Minutes

IAVS Council Meeting, Brno, Czech Republic

Time: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 19:00 – 22:00
Location: Hotel Voroněž I, Congress Hall B (ground floor)

Participants

Members present: Martin Diekmann (President), Susan Wiser (Secretary), Alicia Acosta (Vice President), Javier Loidi (Vice President), Michael Palmer (Vice President), Robert Peet (Vice President), Valério Pillar (Vice President), Michael Barbour, Sándor Bartha, Elgene Box, Helge Bruelheide, Alessandro Chiarucci, Milan Chytrý, Guillaume Decocq, Ulrich Deil, Jürgen Dengler, Sandra Díaz, Kazue Fujiwara, Tomáš Herben, Pavel Krestov, Jan Lepš, Meelis Pärtel, János Podani, Marcel Rejmánek, Angelika Schwabe-Kratochwil, Otto Wildi, Martin Zobel = 27 votes

Proxy votes: Erwin Bergmeier (Martin Diekmann), Sara Cousins (Alicia Acosta), Martin Hermy (Guillaume Decocq), Yukito Nakamura (Kazue Fujiwara), John Rodwell (Martin Diekmann), Joop Schaminée (Milan Chytrý), Nina Smits (Martin Diekmann) = 7 votes

Absent: Renée Bekker, Klaus Dierssen, Deborah Goldberg, Jessica Gurevitch, Ladislav Mucina (proxy assigned to Carni, who is on the newly elected council, but not the old council), J. Bastow Wilson (deceased)

Guests: John Hay (IAVS 2016 venue: Brasilia, Brasil), Riccardo Guarino (IAVS 2017 venue; Palermo, Sicily); Alessandra Fidelis (Chair, Global Sponsorship Committee; Young Scientists Working Group); Peter Minchin (Chair, North American Section, presenting IAVS 2018 symposium proposal), Stefan Bradham (FASEB), Adam Wheeler (Wiley-Blackwell), Frank Yonghong Li (China), Peter Török (EDDG Working Group)

Welcome

President Diekmann brought the meeting to order at 19:15

1  Announcements of proxy votes (Wiser)

Proxy representation of seven members was reported and approved (see above). Total voting members represented: 27 + 7 = 34.

2  Results of the Council election in 2015 (Diekmann)

The results of the election for Council were announced in the IAVS Bulletin (2015 issue 1, available at [http://www.iavs.org/PublicationBulletin.aspx](http://www.iavs.org/PublicationBulletin.aspx)). Thirty-one of the 42 individuals on the new Council also served on the previous Council. The Nomination Committee made a serious effort to get younger IAVS members nominated to the ballot, but it is difficult for them to get elected. The Governing Board recognizes the need to encourage them to be active in IAVS so that they become known and can get elected onto Council. Participation was high
with 411 members (50% of the total membership) voting. This is a large increase over participation levels in the pre-digital era.

3 **Bylaws of Working Groups / Regional Sections**

   a. Amendment of bylaws of the European (now Eurasian) Dry Grassland Group, EDGG (Török)

The Governing Board submitted a proposal to approve the proposed bylaws of the Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (see Attachments 1 and 2). Török explained that the changes were motivated by several issues: 1) the number of members of the Executive Committee was increased from three to seven to compensate for the increased workload, b) the voting period for nominations and elections was clarified, c) the geographic scope of the working group has extended from Europe to Eurasia and this should be reflected in the working group name, conference name and representation on the Executive Committee, and d) standardization of terminology describing grasslands was desirable. No questions were asked.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions. Amendments of bylaws of the *European Dry Grassland Group* were passed.

4 **Finances**

   a. Report for 2014 - review (Diekmann)

Diekmann presented the 2014 IAVS Financial report (see Attachment 3). He reviewed actual spending versus the projection, pointing out that the projected balance was negative and that the actual expenditure close to this. The projected balance was negative because of tax liabilities from 2014 (see Council minutes for 2014). This negative balance should be an isolated occurrence; the expectation is that for 2015 IAVS will receive a tax refund.

The ensuing discussion included a clarification that the low balance also reflected that a payment from Wiley-Blackwell for €35,873.89 was delayed (Peet). This will be included in the balance for 2015, which will appear unusually high.

   b. Auditing of the financial report for 2014 (Wildi)

Otto Wildi and Ulrich Deil audited the financial report. Wildi described the documents provided by Diekmann and stated that he and Deil found all calculations to be correct, income and spending to be in accord with objectives of IAVS and all payments are confirmed. They proposed that the financial report be approved.

Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

   c. Honoraria and travel reimbursements for Editors and Governing Board members (Diekmann)

Two years ago Council approved a document describing the IAVS honorarium policy and the Governing Board thought it important to assess whether Council supports the current procedures supporting this policy. Currently the Governing Board allocates specific amounts of money to be awarded to the Governing Board, the Chief Editors and the Associate Editors. The Governing Board would like to know whether Council feels the recent amounts awarded are appropriate and whether the practice of awarding these honoraria should continue. To
reiterate, in recent years amounts for European meetings have been €1500 to members of Governing Board and Chief Editors and €1000 to Associate Editors (awarded on a first-come-first-served basis out of a specified pool of funds (€20,000). For non-European meetings these amounts are €2000 for the Governing Board and Chief Editors and €1500 to Associate Editors.

The ensuing discussion included comments on the nature of an honorarium for a specified value versus reimbursement for expenses and tax implications (Peet, Pillar, Deil, Loidi), the issue that reimbursement could be more expensive (Schwabe-Kratochwil), unless capped (Diekmann). Pärtel indicated that no editors have reported a problem with taxation and also described how, because there are insufficient funds to award the honorarium to all Associate Editors, they are awarded on a ‘first-come-first-served’ basis. He would like to have the total amount awarded to the Associate Editors increased so that more of them can attend the annual symposium. He also pointed out that tax policies will vary by country and that no solution will be optimal for everyone. One option to increase attendance by Associate Editors would be to reduce the amount awarded to each (Dengler). Pärtel disagreed with this suggestion. Others do not like the first-come-first-served approach and suggested raising the total amount to allow higher attendance (Zobel). Diekmann pointed out that when there are more applicants than funding allows, the Governing Board has the option of increasing the allocation. The importance of having a deadline for both applying for and confirmation of receipt of the award for planning was raised (Loidi, Pillar, Chytrý), as was encouraging or requiring submission of an abstract (Peet). Palmer favored reimbursement over a fixed amount, as the latter favors Europeans who often have lower travel costs. Adjusting payment based on continent of residence was suggested (Chytrý). Pillar and Peet both felt that receipt of the award should be conditional on giving a presentation or poster.

Diekmann summed up the discussion and concluded that the Governing Board should:
1) continue to treat the award as an honorarium from an IAVS perspective. A claimant has the option to state that they would like it called something else (e.g. travel support) on their reimbursement,
2) have a strict deadline for both application and notification of award,
3) retain the option for the Chief Editors to enquire with the Governing Board if they receive many applications and discuss whether the allocation can be increased or it must be divided equally,
4) recommend to all awardees that they contribute a presentation or poster to the symposium.

For point 4 above, this was reduced from being a requirement as it was felt that such a requirement would dictate decisions of the symposium organisers (Wildi, Chytrý, Dengler).

d. Publications: Vegetation of Europe (Peet)

Laco Mucina and 32 other authors are completing final revisions of a massive paper (titled: Vegetation of Europe: Hierarchical floristic classification system of vascular plant, bryophyte, and algal communities) that they propose constitute a special issue of AVS. When the manuscript was initially approved in concept for a special issue (2012) it was anticipated that Mucina would have funding from Curtin University to pay for the special issue and provide for open access. However, Mucina has since moved to the University of Western Australia and has no institutional funds to cover the cost.

Peet proposed that because the content of the special issue is central to the goals of the Association, IAVS should consider covering the cost. However, it is difficult to assess what
the cost will be because we do not know yet how many pages will be required for what is currently a 340 page word document. Moreover, there is some flexibility as to how much should be in strictly digital appendices and how much in the print version. Finally, should this issue be open access owing to its importance to the membership? Adam Wheeler, our new representative from Wiley provided a table of possible costs for various scenarios (presented below in British pounds).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publication Option</th>
<th>Typeset pages 20</th>
<th>Typeset pages 40</th>
<th>Typeset pages 100</th>
<th>Typeset pages 150</th>
<th>Typeset pages 200</th>
<th>Typeset pages 250</th>
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<td>650</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>2420</td>
<td>3227</td>
<td>4034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print (bulk only)</td>
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<td>1001</td>
<td>2395</td>
<td>3483</td>
<td>4571</td>
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<td>1416</td>
<td>3387</td>
<td>4846</td>
<td>6305</td>
<td>7789</td>
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<tr>
<td>Print all subs and bulk 100</td>
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<td>4100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2585</td>
<td>4404</td>
<td>5967</td>
<td>7344</td>
<td>9249</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Open access increases the cost by £3000. Print copies would be a bulk order to IAVS so the number needs to be anticipated in advance. Publication is anticipated within the next year. The question is whether Council approves of the Governing Board providing for this expense in the budget for next year (2016).

The ensuing discussion raised the following issues. Pillar asked whether this could be considered one or two of the papers designated as open access, according to the Wiley-IAVS contract that is allowed each year. Wheeler replied that this is unrealistic given the anticipated length. Peet pointed out that Wheeler has already negotiated a lower-than-typical rate for open access for this publication.

Regarding the production of paper copies, it was questioned how useful paper copies are in this age of everything being digital (Zobel). An alternative view is that we are in a transition period between digital and hard copies and this publication would be a reference that is analogous to a flora and users still appreciate and use printed floras (Peet). Bruelheide moved that up to €15000 Euro be made available for this purpose in the 2016 budget and that the Governing Board (with abstentions by any Governing Board members who are authors) should decide how best to distribute the book. The motion passed.

e. Update of budget for 2015 - discussion and approval (Diekmann)

Diekmann presented the updated 2015 budget (see Attachment 4). IAVS is benefitting from the exchange rate (income in pounds, expenses in Euros), which combined with the last payment for 2014 from Wiley being in the 2015 accounts results in our income being higher than anticipated. Otherwise the budget is similar to that of 2014. Dengler raised the issue of whether the new Council will need to take a decision on whether FASEB takes over management of the IAVS website. Dengler asked why the amount allocated to the Young Scientist award had decreased. Diekmann replied that we had always over budgeted for these. This budget reflects that two awards are given annually for €1000 each. In a given year the actual expense may be more or less than €2000 as award recipients can choose to apply their award to the annual symposium when they want. Diekmann moved that the 2015 budget be approved.
Approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

f. Appointment of auditors for 2015 (Diekmann)
Diekmann suggested that IAVS reappoint Otto Wildi, but that a new second person is required as Ulrich Deil is no longer on Council. Wildi expressed that it is not a difficult job. There were no volunteers so Diekmann will ask for a volunteer from the new Council.

g. Discussion about IAVS finances and projection of budget for 2016

Diekmann presented the budget projection for 2016 (See Attachment 5). The projection includes an increase in honoraria, increased travel grants for students, and funding for initial setup to allow FASEB to support the meeting in Brazil and use this setup for future meetings as needed. Otherwise the projection is similar to that of 2015. The projected income is positive (€36,000).

