



IAVS Bulletin 12

Stellenbosch (South Africa), 25 May 2009



Welcome to beautiful Chania (Crete, Greece), a heavenly and pure land brimming with natural beauty, history, memory and culture. It is a land whose visitors will experience nature in all its glory and will encounter breathtaking sights.

Endless stretches of seashore bordered in frothy lace, inlets and islands of exotic beauty and sandy beaches tucked away at the foot of forbidding mountains. Impenetrable but yet such majestic gorges, holy caves, blessed rivers and lush, green plains thickly covered with olive and citrus trees. It is a self-sufficient land in every way that is rich in endemic and rare flora and fauna.

The works of art produced by man will also not leave any visitor indifferent. He will bow with awe in respect for the intimidating remains of past civilizations which still stand proud, examples of creative spirit and signs of human futility, vigorous warriors of bitter and ravenous time. He will relive moments of legend, history and glory since memories of the past will awaken and resurrect themselves in his passing. Here he will satiate his hunger for colour and aroma, he will savour original and unique tastes, he will overhear stories about experiences taken from the passion and wisdom of a people whose roots and endurance are embedded deep in history. He will live intense contrasts and feelings, he will juxtapose the old with the new and he will respect modern life through the eyes of wisdom gained from tradition. Perhaps most importantly, the visitor will encounter a people who recognize life's gifts and value. The Cretan soul will infuse him with the feeling of true hospitality and will leave him mesmerized and forever partial to its beauty. Welcome to beautiful Chania let yourself enjoy everything it so generously has to offer.

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Impressum

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Membership: To become a member of IAVS, contact Nina Smits at nina.smits@wur.nl

Membership fee: 20 € / 20 \$ US. Account no. 92.15.29.023 of IAVS, Wes Beekhuizenweg 3, Renkum, The Netherlands.

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Abraham (alias Laco Mucina) preaching on the mountain (holding the Fynbos guide of John Manning) in the very heart of Capensis.

Stellenbosch says “Baie dankie”

The 51st IAVS Symposium is history and the new one in Chania, Crete is *ante portas*. Still, I cannot forget those days when 232 friends and colleagues from 32 countries of all continents (Antarctic penguins kindly declined invitation) descended on Stellenbosch in August and September 2008 to attend the IAVS annual symposium – first ever IAVS meeting in Africa. Those three full days were filled with 118 lectures (in 18 sessions), presentation of 76 posters (in 2 sessions), special management meetings, and finally the JUICE. The plenary talks of our invited speakers (Bastow, Juli, Valdon, Mike, Bob, Dave and Brian) were the gems of our meeting! However, I am sure that you all would agree that the field trips before and after the meeting and the one-day outing to various Namibian, Cape and Namaqualand destinations were the real stars of our activities.

Organizing a meeting of this size and format (a symposium + 5 long field trips) was a gruelling experience. Undoubtedly all those thousands of emails, phone calls and hundreds of most unusual queries have hijacked our lives full time for a year, but we have no regrets. It was great to have so many friends around to share our beautiful country with us, be it only for couple of weeks.

Dagmar and I were assisted by a team of able helpers. Our thanks go to Jesse, Annette, Frans, Dirk, Marius, Raphael, Richard, Judy, Shula, Christelle and Jaco

who run the daily proceedings of the symposium in Stellenbosch. Our small symposium booklet was designed by friend Keith Phillips and co-edited by many colleagues – all have done a splendid job! Leon, Valdon, Frans, Annelise, Tessa and Roy sacrificed much of their time to lead the long field trips around Namibia, Namaqualand, Overberg, and Eastern Cape.

We are particularly happy to have been able to support financially more than 30 young people to attend the trips and the meeting. This all was made possible by generous sponsorships from the Office of the Vice-Rector for Research of the Stellenbosch University (Prof. Arnold van Zyl), the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (Johannesburg), the Southern African Regional Section of IAVS, South African National Parks, Springer, Wiley-Blackwell (who also sponsored one of our wine-rich social events), and of course from the IAVS itself.

We hope you all had a good time, learned tons of new plant names, seen the wonders of the Cape, made some new friends and expanded your networks. “Baie dankie” to all who came, seen, drunk and eat and simply enjoyed time with us.

Please, visit our post-symposium website to view many of the power-point presentations, the PDF of the meeting’s abstract book and some picture galleries:

<http://stbweb02.stb.sun.ac.za/iavs2008/>



IAVS Council Meeting

Part 1: 8 September 2008, 17.30 – 19.00 hrs

Venue: Dept of Botany & Zoology, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Council members present: Michael G. Barbour (US), Alessandro Chiarucci (IT), Milan Chytrý (CZ), Ulrich Deil (DE), Nikolai B. Ermakov (RU), Kazue Fujiwara (JP), Tomáš Herben (CZ), Jan Lepš (CZ), Javier J. Loidi (ES), Ladislav Mucina (ZA), Valério De Patta Pillar (BR), Franco Pedrotti (IT), Franco Pedrotti (IT), Robert K. Peet (US), János Podani (HU), Joop H.J. Schaminée (NL), Nina A.C. Smits (NL), Otto Wildi (CH), J. Bastow Wilson (NZ), Martin Zobel (EE).

Other attendees: Liz Ferguson (Wiley-Blackwell), Jürgen Dengler (presenting information about the new journal), Meelis Pärtel (new editor), Panayotis Dimopoulos (local organisers of the Greece 2009 meeting), José Delgadillo (local organisers of the Mexico 2010 meeting), Kerry Woods (representing the North American Section).

1. Opening

R. Peet, President of the IAVS, opened the meeting at 17.30.

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held in Wales in 2007 and as sent by e-mail to all members of the IAVS Council (2007-2011), were approved. Both the meetings in 2007 (New Zealand & Wales) were successful, thanks to the great effort of the Local Arrangements Committees.

3. Finances

Financial Report

A summary of the financial situation of the IAVS during the year 2007, and earlier, was reported by the president, based on data delivered by Administrator N. Smits. The IAVS has had increasing assets: 21,001 € in 2004, 34,611 € in 2005, 28,450 € in 2006 (the balance over the year 2006 was negative due to the loan to the organizing committee for the Wales meeting), 35,485 € in 2007 and 63,283 € in September 2008. The local organizers of the Wales symposium had a surplus, that was donated to IAVS (7,765 €).

Financial Statement

	2006	2007
GENERAL FUND: INVESTMENT ACCOUNT		
Cash: 31-12-1005 & 31-12-2006	22,535.71	15,540.74
Interest	319.10	351.16
Transfer to General Fund	(7,314.07)	
Profit, Opulus 2003		2,650.00
Cash: 31-12-1006 & 31-12-2007	15,540.74	18,541.90
GENERAL FUND: CASH ACCOUNT		
Cash: 31-12-1005 & 31-12-2006	5,827.33	6,555.19
Transfer from Dierschke	474.27	
Membership dues	3,049.44	3,633.15
Global Fund contributions, from Opulus		400.00
Transfer from Investment Account	7,314.07	
Salaries	(2,495.00)	(2,495.00)
Loan to 2007 Symposium Committee	(7,346.47)	
Banking expenses	(60.14)	(71.34)
Office expenses	(208.31)	(251.34)
Cash: 31-12-1006 & 31-12-2007	6,555.19	7,770.66
GENERAL FUND: OTHER ASSETS		
Loan for 2007 Symposium	7,346.47	7,346.47
Profit, Opulus 2006		4,337.00
Membership dues to Opulus		229.53
Owed to Global Fund		(400.00)
Total	7,346.47	11,513.00
GLOBAL FUND: INVESTMENT ACCOUNT		
Cash: 31-12-1005 & 31-12-2006	6,248.10	6,354.31
Profit, Opulus 2003		2,650.00
Interest	106.21	108.01
Cash: 31-12-1006 & 31-12-2007	6,354.31	9,112.32
GLOBAL FUND: OTHER ASSETS		
Profit, Opulus 2006		4,337.00
Owed by General Fund		400.00
Contributions to Global Fund through Opulus		297.00
Adoption expenses: 2006 & 2007		(855.00)
Total		4,179.00
TOTAL ASSETS: 31-12-2006 & 31-12-2007	35,796.71 €	51,116.88 €

Global fund

Martin Zobel will start with the list of adoptees as prepared by Eddy van der Maarel in 2007 and he is wondering whether adoptees could also be supported to participate in symposia and for other things, e.g. to invite speakers. A proposal was accepted and approved that the Global Fund in the future also could be used for financial support of motivated students and young scientists of 'poor' countries to attend the annual meetings.

