



Annual Report
IAVS Working Group for Ecoinformatics
July 2019

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Meeting in Montana

The last meeting of the Ecoinformatics Working Group (EIWG), held in Bozeman (USA) during the 61st Symposium of the IAVS, focused on the new directions of the EIWG for the following years. The main discussion focused on the delineation of the role of the EIWG in the context of the IAVS activities, and the required tasks of the new Steering Committee to be elected during 2019.

Election of the Steering Committee

On January 2019 a new Steering Committee (SC) was elected for the next four years (2019-2022), consisting of Borja Jiménez-Alfaro, Sebastian Schmidtlein, Susan Wiser, Viktoria Wagner & Andrei Zverev (Stephan Hennekens, former chair of the SC, was responsible of coordinating the election). The SC designed Borja Jiménez-Alfaro as the chair. The secretary will be designated during the next meeting of the SC in 2019 during the 63th IAVS meeting in Bremen (Germany).

New proposals of the Steering Committee

Between January and June 2019, the SC developed a list of tasks to be prioritized during the following years. These tasks are:

- Reframe the objectives of the EIWG bylaws on fostering ecoinformatics knowledge and skills in the IAVS community, e.g. by organizing workshops, talks and sessions at IAVS conferences, administering IAVS funds for advancing ecoinformatics, and doing outreach to make tools that are already available more visible.
- The new bylaws should be agreed by the SC after consultation with the members of the EIWG and then submitted to the IAVS Council for approval.
- Describe the main topics that fall into the objectives of the EIWG, including e.g. standards for data exchange, tools for gathering and storing co-occurrence data, list of available software, data processing of large and heterogeneous data, specific tools and methods for the analysis of vegetation big data, sensors for data acquisition, etc.
- Regenerate the website of the EIWG by including the objectives and topics established in points 1 and 2. The website should be the repository for updating information and news related to ecoinformatics and vegetation science, and the main portal for gaining visibility of the EIWG activities.

Activities for the IAVS Symposium in Bremen

The EIWG promoted the following activities to be held during the IAVS Symposium in Bremen:

- Software demonstration of *Vegapp* by Sebastian Schmidtlein
- Workshop and presentation about REMAP tool and Google Earth Engine by Mitch Lyons (unfortunately cancelled because of personal reasons, the SC will try again in the next year)
- A meeting of the EIWG for discussing the new proposals of the SC, the activities for the next year, and the designation of major duties of the SC members.