

Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



49th Newsletter


Letter from the President

Dear members of gtö, dear friends and colleagues,

It is the last time that I'm writing to you as the President of the Society for Tropical Ecology. It has been an immense privilege to serve you and the Society during the last six years. I was honoured that you renewed my presidency during the difficult period of the Covid pandemic when our activities were drastically reduced, challenging our financial resources. I would like to thank all members of the executive and advisory boards with whom we took important decisions to advance and adapt the status of our society in a fast-changing social environment. Lacking our annual conference in 2020 and 2021, members have been innovative in creating and chairing webinars, as well as developing new online events for early-career scientists, and being present on various social networks. The Conference of Tropical Ecology is now a truly international event that is scheduled to happen all across Europe, from one edge to the other, sans frontières for those who are already in EU, or do not require a visa to enter the Schengen area. It was a shame that one of our invited keynote speakers, namely Dr. Trisha Gopalakrishna from the University of Oxford, UK, could not physically attend gtoe2022 in Ceske Budejovice, due to visa application delays, thus had to present virtually. Still, her presentation was full of energy, and she friendly interacted with everyone who was listening. I wait to meet her again for real. Though we are now accustomed to online talks and presentations, nonetheless, it should only be exceptional during our future

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conferences (1). Our aim is to promote meeting and talking during eye-to-eye discussions with students and academics, all hopefully future colleagues in their respective field. I'm therefore very glad to announce that we already have various destinations scheduled and confirmed from 2025 onwards. Jorge Palmeirim and his team, and the scientific committee prepared the scientific program of our next conference "Tropical ecosystems in a fast-changing planet" in Lisbon (<https://www.soctropecol-conference.eu/index.php?cat=venue>). Social events (welcome mixer, and conference dinner) will be central during the event to meet past and present friends, and to make new ones. For the first time, there will also be a photo contest sponsored by the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC). A total of 21 thematic sessions are listed, and I highly encourage all members to join us in Lisbon especially because the new boards will be elected. Find in this document the biosketches of all candidates.

I am therefore very happy to formally invite you to the Annual General Assembly of the Society for Tropical Ecology on Wednesday 14th February at 16:30-19:30 at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. I am delighted to welcome you all in person in Lisbon. All necessary information, maps and travel facilities to access the campus, the Conference and the General Assembly is here: <https://www.soctropecol-conference.eu/>

After nearly two decades of membership, I can't close the door, and run away from our Society, thus I decided to candidate as member of the advisory scientific board. My first wish in the future is that we will be able to invite and welcome more biologists and ecologists from the tropics, whether they are already in Europe, or visiting institutions. My second wish will be to have more frequently joined conference with other European and international societies and associations. I'm impatient to meet you soon, and to continue this wonderful human experience in tropical ecology.

A bientôt
Pierre-Michel Forget
Président of the Society for Tropical Ecology

(1) My thoughts about social interactions in tropical ecology
* <https://ecotropica.eu/index.php/ecotropica/article/view/108/39>



Invitation to the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology and the 7th European Conference of Tropical Ecology, 12-16 February 2024, Lisbon, Portugal.

We are pleased to invite all scientists and students involved in tropical ecology to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology. We are delighted to announce that the Annual Meeting will be hosted in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal. Join tropical ecologists from around the world in February 2024 for Europe's largest and the most welcoming conference dedicated to tropical ecology. Each year our Annual Meeting attracts over 200 attendees and provides opportunities to meet future colleagues and collaborators, develop your career, learn new skills, and share your science with the global ecological community. We will be offering an exciting programme of internationally renowned plenary speakers, diverse thematic sessions, and a variety of networking events. It will be an honour to host this prestigious conference in Portugal for the very first time.


Registration is still open, so please join us and register here:

<https://soctropecol-conference.eu/index.php?cat=registration>

On behalf of the organization committee,
Jorge Palmeirim

Student travel grants – Deadline until 22. December 2023

The Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) will grant **TRAVEL GRANTS** of 200 EUR to participate in the annual meetings of the gtoe. With this contribution, the society would like to provide support to participants in need of securing their travel cost. If you would like to apply for a travel grant, please register and submit an abstract at the conference webpage and also send the abstract, a short motivation letter, a budget calculation, your CV and one brief recommendation letter to the Travel Grant Selection Committee (email: travelgrant@soctropecol.eu).



The deadline for submissions is the **22. December 2023**. As soon as your abstract has been accepted by the conference organizers, the committee will select up to 25 students that will receive a travel grant. Students eligible to apply will need to:

- be a student member (BSc, MSc or PhD) of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)
- be the first author of the conference contribution (poster or talk)
- be personally present at the venue

Invitation to the 37th general assembly of gtö - 2024

The Executive Board of the *gtö*, represented by its President, invites its members to the **37th general assembly held in person on Wednesday, 14th February 2024 from 16h30 to 19h30**. The meeting will take place in person in building C3, room 3.2.13 in the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal.

Agenda:


1. Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda
2. Election of the assembly's secretary
3. Approval of the minutes of the 36th general assembly
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2023
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2023
6. Report of the cash accountants
7. Discharge of the executive board
8. Report of the advisory board
9. Elections of the executive board
10. Elections of the scientific advisory board
11. Election of the cash accountants
12. Ecotropica
13. Preparation of future annual meetings
14. Miscellaneous

Einladung zur 37. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö - 2024

Das Präsidium der *gtö*, vertreten durch den Präsidenten, lädt alle Mitglieder ein zur **37. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö am Mittwoch, 14. Februar 2024 von 16:30 bis 19:30 Uhr**. Die Sitzung wird in Präsenz im Gebäude C3, Raum 3.2.13 in der Faculty of Sciences der Universität Lissabon, Portugal, stattfinden.

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung

- 
2. Wahl des/der Schriftführenden
 3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 36. Mitgliederversammlung
 4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2023
 5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2023
 6. Bericht der Kassenprüfenden
 7. Entlastung des Präsidiums
 8. Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats
 9. Wahl des Präsidiums
 10. Wahl des wissenschaftlichen Beirats
 11. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden
 12. Ecotropica
 13. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen
 14. Verschiedenes

36th general assembly of gtö in 2023 in Ceske Budejovice

The 36th general assembly of gtö was held on 21.06.2023 at Room B2, Building B of the Faculty of Sciences, Branišovská 1160/31, University of Southern Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

See Appendix I for the minutes of the general assembly 2023

See Appendix II for budgetary revenues and expenditures 2022 (“Kassenbericht”)



Past meeting: 6th European Conference of Tropical Ecology and 34th annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology, 19-23 June 2023, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic

The highly anticipated 6th European Conference of Tropical Ecology, concurrently serving as the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, gtö), took place from the 19. to the 23. of June 2023. Hosted by the Department of Ecology at the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the University of South Bohemia, the event showcased a convergence of scholarly excellence and diverse perspectives.

Researchers affiliated to 23 countries were represented at the conference, with Germany, the Czech Republic, and Belgium emerging as the most actively engaged participants. Within the Czech Republic, the cultural diversity was striking, encompassing participants from 12 different nations spanning across Europe to China, India, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea. We feel the same diversity was represented also within other countries, and especially participant affiliated in Germany represented well the researchers originating from global South.

The participant composition reflected a harmonious blend of academia, with 54% being students and the remaining 46% comprising esteemed academics. Notably, 97 active participants held membership in the Society for Tropical Ecology, underscoring the commitment of the community to advancing tropical ecological research. Gender balance was a noteworthy highlight, with women comprising 62% of the attendance and a remarkable 11 out of the 12 members of the organizational board.



Keynote speakers included Zuzana Musilova, exploring fish evolution, Antonin Machac investigating global tropical megadiversity across diverse taxa, Rodrigo Camara Leret focusing on conserving biological and cultural heritage, and Trisha Gopalakrishna addressing ecosystem restoration with an emphasis on reforestation.

The conference unfolded over three enlightening days, featuring three parallel sessions that delved into the latest advancements in tropical ecology. The culmination of the event extended to Thursday evening and Friday, marked by a captivating conference dinner, followed by field trip to the nearby natural reserve, Olsina.