Increased revenue

The Executive Committee will make a proposal for some rules to decide who will benefit from the increased revenue. It will be investigated whether to start an endowment fund (Laco Mucina was asked to create a Committee dealing with the matter).

Committee to develop a business & management plan

The idea to start a Committee to develop a business & management plan was discussed, but there was only limited enthusiasm at this stage. President Peet will consider the matter and report back in 2009.

4. Membership

Membership report

The current situation with respect to membership is hard to understand because the data supplied by Opulus press is unclear. Moreover, there no letter to the subscribers at the end of 2008 to urge renewal. The latter happened because IAVS agreed with Opulus that the Publisher would send out mails, but these turned out not to be clear enough for most members to pay the yearly fee. We currently have 379 non-subscribing members, of which only 99 paid their fee for 2008. We have 291 associate (non-paying) members, and about 287 members with a subscription to one or both of the journals.

How to increase membership?

- Authors will receive an invitation to become a member
- A half-price student rate (10 €) was approved by the Council
- An opportunity to obtain a discount on books published by Wiley-Blackwell will be advertised
- A policy will be adopted to favor members for symposium-excursions (this implies that the local organization should be able to collect the money for the membership fee).

Providing membership services

- Website: we are talking with Wiley-Blackwell about the website. It will probably be hosted by them and we will use their format.
- It will be possible to pay with credit card via Wiley-Blackwell

Reports of Working Groups, Commissions and Regional Sections

During the meeting in Uppsala in 1998, it was decided that Working Groups, Commissions, and Regional Sections should provide an annual report to the Council and that these reports should be published in the IAVS Bulletin. The WGs on "Disturbance in Boreal Forests" and the "Nomenclature Commission" have been silent the last few years. There will be some more investigation whether they will be stopped or become active again. The Executive Committee will deliberate on the future of the Nomenclature Commission. L. Mucina briefly informed about reports received so far. These will be published in the next Bulletin.

5. Publications

Report of the Chief Editors

Meelis Pärtel was nominated and accepted as a chief editor. Sandra Dias will be reappointed.

Transition to Wiley-Blackwell, Website and Contract

L. Ferguson (Wiley-Blackwell) informed Council about the journal website which will be launched by the end of October 2008. Wiley-Blackwell is currently busy with transferring manuscripts and other files from of Opulus Press. W-B will also help IAVS with the administration of its website. The Chief Editor J.B. Wilson (joined by Council) complimented President Peet, on his management of the process leading to the new publishing contract.

Bulletin

IAVS Bulletin 11 is ready and will be sent by email to all members just after the symposium in Stellenbosch.

Proposal to launch a new journal IAVS journal ("Vegetation Survey")

J. Dengler submitted a document capturing a discussion among 60-70 members of IAVS (incl. 15 members AC members) regarding possible launch of a third official journal of IAVS (working names: *Vegetation Classification & Survey* or *Vegetation Survey*) devoted to descriptive vegetation science. After extended discussion in Council about the merits of this proposal, Council accepted the proposal of L. Mucina who suggested that the existing Publication Committee be extended and should (after successful completion of the transition from Opulus to Wiley-Blackwell) concentrate on the issue of the new journal. M. Diekmann (the Publication Officer) will lead the process.

6. Annual meetings

2009 (30 May – 4 June), Chania, Crete (Greece). Panayotis Dimopoulos gave a short introduction to the upcoming meeting. Possible pre-symposium excursions will be heading to eastern Crete and to the Santorini Archipelago. Possible post-symposium excursion will be heading to the Peloponese Peninsula. The second circular will be distributed at the end of September. The general topic will read "*Vegetation Processes and Changes in a Changing World*". Laco Mucina and Valério

Pillar will advise Panayotis Dimopoulos on the composition of the main symposium topics.

2010 (possibly in April), Ensenada (Mexico). José Delgadillo gave a short introduction. Council approved the 2010 meeting in Mexico.

R. Peet briefly mentioned the suggestion made by our French colleagues willing to organize the 2011 meeting in Lyon. There was no bid for 2012 lodged at the time of the Stellenbosch meeting and a possibility of organizing a 2013 meeting in Tartu, Estonia was mentioned.

Part 2: 9 September 2008, 17.30 – 19.00 hrs

Council members present: Michael G. Barbour (US), Alessandro Chiarucci (IT), Milan Chytrý (CZ), Ulrich Deil (DE), Nikolai B. Ermakov (RU), Kazue Fujiwara (JP), Tomáš Herben (CZ), Jan Lepš (CZ), Javier J. Loidi (ES), Ladislav Mucina (ZA), Valério de Patta Pillar (BR), Franco Pedrotti (IT), Robert K. Peet (US), János Podani (HU), Joop H.J. Schaminée (NL), Nina A.C. Smits (NL), Otto Wildi (CH), J. Bastow Wilson (NZ), Martin Zobel (EE)

Other present: Liz Ferguson (Wiley-Blackwell), Jürgen Dengler (presenting information about the new journal), Meelis Pärtel (new editor), Panayotis Dimopoulos (local organisers of the Greece 2009 meeting), Kerry Woods (representing the North American Section), Jason Fridley & David Ward (editors).

Awards presentations at meeting

There will be a new Awards Committee constituted, possibly chaired by Kazue Fujiwara. The new Committee should come up with general rules for awards (criteria and prizes). In Stellenbosch we are introducing a Best Oral Presentation Award and a Best Poster Presentation Award. It was decided that the local organizing committee will choose awards, under supervision of the Executive Committee. There are also plans to establish a special committee to appoint honorary members.

7. Governance

Conducting business between meetings

Members are encouraged to make proposals for motions to Council. These proposals should be directed to the Executive Committee (conducting the business between the meetings) which needs a minimal period of two weeks to discuss a proposal by e-mail and then 2 weeks to accumulate votes from the members of Council.

Revisions of the Statutes and Bylaws

The Administration of IAVS suggests that we have to introduce new by-laws aimed at streamlining our governance. Members can make suggestions to the change statutes and by-laws at any

time. Council asked R. Peet and L. Mucina to establish a new Governance Committee to manage the process.

Committee to propose a strategic plan

There will be (some time in future) a new committee established mandated to formulate the Strategic Plan for the IAVS.

8. The Council adjourned at 19:15.

Minutes taken by Nina Smits; edited by L. Mucina & R.K. Peet

Minutes of the General Assembly of IAVS 11 September 2008, 17:15–18:30 Venue: Stellenbosch University, South Africa

1. Opening

After the traditional group photograph, the meeting was opened at about 5.15 pm by the President of IAVS (R.K. Peet). There were about 100 members attending the General Assembly. The President and Secretary-General (L. Mucina) informed the Assembly on actions taken by Council and of upcoming events. The announcement of student prize winners was postponed to the symposium dinner (the same day as Assembly). (The winners of the prizes are listed at the end of this report).

Two main subjects were announced by the President:

- (1) The resolution on biofuels as proposed in Wales was accepted by Council in a revised version (printed in IAVS Bulletin 11);
- (2) five-member Publication Committee was formed in fall 2007 to screen offers from publishing houses to publish the IAVS journals. The Committee unanimously voted in favour of accepting the proposal submitted by Wiley-Blackwell Publishers. This recommendation was accepted by the Executive Committee and formally realized July 1, 2008.

