and supplies an annual report to IAVS;
- (e) The Membership Administrator keeps records of the EVS members.

Article 7. Finances

EVS financial assets shall be held by and managed through the accounts of IAVS.

Article 8. Amendments

These Bylaws will be adopted and may be amended by a 3/5 vote of the members participating in the business meeting of the EVS. Proposed amendments must be circulated to the membership by email at least two weeks in advance of the business meeting at which they are voted on. Changes in the bylaws are contingent on approval by the IAVS Council.

Attachment 8

Annual Report IAVS Working Group for Ecoinformatics July 2012

Robert Peet and Susan Wisser

In 2003, the Ecoinformatics Working Group and the Council of the International Association for Vegetation Science endorsed the development of a standard exchange schema for vegetation plot data. In 2007, a first workshop was held to formulate a common set of goals, concepts, and terminology for plot-based vegetation data. At a second workshop in 2008, this ontology was developed into an XML schema representation designed to be maximally compatible with existing standards and databases. In late 2011, a special issue of *JVS* focused on ecoinformatics included the introduction of Veg-X, the draft international exchange standard for plot-based vegetation data (Wisser, S.K., N. Spencer, M. De Cáceras, M. Kleikamp, R.K. Peet. 2011. Veg-X – An exchange standard for plot-based vegetation data. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 22: 598-609). Veg-X accommodates observations of vegetation at both individual plant (e.g. stems) and aggregated observation levels (e.g. cover values). It ensures that observations are fixed to physical sample plots at specific points in space and time, and makes a distinction between the entity of interest (e.g. an individual plant) and the observational act (e.g. a measurement). The standard supports repeated measurements of both individual organisms and plots, allows observations of entities to be grouped following predefined or user-defined criteria, and ensures that the connection between the entity observed and taxonomic concept associated with that observation are maintained. Establishment of exchange standards followed by development of ecoinformatics tools built around those standards should allow scientists to efficiently combine plot data over extensive spatial and temporal gradients in order to perform analyses and make predictions of vegetation change and dynamics at local and global scales.

This year a major international collaborative effort implemented Veg-X. The Botanical Information and Ecology Network (BIEN, based at the US National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, California) is a network of ecologists, botanists, conservation scientists and other researchers interested in global patterns of plant diversity, function and distribution (<http://bien.nceas.ucsb.edu/bien/>). The central goal is to understand the determinants of the past and present plant distributions, abundances, and co-occurrences. This knowledge is essential for predicting how species, vegetation and agricultural crops will respond to future climate changes. The BIEN team is working to assemble a demonstration project that includes most of the premier plant biodiversity data for the Americas including both individual species occurrence records (e.g. specimen data) and co-occurrence records (i.e. plot data). At present their database includes around 15,000,000 plant occurrence records. BIEN is using VegX mostly as an intermediate data schema to facilitate mapping plot and specimen data to a common schema before importing it into VegBIEN. The large size of the datasets used by the BIEN project has led to improvements in VegX to increase efficiency of data exchange and use. Finally, BIEN has used VegX to expand our VegBank-based database schema to include additional plots elements. These developments move both BIEN and VegX closer to the ultimate goal of uniting an ever-growing pool of plant distributional data with information on plant co-occurrence, ecology, traits and phylogeny. ONE product of the BIEN initiative of particular value to the ecoinformatics community is TNRS, the Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (<http://tnrs.iplantcollaborative.org/>), which promises to be of particular value in integrating datasets of mixed provenance and that follow mixed taxonomic authorities.

Jürgen Dengler, Florian Jansen, Falko Glöckler and nine other Working Group members have developed and described GIVD, the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (<http://www.givd.info>). GIVD is an index of digital plot databases and currently contains metadata on in excess of 182 databases containing more than 2.87 million plots. The vegetation-plot data registered in GIVD constitute a major resource for biodiversity research, both through the large number of species occurrence records and the storage of species co-occurrence information at a small scale, combined with structural data and plot-based environmental data. The database and associated data are described in detail in Dengler et al. 2011 and Jansen et al. 2012 (The Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases: a new resource for vegetation science. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 22:582-597; News from the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD): the metadata platform, available data, and their properties. *Biodiversity & Ecology* 4: in press). Additionally, nearly all databases registered in

GIVD will be represented in a standardized manner in Database Reports to be published in a Special Volume of Biodiversity & Ecology to be published in July 2012.