The success of the 6th European Conference of Tropical Ecology and the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology can be attributed not only to the wealth of knowledge shared but also to the collaborative spirit and diversity that permeated every aspect of the event. As the conference drew to a close, it left an indelible mark on the participants, fostering a sense of shared purpose and commitment to the vibrant field of tropical ecology.

Winners of the Merian Award 2023



At the annual meeting in Ceske Budejovice, the best talks and posters of young scientists were honoured by the Merian Award. From left to right on the picture: **Maciej Barczyk, Sailee Sakhalkar, Johannes Wieggers, Anita Weissflog, Dominik Anyz, Michele von Kocemba, Katerina Sam, Pierre-Michel Forget.** The *gtö* congratulates the winners for their excellent presentations! Photo: © Eike Lena Neuschulz

We also strongly encourage the young members of the *gtö* who will present their research at the conference in Lisbon to sign up for the Merian Award 2024!

Merian Awards 2023 for the best talks

1. **Michele von Kocemba:** The price of conservation: An effectivity analysis of biodiversity conservation in the protected areas of the Mount Elgon region, Uganda
2. **Johannes Wieggers:** Evaluating density estimation methods for unmarked wildlife with trail cameras in a Neotropical forest
2. **Anita Weissflog:** Microbial plant-soil feedbacks affect secondary succession of tropical rainforests
3. **Sailee Sakhalkar:** Unveiling the Role of Module Persistence in the Spatiotemporal Dynamics of Pollination Networks in Afrotropical Forests
3. **Maciej Barczyk:** Environmental conditions differently shape leaf, seed and seedling trait composition between and within elevations of tropical montane forests

Merian Award 2023 for the best poster

1. **Dominik Anyz:** Do selfing rates rise with elevation as pollinator activity decreases in Afromontane grasslands?

Travel Grant Awardees – Annual meeting in Ceske Budejovice 2023

The following students were selected for a travel grant (200 Euro) to Ceske Budejovice: **Edmund Basham** (University of Texas, USA), **Demirel Maza-esso Bawa** (University of Belgrade, Serbia), **Marina Maximiano** (National Institute of Amazonian Research, Manaus, Brazil), **Caka Karlsson** (Lund University, Sweden), **Iago Ferreira Arias** (University of Seville, Spain), **Aymeric Oliveira-Xavier** (Université de Sherbrooke, Canada), **Noreen Mutoro** (Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria), **Xingyan Cao** (Ghent University, Belgium), **Nadia Sabchuk** (State University of Maringá, Brazil), **Gladys Kungu** (University of Salzburg, Austria), **Marlon Wichmann** (University of Vechta, Germany), **David Keck** (University of Hamburg, Germany), **Franklin Marin** (Ghent University, Belgium).

Student Research Grant Program

The following students and projects were selected for a research grant (1000 Euro). The gto congratulates the awardees and wishes much success with the planned projects.

Jessica Valeria Mereci Guaman (University of Göttingen, Germany): The importance of rare tree species for forest ecosystem functioning in South Ecuadorian tropical montane forests

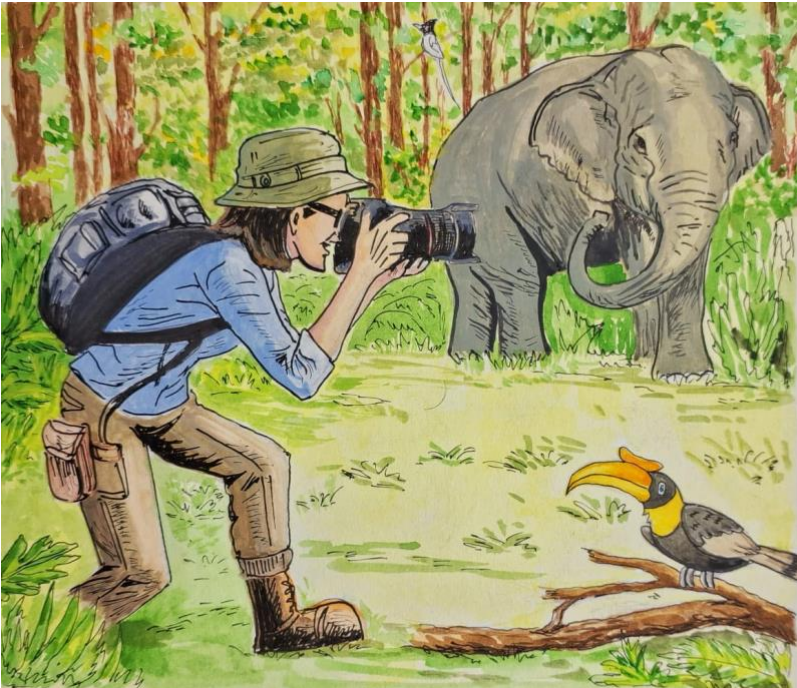
Tyler Cuddy (Cardiff University, UK): Mesocarnivore Ecology and the Impacts of Heavy Metals in the Environment

Andressa Cabral (Biodiversity Research iDiv, Germany): The spatio-temporal co-diversification of frugivory-related traits

Saskia Dröge (KU Leuven, Belgium): Environmental outcomes of voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) in the cocoa sector in Luwu, Luwu Utara and Luwu Timur in Sulawesi, Indonesia

Shuthupanna S.B. (The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, India): Reflecting on enantiostyly: Investigating pollen transfer dynamics, morph ratio and outcrossing rate in mirror image flowers

Photo competition of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) and the European Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)



We announce the joint photo competition of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC) and European Society for Tropical Ecology (gtöe), sponsored by ATBC.

Please send in your best photos to either ATBC or gtöe by to: photography@tropicalbio.org

The photos of the 3 finalists in each category will be printed and exhibited at the forthcoming annual conference of the European Society for Tropical Ecology, 12-16 February 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal.

December 31 – deadline for submission of photos.

Participants of the competition must be members of ATBC and/or gtöe.

Award for the best photo of each category: 100 US\$. The 9 finalists will be announced online in January, the 3 winners will be announced “live” at the end of the meeting in Lisbon. There are 3 categories: Beauty of biodiversity, People and nature, Research

Upcoming conferences

We are very happy to announce the **future conference locations of the society for tropical ecology / gtö** for the upcoming years.

2024: Lisbon, Portugal

2025: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2026: Passau, Germany

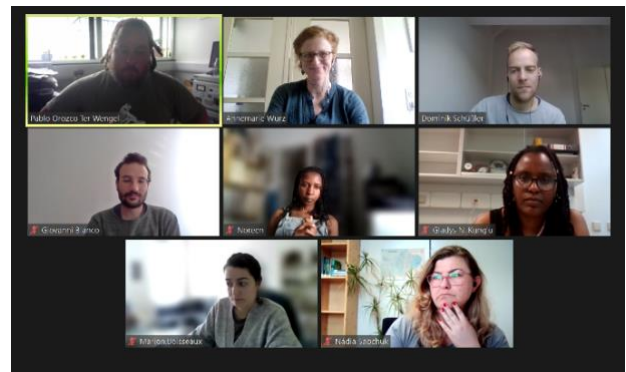
2027: TBA

2028: Montpellier, France

2029: Freiburg, Germany

News from the gtö early career group

In 2023, the early career group received many new members. Especially the conference in Budweis did make the group more known. We tripled the members' list compared to 2022 and count now 36 members from a great diversity of countries. We meet once per month online and our topics are diverse. This year the following topics were on our agenda: new year's research resolutions, publication process, career planning, conference preparations and work-life balance. We also had two sessions with invited guests. Prof. Melanie Dammhahn and Dr. Pablo Orozco Ter Wengel joined us for a question round and shared the stories of their career path (Picture 1). Prof. Dammhahn advised us on how to become a professor and Dr. Pablo Orozco Ter Wengel gave an overview of what to consider when applying for a postdoc. In the following sessions, we discussed our preparations (poster design, how to give a talk) for the Gtoe conference in Budweis. The conference was an excellent opportunity for the early career group to present themselves. Our very engaged two members Gladys N. Kung'u and Noreen Mutoro represented the early career group with a poster (Picture 2) and answered questions from interested students. Many other participants of the early career group joined the conference. The early career group also prepared a flyer to inform conference visitors about the society (Picture 2). We shared our Budweis experiences in an online meeting after the conference. Following the great group dynamic of the early career group in 2023, some of our participants decided to run for candidacy on the Gtoe board. We are very happy about this development and looking forward to new people shaping the society.