Hay asked whether student travel awards could be given earlier to allow students to take advantage of lower airfares. Diekmann pointed out that timing depends on when abstracts are accepted. Fidelis felt that it was unrealistic to expect that this could be done any sooner than was done for the Brno meeting.

Dengler asked whether IAVS could have a tax liability given the positive balance anticipated. Diekmann responded that now IAVS has an additional bank account in the US so the total amount in the Netherlands account will decrease. This means that there will not be tax problems in the future. We also anticipate expenses that are not specified in the projection, that were discussed previously (e.g. publication of the Vegetation of Europe, increasing honoraria). It was expressed that it is desirable to accumulate funds to allow IAVS to generate interest to buffer the organization from reduced income in the future (Peet, Pillar). Zobel expressed that currently interest rates are so low that there is not a lot of point in saving a lot of money; IAVS would need to invest it or put the funds back into the Association. Peet felt that with time IAVS may need to develop an investment strategy. Bradham indicated that a lot of nonprofit organizations have a finance committee and part of the duties of this committee would be to develop an investment strategy. This raises the issue of whether IAVS needs a treasurer, which will be raised at the meeting of the new council.

Diekmann explained that there are three bank accounts in the Netherlands. One is for transactions; the other two are to split risk because only €100,000 is insured in each account.

The 2016 budget projection was approved unanimously, 0 abstentions. Approval included that the potential €15,000 for the Vegetation of Europe be included in the projection, as requested by Dengler

5 IAVS Business Office (Bradham)

Bradham (FASEB) presented the business office report (See Attachment 6). Highlights included the administration of the election of the new IAVS Council, the support provided to the Global Sponsorship Committee, that IAVS has been established as a nonprofit organization in the US, and that IAVS is still in transition with management of the finances because of the Netherlands-based bank accounts. These must be managed by Martin because the bank website, statements etc. are all in Dutch. FASEB has begun working with Hay to provide support for the 2016 meeting in Brazil. This includes providing a website to support abstract submission and registration. In the coming year FASEB will also support the Publications Committee in a survey about the journals to IAVS members and authors.
Diekmann added that the work on meeting organization should provide an infrastructure that can be readily adopted for future symposia.

There were no further questions.

6 Reports on publications (Peet)
   a. Status of the journals

Peet presented the report of the Publications Officer (see Attachment 7). All indicators show that the IAVS journals are doing well in terms of subscriptions, online readership, revenue, impact factors (improved), and production time (declining after a slow period). This year has been somewhat challenging because of the turnover in staff at Wiley who deal with the IAVS journals and interact with us. Our hope is that this has now stabilized. IAVS continues to be challenged by the limitations inherent in the way Wiley manages our membership. The renewal of our contract with Wiley is overdue, although it does auto renew every year.

   b. Issues raised by the Chief Editors

Pärtel tabled the report of the Chief Editors (see Attachment 8) and discussed highlights of the meeting with the Associate Editors on Monday, July 20.

   c. Other IAVS-related publications

Willner described the relaunch of the journal Phytocoenologia and the relationship to IAVS (see Attachment 9).

   d. Publications Committee

Peet reported that owing to staff turnover at Wiley and the complexity of establishing a Business Office with FASEB, it was necessary to postpone planned activities of the Publication Committee until fall 2015.

   e. Relationship with Wiley: membership, contract renewal

Adam Wheeler (Wiley-Blackwell) introduced himself and reiterated that he hopes that upheaval in life sciences team at Wiley will now be over. He has built a new team and feels very positive about it. Adam has done a lot of work on journal performance with bibliometric analysis and is also interested in realizing efficiencies in the production process.

Bruelheide asks about the costs for open access to journal articles and how do the IAVS journal compare with the journal *Ecology and Evolution*. Wheeler responded that he thinks the cost is ~£1700 pounds/article.

7 Reports of Working groups / Regional sections

Diekmann suggested that given time constraints it would be best to not review the reports in detail, but to ask specific questions of the representatives. Palmer asked whether it is mandatory for working groups/regional sections to furnish a yearly report and Dengler followed up on this by asking whether groups that are inactive should be discontinued. Diekmann indicated that he generally agrees, but exceptions should be made for groups known to be active (e.g. Circumboreal Vegetation Map) but that for some unknown reason
have been out of contact with the IAVS Governing Board lately. Submitting a report and having bylaws is required to obtain financial support, but not to exist as a group.

The following reports were tabled and no further questions were directed to the representatives:

- a. European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) (see Attachment 10)
- b. European Vegetation Survey (EVS) (see Attachment 11)
- c. Ecoinformatics (see Attachment 12)
- d. Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature (see Attachment 13)
- e. Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) (No report submitted)
- f. Disturbance Dynamics in Boreal Forests (No report submitted)
- g. Young Scientists Section (see Attachment 14)
- h. Regional Section of North America (see Attachment 15)

### 8 Committees

#### a. Discussion about committee membership / rotation of chairs

Diekmann raised the issue of whether committee chairs should rotate and how often? The opinion was expressed that some turnover could be important to get new ideas (Peet). The Committees could be used to engage new members; any Council suggestions welcome (Diekmann).

The following reports were tabled and no further questions were directed to the chairs or their representatives: **Awards Committee (see Attachment 16), Global Sponsorship Committee (Fidelis; see Attachment 17), Membership Committee (Palmer)**

#### b. Meetings Committee (Loidi; see Attachment 18)

##### i. Brazil 2016

John Hay gave a presentation about the 2016 symposium to be held in Brazil. The symposium will be held 12-17 June 2016. The theme will be “Conservation of Plant Communities: From Environmental Drivers to Ecosystem Services”. Hay provided a timeline for the website, special session proposals, abstract submission etc. He also described the venue, costs, ideas for plenary speakers, excursions etc. Individual excursions will need to have small numbers of participants (20 people/each).

Council asked whether the term “Ecosystem Services” should be in the name of the program. This concept is quite alien to vegetation science (Podani). Pillar provided a justification for the use of this term.

##### ii. Palermo, Sicily 2017

Riccardo Guarino gave a presentation about the 2017 symposium to be held in Palermo, Sicily. The proposed theme is “Linking the biological and cultural diversity”, so sessions could include those having a focus on urban ecology, green infrastructure, habitat monitoring and assessment, red listing criteria etc. Guarino described excursions (pre and post) and the venue. He foresees the cost at €300 per person. Transport options were also described.

Loidi felt that to attract IAVS members the theme needs to have vegetation science as a key element and include themes of current interest to members from diverse countries. Chytrý felt
the proposed topics are a bit narrow and would exclude many of the regular attendees of IAVS meetings. He pointed out that this year there was an urban ecology session planned and few papers were submitted to it. As most proposed talks are more general, the themes need to be expressed more generally as well (e.g. ‘Vegetation diversity in cultural and natural landscapes’). Pillar and Dengler supported this view. Guarino agreed these were good ideas.

Peet asked if it was necessary to cap the excursions at 30 participants. Guarino replied that he thought this could be done by increasing the number of excursions. It is useful to keep them small as this reduces the cost of vehicles. Diekmann commented on really liking the 1-day excursions at this (Brno) conference and that would be a good option for future organizers to consider.

iii. Decision about the location of the IAVS symposium in 2018

Loidi informed Council of the Governing Board decision that the 2018 symposium will be held in Bozeman, Montana, as proposed by Peter Minchin and Dave Roberts. Peter Minchin gave a brief presentation about the current plans. The symposium will be held in the 3rd week of July. This is a time when student dorms are available and leaves a short gap before the Ecological Society of America (ESA) annual meeting. Peter described other logistics and estimated the cost at ~$400 per person. A pre-conference excursion is planned southward on the east side of the Rockies through Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons National Parks. A post-conference excursion is planned northward and more to the west up to and into Glacier National Park. He followed with some stunning slides of local scenery and vegetation. Dave Roberts described how the region offers intact post-Holocene ecosystems, intact animal populations, and incredible ecological heterogeneity.

iv. Discussion about the location of the IAVS symposium in 2019

Frank Yonghong Li described his proposal for the symposium to be held in Huhot, Inner Mongolia. This would address the great need to increase the profile of IAVS and vegetation science in China. He has support from colleagues. Huhot is a good place for a conference – there is still much natural vegetation, mostly being Steppe. Inner Mongolia University is a young university (1950s) and the first Chinese university to award a degree in Ecology. The university has 35 staff working on vegetation of steppes and these staff have made major contributions to the book ‘Vegetation of China’. The university has a modern conference center and the president of the University is supportive of this proposal.

Pavel Krestov described his proposal for the symposium to be held in Vladivostok. He showed the location of Vladivostok on the map and described the biota and the nature of the city. The best time to be there is in August. The Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) has a new campus in Vladivostok.

9 Other business

There was no other business so President Diekmann closed the meeting at 22:00.
Explanation of changes in the Bylaws

of the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG)

– of the IAVS-approved version of 10 May 2012 –

For approval by the IAVS Council

During the last year altogether six major changes were implemented in the EDGG Bylaws. In the following they are presented together with their motivation for the approval by the IAVS Council.

1. For ensuring that the Executive Committee should consist 7 people we modified the Bylaw 4.2.f as follows:

   a. The Executive Committee shall regularly 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 during a period of at least two weeks. 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 to at least two weeks. In the election, each member can vote for up to seven candidates.
   
   f. Those seven 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 on the seventh position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected.

Reasoning: The major point we changed is that now always seven EC members will be elected when there are at least seven candidates, whereas the old regulation had the counter-intuitive effect that the more candidates there are the fewer members the elected EC would normally have. [modified on 27 April 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee, 5 yes; 1 no; 0 abstentions]

2. Election and nomination periods (Bylaw 4.2): Further we changed the required periods for nominations (not defined before) and for the elections (four weeks before) to “at least two weeks” both. Finally, we added “regularly” and “at least” for sake of consistency and clarity of the Bylaws. [modified on 27 April 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee, 5 yes; 1 no; 0 abstentions]
3. Changes to ensure that there is at least one non-European member in the EC (Bylaw 4.2.f):

f. Those seven candidates with the highest number of votes are elected. In the case of a tie on the seventh position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected. In order to improve geographic representativeness, the one member based in Europe (in a physical-geographical sense) and the one based outside Europe with the highest number of votes shall be elected even if they are not among the seven with the overall highest number of votes.