Miquel De Cáceres, in collaboration with the IAVS ecoinformatics Working Group, has taken the lead in initiating and coordinating an IAVS website devoted to vegetation classification methods (<https://sites.google.com/site/vegclassmethods/>). Persons interested in contributing to this website are encouraged to contact Miquel.

Attachment 9

Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) Working Group

Contact person: Stephen Talbot

E-mail: stephen_talbot@fws.gov

Homepage: <http://www.caff.is/cbvm-home>

The goal of the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping (CBVM) project is to provide a common international framework for understanding the boreal region and the conservation of its flora and vegetation. Currently, various maps already exist of the boreal biome, but these do not rely on a unified international method for classifying and mapping boreal vegetation. By recognizing the boreal region as a single geoecosystem with a common set of cultural, political and economic issues, the CBVM will produce the first detailed vegetation map of this entire global biome. Such a map is needed for a wide variety of purposes related to resource development, land-use planning, studies of boreal biota and biodiversity, education, anticipated global changes and human interaction. A common legend and language for describing boreal ecosystems is essential for answering questions at a global scale. Boreal forests are particularly appropriate for unified classification because of their high level of floristic, physiognomic and syntaxonomic similarity across the entire biome. A circumboreal vegetation map will have numerous other application uses for boreal scientists and managers such as impact studies on wildlife and feedback mechanisms in models or increased emission of greenhouse gases. The CBVM will also contribute to global efforts to improve understanding and communication with policy-makers.

The tasks listed above are directly related to activities of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS) <<http://www.iavs.org/>>:

1. The Circumboreal Vegetation Map will synthesize comprehensive knowledge about diversity, ecology, geography and disturbance of boreal biome;
2. The CBVM is based on international scientific cooperation of phytosociologists from a wide spectrum of countries; and
3. The basic scientific problems solved within the frame of the CBVM correspond to the actual thematic activities of the IAVS. These activities include:
 - classification of vegetation of large regions
 - development of the system of bioclimatic subdivisions of vegetation
 - plant-geographical and evolutionary regularities in boreal vegetation
 - monographic study of entire (largest) biome
 - dynamic and disturbance of boreal vegetation
 - small-scale geobotanical mapping
 - boreal vegetation in satellite images

Toward these goals our primary activities during this reporting period have involved: 1) CBVM workshop in Akureyri, Iceland; 2) publication of the proceedings of the CBVM Akureyri workshop as a “CAFF Proceedings Series Report”; 3) special CBVM session at the Vladivostok 2012 Symposium; and 4) post-symposium field trip to the Ussuri region in the Russian Far East. Summaries of these four topics are presented below.

A CBVM Workshop at the 6th International Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group (CAFF) Circumpolar Flora Group (CFG) Meeting was held in Akureyri, Iceland, 28 – 31 January 2011. At this meeting we focused on refining the CBVM legend within seven prototype mapping areas; these areas were selected to represent the vegetation diversity of the boreal zone and serve as a test of our preliminary legend.

Accordingly, vegetation maps were prepared by team members for seven prototype areas across the boreal zone:

- 1) ***Southwestern Alaska***: Torre Jorgenson, Ecoscience, Fairbanks, Alaska;
- 2) ***Western Canada, Northern British Columbia***: Del Meidinger, Meidinger Ecological Consultants Ltd., Victoria, BC, Canada and Will MacKenzie, British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Natural Resource Operations, Smithers, BC, Canada;
- 3) ***Eastern Canada, Québec***: André Robitaille, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec, Sainte-Foy, Québec, Canada; Jean-Pierre Saucier, Némoralis, Québec; Antoine Leboeuf and Elisabeth Dufour, Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec, Sainte-Foy, Québec;
- 4) ***Iceland***: Gudmundur Gudjónsson, Eythór Einarsson & Rannveig Thoroddsen, Icelandic Institute of Natural History, Gardabaer, Iceland;
- 5) ***Altai-Sayan, Central Russia***: Nicolai Ermakov, Lab. Ecology and Geobotany, Central Siberian Botanical Garden, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk, Russia;
- 6) ***Russian Far East***: Pavel V. Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute FEB RAS, Vladivostok, Russia;
- 7) ***Western Russia, Kamchatka***: Valentina Yu. Neshataeva, Anton Pesterov, and Sergei Golubev, Komarov Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.