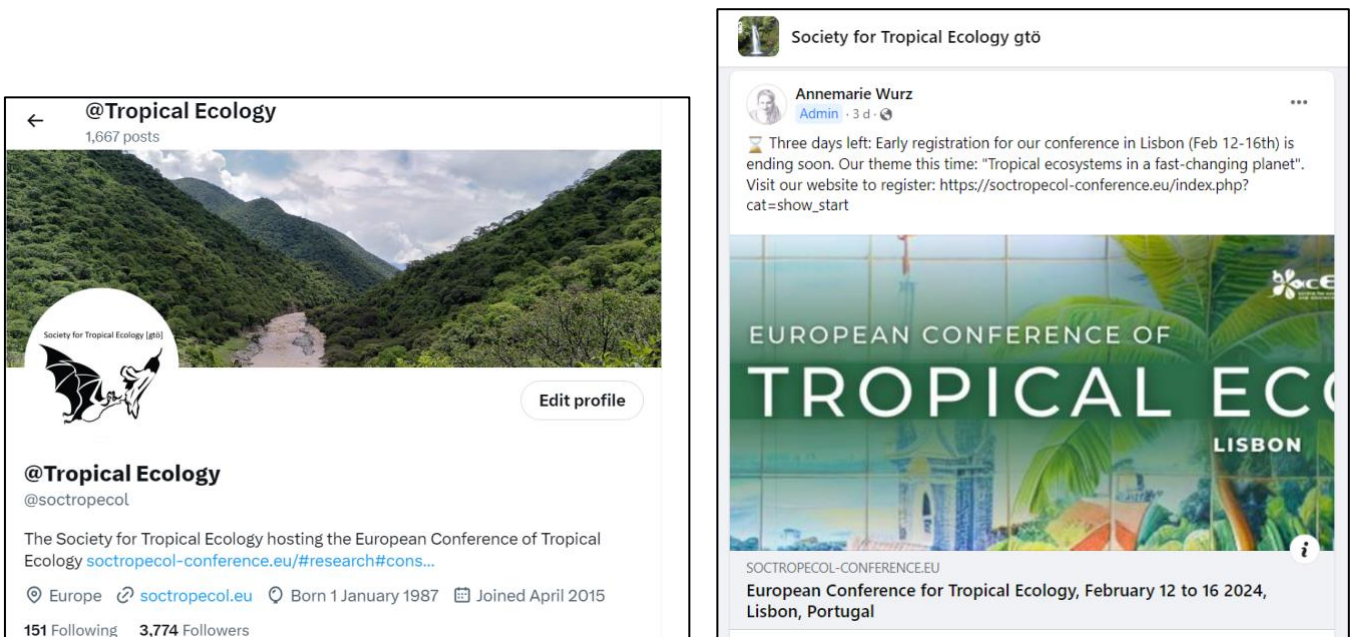
Meeting of the early career group with Prof. Melanie Dammhahn (left image) and Dr. Pablo Orozco Ter Wengel (right image).

Social media news

A short comment on the society Twitter (now called X) and Facebook activities

As of November 2023, we count 3774 followers on X which counts ~ 300 more followers compared to March (March 2023: 3458 followers) and 2552 members on Facebook (March 2023: 2467 members).

Since the acquisition of Twitter (now called X) by Elon Musk in October 2022, we are critically observing the developments on Twitter. Discussions about “shall we stay or shall we leave” have started within our board, especially since the latest antisemitic comment of Elon Musk. We hope to connect with our members and followers on a social media platform that follows a communication based on respect, kindness and equity. A decision about our representation on X will be discussed during the next board meeting.



Screenshot of our social media accounts on X (left) and Facebook (right).

Candidates for the election of the executive and scientific advisory boards

The election will be conducted via an **online voting tool starting on 12.01.2024** to provide all members the opportunity to vote for candidates for the next executive board and scientific board before the next general assembly. More info on the voting process will follow soon.

KATERINA SAM, Candidate for President



INTRODUCTION: My name is Kateřina Sam, and my association with the Society for Tropical Ecology spans over a decade, starting in 2010, coinciding with my work in tropical Papua New Guinea from 2008. I am honored to have been a dedicated member since then and have had the privilege of serving on the Scientific Advisory Board, gaining an in-depth understanding of the society's values, goals, and the diverse needs of its members (and little bit of the financing). **QUALIFICATIONS:** As an ecologist specializing in multitrophic interactions between plants and animals, my academic and professional journey aligns seamlessly with the core principles of the Society for Tropical Ecology. Holding the position of Head of the Department of Ecology, Centre for Tropical Ecology, and the research position of Associate Professor at the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the University of South Bohemia, I bring a wealth of experience in research, teaching, and organizational leadership. Through working in diverse environments with students and employees from various tropical regions and the global south, I have gained experience with various ecological and cultural aspects essential for my membership in the Society for Tropical Ecology. **COMMITMENT TO THE SOCIETY:** My history of service on the Scientific Advisory Board reflects my dedication to the society's mission. I am intimately familiar with the challenges and opportunities faced by tropical ecologists and am well-positioned to lead initiatives aligned with the society's vision. Throughout my membership, I have strived to be an active member, assisting in the organization of conference, TEO seminars, and actively participating in the majority of meetings. My continued involvement has allowed me to witness the society's growth and evolution, and I am enthusiastic about the prospect of guiding its future as the President. **VISION FOR THE FUTURE:** If entrusted with the role of President, I am committed to fostering an inclusive and dynamic community within the society. Drawing upon my extensive experience in both national and international ecological networks, I aim to strengthen collaborations, enhance member engagement, and promote initiatives that elevate the society's standing in the global ecological community. As a relatively young female scientist, I recognize the importance of diversity and representation in our field. I am dedicated to serving as a positive example for fellow junior female researchers, and I am eager to provide mentorship and support to help them advance in their careers in tropical ecology. **REPRESENTATION:** I am confident that my in-depth knowledge of the society, gained through years of active involvement, positions me as an ideal representative. My goal is to ensure that the society continues to be a supportive platform for tropical ecologists, fostering innovation, collaboration, and the advancement of ecological knowledge, bringing together scientists from Europe and those from tropical regions where most of us work. Additionally, being a member of the Steering Committee of 2ndFOR further brings me even closer to tropical research and networks across the globe. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my vision, qualifications, and aspirations for the society further. Thank you for considering my application. I am excited about the possibility of contributing to the continued success and growth of the Society for Tropical Ecology.

NINA FARWIG, Candidate for Vice-President

BIOSKETCH. Chair of Conservation Ecology, University of Marburg, Karl-von-Frisch-Str. 8, D-35032 Marburg. PhD (2005) University of Mainz. Research Interests: Biodiversity management, functional biodiversity research, community ecology, conservation, landscape ecology, movement ecology. Since 2018 Vice President of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö); earlier Secretary General of gtö (2011-2018), speaker of the advisory board of gtö (2009-2011), member of the advisory board of gtö (2006-2011) and councilor (2010-2012) of Association for



Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC). PERSONAL STATEMENT. I am a conservation ecologist whose research focus is to understand the importance of different animal and plant species and their interactions for ecosystem functions and services that are essential for our well-being. Global change is leading to a dramatic decline in biodiversity which is also threatening our human livelihood. With my research I aim to contribute to the development of strategies for sustainable management of ecosystems that allow a balance between the protection of biodiversity and the use of natural resources. I am currently one of the Vice Presidents of gtö and stand for re-election as Vice President. My goal is to increase the visibility and attractiveness of gtö as a society so that it becomes the “go-to-place” for tropical ecologists in Europe as well as to enhance the international exchange between ecological Societies.