2. Report from the Council Meeting

Financial report

A short financial report was provided. The assets of the IAVS grew from 28,450 € in 2006, to 34,485 € in 2007 to 63,283 € in September 2008. The text of this report is already available in IAVS Bulletin 11.

Committees We have a group of Global Fund members (members short of resources). Use of this fund will be explored.

With more income for IAVS as a consequence of the new publishing contract, new ways of using this money for the development of IAVS will be explored. Members are invited to provide suggestions.

The President also informed the Assembly about the new Award Committee and the new journal in discussion (see the Minutes of Council).

Membership profits

IAVS-Members now profit from their membership with the reduced fee for symposia, with our journals, website information, and the IAVS Bulletin, but there could be many more benefits. The AC decided to introduce a special student fee (10 € instead of 20 €) to attract more young people (especially students) into our ranks. Several suggestions were made by the members for use income:

- stimulate research through free membership in under-represented areas;
- provide discounts on books (this will be possible with our new Publisher);
- give members privileged right of registration for symposium excursions;
- start discussion groups on the internet;
- connect working-group meetings to IAVS symposia.

3. Activities in Coming Years

The President informed the Assembly about the upcoming meetings in Greece (2009) and Mexico (2010). Panayotis Dimopoulos (organizer of the 2009 meeting) and José Delgadillo (organizer of the 2010 meeting) gave short introductions about their respective meetings.

Suggestions were sought for other meeting locations and organizers, noting that discussion has been ongoing with Russia - at least for field excursions. It was noted that excursions and annual meetings have not always been and need not be at the same venue or in the same country.

4. Other Business

The current meeting attendance was announced as 237 registered participants, from 37 countries. There were 13 young people supported by the regional Section for Southern Africa of IAVS and 7 participants by the Oppenheimer Foundation. Local organizers want to thank the sponsors and Unistel Consultus (the company which managed the daily proceedings of the meeting, registration and finances) for their support and help.

5. Closing

The meeting was closed by the President at 6.30 pm.

6. Addendum: Prizes for the Best Presentations/posters at the 51st IAVS-Meeting in Stellenbosch, South Africa:

The IAVS has awarded two Prizes for young scientists (< 35 years of age) for their outstanding work and presentation skills. The two winners were awarded an IAVS Travel Grant of € 1000 to attend either the oncoming 52nd or the 53rd IAVS symposium.

The IAVS congratulates:

Gerald Jurasinski (University of Rostock, Germany) for his oral presentation on “*Upward shift of alpine plants increases floristic similarity of mountain summits*”.

Jeff Ott (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA) for his poster presentation “*Sharpening the focus of community patterns by adjusting phylogenetic scale*”.

In addition to the above prizes, the Regional Section for Southern Africa of the IAVS awarded two journal subscriptions to outstanding young scientists (< 35 years of age) of the SADC region.

The two winners were:

Peter le Roux (Stellenbosch University, South Africa) in the Category Best SADC Presentation for his presentation on “*Rapid altitudinal range expansion and the formation of no-analog communities in response to warming*”.

Justine Nyaga (SANBI, South Africa) in the Category Best SADC Poster for presentation “*Impacts of fog and dew on soil moisture, respiration and nutrients recycling*”.

Honourable Mentions:

Marina Semchenko (University of Tartu, Estonia) for the oral presentation “*Foraging for space by plant roots: a comparative study of grasses from contrasting habitats*”.

Kuo-Jung Chao (University of National Taiwan University, Taiwan) for the oral presentation “*Vegetation of the lowland tropical rainforests in Taiwan*”.

Forbes Boyle (University of North Carolina, USA) for the poster presentation “*Using high-quality vegetation plot datasets to restore ecosystems: an example from the Coastal Plain of the Southeastern US*”.

Desale Okubamichael (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa) for the poster presentation “*Host specificity and bird dispersal in the parasitic mistletoe, *Tapinanthus natalitius* (Loranthaceae)*”.

Report by the Publication Officer of the IAVS

Reporting Period: July 2007-August 2008

Submitted to the Advisory Council Meeting at the 51st Symposium of the IAVS, Stellenbosch, September 2008

This report is concerned with the publication activities of the IAVS in 2007 (and first half of 2008), mainly relating to the two journals *Journal of Vegetation Science* and *Applied Vegetation Science*.

Subscriptions

Journal of Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electron -ically	P + E	Paper	Electron -ically	P + E
2006	267	19	28	303	106	58
2007	274	46	24	226	221	66

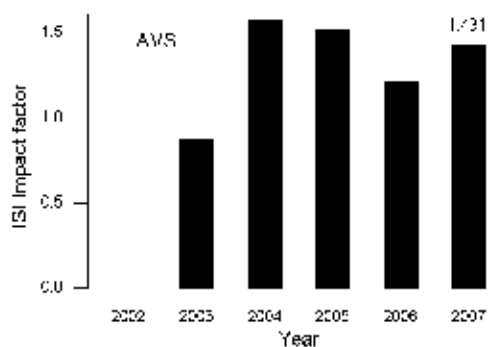
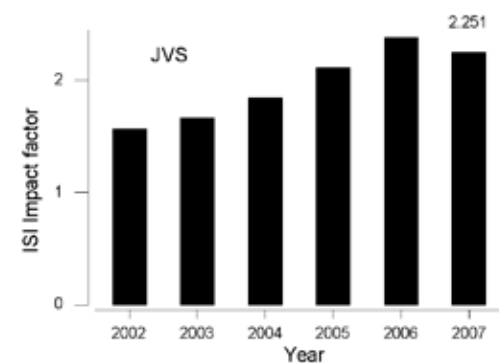
After a period with a declining number of subscriptions (but partly due to a “cleaning” of subscriber lists of non-paying institutions / private persons), subscriptions have stabilized. As with other journals there is a clear trend towards larger proportions of electronic and electronic & paper subscriptions.

Applied Vegetation Science

	Libraries			Private		
	Paper	Electron -ically	P + E	Paper	Electron -ically	P + E
2006	91	10	9	209	81	18
2007	98	23	9	298	110	35

What was said about *JVS* regarding a larger proportion of electronic subscriptions is also true for *AVS*. While the number of institutional subscriptions in 2007 has only been somewhat higher than in 2006, private subscriptions have increased considerably.

Impact factors



From 2002-2006, the ISI impact factor for *JVS* has steadily increased. For 2007, there is a slight drop to 2.251, but in general the IF for the journal has stabilized on a relatively high level. Although this gives *JVS* a position among the

better journals within the fields of *Ecology* and *Plant Sciences*, it cannot be regarded a top journal in terms of ISI ranking. It has been repeatedly discussed among IAVS council members and editors & associate editors of the journal why some other ecological journals have seen much stronger increases in their IF, and how to improve the situation for *JVS* in the near future. The IF for *AVS* has in contrast slightly increased in 2007 compared to 2006, reaching about the level the journal had the two previous years. The changes in IF for both journals appear to reflect some kind of natural variation, without any obvious trend for a true increase or decrease.

Printed papers, rejection rates and publication queue

Journal of Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, book reviews, etc.)
February 2007	152	15 (+2)
April 2007	160	17
June 2007	144	15 (+3)
August 2007	156	16 (+1)
October 2007	158	17 (+1)
December 2007	156	14 (+3)
Sum 2007	926	94 (+10)
Sum 2006	844	83 (+9)

After having been very low in 2005 and also relatively low in 2006, the number of published papers in *JVS* in 2007 was 94, thus back at about the average shown over most years. The larger number of papers is also reflected in a much higher number of printed pages in 2007 compared with 2006 and especially 2005. Thus, the unfortunate situation of the two previous years that, given the number of pages planned to be filled, too few manuscripts were accepted relative to the number of submitted manuscripts, was no longer present in 2007.

