

INTECOL - Bulletin

International Association for Ecology

1 Greetings from INTECOL President

2 Summary of the 4th EcoSummit (30 September to 5 October 2012)

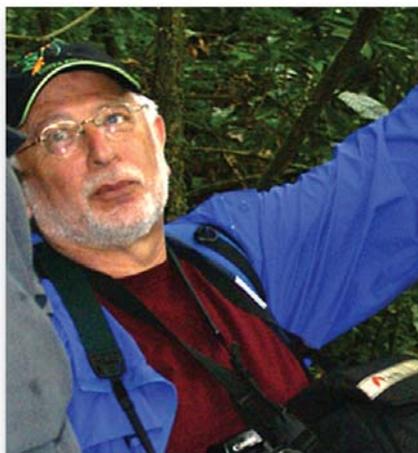
4 Meetings & Congresses

1. INTECOL and its 11th Congress in 2013
2. 10TH EUROPEAN DRY GRASSLAND MEETING (EDGM)



Greetings from INTECOL President

"Looking Ahead to London and Beyond"



The year 2013 will be one of the most interesting and productive ever. Together, we can help each other better understand the changes that are creating new challenges and new interactive networks for ecologists. It is exciting to anticipate our upcoming 11th INTECOL Congress in London, hosted by the British Ecological Society on their 100th anniversary. The theme "Ecology into the next 100 years" reminds us that there is much need for further discovery as ecology becomes increasingly diverse and relevant. Global concerns about the loss of biodiversity and the growing need for sustaining ecosystem services will provide many opportunities for INTECOL to contribute to resolutions of these critical issues. We can help create new ways to communicate and foster consensus among our national ecological societies who support INTECOL's activities. We will also continue to help early career ecologists and others to share ideas in our e-Bulletin and conferences.

In London we will have many opportunities to compare research results and discuss current trends in ecological research. For example, increased use of technology in studies of urban ecosystems, invasive



species, novel ecosystems, and climate-change effects will likely continue while new research areas and methods also emerge. We will begin to discuss proposals for our 12th Ecology Congress in 2017 and our co-sponsor the 5th International EcoSummit meeting planned for 2016 in Montpellier, France. The INTECOL Wetlands Working Group will coordinate the timing and location of the 2016 wetlands meeting.

Looking back, 2012 was clearly a very active year for INTECOL members. As we have reported in previous e-Bulletins, the success of the International Network of Next-Generation Ecologists (INNGE), the 9th INTECOL International Wetlands Conference in Orlando, Florida and the 4th International EcoSummit in Columbus, Ohio brought many of us together. We met new colleagues and renewed discussions among

those who continue to work together on a broad range of ecological research. We also reported this past year on a large number of activities and conferences from all over the world on a wide range of topics from polar ecology, oceanic research, biodiversity, urban ecology and ecosystem restoration. These national and regional meetings will continue to diversify as more and more people become concerned about environmental quality and sustainability. INTECOL needs your continued input and ideas to expand our communications network and to build on our past accomplishments. I look forward to hearing from you and wish you the very best New Year!

Alan P. Covich
INTECOL President

Summary of the 4th EcoSummit (30 September to 5 October 2012)

Many of our members were able to attend the 4th EcoSummit that focused on Ecological Sustainability-Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services. A large group of 1600 participants from more than 75 countries attended the meeting that was co-sponsored by INTECOL, the Ecological Society of America and the Society of Ecological Restoration with support from The Ohio State University and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. Professor William Mitsch chaired the conference and Professor Larry Li was the co-chair of this large meeting. Board members Eun-Shik Kim and Azim Mallik represented INTECOL along with Alan Covich, Bojie Fu, Rusong Wang who were on the scientific committee. The meeting included 10 plenaries, 65 symposia, 21 forums and workshops with over 500 invited presentations. An additional 800 contributions in general sessions and poster presentations included a wide range of ecological studies. Abstracts and the full program are available on the EcoSummit website (www.ecosummit2012.org).

The 5th EcoSummit will be in Montpellier, France in 2016 and will be chaired by Dr. Alexia Stokes.

INTECOL looks forward to participating in this next meeting that will occur one year before the 2017 INTECOL Congress.

The following statement was presented at the closing ceremony:

Columbus Declaration
by the
EcoSummit 2012 Scientific Committee
EcoSummit 2012, Columbus, Ohio, USA
October 5, 2012

Harmonization of Societal Needs with the EcoSphere in the Anthropocene Era

We are living in the Anthropocene Era when almost 80% of our usable ecosphere has been conditioned, converted, and consumed by humans, usually without understanding the full consequences of our actions. Modification of the Earth's ecological structure and key processes has dramatically accelerated the degradation of the biological productivity and biodiversity of the



world's ecosystems, which provide services to sustain ALL life - including humanity - on Earth.