PABLO OROZCO-TER WENGEL, Candidate for Vice-President



I am writing this letter to you as I am volunteering to remain in the position of vice-president of the Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie/European Society of Tropical Ecology. I have been involved with the society for almost a decade and I've played various roles from organising the Molecular Ecology session or the society's yearly meeting, to be part of the Scientific Advisory Board, and in the last few years I've been Vice-President. Through this time I have enjoyed very much the engagement with society and its boards, and have contributed to steering the society across and post the COVID period. Recently I have contributed to developing the code of ethics for the society and started to handle the field work grants that our society offers to

postgraduates doing research in the tropics. I have always been passionate about tropical diversity and ecology as I was born in one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, and from an early age learned to appreciate and treasure the species, communities and ecosystems in this important, yet fragile, environment. This interest led me to a career merging the fields of genetics, ecology and evolution with the goal of characterising processes and mechanisms underpinning species relationships in the tropics and beyond, as well as contributing to the development of management practices for their conservation. While my own research has contributed to this goal, I feel that I have contributed more through efforts in supporting researchers locally through training and advising, or via specialist support through the IUCN SSC Conservation Genetics Specialists Group, which activities I coordinate in South America. Should I be re-elected to the vice-presidency I will carry on supporting the president and other members of the executive board, work together with the scientific advisory board, as well as continue participating in all society's activities and contributing with the molecular genetics and genomics session in our conference.

UTE RADESPIEL, Candidate for Secretary General



BIOSKETCH: Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Zoology, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover, Germany. Since I started working on Malagasy lemurs in 1995, I aimed to understand the factors that drive the evolution of their social system, demographic history, ecology, distribution, and the long-term survival of populations. My research activities are settled on different spatial scales ranging from the level of individuals up to entire species, e.g. to clarify the taxonomic status of cryptic species and to understand their underlying evolution. Many nocturnal lemurs have extremely small geographic ranges. These species and their ecosystems are highly threatened by ongoing habitat fragmentation and other disturbances. The understanding of species-specific habitat requirements, the influence of habitat fragmentation on genetic diversity and genetic structure, and therefore the evaluation of their viability are of major conservation concern and form another important component of my work.

I joined the gtö Advisory Board in 2015, and was elected Secretary General of the gtö in 2018. I hereby express my interest to continue my service to the Society. I feel that there is the continuous need for expertise regarding the ecological and evolutionary peculiarities of the mini-continent Madagascar and regarding the primatological perspective in the discipline of tropical ecology. There are many important future research avenues in this field – most of them requiring interdisciplinary collaborations and scientific exchange. The annual meetings of the gtö provide an ideal networking platform for this purpose.

SIMONE PFEIFFER, Candidate for Treasurer



I have been a member of the scientific board of the Society for Tropical Ecology since 2015 and have been elected treasurer since 2021. At the Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use at the Georg-August-University of Göttingen, I coordinate international and interdisciplinary research and teaching projects, alumni work and scientific events. My learning curve as treasurer has been steep and exciting. After the society had lost a lot of money due to the cancellation of the annual conference in 2020 because of Covid, we worked together to secure the society's finances. The membership database was updated, funds were spent carefully, new members joined, and the local organizers of the 2022 and 2023 conferences successfully raised funds. It was inspiring to be part of this society movement. Therefore, I would like to candidate one more time to stabilize this positive trend. At the same time, I would also like to encourage interested society members to think about taking over a board position to develop the society further. If elected, I am happy to share my knowledge and hand over the position in three years' time.

Candidates for the election of the scientific advisory board

ANDRES ANGULO



My name is Andres Angulo-Rubiano, I'm from Colombia, and currently taking part of the student group of the society for more than one year and super happy to be connected with the society. My passion is tropical ecosystems across different continents (South America, Africa and Asia) with a particular love for birds. I'm doing a PhD in biology in the Blumenbach Institute for zoology and Anthropology at Göttingen University, Germany. My Ph.D. thesis project is focused on understanding the diversity patterns, mechanisms and assembly of bird communities in Africa. I'm particularly focused on studying a rainfall gradient in central Africa (Cameroon), where we are studying birds, plants and arthropod communities in a DFG-funded project that I wrote (lead) with my PhD supervisor. In cooperation with my good friend Annemarie Wurz, I'm very committed to promoting building capacity in the tropics, supporting and advising students from tropical countries in order that they come to Germany to study ecology and conservation. I also want to consolidate a pantropical network of collaborators for conducting research with them in tropical ecosystems in the long term. I'm always happy and open to collaborations in research, education and conservation in the tropics. Hence, being part of the board would be a great chance for me to develop these enterprises.

CHRIS BARRAT



I am a conservation biologist working on assessing vulnerability to global change by integrating molecular, ecological and environmental data. My focus is primarily on African vertebrates (amphibians and mammals) but I also work with other taxonomic groups such as plants, fish, and reptiles, and in other tropical regions (e.g. Asia and South America). Currently I am a postdoc at the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv, Leipzig, Germany) and Naturalis Biodiversity Center (Leiden, Netherlands). Having worked in academia and NGOs

for over 15 years, as well as living in the tropical regions that I research, I am extremely passionate about the protection of biodiversity in these places. In my eyes, research that has applied conservation value is crucial, especially if it can bring tangible benefits to the local communities who are the custodians of this biodiversity. I would like to become more involved in the Society for Tropical Ecology, generally continuing to foster the conservation of tropical biodiversity and offering support and representation for members. I am particularly interested in encouraging and promoting the career development of the next generation of scientists and policy makers who are from underrepresented tropical regions to extend their networks and long-term capacity building.

GIOVANNI BIANCO



I am an ecologist interested in how organisms interact with each other and their environment, and what this means for people. I am conducting my PhD at the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre in Frankfurt (BiK-F), Germany. In my research, I investigate the role of biodiversity in supplying regulating ecosystem services. I focus my research on the altitudinal and land use gradient of Mount Kilimanjaro, and in particular on the role of the structural complexity of forest canopies in providing habitat for organisms important for ecosystem service supply. Working on such a large mountain provides the opportunity to observe how the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services is shaped along climatic and land-use gradients. I would be eager to join the scientific advisory board of the society to contribute to the knowledge exchange between tropical ecologists from all over the world. As an early career scientist, being part of the board would be a great learning experience and I look forward to contributing to the society's organisational tasks and to its scientific communication efforts.

MELANIE DAMMHAHN



I would be happy to continue my work as member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the gtö. As a long-standing active member of the gtö (since 2005) I have been serving the Scientific Advisory Board since 2019. My main emphasis is to strengthen the society's involvement in education and support of students from tropical countries (e.g. by student travel grants, research grants, and workshops). As a behavioural and animal ecologist with extended research and teaching experience in tropical ecology, I will help guarantee the quality of contributions to the society's meetings and to Ecotropica. Having studied one of the most endangered and enigmatic primates of the world – the Madame Berthe's mouse lemur (*Microcebus berthae*) – for 10 years in a vanishing and highly fragmented forest in Madagascar, I am highly motivated to further strengthen the society's conservation efforts (e.g. via support and guidance of in-situ projects and communication with the public). Further, I will continue to work towards guaranteeing the societies' thrive to be inclusive, diverse, and give equal opportunities to everyone (e.g. by further developing our code of conduct).

RAFFAEL ERNST

I would like to express my continued interest in standing for re-election as a member of the gtö Scientific Advisory Board and in serving the society as an active member.

As a long-standing member of gtö (1996) and current member of the Scientific Advisory Board (since 2015), I have had the privilege of actively contributing to the crucial transformation process that has helped to internationalize our society and make it one of the leading European associations in the field of tropical ecology.



As a passionate herpetologist, a trained tropical biologist and animal ecologist and organismal biologist by conviction, I am interested in how phylogeny and ecology drive patterns of functional diversity in biological communities and how elucidating the underlying processes can lead to sound conservation management decisions. I have been involved in tropical research for more than two decades, particularly in the Neo- and Afrotropics. Having worked in both universities and non-university research institutes, more specifically natural history museums, I am more convinced than ever that research museums are natural partners in the search for scientific solutions to the pressing global problems imposed on us by the triple planetary crisis (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution). The Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) has traditionally provided an umbrella and platform for exchange between representatives from both basic research and applied conservation, and I have had the privilege of helping to facilitate this exchange in recent years, not least by linking the Society and its members with museum-based research networks. I would be honored to continue to provide these services to the Society in a new term of office and to help address

the new challenges that lie ahead. I would therefore be very pleased if you would agree to my application for a renewed candidacy.