Applied Vegetation Science

Issue	No. of Pages	No. of research papers (+ forum papers, editorials, short communications, etc.)
April 2007	150	14 (+2)
August 2007	148	17
December 2007	162	17
Sum 2007	460	48 (+2)
Sum 2006	316	32 (+2)

Since *AVS* has got an impact factor and increased its reputation of being an important journal for applied plant and vegetation ecology, more and more manuscripts have been submitted to *AVS*. To avoid a long cue of accepted papers

Reporting Period: July 2007-August 2008

waiting for publication, and in line with the general wish of the Association and the editors to expand the publication volume of *AVS*, the number of issues was increased from 2 to 3. Accordingly, the number of pages and papers published went up by about 50% compared to 2006. This will hopefully help to establish the journal as a full alternative to *JVS* that is still regarded as more important because of its higher IF and visibility (due to its bimonthly appearance).

IAVS Bulletins

The IAVS Bulletin No. 10 was published in 2006. The newsletter includes an opening address of the then Secretary-General Joop Schaminée, notes from the Administrator Nina Smits including a short Financial Report, the Report by the IAVS Publication Officer for the year 2005, the Report by the Chair of the Editors of the IAVS journals for the year 2006, the minutes of the IAVS Council meeting in Lisbon in 2005, and some reports by representatives of working groups, Commissions and Regional sections. It also gives short introductions to the forthcoming symposia in Palmerston North (New Zealand) in February 2007, in Swansea (UK) in July 2007, and in Stellenbosch (South Africa) in September 2008. The Bulletin concludes with a list of IAVS members to be elected for the new Council acting from 2007-2011.

Financial Report

Opulus Press has recently sent in a financial report for the year 2007. However, the income and expenses reported in this document appear not to be fully consistent with the expectations that the association had based on information earlier provided by the publisher. A discussion between Opulus Press and members of the EC is going on to clarify the discrepancies.

Future publication of *JVS* and *AVS*

At the annual IAVS meeting in Palmerston North in February 2007 it was decided (which was confirmed later by a ballot vote of the Advisory Council) to terminate the publishing contract between IAVS and Opulus Press. The reasons for this decision were reported in earlier documents. During 2007 the association asked several publishing firms (Allen Press, Wiley-Blackwell, Elsevier, Opulus, Springer) to send in proposals for the future publication of the journals *JVS* and *AVS*. At the IAVS symposium in Swansea the Publications Committee was formed (consisting of Robert Peet, Alessandro Chiarucci, Martin Zobel, Helge Bruelheide and Martin Diekmann). This group is in charge for discussing and negotiating with the above firms, and to finally suggest a contract with a future publisher of the journals to the Executive Committee. The decision will be taken in 2008, and a detailed description of the process of decision will be given in the publication report for the year 2008.

Prof. Martin Diekmann, Publication Officer of IAVS

Susan Wiser, Nick Spenser, and Bob Peet have organized on behalf of the IAVS Ecoinformatics Working Group an initiative to establish an international exchange standard for vegetation plot data. The initial meeting was held 24-27 April, 2007 at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center in Durham, North Carolina, USA. A broadly international team of approximately 14 persons was invited. The IAVS Working Group was represented by Robert Peet, Susan Wiser, Stephan Hennekens, Martin Kleikamp, and Miquel de Cáceres. Details are available at:

<http://www.bio.unc.edu/faculty/peet/vegdata/nescient2007.htm>

After the meeting Martin Kleikamp and Miquel de Cáceres developed draft XML schemas and these were shared with a core group that also included Jerry Cooper, Michael Lee, Matt Jones, Robert Peet, Nick Spenser, and Susan Wiser. A follow-up meeting to further develop the emerging consensus schema was held June 23-26 2008, again at NESCent with Martin, Miquel, Nick and Bob participating. Subsequently draft versions of the proposed schema have been circulated. Nick Spenser intends to present this project to TDWG (the Biodiversity Information Standards organization) at its meeting in Perth in October 2008. The intent will be to make this activity an official TDWG Interest Group, closely aligned with the Observations Group, so that the standards developed will have more broad-based, international acceptance and compatibility. We hope the resultant exchange standard will be endorsed and adopted by both TDWG and IAVS, and will facilitate the rapid development of vegetation plot data sharing internationally.

North American plant ecology has been lagging significantly behind European plant ecology in the compilation of plant traits. Last year Robert Peet endorsed on behalf of the Ecoinformatics Working Group a research coordination network proposal to the US NSF specifically to develop a trait database for North American plant taxa. The proposal has been funded and the first formal meeting was held at Columbia University in New York City in December 2007. IAVS members participating in TraitNet include Scott Collins, Sandra Diaz, Ingolf Kuehn, and Robert Peet.

A new working group has been established at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, California to work on a project titled "Developing an integrated botanical information network to investigate the ecological impacts of global climate change on plant biodiversity. This group, led by Brain Enquist and co-directed by Rich Condit, Robert Peet, and Brad Boyle seeks to build on the progress made in merging large plot databases and plant occurrence databases represented by projects like VegBank, Salvias, and the CTFS tropical plot network.

**Respectfully submitted,
Robert K. Peet**

IAVS European Vegetation Survey

Reporting Period: May 2008-August 2008

The 17th Workshop of the European Vegetation Survey was held at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic (1-5 May 2008), by kind invitation of Dr Milan Chytrý. There were over 200 participants, by far the highest attendance ever, with a record 32 countries represented, including large contingents from Russia and Ukraine, and from Ireland, delegates from Taiwan and for the first time a delegate from Canada.

The central theme was *“Using phytosociological data to address ecological questions”* with sessions on patterns and processes in woodlands & scrub, grassland diversity and vegetation change. There were also sessions on models of species diversity along gradients and at large scale, on distribution patterns and models, on the effects of invasive species, on concepts & methods of vegetation survey and progress in national vegetation survey programmes. Altogether, there were 42 papers and also 97 posters, presented in three sessions. Pre-Workshop JUICE courses attracted many participants at both the elementary and advanced levels.

The mid-workshop excursion was to the Děvín-Kotel-Soutěska National Nature Reserve and Svatý kopeček in the Pavlov Hills & Pouzdřany Steppe, with dry grasslands and forests. The post-workshop excursion was to the forests of the Podyjí National Park and the grasslands and heaths around the villages of Popice and Havraníky. There was also an excursion for accompanying persons.

In the EVS Business Meeting, delegates noted with great pleasure the publication this last year of the first volume of *“Vegetace České republiky”* (Vegetation of the Czech Republic, Grassland & Heath Vegetation) and the 4th volume of *“Rastlinné spoločenstvá Slovenska”* (Vegetation of Slovakia: High Mountain Vegetation). Dr Chytrý summarised the possibilities for publication of the papers presented at the workshop. There was also an update on the revision of the European Checklist of High-Rank Syntaxa from Professor Laco Mucina and news of the possible new journal for larger papers on vegetation classification from Dr Jürgen Dengler.

The participants thanked Dr Chytrý and his team for the excellent organisation of the workshop, the stimulating programme and the great Czech welcome, in both the scientific exchanges and the social interaction during the sessions and at the barbecue in the University Botanic Garden.

The 18th Workshop will be held at the Orto Botanico in Rome, from 25-28 March, 2009 and Professor Francesco Spada, Emiliano Agrillo and Laura Casella presented an outline of its possible organisation and cost. The proposed theme will be *“Thermophilous Vegetation”* with opportunities for papers on patterns and processes in relation to climate, eco-physiological studies of temperature effects and the impacts of global change on vegetation. The subsidiary theme will be *“What is the meaning of ‘optimal condition’ of vegetation and habitats (as in the Habitats Directive)”*. There will be a post-workshop excursion from 30 March – 2 April across Italy to the Gargano region of northern Puglia. For the 19th

Workshop in 2010, Dr János Csiky invited the EVS to Pécs in Hungary, the European Capital of Culture for that year, with a probable date in late April.