In addition to the papers mentioned above, William Meades and Kenneth Baldwin (Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forestry Service, Great lakes Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, Canada) presented a paper on “CBVM activities in Canada” and Daniel Sanchez-Mata (Department of Plant Biology II, Complutense University, Madrid, Spain) and Salvador Rivas-Martínez

(Phytosociological Research Center, Los Negrals, Madrid, Spain) presented a paper “Bioclimatic Dossier for the ‘Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping Project’ (CBVM).”

The papers listed above will be published as a **CAFF Proceedings Series Report** in late summer 2012. The report will be available in both electronic and hard copy formats.

The Vladivostok Symposium titled *The East Asian Flora and its role in the formation of the world's vegetation* is organized by Pavel Krestov (Botanical Garden-Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Far Eastern Branch, Vladivostok). The symposium will have a special session on a Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) action item, the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping (CBVM) <<http://www.geobotanica.ru/symposium/>>. The CBVM session is coordinated by Nicolai Ermakov (Laboratory of Ecology and Geobotany, Central Siberian Botanical Garden, Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk).

A post-symposium excursion to the **Southern Boundary of Circumboreal Zone and Ussuri Taiga: September 28 - October 4, 2012** follows the Vladivostok 2012 Symposium. This excursion will give CBVM members an opportunity to discuss boreal mapping issues in the field. The preliminary itinerary is given below:

September 28: Start from Vladivostok and field trip to Lukyanovka Village (200 km drive), climbing to Livadiyskaya Mt. (1333 m a.s.l.) (crossing the sequence of broadleaved-Korean pine (*Pinus koraiensis*), *Abies nephrolepis*-*Picea jezoensis*, *Betula ermanii* forest belts, reaching scrub of *Microbiota decussata*) with fragments of alpine vegetation.

Overnight stay is in log cabins (Barkhatnaya-Sikhote).

September 29: Start from Lukyanovka and drive to Chuguevka (300 km). Chuguevka forest station. Boreo-nemoral forests and their postfire derivatives. Overnight stay is in log cabins in Chuguevka forest station.

September 30: Field excursion to the upper part of Sokolovka river, diversity of fir-spruce forests. Overnight stay is in log cabins in Chuguevka forest station.

October 01: Start from Chuguevka and drive to Ternei (350 km). Post-fire and post-logging forests, mire vegetation, coastal vegetation. Overnight stay is in Ternei hotel.

October 02: Field trip to the upper part of Dzhigitovka river (drive 80 km), hike to the Glukhomanka Mt. Fir-spruce forests, *Betula ermanii* forests, *Pinus pumila* thickets. Overnight stay is in log cabins.

October 03: Drive to Melnichnoye 300 km. Stops in larch forests, old-growth Korean pine forests, mires, post-logging and postfire successions, extensive valley forests in Armu river. Overnight stay is in log cabins.

October 04: Return in Vladivostok with several stops on the way.

In 2013 we plan to convene a workshop in the European region to finalize the CBVM legend. This may be held in Helsinki or in conjunction with the CAFF Biennial in Moscow.

Attachment 10

IAVS Global Sponsorship Committee (GSC)

Handling of applications for free membership & free journal access

Proposal, version 4, 27 July 2012

Background:

It seems that we have received relatively few requests for free subscriptions in the past, so our idea is to encourage new memberships. We would like to implement a new practice for free membership as fair, effective and simple as possible.

Major changes implemented:

- We will handle applications continuously for free membership & free journal access, not only once a year.
- The procedure allows that in most of the cases applications are handled automatically (the clear-cut ones) and GSC only has to check a relatively small number of borderline cases by individual assessment.

Info on regular fees in 2012

- Membership: 28 US\$ = 20 €
- Student membership: 14 US\$ = 10 €
- Membership with online subscription of JVS/AVS: 101 US\$ = 76 €
- Student membership with online subscription of JVS/AVS: 87 US\$ = 65 €

Eligibility (three categories with different requirements)

Eligibility is based on average per-capita income (purchasing parity = PPP) in the respective country in the respective year (derived from the World Monetary Fund, attached) and the personal situation.

1. All persons in countries with per-capita income in the respective year below 10,000 US\$ PPP. No approval of GSC needed.
2. Students, PhD students, unemployed and retired scientists in countries with per-capita income in the respective year between 10,000 and 25,000 US\$ PPP. No approval of GSC needed.
3. Other persons upon specific application with detailed explanation why they personally would not be able to pay for membership or subscription. Individual decision by GSC required.

These rules should be placed on the IAVS homepage.