Reasoning: If the Working Group feels responsible for the whole Palaeartic realm (as said in the Bylaws) at least a minimum representation of non-European members in the Executive Committee must be ensured. As the experience of our sister organisation EVS tells, this is only achievable by a regulation that enforces representation of each subregion. Otherwise we will regularly end up with an Executive Committee of seven European members despite there have been several competent and highly motivated non-European candidates simply because most members prefer to vote for compatriots or persons from surrounding countries. [modified on 27 April 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee, 5 yes; 1 no; 0 abstentions]

4. Name of the working group is changed to EURASIAN Dry Grassland Group to follow the current development of the working group and to make it more attractive to researchers outside of Europe (Bylaw 1.1 and throughout).

Reasoning: The name change better reflects that already now according to our Bylaws, EDGG is dealing with natural and semi-natural grasslands throughout the Palaeartic realm (i.e. Europe, West, North and Central Asia, North Africa). The modified name will probably attract more members particularly from the “steppe countries” in central Asia, who did not feel much appealed by an organisation that has “Europe” in its name. On the other hand this name version (unlike other options we discussed, such as Palaeartic Grassland Group) allows us to keep our well-introduced acronym “EDGG” and our nice logo. [modified on 11 July 2015 by the general membership of the EDGG in an electronic ballot, 132 yes, 27 no]

5. Name of the conference is changed to EURASIAN Dry Grassland CONFERENCE (Bylaw 2.3.d and throughout).

Reasoning: “meeting” sounds too small and too informal in relation to the size and scientific level of our annual conferences. [modified on 11 July 2015 by the general membership of the EDGG in an electronic ballot, 109 yes, 50 no]

6. Text adjustments in relation to the objectives (Bylaws 2.1, 2.2c and 2.3.d): we unified the various former wordings used in different parts of the Bylaws (“western Palaeartic dry grasslands and steppes”, “dry grasslands”, “high nature value grasslands in general”) to “Palaeartic natural and semi-natural grasslands”, which in a brief term encompasses all previous terms. Further, at the first place of mentioning we explained what types of grasslands are considered: “i.e. steppes, dry, mesic, wet, acidic, calcareous, rocky, saline, coastal and alpine grasslands”. Both changes reflect the practice of EDGG activities to cover the whole Palaeartic realm and also other grassland types than dry grasslands, e.g. in our Field Workshops, conferences and particularly in our successful Special Features. These proposed changes had found unanimous support among the EDGG members present at the General
Assembly in Mainz (who were slightly too few to make a binding decision) [modified on 11 July 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee, 7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention]
Attachment 2: Bylaws_EDGG_2015-All-changes-finalpdf

Bylaws of the Eurasian 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];
modified on 27 April 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee [5 yes; 1 no; 0 abstentions];
modified on 11 July 2015 by the general membership of the EDGG in an electronic ballot [Change the name to
Eurasian Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) : 132 yes, 27 no; Change the name to European/Eurasian Dry Grassland
Conference (EDGC) 109 yes, 50 no];
modified on 11 July 2015 through decision of the EDGG Executive Committee [7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstentions])

Article 1. Name, Affiliation

1. This Group shall be known as the Eurasian 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
      Palaeartic natural and semi-natural grasslands (i.e. steppes, dry, mesic, wet, acidic,
      calcareous, rocky, saline, coastal and alpine grasslands),

   b. promote education on Palaeartic natural and semi-natural grasslands,

   c. promote the publication of research results on Palaeartic natural and semi-natural
      grasslands,

   d. facilitate scientific and personal communication among scientists who are interested
      in Palaeartic natural and semi-natural grasslands,

   e. promote appropriate application of research in Palaeartic natural and semi-natural
      grasslands 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 Palaeartic natural and semi-natural grasslands.

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 Palaeartic natural and semi-natural
      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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences, organized annually in different places throughout the Palaearctic realm.

Article 3. Membership and Fees

1. Membership of the EDGG is open to all natural persons who are interested in Palaearctic natural and semi-natural 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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences 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 regularly consist of 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 during a period of at least two weeks. 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 at least two weeks. In the election, each member can vote for up to seven candidates.

f. Those seven candidates with the highest number of votes are elected. In the case of a tie on the seventh position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected. In order to improve geographic representativeness, the one member based in Europe (in a physical-geographical sense) and the one based outside Europe with the highest number of votes shall be elected even if they are not among the seven with the overall highest number of votes.
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 at least 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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences, 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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences 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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences.

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. Eurasian Dry Grassland Conferences

1. Each potential future Eurasian Dry Grassland Conference (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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conference, 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 Eurasian Dry Grassland Conference 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.
### IAVS Finances 2014

#### General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
<td>346560.44</td>
<td>348238.35</td>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>6300.00</td>
<td>5734.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income</td>
<td>123901.54</td>
<td>80481.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income</td>
<td>123901.54</td>
<td>80481.39</td>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income is usually paid in three parts: two in the same calendar year, and a final part at the beginning of the next calendar year. In 2014 Wiley by mistake did not transfer one of the three payments!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from membership without subscription revenue</td>
<td>5435.26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Editors to Perth</td>
<td>20000.00</td>
<td>19015.00</td>
<td>For one editor paid only in 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Governing Board to Perth</td>
<td>12000.00</td>
<td>10015.00</td>
<td>For one GB member paid only in 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Administrative Officers to Perth</td>
<td>6000.00</td>
<td>5824.12</td>
<td>Lee &amp; Bradham</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries Administrative Officer</td>
<td>5305.30</td>
<td>5305.30</td>
<td>Salary for Michael Lee for June - September 2014</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank expenses</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>71.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Tax</td>
<td>49419.00</td>
<td>49419.00</td>
<td>Taxes for 2010-2013</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business office</td>
<td>18421.00</td>
<td>2633.12</td>
<td>Set-up fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administrative costs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1390.92</td>
<td>E-Mail domain &amp; Costs for election 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts for Perth organizers</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>34.70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New honorary members &amp; Award winners – expenses</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Honorary member 2014 will attend the Brno meeting 2015.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Scientist Awards</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to Global Fund</td>
<td>43000.00</td>
<td>43000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support of working groups</td>
<td>20000.00</td>
<td>10602.50</td>
<td>Costs other than student travel support</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges to publish extra JVS pages to reduce current publication backlog</td>
<td>10000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Realized only in 2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ending Cash: 31 December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>288852.43</td>
<td>288874.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Global Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
<td>33241.98</td>
<td>33241.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>637.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation from General fund</td>
<td>43000.00</td>
<td>43000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel grants for students</td>
<td>43000.00</td>
<td>39692.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Perth &amp; working group meetings)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards for manuscript editing</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ending Cash: 31 December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Global Fund</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>33941.98</td>
<td>37286.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total income**

| Total income                        | 130961.54 | 92308.13 |

**Total expenses**

| Total expenses                      | 187969.55 | 147627.44 |

**Balance**

| Balance                             | 57008.01  | 55319.31  |
## Financial projection - approved at Council meeting in Perth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
<td>288852.43</td>
<td>288874.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5300.00</td>
<td>4239.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income</td>
<td>115000.00</td>
<td>180000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoraria and Travels Editors to Brno</td>
<td>20000.00</td>
<td>20000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Governing Board to Brno</td>
<td>10500.00</td>
<td>10500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Administrative Officers to Brno</td>
<td>1500.00</td>
<td>2100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank expenses</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax consultant</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business office</td>
<td>31600.00</td>
<td>31600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts for Brno organizers</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for DOIs</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New honorary members &amp; Award winners – expenses</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
<td>5000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitation van der Maarel to Brno</td>
<td></td>
<td>3000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brno meeting - additional costs</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Scientist Awards</td>
<td>3000.00</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to Global Fund</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support of working groups</td>
<td>20000.00</td>
<td>15000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Cash: 31 December</strong></td>
<td>285052.43</td>
<td>352433.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
<td>33241.98</td>
<td>37286.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>471.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation from General fund</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel grants for students (Brno &amp; working group meetings)</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
<td>30000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards for manuscript editing</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Cash: 31 December</strong></td>
<td>31941.98</td>
<td>37757.82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total income: **126100.00**

Total expenses: **184730.56**

Balance: **-100.00**
### IAVS Finances 2016

#### General Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Debits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
<td>352433.76</td>
<td>90% to general fund, 10% to global fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3600.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>Some people still pay directly to the IAVS office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income</td>
<td>180000.00</td>
<td>Wiley-Blackwell income is usually paid in three parts: two in the same calendar year, and a final part at the beginning of next calendar year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honoraria and Travels Editors to Brazil</td>
<td>25000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Governing Board to Brazil</td>
<td>14000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Administrative Officers to Brazil</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td>Bradham / FASEB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank expenses</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tax</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax consultant</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business office</td>
<td>31600.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FASEB support for Brazil meeting</td>
<td>11200.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts for Brazil meeting organizers</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee for DOIs</td>
<td>300.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New honorary members &amp; Award winners – expenses</td>
<td>2500.00</td>
<td>Honorary member for 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil meeting - additional costs</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Scientist Awards</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocation to Global Fund</td>
<td>40000.00</td>
<td>For travel grants to Brazil (30000) and working group meetings (10000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support of working groups</td>
<td>15000.00</td>
<td>Costs other than student travel support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special issue AVS 2016</td>
<td>15000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Cash: 31 December</td>
<td>375753.76</td>
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#### Global Fund

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Debits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Cash, January 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>400.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allocation from General fund</td>
<td>40000.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel grants for students (Brazil &amp; working group meetings)</td>
<td>40000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awards for manuscript editing</td>
<td>2000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ending Cash: 31 December</td>
<td>36157.82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total income**                                           | 184020.00    |                                                                        |
**Total expenses**                                          | 162300.00    |                                                                        |
**Balance**                                                 | 21720.00     |                                                                        |
Governing Board Involvement

- Attended all Governing Board calls and followed up on action items for the Business Office
- Worked with attorney to incorporate IAVS in the US
- Worked with accounting to establish a US bank account for future income to avoid tax liability of the Netherlands
- Researched DOI’s for the Vice President of Publications Committee
- Worked with President on IAVS Bulletins
- Performed website updates as requested
- Sent periodic eblasts to the membership
- Attended several Wiley related calls
- Created an FTP site to share secured documents
- Maintained admin@iavs.org and involved Governing Board members when appropriate