Submitted by: Professor John Rodwell, Lancaster, United Kingdom

Email: johnrodwell@tiscali.co.uk

IAVS Regional Section on Pacific Island

Reporting Period: May 2008-August 2008

PABITRA, the Pacific-Asia Biodiversity Transect Network, celebrated its first 10 years of successful Pacific Island conservation research and teaching activity at the 21st Pacific Science Congress in Okinawa in June 2007. PABITRA became established in 1997 in Fiji through a workshop guided by Dieter Mueller-Dombois and Kanehiro Kitayama. Following that we had field workshops on biodiversity assessment with Pacific Islanders in Fiji 2002, Western Samoa 2003, and Palau 2007. During these field workshops we tested an emerging interdisciplinary methodology, which has become published in a 13 chapter book entitled *“Biodiversity Assessment in Tropical Island Ecosystems: PABITRA Manual for Interactive Ecology and Management”* edited by D. Mueller-Dombois, K.W. Bridges, and Curtis Daehler, Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, 2008.

PABITRA sessions were held during former IAVS meetings, notably in Nagano 2000 and Honolulu 2004. The task of international coordinator was transferred to Dr. Curtis Daehler in Okinawa June 2007. A new proposal is underway to run the next PABITRA workshop in the Cook Islands. More information on our website www.botany.hawaii/pabitra

With Aloha from Hawai`i, Dieter Mueller-Dombois

Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) Working Group of the IAVS

The CBVM goal is to provide a common international framework for understanding the boreal region. Currently, various maps already exist of the boreal biome, but they do not rely on a unified international method for classifying and mapping boreal vegetation. By recognizing the boreal region as a single geo-ecosystem with a common set of cultural, political and economic issues, the CBVM will be the first detailed vegetation map of the entire global biome. Such a map is needed for a wide variety of purposes related to resource development, land-use planning, studies of boreal biota and biodiversity, education, anticipated global changes and human interaction. A common legend and language for describing boreal ecosystems is essential for answering questions at a global scale. Boreal forests are particularly appropriate for unified classification because of their high level of floristic, physiognomic and syntaxonomic similarity

across the entire biome. A circumboreal vegetation map will have numerous other application uses for boreal scientists and managers such as impact studies on wildlife and feedback mechanisms in models or increased emission of greenhouse gases. The CBVM will also contribute to global efforts to improve understanding and communication with policy-makers.

A secondary goal is to make the map compatible with the Circumpolar Arctic Vegetation Map (CAVM, scale 1:7,500,000) to the north. Linking these two global-scale maps is necessary because very few issues relevant to the Arctic or the boreal regions stop at tree line. For example, most rivers flowing into the Arctic Ocean have their origin far to the south of the tree line. Climate and vegetation-change models, analysis of animal migrations, roads and industrial developments, and arctic-human interaction all require maps that include both the Arctic tundra and boreal forest regions.

The tasks listed above are directly related to activities of the International Association for Vegetation Science:

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

Presentations and discussions of these diverse theoretical scientific problems of Vegetation Science related to CBVM will be of great interest for the international society of phytosociologists, plant ecologists and specialists on vegetation mapping.

Toward these goals we held an international workshop

in Helsinki, Finland, during the period November 3-6, 2008, to develop a strategy to map the vegetation of the circumboreal zone. 50 vegetation scientists from 10 northern countries attended. A workshop summary follows with our resolution; outline of the project objectives; organizational chart; composition of mapping teams that includes thematic, remote sensing, biogeoclimatic, funding, regional and subregional divisions; and process and timeline.

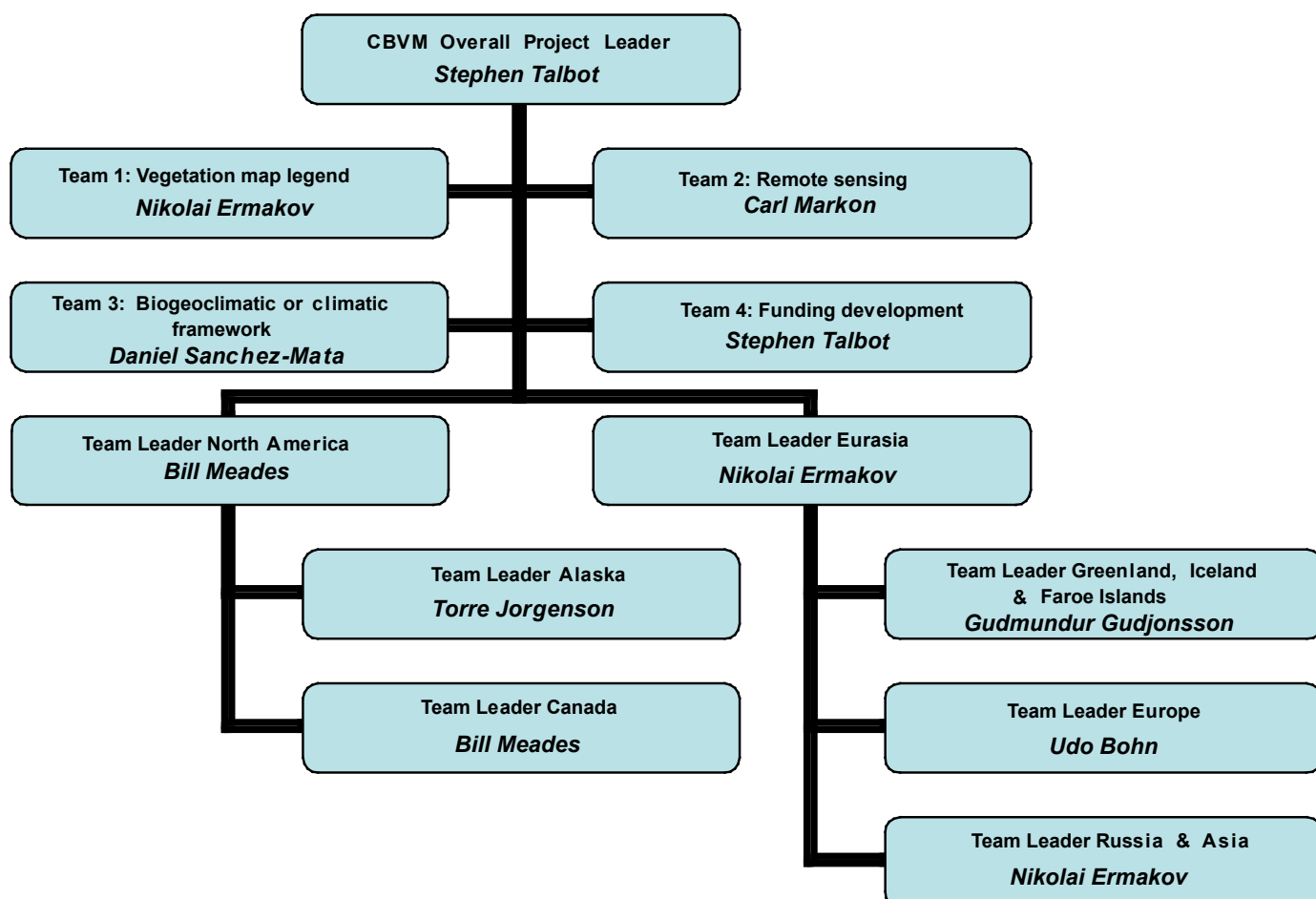
Resolution from the Circumboreal Vegetation Mapping (CBVM) Workshop

Helsinki, Finland November 3-6, 2008

Whereas the «Boreal Biome» is one global geo-ecosystem with a common set of cultural, political, nature conservation and economic issues, and whereas it is under pressure from human influence and climate change, it is of primary importance: 1) to better express the nature and diversity of the ecosystems adapted to cold climate; 2) to depict their distribution and their extent; 3) to better know and protect this biome that is also the home of indigenous people; and 4) to promote the sustainable use of its natural resources; let it be resolved to:

- a) Develop a Circumboreal Vegetation Map (CBVM) at a scale of 1:7 500 000, depicting the nature and the boundaries of boreal vegetation south of the arctic zone by using recent and traditional vegetation classification and maps, remote sensing and GIS tools, and a legend that is accepted by the international community of vegetation scientists.
- b) Publish and present the Circumboreal Vegetation Map with the ancillary information developed for the project to the international scientific community and other potential users.
- c) Publish the mapping methods and descriptions of the mapping units, including vegetation structure, composition, dynamics, and ecological context.
- d) Achieve goals a) to c) by harmonizing concepts in a spirit of international collaboration among and between regional mapping teams.
- e) That this CBVM group will reconvene in 2010 for a workshop in Russia to accept the mapping legend, biogeoclimatic framework, mapping tools, and prototype maps to be presented by thematic teams.