PIERRE-MICHEL FORGET



I was invited by our late vice-president Elisabeth Kalko to join the Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö) in 2005 in Berlin. Since then I'm a member. It was time for the two of us to develop a network of Europe-based Tropical Ecologists, as well as to interact with other societies here and abroad. Since 2018, as President, I worked to develop the Society at the European level in close collaboration with the Executive and Scientific advisory boards, and other members. We've then been meeting in Paris, France (2018), followed by Edinburgh, UK (2019), Montpellier-Leipzig, France/Germany (2022), then České Budějovice, Czech Republic (2023). Meanwhile, our Society survived the COVID-19 pandemic despite ups and downs in our finances due to the organization and the cancellation of two major conferences in 2020-2021. Because I simply love our community, I want to continue contributing and helping our Society to become more European and international in the near future.

NATHALY GUERRERO



My name is Nathaly R. Guerrero Ramírez, I am from Colombia but for the last ten years based in Germany, currently at the University of Göttingen. I am a member of the Society for Tropical Ecology and I want to become a Member of the Scientific Advisory Board. My research aims to elucidate how cross-scale processes shape multi-taxa multi-faceted biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, including the explicit integration of above and belowground compartments of terrestrial ecosystems. Understanding the links between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning contributes to addressing fundamental questions in ecology and is crucial for predicting impacts on human well-being in an era of biodiversity and climate change. My research operates in the interface between ecological and applied knowledge, with my scientific contributions highly relevant in the

context of resilience and ecosystem restoration. For example, with collaborators, we have been working toward elucidating the complexity of natural and human-modified ecosystems in multiple tropical countries, including Mexico, Panama, Madagascar, Indonesia, and Colombia. I am highly motivated to join the scientific advisory board because my research aligns with the vision and mission of the Society for Tropical Ecology. But mostly, I believe in the key role of the Society in bringing the spotlight to the science developed in the tropics, supporting and empowering tropical ecologists, particularly from tropical countries, to play a leading role within and outside

academia, and providing a diverse community including people from different career stages, expertise, and backgrounds. In summary, I am eager to engage in an active role because I value the contributions of the Society for current and future generations of tropical ecologists.

EIKE LENA NEUSCHULZ



BIOSKETCH. Ecologist working on the interactions between plants and animals and their role for plant regeneration; Senior scientist at the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre Frankfurt, Germany. PhD (2011) Philipps-Universität Marburg. Research interests: patterns of biodiversity and ecosystem functions across elevational gradients in temperate and tropical systems, experimental community ecology, understanding the mechanisms of ecosystem functioning. Member of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) since 2009. Currently, co-speaker of the scientific advisory board. **MOTIVATION.** I

joined the scientific advisory board of the gtö in 2012. I consider increasing the attractiveness of the gtö to young members, as well as an internationalization of the society as a very important to be addressed by the advisory board. I am involved in the communication between the advisory board and the members of gtö, for instance by being the editor of the gtö newsletter.

OMER NEVO



I am an evolutionary ecologist specializing in seed dispersal, fruit trait evolution, and particularly the evolution of fruit chemistry. My research combines ecological, behavioral, genetic and mainly chemical methods to understand the evolution of fruit traits. Most of my work is in Madagascar, but I also have active projects in Costa Rica and Brazil, and worked in the past in Uganda, Peru, and South Africa. I am currently a junior research group leader at iDiv and Friedrich Schiller University Jena, funded by the Emmy Noether program. I have been a member of the society since 2014, attended many meetings and organized multiple symposia. The main point I would like to promote at the GTÖ is a higher emphasis on integrative research: tropical systems are among the most complex on our planet. Understanding them requires integration of the biology of single species - from genes to physiology to behavior, species interaction networks, evolutionary history, geological history, and more. But integrative research - particularly in the tropics - has not yet reached its potential. Our society is extremely diverse in terms of study systems, model organisms, analytical expertise and research questions. It thus has the potential to become an optimal platform to promote such integrative research.

GLADYS NYAKERU KUNG'U



I humbly submit this short statement as pitch to be selected as a member of the Scientific Board of the Society for Tropical Ecology. I am a behavioural and conservation ecologist interested in understanding how anthropogenic habitat modification influences the behaviour and, ultimately the long-term survival of animals. Currently, I am a PhD student at the University of Salzburg, Austria, investigating how forest degradation in the Taita Hills, an important biodiversity hotspot in Kenya, influences the movement behaviour and cooperative breeding strategy of the Placid greenbul (*Phyllastrephus placidus*), an insectivorous forest

specialist. Having learnt about the Society in August 2022 through the Early Career student group, I later become an official member and now aspire to join the Society's scientific board. During Early Career student group meetings, a notable topic that emerged pertains to the need to revive the Society's journal, ECOTROPICA. As a potential Scientific Board member, I aim to promote the journal's growth, contributing as a peer reviewer and advocating for it on social media and within my networks in Kenya and beyond. Additionally, I am committed to

sustaining my involvement with the Early Career group, promoting its objectives among students. Combining my passion for behavioural ecology with a dedication to scientific communication, I am eager to enhance the Society's growth and impact through collaborative initiatives.

NOREEN MUTORO



My name is Noreen Mutoro from Kenya and I am currently a PhD candidate at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria. Over 50% of Kenya's wildlife lives outside designated protected areas and there is limited information on most of the species' ecology in landscapes where they co-occur with humans. Thus, my research revolves around species conservation in human-dominated landscapes in Kenya (with a specific focus on cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*) using a combination of ecological, geoinformation and social sciences methods. Cheetah was selected as a model species in this study because over 60% of their population resides beyond protected areas and few studies have explored their responses to anthropogenic pressures in shared landscapes. I also have a keen

interest in birds, GIS, remote sensing and until recently, immersive storytelling. I joined gto as a student member in 2021 and I appreciated the Early Career Group's effort in connecting and supporting PhD students like me. Since then, I have been trying to get more students to join the Group. Becoming a scientific advisory board member will provide a great opportunity to network with other scientists as well as a platform for sharing and promoting 'new' topics, ideas and perspectives about tropical ecosystems to a well-established scientific community.

PIA PAROLIN



My research focus lies on freshwater wetlands – an often neglected field, and yet so important for global water and carbon cycles. I have been working mainly in Amazonian floodplain forests, but also in tropical wetlands worldwide. In gto, my goal is to increase the strength as a society that serves as a networking basis for tropical ecology in Europe, and to increase information flow between ecologists in Europe and other societies of tropical ecology worldwide. As ex Vice-President and Secretary General of gto, I have been involved for more than two decades with the society and would love to give input and help with my huge network.

CHRISTINE B. SCHMITT



I am a Landscape Ecologist fascinated by the diversity and beauty of tropical forests. My main research interest is to study the biodiversity and ecosystem services of tropical forest landscapes as a basis for developing conservation and sustainable use strategies. Next to field surveys with a vegetation focus, I use inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to also consider policy frameworks and people's perspectives. I have conducted most of my field research in Ethiopia and Kenya but have also been involved in projects in other parts of the tropics. I am a gtoe member since 2012 and enjoyed the interaction with the tropical ecology community during many of the annual meetings. Since 2021, I more actively participate in the society as a member of the gtoe scientific advisory board and I am happy

to stand for re-election. As a board member, I am particularly interested in promoting ecological research as well as the conservation and sustainable use of tropical ecosystems through enhanced international collaboration and awareness raising in- and outside academia.

DOMINIK SCHÜSSLER

I am working as a nature conservationist between the German Siegerland and the rainforests of Madagascar. My main interest is integrating the human dimension into land use and wildlife conservation management using conservation social science and environmental modeling approaches. While my current work focus is on applied



nature conservation and ecosystem management in Germany, my research focus is on the evolutionary history of lemurs in northeastern Madagascar with its implications for species conservation. I joined the gtö in 2019 and have become a scientific board member shortly after. My main objective during this time was to establish the Early Career Group and to support and connect interested students during their PhD projects. As the Group has been constantly growing, I wish to continue working on it and promoting the idea of networking among early career researchers from around the world.

ELISE SIVAUT



I am a passionate tropical ecologist with a keen focus on studying bat diversity and their trophic interactions across environmental gradients. Currently, I'm in the final year of my PhD program at the Biology Centre of the Czech Academy of Sciences and the University of South Bohemia in the Czech Republic. My academic journey has focused on understanding trophic cascades involving insectivorous predators, insects, and plants. I have extensive experience in surveying bats in diverse tropical forests. One exciting aspect of my research is utilizing metabarcoding techniques to identify bat-feeding patterns and explore potential connections to their microbiomes for conservation perspectives.