Committee/Working Group Involvement

- Nominations Committee
  - Assisted in soliciting nominations
  - Compiled the list of prospective nominations and attributes
  - Attended committee calls and worked on action items
  - Worked with President to confirm nominations and receive biosketches
  - Setup election poll with BigPulse
  - Confirmed results and announced it to the membership

- Global Sponsorship Committee
  - Membership Fee Waiver Applications
    - Reviewed applications (approved X – sent X for committee review)
    - Developed a spreadsheet for tracking applications
    - Forwarded approved information to Wiley for setup
  - Brno Travel Awards
    - Assisted Chair with compiling all submitted materials
    - Developed a spreadsheet of applicants
    - Once approved, contacted all applicants with decision letter
    - Answered questions and assisted applicants
    - Developed a spreadsheet to reconcile reimbursements
    - Worked with Conference Secretariat on paying registration and accommodations directly to the conference
    - Will work with applicants on reimbursements after the meeting
  - Working Group Travel Awards
    - Confirmed membership of applicants; contacted those who were not members to join
    - Handled reimbursements

Future Projects/Involvement

- Working with IAVS 2016 Organizer on website, abstract submission, and registration portal
- Working with VP of Publications Committee to facilitate a survey/review of the journals
- Fulling transitioning financial processing to the Business Office and begin financial reporting from the accounting system
- Moving listserv to Google Groups platform
- Recommended the formation of a Treasurer position / Finance Committee to oversee the more complex nature of IAVS’ finances and to develop policies for the Business Office as well other strategic policies like an investment policy.
- Update website with IAVS 2015 decision information (minutes, officers, etc.)
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.

Availability & Usage
Applied Vegetation Science and Journal of Vegetation Science are available in approximately 4,315 institutions worldwide via either traditional subscriptions or a Wiley license. In addition, Wiley philanthropic initiatives extend low-cost or free access to 5,246 developing world institutions. These numbers are up a modest amount from 2013, which, in a global context of shrinking budgets and increasing numbers of journals, is very good news.

Institutional and individual print subscriptions continue to decline and the print run currently stands at approximately 200 copies per issue. Wiley considers that this is sufficient to continue to offer print as an option and we expect this to continue for at least a few more years.

IAVS journals continue to be highly international in both authorship and use. The 75 AVS articles in 2014 had corresponding authors from 25 countries, with the largest numbers representing the US (14), France (7), Czech Republic (6) and Germany (6). The 145 articles in JVS had corresponding authors from 28 countries with the highest being the US (32), Australia (9), Canada (8), Germany (7) and South Africa (7).

Online Readership
Over the period 2009-2013 Wiley reported dramatic increases each year for both journals in the number of article downloads. Not surprisingly, this cultural shift in how literature is accessed has started to approach saturation. In addition, Wiley has changed its metric for article downloads in an attempt to eliminate counting non-human (crawler) downloads. The new metrics show AVS continuing to increase and JVS relatively stable.
Revenue received by IAVS from Wiley has remained strong with a modest increase each year. Overall revenue was up slightly for 2014 (£ 103,125) as compared to 2013 (£ 102,245). However, at the Council meeting in 2013 we approved a one-time purchase of extra pages to reduce the journal backlog, which reduced our income slightly (-£ 6,941), leaving us with net 2014 income of £ 96,181. Total net income to the Association in Euros was € 123,604 for 2014 compared to € 121,534 for 2013, the increase in Euro net income compared to the decrease in UK£ net income reflecting primarily the decline in value of the Euro relative to the pound. We are not expecting a significant change for 2015.

**Impact factor**
The 2014 impact factors were released in June. AVS increased a bit from 2.416 to 2.548, while JVS leaping up from 3.372 to 3.709. AVS and JVS are now at all-time highs in the rankings of Ecology journals, Forestry journals and Plant Sciences journals (see table below). Our past and present Chief Editors and their Associate Editors and Editorial Boards are to be congratulated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Ecology</th>
<th>Forestry</th>
<th>Plant Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>JVS</td>
<td>AVS</td>
<td>JVS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>66</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Production time**
Time from receipt of a final manuscript at the publisher to publication in early view had been relatively constant from 2010 through 2013 for both journals at approximately 40 days. This increased to somewhat over 50 days in 2014, perhaps as a consequence of the added quality control that we have implemented. We will be looking into the reasons for this increase.

Two years ago we had developed a significant backlog of papers owing to the editors accepting papers at a rate faster than our page budget would allow them to be published. To reduce the backlog and increase speed of print publication we allocated extra pages for 2014. In the tables below you can see improvement over 2013, especially for the final issue of the year (which approximates the final result of this initiative).

**Applied Vegetation Science**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>Number of issues</th>
<th>Number of pages</th>
<th>Number of articles</th>
<th>Average days from receipt at Wiley to Early View publication</th>
<th>Average days from receipt at Wiley to print publication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Issue 4</td>
<td>796</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>607</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>606</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Journal of Vegetation Science**
### 2. Relationship with Wiley

#### Staff turnover at Wiley

A few years ago we were delighted with our contacts at Wiley, these being our primary point of contact Matt Pacey, his assistant Felicity Clark, and Matt’s boss and our original point of contact Liz Ferguson. Matt left Wiley in the fall of 2013 and after a few months was replaced by a person who proved inappropriate and was released in summer 2014. Only very recently has his replacement, Adam Wheeler, arrived. Adam, who joined Wiley March 30, inherited an enormous backlog of work. Meanwhile Felicity had departed and approximately a year ago Zoe Halbert replaced her, only to depart 2 days before Adam arrived, and she has not yet been replaced. Finally, about a year and a half ago Wiley reorganized its staff, moving our good partner Liz to a new and institutionally more important role as Publishing Solutions Director within the newly created Research Innovations business group. She was replaced in our line of contacts by Vicky Johnson, who has been very helpful. We once again have a fine set of contacts, but this has taken time, backlogs that developed are only now being cleared.

#### Membership & Renewal Management

As I reported last year, since taking over JVS and AVS, Wiley has maintained a membership list for IAVS and has solicited renewals. In the absence of dedicated IAVS staff, this was by far the best solution available. However, the Wiley list often had serious problems such as multiple records for a single person, inconsistent formatting, and virtually no ability to handle historical information such as past members and their past roles. As a consequence IAVS officers have had to spend large amounts of time maintaining a separate membership database. Our new business office at FASEB has the ability to maintain our membership records in a society-oriented database, handle all membership renewal activities, and simply inform Wiley periodically as to who should receive journals. There is a cost, but we could also change the Wiley contract to recover much of that cost. Given the dramatic changes going on with the transition to FASEB, The Governing Board has decided to wait until at least fall 2015 to make a decision as to which team should handle the IAVS membership records.

#### Renewal of the IAVS contract with Wiley

The initial IAVS contract with Blackwell (now Wiley) was for the five-year period 2009-2013, after which the contract states that there is automatic renewal unless one party asks for renegotiation at least 1 year in advance. The Publications Committee felt that both the Committee and the Governing Board should review the contract during 2012-13 and decide if any important changes are needed, particularly in the context of a new IAVS business office. The Publications Officer brought this matter up with our representatives at Wiley and they proposed a new contract for our consideration. The Chief Editors and the Publications Committee reviewed the contract in early 2013 and largely approved it. However, discussions within the Governing Board with respect to establishment of the IAVS Business Office led to a delay in the final discussions of the contract revision. This delay was followed by another delay largely induced by staff turnover at Wiley. We are now hopeful that the new contract can be presented and discussed at the annual meeting in Brno.

#### Production workflow and quality control
Effective October 1, 2012 production of our journals was outsourced by Wiley and as a consequence moved from the Edinburgh Office of Wiley to SPS (Scientific Publication Service) in India. Copy editing takes place in yet another location. We had been very happy with the Edinburgh operation. Since the transfer of the production functions the Chief Editors have observed various problems and errors. We have worked with Wiley to reduce these problems and the situation has improved somewhat over the last year, although there remains significant room for improvement. We will continue to work with Wiley and SPS to minimize these problems.

3. 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), Laco Mucina (AU) and Martin Zobel (EE). The Publications Committee had planned to undertake a formal review of the journals and the Chief Editors during spring 2015. However, owing to staff turnover at Wiley and the complexity of establishing the IAVS business office at FASEB, I decided in consultation with members of the Governing Board to postpone the review until fall 2015. However, I have over the past year consulted with Wiley staff, other members of the Governing Board, and with the Chief Editors to verify that there were no pressing issues.

4. Other IAVS-related Publications and Issues

**Bulletin**
Production of the *Bulletin* has long constituted a drain on the time of the Society officers. Now that IAVS has a business office with FASEB, it is possible to obtain some staff support for production of the *Bulletin*. President Diekmann has worked with Stefan Bradham at FASEB to develop a partnership between FASEB and the Society officers to expedite production of the *Bulletin*.

**Phytocoenologia**
*Phytocoenologia* was founded in December of 1973 by some of the same individuals that were instrumental in founding or guiding the early governance of IAVS. Volume 1 was published with the subtitle ‘Journal of the International Society of Plant Geography and Ecology’ and subsequently changed to ‘Journal of the International Association for Vegetation Science’. However, IAVS had never approved the use of its name on the cover, and this seemed at odds with subsequent contracts with first Opulus and then Wiley wherein IAVS declared JVS and AVS to be the official journals of the Association. This issue was finally resolved in January 2014 when a Memorandum of Understanding was approved by Governing Board and signed by A. Nägele on behalf of the publisher Gebrüder Borntraeger Verlagsbuchhandlung. Hereafter the cover will indicate that the journal is “Published in collaboration with the International Association for Vegetation Science.”

Meanwhile, Ulrich Deil, the Editor for the past 17 years, announced his intention to retire from the journal at the end of 2014. In June 2014 Erwin Bergmeier contacted the IAVS Governing Board on behalf of the publishers of *Phytocoenologia* and proposed a set of 8 editors and a new general vision for the journal. These were approved by the Governing Board in July 2014. I have been told that the new editors will present the first issue of the new *Phytocoenologia* at the IAVS Symposium in Brno.

**DOIs**
During the 2014 meeting we discussed the need to assign DOIs to articles in the *Bulletin* and in the Newsletters of the Sections and Working Groups. During the fall of 2014 Stefan Bradham (our FASEB representative) researched this issue for us. He recommended that we contract with CrossRef, which would cost $275/year plus $1 per DOI. This seemed like a good solution, and much less expensive than other options. Subsequently Jürgen Dengler noted that it might be possible to obtain DOIs free from Technical Information Library in Braunschweig. Stefan will look into this and advise us at the Brno meeting. Either way, we need to make a decision at the Brno meeting.
Report of Chief Editors 2015 to IAVS Council

Our journals -- Journal of Vegetation Science (JVS) and Applied Vegetation Science (AVS) -- are doing well. We have a very good team of Associate Editors and Editorial Board members. Currently our staff is ca 90 scientists. This allows us to keep the workload reasonable.

