



IAVS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR VEGETATION SCIENCE

Vision Statement

International Association for Vegetation Science

IAVS – The Home of all Vegetation Scientists

Vegetation Science is a scientific discipline devoted to study of vegetation at all levels of complexity spanning populations, plant communities and biomes. It attempts to explain vegetation patterns and the processes governing vegetation assembly and dynamics at all temporal and spatial scales. Vegetation Science, as an ecological discipline, is concerned with questions regarding the relationships between plants and all aspects of the environment including human activities. This interest makes Vegetation Science a socially and politically critical discipline serving the good and progress of human society and the sustainable use of its natural resources. Vegetation Scientists cooperate closely with scientists in other disciplines such as paleoecology, geology, soil science, climatology, geomorphology, biogeography, population biology, ecophysiology, and evolutionary biology to enhance integration and progress in science.

IAVS is a registered charity established in 1939 to advance Vegetation Science. So as to best achieve this goal it is committed to responsible and transparent management of its daily business. This includes:

- ensuring financial sustainability by prudent and responsible management of financial and intellectual assets,
- generation and use of assets for charitable purposes in accord with the general aims and goals of the Association as defined in its Statutes and this Strategic Plan,
- maintenance and improvement of democratic structures that govern the Association and its activities.

IAVS is dedicated to

- developing and advancing vegetation science as a scientific discipline,
- developing careers of vegetation scientists,
- applying vegetation science for the good of society,
- promoting vegetation science within curricula,

- advancing communication about vegetation science through publication of scientific journals,
- advancing communication among vegetation scientists and with others through regular scientific meetings,
- creating and developing institutional cooperation.

Towards these ends, the International Association for Vegetation Science will

1) Develop and advance vegetation science as a scientific discipline by

- supporting the development of theoretical, functional, environmental, descriptive and applied vegetation science in order to achieve a better understanding of global ecosystems,
- consolidating the position and connections of vegetation science with other scientific disciplines such as population biology, functional ecology, paleobotany, evolutionary ecology, phytosociology, paleoecology, plant taxonomy, floristics, biogeography, conservation biology, and genomics that could enhance or benefit from the study of plant communities,
- improving the development of vegetation science as a basis of conservation biology, habitat management and landscape planning, and in particular by advancing the application of vegetation science at both the community and landscape scales as central to biodiversity inventory and conservation planning,
- providing a secure, comprehensive and usable source of information on global vegetation, and
- advancing the contribution of vegetation science to the understanding and solution of challenging yet critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, eutrophication and land-use change.
- assisting in creation science-policy interfaces in order to raise the voice of vegetation scientists both regionally and internationally.

2) Develop careers of vegetation scientists through

- actively attracting young scientists to become involved in vegetation science,
- offering a platform for discovery and dissemination of study and employment opportunities for both aspiring and established scientists,
- continuing to create and develop intellectual and logistic platforms that support young vegetation scientists and facilitate their participation in the activities of IAVS,
- assisting established vegetation scientists to respond to international funding opportunities by creating networking facilities and lending the weight and reputation of IAVS in support of funding opportunities when found to be in alignment with the goals and values of the Association,

- assisting colleagues from less-affluent countries and/or colleagues facing personal financial challenges to participate actively in IAVS,
- recognising the life-time contributions of colleagues to vegetation science and to the good of IAVS using appropriate symbolic as well as concrete logistic measures, and
- assisting older colleagues to participate fully in the field of vegetation science and in activities of IAVS, and
- referring members to organizations offering employment possibilities for vegetation scientists.

3) Apply vegetation science for the good of human society by

- maintaining IAVS as a non-profit, charitable organization,
- serving as review authority to be consulted by national and international bodies,
- serving as a source of expertise available to private, national and international organisations,
- providing expert panels for NGOs, national governments and international scientific and civic organizations to respond to questions of interest to vegetation science, science in general and the needs of human society.

4) Promote vegetation science within curricula by

- promoting inclusion of vegetation science in teaching curricula at universities (and analogous tertiary-education facilities) at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels,
- motivating and promoting publication of textbooks featuring the aims, methods and goals of vegetation science to assure the high-quality of tertiary education in vegetation science, and
- developing educational materials and curricula for use within secondary and tertiary level curricula.

5) Advance communication about vegetation science through publication of scientific journals that

- provide information in an accurate and clear way to make available current knowledge about the vegetation of the Earth and its interactions with soil, climate and human activity,
- increase awareness of the importance of vegetation for ecosystem functioning and conservation, and highlight the key role of vegetation science for the understanding of ecological concepts,
- are of interest to all people concerned with vegetation ecology, including professional ecologists, students, and conservationists, and
- promote the application of methods and results of vegetation ecological research.

6) Advance communication among vegetation scientists and with others through regular scientific meetings and other activities by

- organizing annual symposia that can serve as the major platform for the exchange of ideas, both within IAVS and beyond,
- organizing field excursions and conferences, and
- promoting and supporting specialised working groups, regional sections and committees that serve specialized interests of the IAVS membership as well as associated scientists from other disciplines.

7) Create and develop institutional cooperation by

- facilitating bi- and multilateral international contacts by bringing together and facilitating communication among vegetation scientists from different countries,
- advancing the development of postgraduate students and young scientists, as well as scientists from the third world, by facilitating their integration into the international community of vegetation scientists,
- sponsoring topical working groups and specialized symposia that promote collaboration, synthesis, and cooperative research by vegetation scientists from different countries,
- facilitating the planning of institutional collaboration and preparation of joint research proposals in order to initiate and advance collaborative research,
- promoting strategic alliances with related societies at national, regional and global scales, as well as with members of other scientific disciplines, and
- providing an umbrella for international discussion groups addressing regional or global environmental concerns.

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