CBVM Organizational Chart



CBVM Thematic Team Composition

Team 1: Vegetation map legend

Objectives: Uniform Classification units, potential vegetation concept, legend prototypes

Team leader: Nikolai Ermakov

Participants: Klaus Dierssen, Annika Hofgaard, Udo Bohn, Jean-Pierre Saucier

Subgroup on particular vegetation: alpine vegetation, mires and wetlands, flood plains, maritime heath, coastal vegetation

Subgroup Leader: Klaus Dierssen

Participants: Kazue Fujiwara, Del Meidinger, Hans Tommervik, Fred J.A. Daniels, Raimo Heikkilä, Valentina Neshataeva, Stephen Talbot, Gudmundur Gudjonsson, Anna-Maria Fosaa, Elena Golubeva, Olga Galanina, Yukito Nakamura, Bill Meades, Kharuk Viacheslav

Deadlines

Deadline 1: Legend prototype for December 2009

Deadline 2: Legend test for December 2010

Team 2: Remote sensing

Objectives: Thematic maps, map projection, map scale and resolution, remote sensing products

Team leader: Carl Markon

Participants: Sergei Bartlev, Peter Potapov, Ekaterina Shipigina, Gareth Reeds, Olga Tutubalina, Kelly Dolan

Deadline: December 2010

Team 3: Biogeoclimatic or climatic framework

Objectives: Essential climatic indices, boreal definition, extent of the boreal

Team leader: Daniel Sanchez-Mata

Participants: Torre Jorgenson, Ken Baldwin, Pavel Krestov, Steve Cumming, Galina Ogureeva, Elgene Box, Teuvo Ahti

Deadline: December 2010

Team 4: Funding development

Objectives: Obtain funding for the next workshop and the project

Team leader: Stephen Talbot

Participants: Bill Meades

Deadline: December 2010

CBVM Regional Team Composition

North America Team

Objectives: Mapping North America (Alaska, Canada, Saint-Pierre et Miquelon)

Team leader: Bill Meades

- Participants: To be determined

Alaska Subregion

- Subregion leader: Torre Jorgenson
- Participants : To be determined

Canada Subregion

- Subregion leader: Bill Meades

- Participants: Ken Baldwin and others to be determined

Deadlines

Deadline 1: International correlation excursion in summer 2012

Deadline 2: Regional maps in May 2013

Eurasia Team

Objectives: Mapping Eurasia (Greenland, Iceland and Faroe Islands, Europe, Russia and Asia)

Team leader: Nikolai Ermakov

- Participants: To be determined

Greenland, Iceland & Faroe Islands Subregion

- Subregion leader: Gudmundur Gudjonsson
- Participants: To be determined

Europe (Scandinavia and Finland) Subregion

- Subregion leader: Udo Bohn
- Participants: To be determined

Russia & Asia Subregion

- Subregion leader: Nikolai Ermakov
- Participants: To be determined

Deadlines

Deadline 1: International correlation excursion in summer 2011 and 2012

Deadline 2: Regional maps in May 2013

CBVM Process and Timeline

Deadline	Team	Deliverable	Timeline
December 2009	Thematic team 1	Preliminary legend	1 year
	Thematic team 2	Base map definition and base image product	
	Thematic team 4	Funding development for next workshop	
December 2010	Thematic team 1	Legend of the vegetation map	2 years
	Thematic team 3	Biogeoclimatic or climatic framework	
	Regional teams	Map prototype with preliminary legend	
May 2011	Russia (Vladivostok?)	2nd CBVM Workshop for adoption of the thematic teams recommendations	2 ½ years
Summer 2012		International correlation excursions according expressed needs	3 ½ years
	Alaska ?	Anchorage IAVS meeting 2012 ?	
May 2013		Regional team mapping along the principles from the second workshop	4 ½ years
December 2014	Integration team	Integrating regional maps with validation by regional teams	6 years
May 2015	Where? Hosts?	3rd CBVM Workshop for delivery of the CBVM map	6 ½ years
May 2016	Integration team	CBVM Map publication	7 6 months
	Regional teams	CBVM Map description	

CBVM Timeline Flowchart

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 Legend development								
2 Biogeoclimatic framework								
3 Base image products								
4 Regional team prototypes								
5 2nd CBVM workshop (decision)								
6 Regional teams mapping								
7 International correlation excursions								
8 Integration team mapping								
9 3rd CBVM workshop (results)								
10 CBVM map publication								
11 CBVM map description								
IAVS meetings								
	Greece	Mexico	Lyon	Anchorage?				
Other international meetings (special sessions for CBVM)								
	Iceland							

CBVM Leadership

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Wiley-Blackwell & IAVS Publishing Partnership

As of January 2009, Wiley-Blackwell assumed publishing responsibility for the *Journal of Vegetation Science* and also *Applied Vegetation Science* on behalf of the International Association for Vegetation Science. This move to Wiley-Blackwell will signify a number of changes for the journals, including a new online platform for the journals and the availability of fully peer-reviewed articles ahead of full issue compilation.

Both journals will be available online from 2009 on the Wiley InterScience platform, which provides users with full title, abstract and keyword search functionality. InterScience

users are also able to register for email table of contents alerts from both of the journals, which offers a simple solution to help keep you up to date with the most recent research published in vegetation science.

Visit the new journal homepages for further details:

Journal of Vegetation Science – www.blackwellpublishing.com/jvs

Applied Vegetation Science – www.blackwellpublishing.com/avsc

In addition to publishing the IAVS Journals Wiley-Blackwell are offering a number of non-publishing services, including the design and hosting of a new website for the Association, and management of the IAVS membership database. Members can now join the society online by visiting the Journal homepages (above) and clicking on 'Membership' link on the left-hand panel.

The newly designed IAVS website can be viewed at www.iavs.org – although the site is already live there are a number of additional features that will be appearing on the site over the coming months, including options to access a 'member-only' area and link through to Journal content. In due course, we hope to fully integrate the online renewal process with the newly designed website so that members can renew, update their personal details, contact other members, and access Journal content via one site.

We welcome the new partnership between the IAVS and Wiley-Blackwell and are confident that it will lead to great improvements both in the quality and delivery of IAVS journal content and the overall service we offer IAVS members.

For more information on Wiley Blackwell publications please visit www.blackwellpublishing.com/



53rd IAVS Symposium

First Circular

April 18 – 23, 2010

Ensenada, Baja California, México

Changing gradients in vegetation and the environment

Organizers:

Biodiversity Research Group, Faculty of Science
Autonomous University of Baja California
International Association for Vegetation Science



Dates

Dates for the meeting will begin with Sunday April 18 to Friday 23, 2010. Sunday will be a half-day, and will include the start of registration and a welcoming reception in the early evening. Friday will likely be a half-day, ending with an open meeting of the IAVS Council.

Symposium location

The symposium will be held in the city of Ensenada, Baja California State (México). Ensenada is a city and port, and is the biggest municipality in the world. We have two location options: Centro Cultural Rivera (heart of the Ensenada) and Hotel Marina-Coral (near to the Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, www.uabc.mx, and the Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y de Educación Superior de Ensenada, www.cicese.mx).

Scientific Program

The main theme of the symposium will be “*Changing gradients*

in vegetation and the environment”. We invite you to submit an abstract for a paper on a subject related to these topics. Papers may be presented orally or as posters. The second circular will contain more details on the topics and sub-topics of the Symposium, as well as details concerning the submission of abstracts.