We are satisfied with our collaboration with our publisher Wiley-Blackwell. We hope to have tighter communication now when we have a new contact person Adam Wheeler there. Scientific publishing is a dynamic field and together with the publisher we hope to examine current trends.

Submission rate has been quite stable during the past few years: 30-40 papers for JVS and 15-25 for AVS per month. The general quality of papers has slightly increased, therefore Receiving Editors are sending ca 70% of manuscripts to Associate Editors (was ca 50% few years ago).

Last year we got rid of a back log of accepted papers waiting printed publication, but now the flow of appearance of accepted papers in print is normal. Each month we currently accept ca. 9 papers for JVS (ca 25% of the submitted manuscripts) and 5 papers for AVS (ca 20% of the submitted manuscripts). This is the number of papers we can print according to our page budget. We now monitor the flow of manuscripts carefully to keep the journals running smoothly. If we managed to keep published papers shorter then we could accept more papers in the future. Electronic supplementary material is one option that more and more is being used to present material without expanding printed pages.

JVS/AVS papers have had a reasonable impact to plant community ecology. Our recent JCR Impact Factors are 3.709 for JVS and 2.548 for AVS. This is higher than we have had previously and JVS ranks 31st in Ecology (among 144 journals), 2nd in Forestry (among 65 journals) and 25th in Plant Sciences (among 200 journals). Respective ranks for AVS are 56th, 5th and 52nd. JVS currently scores higher than e.g. Oecologia, Oikos, Landscape Ecology or Diversity and Distributions.

Much of our success we owe to our colleague J. Bastow Wilson who passed away recently. He has been the only person who was at our journals from the very beginning, first as an Editorial Board member, then as Associate Editor, and for 15 years as Chief Editor until mid 2013, after which he continued contributing to our journals as Consulting Editor in charge of Commentaries until this spring. We are missing him a lot and trying to do our best to keep and improve the position and reputation that our journals obtained under his leadership.

We thank IAVS for continuous support and we encourage IAVS members to submit their best plant community ecology papers to JVS and AVS.

Alessandro Chiarucci, Valerio Pillar, with Milan Chytrý, Meelis Pärtel (Chair of the Editors)
Report of the Phytocoenologia Editors
July 16, 2015

The new editorial team
The editorial team of Phytocoenologia currently consists of 8 Editors-in-Charge (EiC) from six countries and three continents, 2 Linguistic Editors and 41 Editorial Board members from 23 countries and six continents. The current EiCs are: Erwin Bergmeier, Jürgen Dengler, Monika Janišová, Florian Jansen, Pavel Krestov, Jan Roleček, Donald A. “Skip” Walker and Wolfgang Willner. All EiCs have equal rights and duties but are chaired by one EiC, changing every 3–6 months. We plan to complete the editorial team with several Associate Editors from 2016 onwards.

New scope
The scope of the journal is now explicitly focused on vegetation survey and classification. Thus, the key criterion for manuscripts to be considered is that they develop or use a vegetation classification/taxonomy or develop/review classification methodologies. There is no restriction to certain approaches of classification, and any scale from synusiae through communities, community complexes, landscapes to biomes is welcome. Only contributions in the section “Ecoinformatics” do not necessarily require an explicit typological perspective, as we believe that vegetation-plot databases and related software tools are implicitly always relevant for vegetation classification.

New layout
Together with the publisher, the EiCs spent great efforts to renovate the layout both of the journal cover and the articles. The covers from now on will be in full colour, and upon authors’ request also inside the journal colour figures will be possible.

New Author Guidelines
We have substantially revised the Author Guidelines to ensure that submissions meet high scientific standards and are presented in reader-friendly and attractive manner. Moreover, since Phytocoenologia is now published in collaboration with IAVS, we have largely adjusted our Author Guidelines to those of JVS and AVS. This should facilitate the submission of good papers that have been rejected by JVS or AVS simply because they were too regional or too long but scientifically OK.

Permanent Sections
From 2015 onwards, Phytocoenologia has two permanent sections, Phytosociological Nomenclature (Section Editors Erwin Bergmeier & Wolfgang Willner) and Ecoinformatics (Section Editors Jürgen Dengler & Florian Jansen). While both sections are open to any kind of article from the field described by their name, they also serve as publication outlet for certain formal types of publications released in cooperation with other initiatives. In the section Phytosociological Nomenclature, all proposals for nomina ambigua and nomina conservanda submitted to the Committee for the Conservation and Change of Names of the IAVS Working Group for Phytosociological Nomenclature as well as the recommendations of the Committee on these will be published. The section Ecoinformatics, from now on will be the home for the official Long Database Reports (LDRs) and Short Database Reports (SDRs) of databases registered in the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD; www.givd.info). Phytocoenologia here continues the successful tradition started with a Special Issue of Biodiversity & Ecology on “Vegetation databases for the 21st century” (freely available at http://www.biodiversity-plants.de/biodivers_ecol/vol4.php; pp. 95 et seq.). Custodians of GIVD-registered vegetation-plot databases who are interested in that option should consult the Author Guidelines for details, but also directly can ask the two Section Editors.
Special Issues
As has previously been the case, *Phytocoenologia* will devote Special Issues to certain topics, such as specific vegetation types. For the emerging Special Issue in collaboration with the European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG) on **classification of Palaearctic grasslands** we expect that the first bunch of invited papers will soon be submitted. Thus, this issue will be published some when in 2016. A new Special Issue on **saline vegetation** has recently been initiated by Erwin Bergmeier and Joop Schaminée in collaboration with the European Vegetation Survey (EVS).

New pricing
With volume 45 (2015), new subscription fees become valid, with **special discounts** for Editorial Board members, IAVS members and institutions in developing countries and emerging markets. For authors, *Phytocoenologia* now offers the opportunity of **colour figures** in the articles for a very attractive fee of € 34.90 (plus VAT if applicable) per colour page, irrespective of the number of colour figures on that page. Optional **Open Access** is available if paid by the authors. One article per issue will be selected by the EiCs as **Editors’ Choice Open Access**, meaning that this article will be open access free of charge for 12 months following publication, and after that period authors can obtain permanent Open Access for a 30% reduced fee.

First double issue after re-launch
The inaugural issue under the new editorship is now available. The double issue has 201 pages and contains our editorial and 14 articles. The editorial explains in detail the new philosophy of *Phytocoenologia* and is open access. It was a very intense and time-consuming work to get this first double issue ready in time and in good quality, particularly due to the many changes we implemented during this period. We hope that the publication of a double issue remains a rare exception, and instead aim at a very regular publication of one 100-page issue every three months. With respect to the bibliometric performance, we intend to shift the publication times successively towards the start of the quarters, i.e. early January – April – July – October.

Impact factor at all-time high
The Impact Factor 2014 published by Thomson Reuters is **1.742**, the highest value ever. This is a more than four-fold increase compared to last year’s IF, meaning that the ranking of *Phytocoenologia* among all journals in the subject category “Plant Sciences” climbed from 176 (of 199) in the last year to 77 (of 200) in this year. While we can be very happy about this development, we are also aware that it will be hard to keep this level of IF next year. To increase the awareness and cross-citation rates among the various geobotanical and/or vegetation ecology journals, we started to actively address the editors of these journals. So please read and cite *Phytocoenologia*!

Seeking new members for the Editorial Team
In autumn, we Editors-in-Charge will review and adjust the composition of our Editorial team for 2016. We particularly seek a better representation of researchers from outside Europe and of female colleagues in the Editorial Board. If you have suggestions, please contact any of the EiCs. Finally, we **urgently need additional Linguistic Editors**. For this job we seek native speakers of English, typically Postdocs or advanced PhD students, with good feeling for language and significant own publication record in international journals. The job of the linguistic editors is to check accepted papers from non-native speakers and improve their language where needed. This function is crucial for the qualitative standard of our journal. Currently we cannot pay our Linguistic Editors (like also all other Editors do their work voluntarily), but serving as Linguistic Editor comes with a complementary online subscription of the journal and will be indicated in the imprint and on the journal homepage.
European Dry Grassland Group (EDGG)

Report for the period from 25th July 2014 to 25th June 2015

Members and organisation of the EDGG

Since the last report in 2014, the number of EDGG members slightly increased and reached 1048 members from 63 countries as of 24th May 2015.

European Dry Grassland Meeting and other events

Since the last report, the EDGG has organised several activities.

The annual European Dry Grassland Meeting was held in Mainz, Germany on 23rd–27th May 2015. It was organized by Ute Becker (Green School in the Botanic Garden of the Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz) and Thomas Becker (Regional and Environmental Sciences, University of Trier, Trier) and it was attended by 50 participants from 15 countries (Algeria 4, Belgium 1, Germany 21, Hungary 8, Iran 3, Israel 1, Italy 3, Netherlands 1, Poland 1, Romania 1, Russia 1, Slovakia 1, Slovenia 1, Tunisia 1, and Ukraine 2). The meeting was focused on connection between population biology and community ecology for all dry grassland biota (invertebrates, vertebrates, non-vascular plants, vascular plants, fungi and cryptogams). The meeting consisted of two parts, a conference (oral and poster presentations) and the excursions. In total, 23 talks and 20 posters were presented during the sessions. Besides a guided tour to the Botanic Garden, three excursions were lead into the Mainz Sand area at the city margin of Mainz, to Rhine-Hesse volcanic region and to the Middle Rhine Valley.

The 8th EDGG Field Workshop took place in Poland during 13th–23rd June 2015. It was organized by Zygmunt Kącki (Department of Botany, Institute of Environmental Biology, University of Wroclaw) and Iwona Dembicz (Department of Plant Ecology and Environmental Conservation, Institute of Botany, University of Warsaw) in collaboration with other Polish botanists: Grzegorz Swacha, Marta Czarniecka, Anna Cwener, Piotr Chmielewski, Łukasz Kozub and Piotr Zaniewski. The group of 18 participants from 5 countries (Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine) consisted of experienced senior scientists, young postdocs and PhD students. In total, 6 oral presentations on various topics related to the grassland research were given by the participants. During the workshop, 117 relevés (including 31 nested-plot series) were recorded. The biomass of vascular plants, cryptogams and litter was collected at each of the plots.
Change of the Bylaws

To ensure the election of a full operating, geographically and gender balanced steering committee during the EDGG election, the executive committee accepted important bylaw modifications in the bylaw article 2f: Those seven candidates with the highest number of votes are elected. In the case of a tie on the seventh position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected. In order to improve geographic representativeness, the one member based in Europe (in a physical-geographical sense) and the one based outside Europe with the highest number of votes shall be elected even if they are not among the seven with the overall highest number of votes.