Thus, for the first time in the history of humanity, we appear to be approaching a global "tipping point", after which we will face a trajectory of declining natural capital, declining services provided by nature, and declining environmental carrying capacity. The history of past civilizations provides ample evidence that Society - Nature disharmonies in localized areas of the planet have contributed to the decline and disappearance of those civilizations. In our present, highly interconnected and integrated world, any future collapse is likely not to be local, but global.

To ensure our planet remains habitable, providing a high quality of life for all, we must develop and implement a vision of harmonization of societal needs with the Earth's natural systems. Dissemination of such a vision should be fundamental for raising society's consciousness through shifts in paradigms and policy, as well as continued innovation and education.

We, the Scientific Committee of EcoSummit 2012, therefore propose the following four-step strategy:

1. PARADIGM OF GLOBAL SYSTEMS - We live in an interconnected world. In the face of our increasing failure to manage our natural resources, we should recognize the limitations of linear, reductionist, and zero-sum thinking. Instead, progress toward sustainability can be achieved by promoting a paradigm of integrated system cycles, as well as continuing to embrace integrative, interdisciplinary research. A broader systems approach is needed to internalize externalities and possibly anticipate unintended consequences.

2. POLICY OF HARMONIZATION - To prevent further disturbance to the planet's biological productivity, biodiversity, and biogeochemical cycles, we must embrace the linkages that exist between Nature and Society when evaluating and modifying past policies or creating new ones. These policies should seek to find harmonization between Society-Nature,

using relevant and meaningful quality of life indicators and approaches that consider the interconnectivity that exists among the Earth's ecosystems.

3. INNOVATION - We must not only reduce energy and material consumption and the emission of pollutants but also innovate and apply novel ecological design principles such as those proposed in the related fields of ecological engineering and ecological restoration. Investing in innovation and conservation and designing with nature can help us incorporate our understanding of ecosystem processes into a framework for sustainably managing natural resources. Through such innovation, we can prevent further degradation of global ecosystems, and possible reverse previous damage.

4. EDUCATION AND VALUES - Society's lack of understanding of the global environmental systems, including a self-reflective view of its own role, is problematic. Such ignorance, combined with a continually growing world population that ever seeks to increase economic productivity, underlies many of the threats that ecosystems are facing, which further promotes their over-exploitation and unsustainable use. We need to promote ecological education that includes life-long learning, environmental literacy and ethics, and cultural appreciation. Society-Nature harmonization will benefit individuals, societies, and the environment.

Agreed to on the 5th of October, 2012 in Columbus Ohio, USA, by the members of the EcoSummit 2012 Scientific Committee present at EcoSummit 2012 or voting by mail.

This declaration is from the 2012 EcoSummit Scientific Committee and does not represent the views of any other organization or conference sponsor. It was developed after considerable discussion among the Committee members.

Alan P. Covich
INTECOL President



Meetings and Congresses

1. INTECOL and its 11th Congress in 2013

18-23 August 2013, ExCel, London, UK



In the 1960's and early 1970's the growing recognition of the importance of major ecological problems, in part arising from the International Biological Programme, led ecologists to seek greater international links. Some countries had long established national ecological societies, others had only young fledgling ones, but one way to foster international participation in helping to address important ecological questions was to establish a new international society. The national societies were very supportive of this move, and in 1967 the International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) was established. The first International Congress of Ecology was held in the Hague in 1974. This proved a considerable success, and resulted in the series of congresses for which INTECOL is best known today.

At this time INTECOL helped to promote the successful founding and establishment of the then major new ecological journal *Oecologia*. The cover of the journal attests to this relationship to this day. In retrospect, it is perhaps unfortunate that the Association did not establish a financial involvement in this journal at that time because it could have provided a much needed source of funds to expand our activities. For whatever reason this did not prove possible.

Following the founding of the Association, specialist groups were established in various areas of ecology. These mostly operated by arranging independent meetings or through organizing sessions at the

International Congresses. The best example is the Wetlands Working Group, which has run nine highly successful international conferences around the world, with the last one taken place in Orlando, Florida, USA. Currently there are excellent opportunities to form new groups, and to re-activate dormant ones. This must provide opportunities for younger members of the Association, a group of members that the INTECOL Board is very anxious to encourage.

The national ecological societies have continued to be very supportive of INTECOL, and all the recent congresses have been organised jointly with the host country's national society. This continuing interest in INTECOL by the national societies is particularly important, and is something on which we must try to build in the future.

In addition to the national societies and INTECOL, a number of regional groupings of societies occur. Two examples of these are the now long standing European Ecological Federation and the much more recent East Asian Federation of Ecological Societies. It is particularly pleasing to note that the latter was launched at the VIII International Congress of Ecology in Seoul in 2002, and it is hoped that INTECOL can help stimulate more such groupings in the future.