Plenary Speakers

Topics include fire ecology, vegetation restoration, networks of natural areas managed by various NGOs or agencies, the ecological state of deserts in the Americas or throughout the world.

Excursions

Excursion fee (transportation, accommodations and meals) in the Second Circular or earlier.

Pre-Symposium excursion (April 12-17, 2010)

Southern California: a) focusing on the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts, (3-4 days), b) focusing on a west-to-east transect from coastal scrub to subalpine woodland and eastside rain shadow (3 days), and c) trip by boat to the Channel Islands (2-3 days).

Mid-Symposium excursions (April 21, 2010)

Three or four options with different landscapes and vegetation types, combined with cultural and ethnobotanical aspects. *Cost of the Mid-Symposium excursion is included in the Symposium fee.*

Post-Symposium excursion (April 24- May 1, 2010)

- North-to-south transect of the entire Baja California Peninsula (7 or 8 days).
- Pinacate Biosphere Reserve in the state of Sonora (4 days).
- Conifer forests of Sierra San Pedro Mártir (altitude 2000-2900 m) (camping 4 days).
- Isla Guadalupe, an oceanic Pacific island (by plane, 3-4 days).

Other Activities

Several cultural and gastronomic activities will be offered in the program.

Accommodation

Several large hotels exist in the center of Ensenada with room rates that range from US\$30 to \$150 per room per night. This location also offers immediate access to a variety of restaurants, entertainment, and cultural events. Such a downtown location also means that buses will not be needed to transport attendees back and forth from the north of town

to the city center. All venues will be within several blocks of each other.

Detailed information on hotel prices and a list of hotels to be reserved for the Symposium will be available in the second circular. In advance, the followings links are from some hotel in Ensenada:

- Coral y Marina: <http://hotelcoral.com>
- Corona: <http://www.hotelcorona.com.mx>
- Rey Sol: <http://www.ensenadaexperience.com/PosadaElReySol/>
- El Cid: <http://www.hotelelcid.com.mx>
- Punta Morro: <http://www.punta-morro.com>
- Las Rosas: <http://www.lasrosas.com>
- Hotel Cortez: <http://www.bajainn.com>
- Hotel Santo Tomas: <http://www.bajainn.com>
- Misión Santa Isabel: http://www.baja.com/ENSENADA/lodging/santa_isabel/

Travel

The city of Ensenada, just 100 km north from the international border with USA and Tijuana, don't have international airport, so the assisting have two options.

- Tijuana International Airport (México)**, connections around the world with Mexico City (e.g. Tijuana to/from China and Japan by Aereomexico member of Skyteam group).
- San Diego International Airport (USA)**: With many international connections Individuals must then walk across the border.

The Symposium Committee will provide bus transportation from the airport to the border, where everyone will cross as pedestrians, to then board other buses to be taken to Ensenada. Buses and greeters will be in position for Sunday, Monday, Thursday, and Friday. Attendees flying directly to Tijuana International Airport (via Mexico City) will also be directed to these buses.

Preliminary Programme

April 12-17 (MO-SA): Pre-Symposium excursions

April 18 (SU): Registration, Council meeting, opening ceremony, and reception.

April 19- 20 & 22- 23 (MO, TU, TH & FR): Plenary and parallel sessions

April 21 (WE): Mid-Symposium excursions

April 23 (TH): Closing plenary sessions, General Assembly & Symposium dinner.

April 24 (SA): Departure of participants and start of the post-symposium excursions.

Registration fee (approximate):

The fee will include free transportation from San Diego and airports to and from the meeting. A special, low fee will be

charged students and applied to colleagues who require some financial assistance. **The fee structure will be communicated later (check regularly the www.iavs.org/)**

Language

The Symposium language will be English.

Book Sales

There will be books on display as well as purchase center available, featuring books from both US and Mexican publishers such as UC Press, California Native Plant Society, Stanford Press, Sunbelt Press, Timber Press, Sociedad Botánica de México, Sociedad de Cactaceas y Suculentas de México, Instituto de Ecología, AC, Comisión Nacional para el Uso y Conocimiento de la Biodiversidad, Instituto Nacional de Ecología and Universidad Nacional Autonoma de México.

National Organizing Committee (NOC)

- Dr. Jose Delgadillo Rodriguez (Chair), Biodiversity Research Group, Faculty of Science, UABC.
- Dr. Steve Bullock (CICESE), Vice chair, in Ensenada, Conservation Biology, CICESE, Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico
- Dr. Jon P. Rebman, San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) in San Diego, California, USA.
- Dr. José Luis León de la Luz, Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste (CIBNOR), La Paz, Baja California, Sur.
- Dr. John O'Leary (for Southern California activities), San Diego State University, San Diego, California.
- Dr. Gorgonio Ruiz Campos (Biodiversity Research Group, Faculty of Science, UABC.
- Prof. Ernesto Campos Gonzalez (Biodiversity Research Group, Faculty of Science, UABC.
- Dr. Michael Barbour, will serve as liaison between IAVS Council and the Organizing Committee.
- IAVS Local Organizing Committee in the Faculty of Science.

Scientific Committee

The Program Committee nominated Exequiel Ezcurra as Chair of the Scientific Committee. He is currently Professor and Director of the UCMEXUS research program at UC Riverside. The list of other members was shortened from the 2008 meeting list including:

- Laura Arriaga (México)
- Michael Austin (Australia)
- Carlo Blasi (Italy)
- Michael Barbour (USA)
- Elgene Box (USA)
- Ulrich Deil (Germany)
- Sandra Diaz (Argentina)
- Todd Keeler-Wolf (USA)

- Jon Keeley (USA)
- John O’Leary (USA)
- Gloria Montenegro (Chile)
- Ladislav Mucina (Australia)
- Manuel Peinado (Spain)
- Daniel Sánchez-Mata (Spain)
- Ayzik Solomeshch (Russia)
- Alfonso Valiente (México)

IAVS International Advisory Committee

- Robert Peet, US, President
- Ladislav Mucina, AU, Secretary-General
- Martin Diekmann, DE, Vice-President
- Javier Loidi, SP, Vice-President
- Valério Pillar, BR, Vice-President
- Joop Schaminée, NL, Vice-President
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- Erwin Bergmeier, DE
- Elgene Box, US
- Helge Bruelheide, DE
- Milan Chytrý, CZ
- Ulrich Deil, DE
- Jason Fridley, US
- Sandro Pignatti, IT
- Thomas Raus, DE
- John S. Rodwell, UK
- Nina Smits, NL
- Karle Sýkora, NL

Deadlines: will be communicated later (check regularly the www.iavs.org)

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Interesting Web Links

México

Autonomous University of Baja California: www.uabc.mx
 National Science and Technology Commission: www.conacyt.mx

National Biodiversity Commission: www.conabio.gob.mx

National Forestry Commission: www.conafor.gob.mx

National Protected Natural Areas Commission: www.conanp.gob.mx

Ministry of Natural Resources: www.semarnat.gob.mx

National Institute of Ecology: www.ine.gob.mx

National Institute of Geography and Statistics: www.inegi.gob.mx

State of Baja California: www.baja.gob.mx

State of Baja California Sur: www.bcs.gob.mx

City of Ensenada: www.ensenada.gob.mx

City Tijuana: www.tijuana.gob.mx

Mexican Botanical Society: www.socbot.org.mx

Mexican cactus Society: www.mexican.cactus-society.org/

Proesteros: <http://proesteros.cicese.mx/>

Terra Peninsular: www.terrapeninsular.org/

Mexico Tourist: www.visitmexico.com/wb2/

Baja California Tourist: www.descubrebajacalifornia.com/

Baja California Sur Tourist: www.bcs.gob.mx/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=18&Itemid=45

www.bcs.gob.mx/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=18&Itemid=45

California (USA)

The Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org/

Conservation Biology Institute: www.consbio.org/

Flora of California, University of Berkeley: www.calflora.org

San Diego Natural History Museum: www.sdnhm.org

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: www.rsbg.org

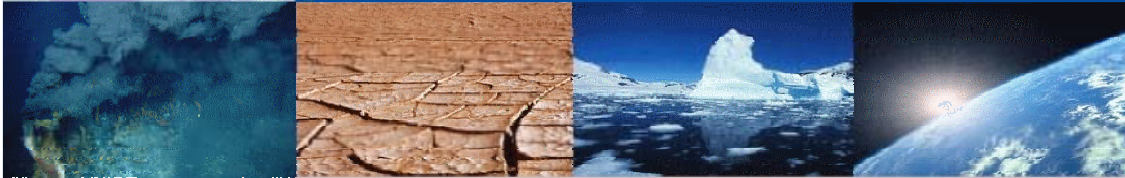
Huntington Botanical Garden: www.huntington.org

California Native Plant Society: www.cnps.org

San Diego State University: www.sdsu.edu

Santa Barbara Botanical Garden: www.sbbg.org

CAREX Databases of experts, projects and infrastructures



Rationale, scope and use

*A unique networking platform for the scientific
community involved in research on life in extreme environments*

www.carex-eu.org/databases.html

A networking tool

The CAREX project (Coordination Action for Research Activities on life in Extreme Environments) has developed three databases gathering and making available information on **international experts, research and technology development projects** as well as **research infrastructures** in the field of research on life in extreme environments.

These databases are easy-to-use, open collaborative tools at the disposal of the scientific community having an interest on research in life in extreme environments. The databases have been structured in order to allow the **registration of specific profiles** and to perform **detailed targeted search** using well-defined criteria.

Database of Experts	Database of Projects	Database of Infrastructures and Equipments
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contact details- Type of organism studied- Environment(s) of interest- Type of stress studied- Keywords- Major publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Type of project- Start/end date- Type of organism studied- Environment(s) of interest- Type of stress studied- Info/data gathered- Contact details	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Type of infrastructure- Environment(s) of relevance- Measurements made- Contact details

Objectives

These platforms are designed to allow scientists to find specific expertise, research partners, information on research projects or on the research capacity available in Europe. The main objectives of the CAREX databases are:

- To provide the opportunity for more interactions and networking among the European and international scientific community involved in research on life in extreme environments (experts database)
- To gather and provide detailed information on national, European and international research projects focussed on life in extreme environments (projects database)
- To gather and make available detailed information on life in extreme environments-related research equipments and infrastructures available at the European and international level (database of research infrastructures and equipments database)
- To identify the current status of research on life in extreme environment research within Europe and develop an integrated assessment of European capability and current shortcomings in the field of Life in extreme environments research. (Reports drawn from the information gathered in the databases).

Scope

In the context of the use of the databases, '**research on life in extreme environments**' should be understood as scientific, technology or infrastructure development activities relevant to:

I- The following organisms:

Microbes - Eukaryotes	Plants - Terrestrial
Microbes - Prokaryotes	Plants - Aquatic
Viruses	Animals - invertebrates
Fungi	Animals - vertebrates
Lichens	

2- Evolving in one or more of the following environments:

Terrestrial (non polar)

Hot springs
High altitude and glacier
Hot regions and deserts
Acidic environments
Alkaline environments
Polluted areas
Subsurface

Marine (non polar)

Deep sea
Hydrothermal vents
Reducing/anoxic
Hypersaline environments
Sub seafloor

Polar

Polar regions
Polar Seas
Ice shelves
Subglacial environments

Space

Planetary bodies
Space vessels/space environment

3- Stressed by one or more of the following parameters:

Temperature	Chemicals and pollutants
Pressure	Available level of energy
pH	ionising radiation
Dryness	non-ionising radiation
Salt concentration	visible light
Gaseous concentration	

Registration

To register as an expert, to enter information on a project or on an equipment is simple and takes around 10 minutes. The registration form allows detailing the scope of expertise or activity of an entry using pre-defined criteria (tick boxes) and provides free text areas. Once registered, each entry will be validated by CAREX and will then be available for public search. Information is publicly available; however, **all the necessary measures have been taken to prevent unauthorised collection of email and spamming** (email addresses are displayed only after a search form is filled and submitted and an entry selected, spambots are not able to achieve this procedure).

When registering as an expert, the second part of the registration form proposes scientists to provide additional information on their current experience and activities. **Being treated anonymously, this information will not be publicly available (it will not appear in the search results).** It will be analysed and integrated into a report aimed at describing the demography of European scientists involved in research on life in extreme environments.

In accordance with European directives and with French Law No. 78-17 of January 1978 on information processing, electronic files and civil liberties any registered expert or point of contact have a right to access and update the personal information, ask for it to be modified, deleted etc.

To register as an expert, to enter information on a project or equipment:

www.carex-eu.org/databases

Search

The search facility proposes the various pre-defined criteria (e.g. environment of interest, type of organism studied) as well as a free text search. Search results are displayed in tabular form, indicating entries corresponding to a specific request; individual pages are linked to the table of results.

To search in our databases: www.carex-eu.org/databases

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CAREX

Coordination Action for Research Activities on life in Extreme Environments

CAREX is a FP7 Coordination Action funded for three years (2008 to 2010). This project tackles the issues of enhancing coordination of life in extreme environments research in Europe by providing networking and exchange of knowledge opportunities to the scientific community and by developing a strategic European research agenda in the field.

In its developments, CAREX intends to involve the field of research on life in extreme environments. CAREX network includes 57 European and non-European partners from 23 countries.

CAREX is a truly interdisciplinary initiative as its approach to life in extreme environment research covers microbes, plants and animals evolving in various marine, polar, terrestrial extreme environments as well as outer space.

CAREX Main Objectives

- > Establish interactions, coordinate activities and promote a community identity.
- > Identify the current status of life in extreme environments research within Europe.
- > Furthering the scientific knowledge of life in extreme environments on key issues.
- > Identify the priorities for future life in extreme environments research within Europe.
- > Identify the environment-specific technological challenges and infrastructure necessary to support life in extreme environments research priorities.
- > Harmonise protocols and approaches used in life in extreme environments research and promote knowledge transfer across the community.
- > Promote the development of young career scientists.
- > Establish an interactive information hub to support and develop a dynamic European community.

CAREX Key Actions

> Scientific Priority setting

CAREX high level scientific workshops addresses the issues of Model Ecosystems, Technology and Infrastructures and Model Organisms in order to define a European roadmap for research on life in extreme environments.

> Exchange of Knowledge

Through the organisation of field trips, a laboratory seminar, a summer school and the award of 20 short visit grants, CAREX catalyses the transfer of knowledge and exchange of best practices among the scientific community and towards young researchers.

> Information Hub

The CAREX website (www.carex-eu.org) provides an interactive platform for the exchange of information, job and funding opportunities, news and events specific to life in extreme environment research.

> Databases

CAREX website hosts an open searchable directory of international experts, a database of life in extreme environments research projects and a portfolio of specific infrastructures and technologies.



CAREX Core Partners

- > NERC - British Antarctic Survey, UK
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CAREX Coordinator
- > European Science Foundation, France
Nicolas Walter (ESF, Strasbourg)
CAREX Project Manager
- > CNRS, France
Daniel Prieur (IUEM, Brest)
- > CNR Istituto di Biologia Agroambientale e Forestale, Italy
Francesco Loreto (IBAF, Roma)
- > Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt, Germany
Petra Rettberg (DLR, Institute of Aerospace Medicine, Köln)
- > Ifremer, France
Nadine Le Bris (Ifremer Brest)
- > Institute of Botany, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic
Josef Elster (Treboň Branch)
- > INTA Centro de Astrobiología, Spain
Ricardo Amils (INTA-CAB/UAM, Madrid)
- > MATIS, Iceland
Vigg Marteinson (MATIS-Prokaria, Reykjavík)

In addition, CAREX involves 48 Associated Partners from European and non-European countries.

Further information

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The CAREX Project

European Research on Life in Extreme Environments

Coordination
and Setting-up
Scientific Priorities

www.carex-eu.org

CAREX