ANNEMARIE WURZ



My name is Annemarie Wurz. I am a tropical ecologist with research experience in Madagascar and Ecuador. Currently I am a Postdoc at the Philipps University in Marburg working in tropical mountain forests in Ecuador. In my current project, we are trying to understand the drivers and patterns of arthropod herbivory in the tree canopy. To do so, we are linking leaf traits as well as environmental parameters to herbivory. With this knowledge, we can predict changes in biotic processes under specified species loss and evaluate the resistance of ecosystems to climate and land-use change. In my PhD research at the

University of Goettingen, I focused on how biodiversity and ecosystem services respond to land-use change by smallholder farming in north-eastern Madagascar. Here, I identified conservation opportunities in the agricultural landscape and provided management solutions which reconcile biodiversity conservation and agricultural production. I would like to continue my candidacy in the gtöe scientific board to keep building up our early career group. The early career group is a great opportunity for tropical ecologists to network, get information and discuss topics of interest. With this platform for capacity building, we want to support Global South leadership towards an inclusive tropical ecology.

Miscellaneous

Frankfurt Conservation Award (Bruno-Schubert Award) to Prof. Dr. Meike Piepenbring



Foto: Orlando A Cáceres

For her outstanding personal achievements in academic teaching on nature and environmental protection, Prof. Dr. Meike Piepenbring, Professor of Mycology at the Institute for Ecology, Evolution and Diversity at the Goethe University Frankfurt and Member of the Society for Tropical Ecology, was awarded the Frankfurt Conservation Award (Category 1, Teaching).

Worldwide, only about five percent of existing fungal species have been scientifically described. Meike Piepenbring investigates the diversity and ecology of fungi, especially in the tropics, and works with international scientific partners in Latin America and West Africa. For example, she has started a project with the University of Parakou in Benin to scientifically record West African mushrooms and is developing methods for growing edible mushrooms that can serve as a high-quality meat substitute. “Mushrooms contain a lot of Protein, as well as D vitamins, minerals and trace elements,” explains Piepenbring. “By developing sustainable growing methods and passing them on to local farmers, we can promote economic independence, especially for women, and conserve natural resources.” Meike Piepenbring is a passionate university lecturer in the Department of Life Sciences at Goethe University and in the “Frankfurt Spring School on Conservation Project Management”. The “Spring School” is a course for young or future nature conservation professionals from all over the world, which, in addition to university education, imparts knowledge of project and team management, financing and communication in nature conservation projects and nature parks. Through her research, teaching and public relations work, Meike Piepenbring increases knowledge, enthusiasm and appreciation of biodiversity - indispensable foundations for any nature conservation initiative.

<https://fzs.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/awardeesfcc.pdf>



Multi-Trophic Interactions in a Forest Biodiversity Experiment in China

The new research unit FOR 5281 about 'Multi-Trophic interactions in a forest biodiversity experiment in China' officially started.

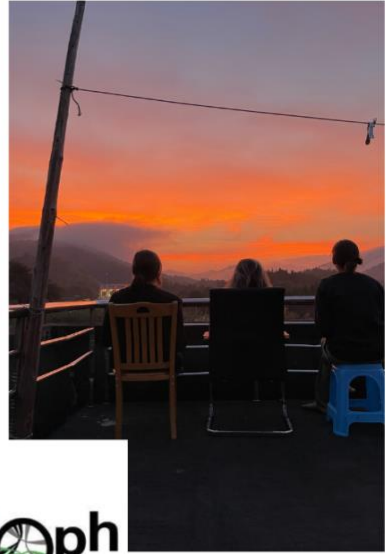
In 2008, a collaborative effort between Chinese, Swiss, and German researchers laid the foundation for what would become the world's largest forest biodiversity experiment—the BEF-China research platform, located in Jiangxi Province in south-eastern, subtropical China. Spearheaded by Helge Bruelheide, Keping Ma, and Bernhard Schmid, the overall aim of the BEF-China research platform was and still is to better understand the intricate relationships between biodiversity and ecosystem functions (BEF-relationships) in forests.

Fast forward fifteen years, and the once-planted seedlings have matured into a thriving forest canopy, prompting the initiation of new research endeavours. Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), MultiTroph (www.multitroph.com) has started under the leadership of Alexandra Klein (University of Freiburg) and Chao-Dong Zhu (Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing). While earlier phases of BEF-China primarily focused on plants, MultiTroph shifts the spotlight onto zoological aspects, seeking to unravel the mechanisms that contribute to complex BEF-relationships across trophic levels. The goal is to quantify species interactions between primary producers and different trophic and functional groups of consumers. Ultimately, we will connect the different interaction types to large food webs to increase our understanding of how, why and when ecosystem functions are destabilised with species loss. The project includes two central projects – coordination, data management, and synthesis – alongside six thematic subprojects. These subprojects delve into diverse topics such as deadwood decomposition, herbivory (including pollen-collecting bees), seed predation, and predators involving ants and wasps. Investigations into deadwood decomposition and the fluxes of chemical elements within and between trophic levels serve as crucial links in understanding the overarching network dynamics.

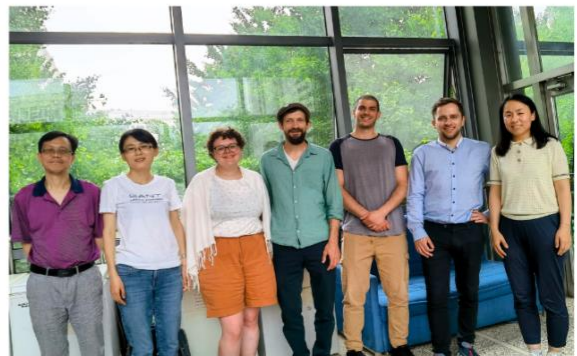
Our team consists of 22 researchers from German and Austrian Universities, 10 Chinese partners from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, a partner from the Stuttgart Museum of Natural History and a Mercator Fellow from Pennsylvania State University. After MultiTroph successfully kicked off in Freiburg in March 2023, our researchers were among the first foreigners that entered China post-pandemic. The first field season is now over, and we look forward to the upcoming years. As we continue our research, we are committed to keeping the Society for Tropical Ecology informed about our progress, and evolving insights into how biodiverse communities shape forest ecosystems. If we sparked your interest in MultiTroph and BEF-China, you are invited to get in touch and to follow us on X (@multitroph), Mastodon (@multitroph@mastodon.social), Instagram (multitroph), or WeChat.

Best, Finn Rehling, Michael Staab & Alexandra-M. Klein

If you've been curious about our logo, the Chinese symbols within it represent "forest" and "network," encapsulating the essence of multi-trophic networks in the forest.



Multi
Troph
林网



WATER PEOPLE STORIES

#WATERPEOPLESTORIES



Dr. rer. nat. Habil. **Pia Parolin** - I am a biologist, photographer and author. Both, my research and my photography, are committed to freshwater. I hold a PhD in wetland ecology and have worked in Brazilian Amazonia most of my scientific life. As a photographer, I employ visual communication to integrate scientific knowledge and data with nature conservation. I focus on the connection between water and people. I lead interviews and take social documentary photographs of people and water since 1986.



I do not look for the spectacular places. I rather observe everyday life in my surroundings. I rely on the synergies of science, visual communication and art to communicate over borders and find solutions. I listen to the stories of people all around the world and portrait them. This way, I draw attention to the importance of the most important resource, water.

This project explores the cultural significance of wetlands and the stories of people and their water. **The aim is to understand and transform how societies see, value and impact wetlands.** I explore the relationship between humans and water, with an emphasis on freshwater ecosystems. I observe and document the changes linked to the water crisis, and the role this plays for the wetlands and the local people.