EDGG elections

Elections of the EDGG Executive Committee started on 10th April and went until 8th May. A total of 130 valid votes were registered. The new executive committee of the EDGG for the period between May 2015 and May 2017 consists of eight members (in alphabetical order): Didem Ambarli (TR), Idoia Biurrun (ES), Jürgen Dengler (D), Monika Janišová (SK), Anna Kuzemko (UA), Péter Török (HU), Steve Venn (FI) and Mike Vrahnakis (GR).

General Assembly and financial issues

The General Assembly of the EDGG was held in conjunction with the 12th EDGM, in Mainz, Germany on 24 May 2015. It was attended by 33 EDGG members from 14 countries.

The IAVS provided baseline support to complement the travel grants for the European Dry Grassland Meeting in Mainz (2222.23 €), the Field Workshop in Poland (2969 €), and a honorarium (1500 €) to one EDGG representative to attend the annual IAVS Symposium in Perth. Further, EDGG was successful with one project proposal to IAVS. The fellowship stay in Slovak Academy of Sciences (Bratislava and Banská Bystrica) of two Ukrainian researchers (Anna Kuzemko and Lubov Borsukiewicz) was supported by 1127 €. The Floristisch-Soziologische Arbeitsgemeinschaft covered the costs of server space and the linguistic editing of articles in the Special Feature in Tuexenia 2015.

Publication activities of the EDGG

The EDGG has continued its long-standing tradition of Special Issues/Features in international journals over the past year. Along with the Dry Grassland Special Feature in Tuexenia 2015, Special Issues are currently being prepared in the following journals: Applied Vegetation Science (topic: Classification of European grasslands), Hacquetia (topic: Biodiversity and conservation of Europe’s semi-natural open habitats), Biodiversity and Conservation (topic: Ecology, biodiversity and conservation of Palaearctic steppes) and Phytocoenologia (topic: Classification of Palaearctic grasslands). Along with the mentioned Special Issues, EDGG has published three issues of its own electronic journal, the Bulletin of the European Dry Grassland Group (freely available from http://www.edgg.org/publications.htm) during the reported period.

We warmly invite you to join EDGG, its events and activities!

The Executive Committee of the EDGG
Participants of the 8th Field Workshop in Poland. Photo: Piotr Chmielewski

Participants of the Middle Rhine Valley Excursion within the 12th European Dry Grassland Meeting in Mainz, Germany. Photo: Monika Janišová
2015 Annual Report of the IAVS Working Group European Vegetation Survey

The 24th annual meeting of the European Vegetation Survey (EVS) took place in Rennes, France, on 4–8 May 2015. The meeting was organized by colleagues from Rennes 1 University, Rennes 2 University and the French Society of Phytosociology, in particular by Anne Bonis and Sebastien Rapinel, assisted by Frédéric Bioret, Jan-Bernard Bouzillé, Bernard Clement, Cloé Levointurier-Vajda and others. The meeting focused on two broad themes, “Typology and process as two complementary facets of vegetation survey and mapping” and “Vegetation in coastal and inland dunes and cliffs”, but presentations on other topics of interest to the European Vegetation Survey were also accepted. There were 41 oral presentations and 51 posters.

The meeting was attended by 141 participants and 11 accompanying persons from 29 countries. The most well-represented countries were France, Russia, Italy, the Czech Republic and Germany. In addition to European countries, vegetation scientists from Algeria, India, Iran, Japan, Turkey and the USA also participated in the meeting. Eleven participants from eastern Europe were provided with travel grants from the IAVS via the IAVS Global Sponsorship Committee to a total amount of 5000 EUR.

The mid-conference excursions on 5 May were guided to the coastal ecosystems of northern Brittany, including cliffs, dunes, heathlands and saltmarshes at Cap d’Erquy, Cap Fréhel, Pointe du Grouin, Cancale and in Bay Mont-Saint-Michel. The wonderful excursion day under sunny yet windy weather was completed by a visit to the famous Mont-Saint-Michel and social dinner in a restaurant with a magnificent view of this medieval monastery on a tidal island surrounded by extensive saltmarshes. The post-conference excursion visited forests and mires in Broceliande Wood in inland Brittany.

There were various activities of the European Vegetation Survey between the annual meetings in Ljubljana (May 2014) and Rennes (May 2015):

(1) The European Vegetation Checklist of phytosociological classes, orders and alliances (EuroVegChecklist) was further revised after the second review.

(2) The European Vegetation Archive (EVA) has made considerable progress. By the time of the Rennes meeting, it comprised 57 databases with a total of 998 265 vegetation plots, 82% of them georeferenced. A data request system has been working since May 2014 and EVA already provided data for 14 international projects focused on vegetation survey or broad-scale ecology.

(3) An EVS team led by Joop Schaminée, working under contract from the European Environment Agency (EEA), prepared a review of European shrubland, heath and tundra habitat classification and provided species constancy tables for these habitats extracted from vegetation-plot databases. Work on European forest habitats started in 2013 also continued by developing formal definitions of the EUNIS forest habitats based on their species composition, compiling distribution maps based on vegetation plots and preparing habitat suitability maps resulting from community distribution modelling.
(4) A three-year project *A Red List of European Habitats*, funded by the European Commission DG Environment, is running successfully under the leadership of John Janssen and John Rodwell and with participation of many EVS members. A classification of European habitats, based on a modified EUNIS classification, was proposed and standard Habitat Definitions were prepared by experts with a crosswalk to the EuroVegChecklist. National assessments of changes in habitat extent and quality were completed and habitat expert groups have started to work on synthetic European Red List assessments.

(5) Preparation of the Virtual Special Feature “Towards consistent classification of European grasslands” in the journal *Applied Vegetation Science* continued as a joint initiative of EVS and the IAVS European Dry Grassland Group, with Jürgen Dengler, Erwin Bergmeier, Wolfgang Willner and Milan Chytrý as guest editors. Five papers have been published so far and work on some others has progressed considerably.

(6) John Rodwell established contacts between the European Vegetation Survey and the European Grassland Federation.

Milan Chytrý
Miquel de Cáceres, Stephan Hennekens (chair), Florian Jansen, Peter Minchin & Susan Wiser

The goals of the Ecoinformatics Working group are to facilitate communication among scientists studying community ecology through exploration and synthesis of large databases comprising vegetation-plot and related ecological data; facilitate access to these data; establish standards for exchange of these data to facilitate data sharing and to provide tools for identification, access, integration, storage, and analysis of these data. To meet the requirements to be a recognized IAVS Working Group and be eligible for IAVS funding, a set of Bylaws were drafted in February 2013, based on those of the European Vegetation Survey Working Group, were approved by members of the working group in March 2013 and approved by the IAVS Council at the Tartu symposium in June 2014.

In June 2014 a proposal from Florian Jansen to improve the website structure of GIVD (http://www.givd.info) was granted by the IAVS governing board. The GIVD is an index of digital plot databases and currently contains metadata for 237 databases comprising more than 3.5 million plots. The work on the website has been carried out in 2014 and early 2015. It includes a) an integrating of the Document Object Identifiers (DOI) of the database publications with the persistent links to the electronic manuscript version and try to make the GIVD articles in Biodiversity & Ecology readable for automatic reference recognition tools; b) an improvement of the content of database entries to allow searches by formation and region.

To formalize the cooperation between GIVD and the IAVS ecoinformatics working group the GIVD steering committee has set up a memorandum of understanding (Appendix A). All members of the IAVS Ecoinformatics working group have agreed with this cooperation.

The Steering Group still considers updating the Ecoinformatics website as a high priority. Currently the website is hosted at the University of North Carolina and any updates can only be done by a person associated with the University. The Steering Group has decided to transfer the website to be hosted at the University of Greifswald. The domain name will be http://www.vegetationinformatics.org/, which has already been reserved.

In Perth (2014) the working group has been very successful in having no less than fourteen oral presentations included in Ecoinformatics sessions. These spanned topics from major vegetation plot database efforts, to the evolving data sharing landscape, to advances in numerical methods to large-scale vegetation mapping and modelling efforts. Hereafter a full list of the presentation:

- Milan Chytrý: European Vegetation Archive (EVA): a new integrated source of European vegetation-plot data.
- Jürgen Dengler: sPlot – the new global vegetation-plot database for addressing trait-environment relationships across the world's biomes.
- Flavia Landucci: WetVegEurope – a formalized classification of aquatic and marsh vegetation at the continental scale: approach and first results.
Robert Peet: Big Data meets Darwin's "entangled bank": The macroecology of botanical diversity.

David Turner: ÆKOS: A new paradigm enabling reuse of complex ecological data.

Susan Wiser: How should data access policies reflect the changing data-sharing landscape: a case study with New Zealand's National Vegetation Survey Databank.

Mitch Lyons: Model-based approaches to vegetation community classification.

Peter Minchin: Guidelines for the evaluation of ordination techniques.

Janos Podani: Jaccard index revisited - a new method for evaluating structure in ecological data matrices.

Otto Wildi: Indicator values of functional traits.

Valério Pillar: Probability of similarity and fuzzy sets: should we move to the Jaccard’s diversity metrics?

Borja Jiménez-Alfaro: Broad-scale distribution modelling of community types: an example using European vegetation-plot databases and MaxEnt.

Helga Bültmann: The Arctic Vegetation Map, Biodiversity Assessment and Vegetation Archive and the evaluation of changes in arctic flora and vegetation.

Panayotis Dimopoulos: Conservation status assessment for habitat types in Greece.

Also for the upcoming IAVS symposium in July in Brno the working group has put together an interesting program which fully focuses on software demonstrations showing the latest developments on some of the aspects of ecoinformatics. The session comprises the following presentations:

- Stephan Hennekens: Turboveg v.3 – A gateway to EVA and other databases.
- Michael Lee: VegBank: A Permanent, OpenAccess Archive for Vegetation Plot Data.
- Florian Jansen: New ideas for international vegetation plot databases.
- Viktoria Wagner: Taxonomic proofreading: How useful are software applications for cleaning vegetation data?
- Lubomír Tichý: The JUICE program for vegetation classification and brief information about its less known functions.
- Petr Šmilauer: New statistical techniques supported by Canoco 5 software.

