

63rd IAVS Symposium

September 20-23, 2021

The virtual event, organized by IAVS



Special Sessions (pre-recorded or live, with live Q&A)

Big data and big classifications – using vegetation databases for large-scale, plot-based classifications and future challenges (organised by IAVS Vegetation Classification Working Group)

The development of vegetation-plot databases has opened up the possibilities to increase the geographic scope and ecological scope of vegetation classification and its uses. This special session aims to 1) discuss the various types of databases (and other storage) for vegetation plots, 2) discuss ways these big databases could be coordinated internationally, and 3) discuss the various ways big data can be used to classify and map vegetation, including improvements to both.

Community ecology belowground (organised by Tomáš Herben and Jitka Klimešová)

Many functions of plant communities take place belowground, such as obtaining water and nutrients, surviving harsh conditions or damage, occupying space, and responding to their neighbours. In a number of plant communities, belowground biomass largely exceeds their aboveground biomass. This special session will focus on key attributes of belowground plant ecology relevant for plant community functioning. We also aim to show that taking the perspective "from belowground" can considerably change our views of how plant communities are organized.

River vegetation -- the challenges of management and conservation and their values and ecosystem services (organised by Francisca Aguiar & Rui Rivaes)

River vegetation communities continue to be threatened by human activities that fragment, disconnect and reduce their diversity, and their spatial and temporal dynamics. This special session aims to share research on efforts to reduce the impoverishment of aquatic and riparian vegetation including, for example, dam removal, implementation of environmental flows, enhancing water quality and ecosystem rehabilitation, as well as societal and political actions. We aim to identify knowledge gaps and stimulate collaborations amongst scientists to better inform river managers, practitioners, and policymakers for sustainable management of river vegetation and their ecosystem services.

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Progress in plant ecology and vegetation science research in Africa (organised by Reginald T. Guuroh and the recently developing African Regional Section)

African vegetation scientists and their research outputs are currently grossly under-represented in international science -- both at conferences and in scientific publications. This session aims to highlight the research done by African vegetation scientists and collaborators working in the African continent.

The legacy of invasions: changes in plant trajectories during restoration and how to manage them (organised by Florencia A. Yannelli and Alessandra Fidelis)

Legacy effects of alien plant species can ultimately modify plant community trajectories through direct change of plant community composition or indirectly by alterations to soils. The result can be ineffective restoration with unpredictable outcomes. We aim to identify and discuss a) how legacy effects influence native plant community composition, b) what mechanisms lead to unforeseen plant community responses and c) what management practices could take us closer to desired community trajectories leading to successful restoration. This session will be pre-recorded but will have a live Q&A.