Proofs needed to obtain benefits for the three categories

1. Address in a country of the respective category.

2. Address in a country of the respective category + document (via mail or attachment) that proof the status as student etc. (e.g.)
3. E-mail that explains the personal situation briefly.

How to apply

We should include the following form/text on the membership renewal form of IAVS:

Vegetation scientists with low personal income can apply for free membership. For the conditions, read here (Hyperlink). If you wish to apply, please fill in the following form:

I have a low personal income and thus would like to apply for support by the IAVS Global Fund

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Country of your present residence:

Name and address of your institution:

Age:

Highest scientific degree:

Click if you belong to one of the following criteria and send a scan of a document proofing this (e.g. student card) to #####:

student; PhD student; unemployed; retired

Explain in one sentence what you are doing professionally and how this is related to vegetation science/the IAVS (e.g. *I am in the second year of my PhD studies on "Vegetation patterns in xy" or I am responsible for restoration measures in the administration of the national park xy*):

.....

- If you are not falling under categories 1 or 2 from above (i.e. not from a low-income country nor student/PhD student/unemployed/retired from a medium-income country), but nevertheless suffer from some other financial hardship that makes it very difficult to pay the fees, then: please explain briefly your situation and why you wish to receive free IAVS membership (approx. 5 sentences; possibly accompanied with scans of relevant documents).

Note that this application is valid for the current calendar year or, if made after October, for the subsequent calendar year. You will receive a renewal notice for membership/subscription in every autumn, and if the reasons for applying are still valid you can repeat your application to the GSC then.

- Does your institution have a paper or online subscription to JVS and AVS?: yes/no: If no,

- Are you interested in receiving a personal online subscription to JVS and AVS? yes/no:

Procedures

The aim of this proposal is to make the criteria as fair and transparent as possible and the procedures as effective as possible, meaning least effort for the GSC members and fastest access of applicants to the benefits. Therefore, we propose the following scheme:

- Applicants of category 1 are handled solely by Nina Smits without involvement of the GSC and they receive free membership and if their institution has no subscriptions also free online access without further ado. The only thing Nina could possibly test is whether the e-mail address of the applicants matches the country they claim they come from.
- Applicants of category 2 could also be handled by Nina Smits. Only if there are doubts that someone falls into the category he/she claims, Nina could hand these cases over to us for checking (e.g. via sending an e-mail)
- Applicants of category 3 necessitate a formal decision of the GSC. Nina should collect the information on such cases and send them perhaps once a month to the GSC followers for.

Attachment 11

Report Membership Committee

To the Governing Board,

The IAVS membership committee (MC) has been having an active dialogue concerning how to encourage membership. We have come up with several actionable items:

1. MC will help with the revision of current promotional materials (e.g. pamphlets), and to assist in distribution to meetings, electronic dissemination, etc. We consider it important to stress the full breadth of vegetation science
2. MC will craft a 'template' letter of invitation to potential new members, and make it available to current members for them to distribute to colleagues
3. We feel that a capacity to offer gift IAVS memberships (e.g. from an advisor to a graduating doctoral student) could potentially be a gateway for expanding the society. We ask the Governing Board to take up this issue, and if it agrees, to help determine the next step for implementation.
4. Furthermore, we hereby forward the following items to other committees:
 - a. To the web/social media committee:
 - i. collaborate closely with our committee to find ways to encourage members
 - ii. make sure that applications for membership and renewal are straightforward
 - b. To the future symposium committee:
 - i. Encourage joint activities with other scientific societies, to broaden our appeal.
 - ii. Invite high-profile keynote speakers from outside of our membership, perhaps leading to highlighted contributions in our journals
 - iii. Have awards for young members to attend excursions
 - iv. Be mindful of other mechanisms to reduce fees for students, especially from those helping with meeting organization and those from developing countries
5. We have had discussions about the feasibility of fellowships to young members, in support of scholarly activity, but are mindful that the IAVS is not a granting agency, and feel the topic requires further study.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Palmer, Chair

Inga Heesalu,

Jitka Klimesova,

Monica Janisova

Alessandra Fidelis

Michael Barbour

Nina Smits

Attachment 12



IAVS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VEGETATION SCIENCE

Governing Board
June 22, 2012

To: IAVS Council

Subject: Status of the Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission

Background: At the IAVS meeting in Lyon in 2011, Jean-Paul Theurillat presented the summary of a meeting (Rome in April 2011) of a committee appointed by the IAVS Executive Council (now Governing Board) for the purpose of re-organising and re-activating the Phytosociological Nomenclature Commission (PNC). The primary tasks of the PNC are to engage in update of the International *Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature* as needed, and to register (especially new) names of syntaxa and the typifications of syntaxa. The Commission also advises vegetation scientists about nomenclatural questions, collaborates and discusses with other schools of plant community nomenclature, and addresses methodological questions with relevance to nomenclature.