There is much more that INTECOL can do to encourage ecological science and its application around the world. Up until now we have depended on modest membership income and small profits from meetings to



support our activities. We hope in the longer term that our new web-based organization will allow both our membership and our funds to grow, thus allowing us to be much more active between our major meetings. There is no sign that ecological issues are becoming less acute in the world today. Rather, the situation is very much the reverse. A strong international society devoted to ecological science and its application is more important today than it was 40 years ago when the International Association for Ecology was founded. We can do much more! If you are not already a member, join INTECOL today. Help us to shape the Association and to make a greater impact on decision makers around the world.

We are delighted to announce that registration and abstract submission for INTECOL 2013 is now open (<http://intecol2013.org/>). Delegates can register online for the congress here. Attendees will also be able to book tours and social events. Hotel accommodation booking will be live soon.

Abstract can be submitted via the BES (the British Ecological Society) at official homepage (<http://intecol2013.org/>).



British Ecological Society



2. 10TH EUROPEAN DRY GRASSLAND MEETING (EDGM)

***When theory meets practice:
Conservation and restoration of grasslands***

24-31 May 2013, Zamość, Poland



The aim of the conference is to link theoretically based approaches with practical restoration in various types of grasslands. In Poland as in other parts of Europe in the last few decades, grassland biodiversity has been in constant decline due to intensified agriculture and recent changes in land use such as cessation of extensive management. Other detrimental processes include eutrophication and invasion by alien species, which have also led to decreased biodiversity

in the remaining grassland stands. To mitigate or halt the detrimental effects of these threats, it is vital to understand the mechanisms sustaining grassland biodiversity and to support the active restoration and conservation of grasslands. The main questions of the conference are: How can we protect grasslands in fragmented landscapes? What do we need to do to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of grasslands? How can we link theoretical evidence with



practical approaches and facilitate communication between scientists and practitioners? The conference will bring together scientists, stakeholders, practitioners and policy makers working with grasslands. It is a great opportunity to meet colleagues from different parts of Europe and elsewhere during the formal meetings, such

as lectures and poster sessions, and interesting informal excursions. The beautiful historical town, Zamość which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, provides a very inspiring and relaxing atmosphere for scientific and casual discussions.

Location: The 10th EDGM in 2013 will be held during 24-31 May 2013, Zamość, Poland.

Language: English

For frequent updates and more details, please see the conference homepage at:

http://www.edgg.org/edgg_meeting_2013.html

We are looking forward to seeing you in Zamość, Poland!
On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee and EDGG,

Katarzyna Barańska (kasia_baranska@interia.pl)

Michael Vrahnakis (mvrahnak@teilar.gr)





INTECOL, International Association for Ecology

INTECOL is affiliated with the ICSU family of scientific organizations as the section responsible for general ecology within the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The association will assist and/or support the development of the science of ecology and the application of ecological principles to global problems, especially by assisting international cooperation; the collection, evaluation and distribution of information about ecology; national, regional and international actions which will serve ecological research, training of personal, coordination of general publications of ecological principles and the recognition of the importance of ecology for economy and society; the organization of conferences, meetings, symposia, programs and projects, conduct of speaking-series, publication of manuscripts, and measures which are deemed necessary to reach the goals of the association.

Officers and Executive Board Members

Officers

President: Alan P. Covich (alanc@uga.edu)
Past President: John A. Lee (j.a.lee@sheffield.ac.uk)
Vice President: Alastair H. Fitter (ahf1@york.ac.uk)
Secretary General: Eun-Shik Kim (kimeuns@kookmin.ac.kr)
Treasurer: Azim U. Mallik (amallik@lakeheadu.ca.)

Executive Board Members

Bojie Fu (bfu@rcees.ac.cn)
John Grace (j.grace@ed.ac.uk)
Sun-Kee Hong (landskhong@gmail.com)
Craig D. James (craig.james@csiro.au)
Manuel Maass (maass@oikos.unam.mx)
Bernd Markert (markert@schlundmail.de)
Akira Miyawaki (miyawaki-29@jise.jp)
Shona Myers (shona.myers@wildlands.co.nz)
Rebecca R. Sharitz (sharitz@srel.edu)
Patrick Silan (patrick.silan@univ-amu.fr)
R. Eugene Turner (euturne@lsu.edu)
Jos T. A. Verhoeven (j.t.a.verhoeven@uu.nl)
Rusong Wang (wangrs@rcees.ac.cn)
Takakazu Yumoto (yumoto@chikyu.ac.jp)

Website: <http://www.intecol.org>
Bulletin Editor: Sun-Kee Hong (landskhong@gmail.com)

Deadline for sending information for next e-Bulletin

Vol. 7 No. 1: 28 February 2013