Prior to the ecoinformatics session Susan Wiser will give a keynote with the title ‘: How can we meet “big data” aspirations in vegetation informatics?’.
Appendix A: Memorandum of understanding between GIVD and WG for Ecoinformatics

Memorandum of understanding

This memorandum is between the Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD; c/o Florian Jansen, Chair of the Steering Committee, Soldmannstr. 15, 17489 Greifswald, Germany) and the Ecoinformatics working group of IAVS (c/o Stephan Hennekens, Chair of the Steering Committee, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, 6708PB Wageningen)

This memorandum is intended to attest the cooperation between the two partners.

The Global Index of Vegetation-Plot Databases (GIVD; www.givd.info) was established in 2010. Since then it became a very successful and widely used tool in vegetation science and ecoinformatics. In 2015 Bylaws have been developed to make GIVD a community-based initiative that is self-governed by the representatives of the databases that use GIVD as repository for their metadata. A particular element within the GIVD Bylaws is the intention to establish collaborations with other organizations or initiatives with shared interests.

The parties wish to document the following.

1. The two parties will mention each other as cooperation partner on their homepages, together with the respective logo and a link to the homepage of the cooperating partner.

2. The Working group for Ecoinformatics will support funding proposals of GIVD to IAVS under the name of the IAVS Ecoinformatics Group if no own demands stand against it.

3. The Working group for Ecoinformatics can nominate candidates for the GIVD Steering Committee elections, which should have relations to GIVD, but do not need to be custodian of any included database. The next election is expected to be in 2018.

4. This Memorandum is effective until it is cancelled by any of the partners. The memorandum can be cancelled at any time.

Wageningen, Greifswald,

On behalf of the On behalf of the
WG for Ecoinformatics of IAVS Global Index of Plot-based
Vegetation Databases
Since September 2014, GPN activities have been concentrated mainly on the preparation of the 4th edition of the International Code of Nomenclature (ICPN), and on the development of the phytosociological database PhytoS. In addition, the Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN) is now operative.

**International Code of Phytosociological Nomenclature**

The preparation of the 4th edition of ICPN started with the production of a document collecting potential amendments to ICPN, new examples, and reflections on some critical points. This document was sent to the SC members and to Prof. Heinrich Weber, the lead author of 3rd edition of the ICPN. A three-day meeting was held in Rome (18-20 February 2015) hosted by the Botanical Garden of the University "La Sapienza", kindly supported by the Director of the Garden - Prof. Carlo Blasi. The meeting was supported financially (3000 Euro) by IAVS as a special activity for 2014. All the SC members attended the meeting. Many important points were discussed in depth, with the aim to produce a more user-friendly new edition. A second meeting is being planned for November 2015.

**PhytoS Database**

The development of the online database PhytoS serving the registration of phytosociological names of plant communities proceeded at the University of Vienna under the supervision of Wolfgang Willner. All database modules have been implemented and the first phase of testing, on a restricted basis, is scheduled to start in the autumn 2015.

**Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN)**

The nomenclatural activities of the Committee for Change and Conservation of Names (CCCN; chair Wolfgang Willner) involving all GPN members commenced with the first electronic ballot sent out in April 2015. Three nomenclatural proposals published in 2011 were put on vote. In all three cases, the recommendation of the Committee was accepted. With the establishment of an official nomenclatural section in Phytocoenologia, CCCN is now fully operative for the publication of the new proposals and their formal evaluation.

**Membership and Steering Committee (SC)**

Presently, the GPN counts 68 members.

Following the resignation of Jürgen Dengler from the SC in November 2014, an election of a new member occurred in January 2015. Helga Bültmann was elected as a new member of the SC. The present SC is composed of the following seven members: Jean-Paul Theurillat (chair; CH), Daniela Gigante (secretary; IT), Helga Bültmann (DE), Andraž Čarni (SL), Federico Fernández-González (ES), Ladislav Mucina (AU) and Wolfgang Willner (AT).
IAVS Young Scientists Section Annual Report

July 2015

Steering Committee: Michael Lee, Alessandra Fidelis, Kyle Palmquist, Angela Pannek, Thomas Starnes

The IAVS Young Scientists Section petitioned the IAVS Governing Board for official IAVS status in April 2014. The petition was delivered by 22 young scientists from 5 continents. The petition process was led by Katarzyna Szrama, Angela Pannek, Kertu Lõhmus, and Michael Lee. In July 2014, bylaws were drafted and sent to the governing board. In September 2014, the IAVS Council accepted the petition and bylaws with the one precondition that a sentence be added to ensure that membership was open to all persons regardless of age. This was completed and accepted by the IAVS governing board in October 2014.

In October 2014, we also created the section listserv, which can be joined here: http://lists.unc.edu/read/all_forums/subscribe?name=iavs-ys

From December 2014 to January 2015, an election of the section steering committee was conducted with FASEB (the IAVS business office) assisting by implementing Survey Monkey voting software, which ensured that each member could vote once and only once. The election resulted in the steering committee named at the top after 29 of the 44 section members voted.

The new Steering Committee met via online video conference and then created a website (iavsyoungscientists.wordpress.com) and a facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/353191064892110). Some in the membership expressed concern about relying on facebook as its privacy safeguards do not meet all the legal requirements in all countries of membership. The Steering Committee also proposes to next find ways to collaborate on specific topics via video conference, with time zones and software of different countries and locations being the specific hurdles, and well as the general lack of time availability from many people.
IAVS North America Section – Annual Report for 2014-2015

Peter Minchin, Chair

The new by-laws for the North America Section were approved by IAVS Council at the annual symposium in Perth on 2 September, 2014. I have been sending out e-mails periodically to our members informing them of upcoming IAVS activities and encouraging more participation. The 2015 annual meeting of the section is scheduled to take place at the Ecological Society of America 100th annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland, in conjunction with the ESA Vegetation Section. I will be presenting a proposal to jointly sponsor an organized oral session at the 2016 ESA conference on a theme of interest to vegetation scientists and plant ecologists. In the coming year, we will also update the section web pages.

The major activity for the section over the past six months has been to prepare a proposal to host the 2018 IAVS symposium in Bozeman, Montana, USA. The proposal has received a positive response from the IAVS Governing Board and will be formally voted on by the incoming Governing Board at the 2015 symposium in Brno. We hope the proposal will be accepted and look forward to organizing the symposium, which will include field trips to some of the most spectacular and botanically interesting regions of the Rocky Mountains.
Report of the IAVS Awards Committee over the year 2014

Joop Schaminée, chair

At the annual IAVS meeting in Perth, Kazue Fujiware has become an IAVS Honorary Member, for all the work she has performed for our organisation for so many years. This year (2015), for the third time, the Alexander Von Humboldt Award will be awarded to an outstanding scientist in the field of vegetation research. After awarding Professor Philip Grime in 2011 and David Tilman in 2013, Sandra Lavoral will receive this award at the IAVS meeting in Brno. At this meeting, both price-winners will be honoured by a laudatio speech, given by Elgene Box (Kazue Fujiwara) and Sandra Diaz (Sandra Lavoral). They both also will receive an original watercolour painting, especially made for this occasion by the Dutch artist Ed Hazebroek, depicting Wisteria floribunda flowers for Kazue Fujiwara (her family name is related to this plant) and a subalpine meadow landscape with flowering Allium victorialis for Sandra Lavoral. The members of the Governing Board are invited to nominate candidates for the next Honorary membership in 2016, before 31-12-2015.
At the meeting in Perth, also the young scientists competitions took place, for best poster and best oral presentation. The winners were announced at the General Assembly and their names are mentioned on our website www.iavs.org (see under Awards).

**Poster competition:**

First prize: Guochen Kenny Png. Do N-fixing plants show higher root phosphatase activity on P-poor soils? (Co-authors: Etienne Laliberté, Patrick E. Hayes, Benjamin L. Turner and Hans Lambers);

Honorable Mention: Talita Zupo. Do different disturbance types affect resprouting patterns of shrub species in cerrado? (Co-authors: Elizabeth Gorgone-Barbosa, Mariana N. Rissi and Alessandra Fidelis);

Honorable Mention: Ilka Strubelt. Changes in species composition and richness in an alluvial hardwood forest over 52 years (Co-authors: Martin R. Diekmann and Dietmar Zacharias).

**Oral presentation competition:**

First prize: Angela Pannek. Comparing resource-based and co-occurrence based methods for estimating species niche breadth (Co-authors: Michael Manthey and Martin R. Diekmann);

Honorable mention: Christina Birnbaum. Do soil microbes drive Acacia species invasion in non-native ranges in Australia? (Co-authors: Michelle R. Leishman);

Honorable mention: Jessica Parker. Exploring the spatial and temporal dynamics of the relationship between precipitation and aboveground vegetation biomass (Co-authors: Charles G. Curtin and Craig F. Conley);

Honorable mention: Daniel Montesinos. The puna vegetation of Moquegua, South Peru: Chasmophytic communities and grasslands (Co-authors: Antoine M. Cleef and Karlê V. Sýkora).
Attachment 17: ReportGSC_June2015


Dr. Alessandra Fidelis

The Global Sponsorship Committee is composed by: Alessandra Fidelis (Brazil), Jürgen Dengler (Germany), Kersti Püssa (Estonia), Martin Zobel (Estonia), Pavel Krestov (Russia), Emin Ugurlu (Turkey), Alireza Naqinezhad (Iran), Brian Isabirye (Uganda), and Ndafuda Shiponeni (Namibia).

Since September 2014, we received 4 applications for free IAVS membership from which only one was not approved by the GSC. 32 applications fell into category 1 or 2 and thus, they did not need the GSC approval.

During this period, we discussed and approved the decision of travel grant allocation made by the European Dry Grassland Executive Committee for the Meeting in Mainz and the EDGG Field Workshop in Poland. They evaluated 9 applications for the meeting and 7 for the field workshop. The total sum allocated was 6,030 euros, from which 1,030 was covered by the EDGG. Grants varied from 180 – 570 euros. The European Vegetation Survey Executive Committee approved 11 applications for the Meeting in Rennes, with grants varying from 338 – 488 euros (4,998 euros).

For the 58th Annual Symposium of the International Association for Vegetation Science, the 59 applications, from which 55 were eligible. Applications came from 25 different countries, mostly from Brazil (12 applications), Poland (4 applications), and Austria (4 applications). This year, we also received a larger amount of women young scientists and students.

The criteria used by the GSC were: abstract (2/5), motivation letter (2/5) and age (the younger the better; 1/5). We believed that merit was one of the most important for the evaluation of the applications. Note that as last year, applications from both students and
researchers were accepted, but age was taken into account in the evaluation. Applicants that received the grant in former years were eligible, but they received a lower amount of money.