The status of the PNC within IAVS needs to be formalized. The IAVS Statutes and Bylaws recognize two forms of groups in which members may be organized, Regional Sections and Working Groups (Statutes, Article 8), the latter of which unites members with a common interest in a particular subdiscipline of vegetation science. In addition, the IAVS has committees with mainly administrative functions. Standing Committees are permanent and their members are appointed by the President in consultation with the other members of the Governing Board and the committee chair; their specific tasks are described in Bylaw 5. Special Committees can be established and appointed by the President as required; these are not permanent and generally do not continue past the term of the President who appointed the committee. Sections and Working Groups are required to have formal Bylaws to guide their internal governance, and Standing Committees can also adopt such Bylaws. The Statues and Bylaws of IAVS make no reference to commissions, though a Working Group or Standing Committee could have the word “Commission” in its title.

In spring 2012 there was substantial discussion about the future status of the PNC among the members of the Governing Board and between the GB and the current members of the Commission. What has emerged from this discussion is that there are currently different opinions as to how the PNC should be organized and governed. The Governing Board here tries to summarize the discussion by presenting three options with some of their respective

pros and cons. The task of the IAVS Council in Mokpo will be to discuss the matter and make a decision. If this decision requires a change of an article in our IAVS Bylaws, the exact wording of this new article needs to be discussed and voted upon, at least 30 days after which there will be a formal e-mail ballot for the full Council to vote.

Options to be discussed:

PNC as a Working Group

The main tasks of the PNC are scientific and of direct interest to a specific subset of the IAVS membership. As with other Working Groups of the IAVS, any member interested in phytosociological nomenclature could join the PNC Working Group and contribute equally to its work and to the progress of this subdiscipline. The group would have to create bylaws to be approved by the IAVS Council, and would elect a Steering Committee or equivalent body at regular intervals.

The disadvantage of the PNC being a Working Group is that general elections as those implemented in other Working Groups most likely result in a Steering Committee that is partly composed of persons without the necessary knowledge of the complicated rules and nuances of phytosociological nomenclature and the application of the Code. A comparison can be drawn here to a court composed of lawyers that are also not appointed in general elections. The appointment of PNC members based on the judgment of the President in consultation with the Governing Board is more likely to result in a functional and competent Steering Committee than would a general election.

PNC as a Standing Committee

If the PNC became a Standing Committee (which is the preference of the majority of the current members of the PNC), its tasks would be clearly defined in the IAVS Bylaws, which would guarantee continuity and legitimacy. The Committee would be required to adopt Bylaws that guarantee internal governance, and the Bylaw would need to be approved by the Governing Board or Council. Appointment rather than popular election of the members would ensure that the PNC would be composed of skilled specialists in their field qualified to take formal decisions. Ideally the Bylaws would provide straightforward mechanisms for IAVS members to bring issues before the Committee and to interact with it. Like a Working Group, it would be entitled to apply to the Governing Board for financial support. The PNC as a Standing Committee could assemble a Council composed of a larger group of people interested in nomenclatural questions to engage in the various relevant tasks.

On the negative side, members interested and skilled in phytosociological nomenclature but not appointed to the Committee would have limited possibilities to contribute to the progress of the discipline and could not enforce different views on nomenclatural questions. The selection of Committee members would depend on the judgment of the President and the other members of the Governing Board. Because members of the Governing Board are often not knowledgeable in matters of phytosociological nomenclature, they would need to take care to seek advice in selecting members. It might be appropriate to develop a formal mechanism for soliciting nominations, either from the PNC Committee or from the general membership.

PNC as a Permanent Special Committee

The formal needs and scientific character of the PNC may require the introduction of a new organizational category that could be called “Permanent Special Committee”. This would reflect that the PNC is not only or primarily an administrative unit, and would indicate that its task is permanent. The advantages outlined above for Standing Committees would also apply for such a Permanent Special Committee.

However, the introduction of a new organizational category for the sake of only one working unit seems unreasonable, and would probably require a change in Article 8.4 of the Statutes, which would be both complicated and expensive. This solution should be undertaken only if the desired functionality cannot be achieved through creation of a Standing Committee.