#waterpeoplestories #waterpeople #waterpeoplesmiles #waterpeopleconnection #riverculture #rivers #freshwater #floodplain #wetlands #connectedtonature #connectedtorivers #connectedtowater

Find more on <https://www.piaparolin.com/PROJECTS/WaterPeopleStories/>, @water.people.stories @piaparolinphoto

The Society for Tropical Ecology (*gtö*)

The Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, *gtö*), founded in 1987, is Europe's largest scientific association in the field of tropical ecology. It aims to enhance the understanding of the biodiversity and function of tropical ecosystems, and to drive decision-making and management at all levels, to safeguard as much as possible of what is left in its original state and to further the development of sustainable forms of use and effective means of rehabilitation through research and its application. The society also aims to promote the conservation and rehabilitation of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems through research and its application. <http://www.soctropecol.eu/>

gtö Executive Board



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Dr. Raffael Ernst, Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden, Germany
MSc. Paulina Grigusova, Philipps University of Marburg, Germany
Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann, Deutsches Primatenzentrum Göttingen, Germany –*Ecotropica editor*
Dr. Jürgen Homeier, University of Göttingen, Germany
Dr. Sarah Luke, University of Cambridge, UK
Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Frankfurt am Main, Germany – *co-speaker of the advisory board and editor of the gtö Newsletter*
Dr. Vojtech Novotny, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic
Dr. Pia Parolin, INRA, Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, CNRS, France
Dr. Katerina Sam, Biology Centre of Czech Republic, Czech Republic
Prof. Dr. Christine B. Schmitt, University of Passau, Germany
MSc. Dominik Schüßler, Universität Hildesheim, Germany
PD Dr. Marco Tschapka, University of Ulm, Germany –*Ecotropica editor*
MSc. Annemarie Wurz, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany –*Social media*



Meeting of GfÖ and gtö board members at the 52. Annual Conference of the German Ecological Society in Leipzig. From left to right: Simone Pfeiffer, Pierre-Michel Forget, Nina Farwig, Katerina Sam, Katrin Heer, Nico Blüthgen, Ingo Grass, Christian Ammer, Solveig Franziska Bucher, Nathaly Guerrero.
Picture: © Nathaly Guerrero

Impressum

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APPENDIX I: Minutes of the 36th general assembly of the gtö - 2023

Date: 21st June 2023

Place: Room C2, Building C of the Faculty of Sciences, Branišovská 1160/31, University of Southern Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic

Beginning: 17h45 End: 19h00

Number of participants: 38 members

Agenda:

1. Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda

President Pierre-Michel Forget opens the general assembly and welcomes all members. He introduces the members of the executive board. The agenda is approved by the audience.

2. Election of the assembly's secretary

Secretary general Ute Radespiel is suggested as secretary of the general assembly. This suggestion is approved by the audience and accepted by Ute Radespiel.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 35th general assembly

The audience approves the minutes of the last general assembly.

4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2022

The president delivers the report on the activities of the Executive Board in 2022. Across the year 2022, the board conducted four board meetings, one in 1/2022, 2/2022, 6/2022, and 12/2022, respectively. The meetings in June 2022 (Montpellier) and in December 2022 (Frankfurt) were conducted in person, the others were held online. While the board used the first meetings to prepare the conference and the general assembly in Montpellier in June 2022, it started organizing gtoe2023 (Ceske Budejovice) together with Katerina Sam, the local organizer, right after the meeting in Montpellier. In parallel, we started planning ahead for our future annual meetings – Lisbon (2024), Amsterdam (2025), and beyond. Given the improved financial situation of the society, the board decided to resume giving out travel grants and research grants in early 2023 (organized by Simone Pfeiffer and Pablo Orosco-terWengel, respectively). Within 2022, we also developed a timely Code of Conduct for the Society which will be presented today to the members, discussed, and voted upon. If the Code will be adopted, the statutes also will need to be changed. This is another point on the agenda for today (see below).

5. Report of the Treasurer on the financial year 2022

The Treasurer Simone Pfeiffer presents and explains the accounting details of the entire year 2022. The total balance of 2022 was: +18,544.04 Euro. The details of revenues and expenditures are presented in the Appendix. The total result of the Montpellier conference was +34,014.56 Euro, of which only 15,000 Euro were already transferred to the gtö account by Agropolis, the local conference organisers. The rest will be still transferred this year.

The Society has granted 13 travel grants and 5 research grants for 2023 which are given to the grantees either in cash at gtoe2023 in Ceske Budejovice (travel grants) or via bank transfer (research grants) over the next weeks.

The society has attracted 81 new members since the beginning of 2023 and currently has a total of 304 members.

The Treasurer will soon prepare the documents for the Society's tax declaration for 2020-2022.

A Member raises concerns about realistic payment options from Africa, since SEPA and also Credit Card does not work for many members from African countries. The Treasurer explains the limitations of the current payment options. One possibility is already used: payment is made through a colleague living in a European country.

6. Report of the cash accountants

Dominik Martin and Stefan Hohnwald have reviewed the paperwork and all accounting details presented by the Treasurer and have approved all accounting details. A German approval letter has been formulated and is displayed on screen during the assembly.

7. Discharge of the executive board

Tobias van Elst suggests to discharge the executive board. The general assembly votes on this suggestion:

For discharge: 32 votes

Against discharge: 0 votes

Abstentions: 4 votes

Two more members arrived after this point in the agenda.

8. Code of conduct for the gto

The membership reads the text of the code of conduct which is displayed with its entire text at the screen. The content and intention behind the code is explained and discussed with the audience. There is the suggestion for one change in the wording of the English text: Under "Safety and Security". It should read now: "Those affected by potential violation of this Code of Conduct are provided a safe and trustful environment where they are respected and can talk about their situation without being judged."

The general assembly votes on the Code in this wording:

Yes to the code: 38 votes

No to the code: 0 votes

Abstentions: 0 votes

As a next step, the Code of Conduct will be placed on the gtoe webpage and a person of trust (Simone Pfeiffer has agreed to take this responsibility) will be named there too.

9. Change of statutes

By adopting the Code of Conduct, it becomes necessary to also change the statutes of the society to integrate the reference to the Code of Conduct appropriately. The following necessary changes were suggested by our lawyer and are explained:

Statutes

- Version 2020 and suggested changes for 21st June 2023 (in yellow) -

...

§ 4

Members

...

A member can be expelled from the society based on a decision of the executive board, if he/she counteracted the goals of the society, **breached the Code of Conduct**, or did not comply with his/her membership obligations, e.g. if membership dues have not been paid for more than one year after payment date.

...

§ 6

General assembly

...

The general assembly formulates the guidelines for the work of the society and decides on questions of fundamental importance. The duties of the general assembly include in particular

...

a. **Issuing and changing the Code of Conduct**

j. Resolution on changes of the statutes and the dissolution of the society

...

Changes of the statutes, the dissolution of the society and changes of the Code of Conduct can only be decided by the majority of 2/3 of the attending members.

...

Three members left before the voting on the change in statutes took place (remaining = 35 members).

Vote on suggested changes of the statutes:

Yes to changes: 35 members

No to changes: 0 members

Abstentions: 0 members

10. Report of the advisory board

The speaker of the scientific advisory board, Eike Lena Neuschulz, reports on the activities of the scientific board. The scientific board met four times in 2022 together with the executive board.

The younger members of the board have formed a very active *early career group* of the gtö which is led by two board members (Annemarie Wurz, Dominik Schüßler). The *early career group* has 19 members and conducted four meetings in 2022 & five meetings in 2023 so far.

Members of the board organized six more events within the TEO seminar series since the last conference. Although successful, the board has decided to stop this activity to give priority to in-person meetings from now on again. The board expresses its sincere thanks to the two board members Annemarie Wurz and Melanie Dammhahn for organizing this event over the last years. Links to previously recorded talks (provided on YouTube) are available on our webpage.

One Newsletter has been sent out in time before this conference. If there are problems with receiving the Newsletter, please get back to the Treasurer.

11. Election of the cash accountants

One of the previous cash accountants, Dr. Dominik Martin, would be willing to continue as cash accountant for the year 2023. Dr. Omer Nevo is proposed as second candidate and has agreed to become candidate for this task.

The audience performs a vote on both suggestions en bloc.

Yes to the nominations: 35 members

No to the nominations: 0 members

Abstentions: 0 members

12. Ecotropica

One of the two editors, Eckhard Heymann, reports on the status of *Ecotropica*. The Editors had hoped to receive many article submissions – as *Ecotropica* is an online journal that does not charge publication fees – but submissions dropped since the pandemic. Furthermore, some manuscripts had to be rejected due to a topical misfit. Other manuscripts have required revisions which were never completed – all of these have been removed now from the publishers' pipeline.

Ecotropica publishes Research articles – field site profiles – book reviews – or essays.