The GSC granted 28 applicants from Brazil (9), Austria (3), Estonia (2), Germany (2), Hungary (2), Italy (2), Poland (2), Kazakhstan (1), Armenia (1), Australia (1), France (1), Ghana (1), and Ukraine (1). Most of the awardees are women and PhD students. Grants varied from 200 – 1600 euros.

Last year in Perth, four of the poster and oral presentation awards went to students and young scientists who received the financial support to participate on the symposium: Angela Pannek (first prize oral, presentation), Jessika Parker (honorable mention, oral presentation), Talita Zupo (honorable mention, poster), and Ilka Strubelt (honorable mention, poster).
IAVS Meetings Committee


Javier Loidi (Chair)

Forthcoming IAVS Symposia:

2016

12 - 17 June: The 59th IAVS Symposium
Pirenopolis, near Brasilia, Brazil

Venue: The symposium will be held in the city of Pirenopolis, 160 km west of Brasilia. The venue is likely to be the Congress Hotel, which has hosted several large meetings. This is in the central region of Brazil, in a Cerrado (savanna) landscape.

2017

20 – 24 June: The 60th IAVS Symposium
Palermo, Island of Sicily, Italy.

11-18 June Pre-Symposium excursion. Coastal landscapes of Sicily: along the Sicilian coast, from Capo San Vito (NW) to Capo Passero (SE)

25 June – 1 July Post-Symposium excursion. Sicilian Mountains (for well trained hikers)

I addition to the already scheduled IAVS symposia and excursions in Pirenopolis (Brazil), for 2016, and Palermo (Italy), for 2017, about which information was given in the previous report distributed in the Perth meeting last year, I have the honor to inform you about the last proposals to celebrate

2018-2019-2020

So far we have received several proposals to celebrate symposia and excursions in these three coming years. In chronological order:
Proposal 1

Hohhot (China)
July 15-20, 2018

Presented by Fank Yonghong Li (Inner Mongolia University)

Tentative theme:
Vegetation patterns, processes and ecosystem services

Approximate calendar:
14 July: registration opens
15 July: Conference
16 July: Conference
   Night - the conference meal with Mongolian cultural entertainment.
17 July: Mid-conference tour
18 July: Conference
19 July Conference
20-25 July: Post-conference excursions

Approximate costs:
I haven't done a detailed calculation on the cost for this symposium, but based on the cost of other international conferences held here, the registration fee should be lower than that in Perth, possible around US$400. This may also vary dependent on the success in funding application from a range of organizations.

Venue:
The Conference Centre of the Inner Mongolia University. The centre is new, and has a variety of conference/seminar rooms and modern facilities.

Sponsoring:
Not sure at the moment on how much funding we may get from the sponsors. But it seems quite sure that we can get the financial support for this symposium from a range of organizations, such as
- National Natural Science foundation of China
Organizing committee:

The local organizing committee will consist of the leading vegetation scientists in China, including those from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and several universities, and the representatives of the Botanical Society and the Ecological Society of China. Certainly, the major work will be done by the committee members from the Inner Mongolia University (College of Life Sciences). A few members will also be from other Inner Mongolia institutions of forests, grasslands or natural resources.

The international advisory committee will be the Governing Body and the Council of the IAVS.

Mid-symposium tour (one-day):

Two major options:

1. Vegetation at the DaQing Mountain and the steppe grassland, and have a meal in Mongolian tent on steppe. Led by a botanist and a vegetation ecologist.

2. Vegetation in Ordos sandy land, and have a look at Gengis Khan's Mausoleum by the way. Led by a botanist and a vegetation ecologist.

Could also have other options.

Post-symposium excursions (this could be pre-symposium excursions):

1. The Inner Mongolia Steppe:

The excursion starts from Hohhot, going north across the Daqing Mountain (the boundary of Mongolian Plateau, covered by grassland, bush and forest), then go northeast to see the vast steppe vegetation along a gradient of decreasing climatic aridity (400 km).

Prof. Frank Yonghong Li (grassland ecologist familiar with the region) and Prof. Zhao Liqing (Plant taxonomy and geography) lead this excursion.

Day 1: Hohhot - DaQing Mountains - Desert steppe at Siziwan Qi

Day 2: Typical dry steppe at Xilingol (in a Biosphere Reserve)

Day 3: Meadow steppe at Xilingol and Chifeng;
Day 4: Sandy vegetation and return to Beijing

(2) Vegetation in the Alashan Desert - Helan Mountains - Ordos Sandy Land.
Prof. Liang Chunzhu (Vegetation ecologist familiar with the region) and Prof. Zhao Yizhi (expert in flora of Inner Mongolia) lead the excursion.

  Day 1: Hohhot - Ordos sandy land
  Day 2: Desert at Alashan (in Natural Reserves)
  Day 3: Helan Mountains (National Forest Park)
  Day 4: Helan Mountains
  Day 5: Either back to Hohhot, or fly to Beijing from Ninchuan City

(3) The grand Xingan forest, and meadows and steppes in Northeast China.
The excursion covers in the forest at the Grand Xingan Mountains and vegetation in the ecotone of forest and steppe in northeast China.
The excursion will be led by the botanist and vegetation scientist working at the local research station, which belongs to the Forestry College of the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University.

  Day 1: Hohhot - fly to Xingan League
  Day 2: Excursion in the Grand Xingan forest
  Day 3: Excursion on the forests, meadows and steppes
  Day 4: Transport to a city and fly to Beijing

Travelling and lodging facilities:
All the excursions will use the hotels in the small towns on the excursion road, and the cost will be around US$50-90. Will try to use the facilities in research stations on grasslands or in forests for convenience and reducing the excursion cost.

Proposal 2

Bozeman, Montana (USA)

July 23-27, 2018

Presented by Dave Roberts, James Moore, and Mark Fulton

The proposed venue is the conference center at Montana State University, Bozeman (http://www.montana.edu/cs/). They have the facilities to host a conference of 300-500 people. The dates that look best at present are July 23-27, 2018. This fits in well with the annual
conference of the Ecological Society of America, which is August 5-10, 2018. Provided that the IAVS symposium takes place before the end of July, campus housing would be available as a budget option ($23/night for shared rooms, $28/night for single rooms). There are several nearby hotels for attendees on a larger budget. Catering is available for morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks and lunch and also for a conference dinner (we are currently exploring price options). As a rough estimate, the facility rental fees come to about $10,500 and various conference services (registration, housing, audiovisual, etc.) range from $20-$50 per person. If we assume an attendance of 400, the total of rental fees plus service would be up to $31,500 or about $77 per person. To estimate the proposed registration fee we would need to add food services and costs of the mid-week excursions to this. Hopefully, we can keep the registration fee no higher than $400.

**Excursions**: There are two obvious candidates for 5-6 day trips by bus and several possibilities for trips to more distant places that may require air travel.

**Trip 1 - Central Northern Rocky Mountains**

This would go from Bozeman over Bear Tooth Pass (http://beartoothhighway.com/), the largest area of alpine vegetation in the US Rocky Mountains and then to Yellowstone National Park (http://www.nps.gov/yell/index.htm) and the Grand Teton National Park (http://www.nps.gov/grte/index.htm). The timing in late July would ensure that many alpine and subalpine species will be in flower.

**Trip 2 - Crown of the Continent**

This would go north from Bozeman via Flathead Lake to Glacier National Park (http://www.nps.gov/glac/index.htm) and then cross the border into the Canadian Rockies (http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/304).

Other possibilities include:

- A prairie trip east of Bozeman to sites in central and eastern Montana or even South Dakota. There are some sites with large areas of prairie to which bison have been reintroduced.

- A trip via Seattle to the temperate rainforests of the Olympic Peninsula.

- A trip via Portland or Sacramento to the coastal redwood forests of Oregon and Northern California.

- A trip south from Bozeman to desert areas in Utah.

- A trip via Flagstaff, Arizona to visit the Grand Canyon and other sites.

Ideas for mid-week excursions:

1) Vegetation of the Gallatin Mountains: leave Bozeman and travel south up the Gallatin River Canyon, working from lower timberline up to subalpine forests.
2) Vegetation of Yellowstone NP. Bozeman to Red Lodge, through Yellowstone National Park to Gardiner, to Livingston to Bozeman. Alternatively, Bozeman to Cooke City, Yellowstone NP and Beartooth Plateau.

3) Bozeman to Three Forks with stops at Beartrap Canyon. Short grass prairie and xeric vegetation.

4) For folks that are pretty fit we could hike across the top of the Bridger Mountains or do the Fairy Lake trip up to whitebark pine at upper timberline.

Proposal 3

Vladivostok (Russia)

Presented by Pavel Krestov, Botanical Garden-Institute, Vladivostok

I invite the IAVS annual symposium in Vladivostok, Russia, in the last pristine temperate region in the northern hemisphere. Vladivostok is located inside the middle (or cool) temperate zone with temperate deciduous broadleaved and mixed forests, that may be known to international public as Ussuri taiga, after the Oscar winning movie ‘Dersu Uzala’ by Akira Kurosawa.

http://www.servustv.com/at/Medien/Terra-Mater-Amur-Folge-1

The venue will be the Far Eastern Federal University, on Russkii (Russian) Island, connected with the City of Vladivostok with a world biggest cable-stayed bridge over the Stark strait. The university conference facilities can easily accommodate about 1000 participants. The university owns student dormitories, which can be a good alternatives to hotels for budget accommodation.


Geographic location of the venue and pristine nature of the region suggests the best fit theme of this symposium: ‘Vegetation before and after people’.
The region of the Russian Far East is the best to see intact temperate forest ecosystems, vegetation diversity in conditions of continuous permafrost and vegetation in volcanic areas. Therefore we plan **three** major excursions, which briefly can be named as:

1. **'Sikhote-Alin’** (intact vegetation gradient from temperate to boreal [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziwKl4wTmRA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziwKl4wTmRA)),

2. **‘Oymyakon, the Pole of Cold’** (ultra continental forests on continuous permafrost and refugia of relictual steppes [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWkItxhxNME](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWkItxhxNME)) and

3. **‘Kamchatka’** (vegetation in volcanic areas [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ELCd6Q9lsY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ELCd6Q9lsY)).

Vladivostok ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladivostok](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladivostok)), established in 1860 as eastern Russian harbor and naval base, remained closed for foreigners until 1991. But it has rich history and its own very special spirit that makes it different from other Russian cities. History of the city is full of facts that may be surprising for potential participants of IAVS symposium: in the beginning of 20 century Vladivostok had a world strongest marine fortifications, it was place of first European business in eastern Russia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunst_and_Albers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kunst_and_Albers)), it is a birthplace of Yul Brynner ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yul_Brynner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yul_Brynner)), it is a place, where all nations can find the footprints of their culture.