If the journal does not receive sufficient submissions, it will never be able to receive an impact factor, which we aim to achieve. The editors therefore encourage all members to consider publishing in *Ecotropica* about at least some smaller part of their work. We need at least five research and/or review papers per year for two years in a row in order to acquire an impact factor. But if the journal does not receive enough contributions, we will at some point need to take the consequences and close the journal down.

Question from member: when can submissions be made? Answer: Submissions can be done any time, and publications are published online as soon as they are accepted and have undergone copy editing.

Suggestion from member: Ecotropica could use members and early career scientists to act as reviewer. Answer: Yes, we can do that, but we need submissions first.

The general assembly thanks the editors Eckhard Heymann and Marco Tschapka for acting as editors for *Ecotropica*.

One member leaves the general assembly after this point in the agenda.

13. Preparation of future annual meetings

2024: Lisbon – Portugal - Dates: 12.-16. February 2024 (webpage already online)

Jorge Palmeirim, the local organizer, introduces himself and presents the plan to go to Lisbon in 2024 with the gto. Venue: University of Lisbon (Faculty of Sciences Building), presentation of rooms A, B1-B3 (up to 90 persons each), C (room for poster sessions).

Several smaller (historic or landscape focus) excursions around Lisbon will be possible.

The success of the 2024 conference will depend on the number of participants – JP therefore expresses his invitation to the general assembly to come as participants and also to organize scientific sessions.

2025: Amsterdam – Netherlands (W. Gosling) – is confirmed

2026: Passau – Germany (Ch. Schmitt) – is confirmed

2027: To be announced

2028: Montpellier – France (P.M. Forget) – is confirmed

2029: Freiburg - Germany (K. Heer) – is confirmed

14. Miscellaneous

Next year, we will have to conduct elections again for all board positions (executive & advisory board) and there will certainly be vacancies, including the president position. We welcome nominations from members for any of the positions. A newsletter will be sent out to all members to explain all steps towards the elections in time.

Eckhard Heymann expresses his appreciation of the good attendance of the general assembly today!

The president closes the general assembly at 19h00.

Protokoll der 36. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö - 2023

Datum: 21. Juni 2022

Ort: Raum C2, Gebäude C der Faculty of Sciences, Branišovská 1160/31, University of Southern Bohemia, České Budějovice, Tschechien

Anfang: 17.45 Uhr **Ende:** 19.00 Uhr

Anzahl der Teilnehmenden: 38 Mitglieder

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung

Präsident Pierre-Michel Forget eröffnet die Mitgliederversammlung und begrüßt alle Mitglieder. Er stellt die Mitglieder des Vorstandes vor. Die Tagesordnung wird von den Anwesenden genehmigt.

2. Wahl des Schriftführers der Versammlung

Die Generalsekretärin Ute Radespiel wird als Schriftführerin der Mitgliederversammlung vorgeschlagen. Dieser Vorschlag wird von den Anwesenden bestätigt und von Ute Radespiel angenommen.

3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 35. Mitgliederversammlung

Die Anwesenden genehmigen das Protokoll der letzten Mitgliederversammlung.

4. Bericht des Vorstandes über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft im Jahr 2022

Der Präsident gibt den Bericht über die Aktivitäten des Vorstands im Jahr 2022 ab. Der Vorstand hat im Jahr 2022 vier Vorstandssitzungen abgehalten, jeweils eine in 1/2022, 2/2022, 6/2022 und 12/2022. Die Sitzungen im Juni 2022 (Montpellier) und im Dezember 2022 (Frankfurt) wurden in Person abgehalten, die übrigen Sitzungen fanden online statt.

Während der Vorstand die ersten Sitzungen nutzte, um die Konferenz und die Mitgliederversammlung in Montpellier im Juni 2022 vorzubereiten, begann er unmittelbar nach der Sitzung in Montpellier mit der Organisation von gtoe2023 (Ceske Budejovice) zusammen mit Katerina Sam, der lokalen Organisatorin. Parallel dazu wurden die Planung unserer künftigen Jahrestagungen - Lissabon (2024), Amsterdam (2025) und darüber hinaus, vorangetrieben. Angesichts der verbesserten finanziellen Lage der Gesellschaft beschloss der Vorstand, ab Anfang 2023 wieder Reisestipendien und Forschungsstipendien zu vergeben (organisiert von Simone Pfeiffer bzw. Pablo Orosco-terWengel). Im Jahr 2022 wurde außerdem ein zeitgemäßer Verhaltenskodex für die Gesellschaft entwickelt, der heute den Mitgliedern vorgestellt, diskutiert und zur Abstimmung gestellt wird. Wenn der Kodex angenommen wird, muss auch die Satzung geändert werden. Dies ist ein weiterer Punkt auf der Tagesordnung für heute (siehe unten).

5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2022

Die Schatzmeisterin Simone Pfeiffer präsentiert und erläutert die Buchhaltungsdetails des Geschäftsjahres 2022. Der Gesamtsaldo des Jahres 2022 beträgt: +18.544,04 Euro. Die Einzelheiten von Einnahmen und Ausgaben des Jahres 2022 sind im Anhang aufgeführt. Das Gesamtergebnis der Konferenz in Montpellier gtoe2022 betrug +34.014,56 Euro, wovon in 2022 15.000 Euro von Agropolis, dem lokalen Konferenzveranstalter, auf das gtö-Konto überwiesen wurden. Der Rest wird noch in diesem Jahr überwiesen.

Die Gesellschaft hat 13 Reisestipendien und 5 Forschungsstipendien für 2023 vergeben, die den Stipendiaten entweder in bar auf der gtoe2023 in Ceske Budejovice (Reisestipendien) ausgezahlt oder per Banküberweisung (Forschungsstipendien) in den nächsten Wochen überwiesen werden.

Die Gesellschaft hat seit Jahresbeginn 2023 insgesamt 81 neue Mitglieder hinzugewonnen und zählt derzeit insgesamt 304 Mitglieder.

Die Schatzmeisterin erstellt in Kürze die Dokumente für die Steuererklärung der Gesellschaft für die Jahre 2020-2022.

Ein Mitglied äußert Bedenken über realistische Zahlungsmöglichkeiten aus Afrika, da SEPA und auch Kreditkarte für viele Mitglieder aus afrikanischen Ländern nicht funktionieren. Die Schatzmeisterin erklärt die Grenzen der derzeitigen Zahlungsmöglichkeiten. Eine Möglichkeit wird bereits genutzt: die Zahlung erfolgt über eine/einen in einem europäischen Land lebende/n Kollegin/Kollegen.

6. Bericht der Kassenprüfer

Dominik Martin und Stefan Hohnwald haben die von der Schatzmeisterin vorgelegten Unterlagen und alle buchhalterischen Details geprüft und haben keine Beanstandungen gefunden. Der Bericht wurde in deutscher Sprache abgefasst und vorgelegt, und der Versammlung auf dem Bildschirm angezeigt.

7. Entlastung des Präsidiums

Tobias van Elst schlägt die Entlastung des Präsidiums vor. Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt über diesen Vorschlag ab:

Für die Entlastung: 32 Stimmen

Gegen die Entlastung: 0 Stimmen

Stimmenthaltungen: 4 Stimmen

Nach diesem Punkt der Tagesordnung treffen zwei weitere Mitglieder (= 38 Mitglieder) ein.

8. Code of Conduct für die gtö

Die Mitglieder lesen den Text des vorab verschickten Code of Conduct, der vollständig auf der Leinwand angezeigt wird (genauer Text in Appendix 2). Der Inhalt und die Intention des Codes wird erläutert und mit den Mitgliedern diskutiert. Es gibt einen Vorschlag für eine Änderung der englischen Übersetzung (Austausch eines Wortes) unter "Safety and Security" (siehe unten).

Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt anschließend über den Code of Conduct in diesem Wortlaut ab:

Ja zum Code of Conduct: 38 Stimmen

Nein zum Code of Conduct: 0 Stimmen

Stimmenthaltungen: 0 Stimmen

Der Code of Conduct ist damit angenommen.

Als nächster Schritt wird der Code of Conduct auf die gtöe-Webseite gestellt und eine Vertrauensperson (Simone Pfeiffer hat sich bereit erklärt, diese Aufgabe zu übernehmen) wird dort ebenfalls genannt werden.

9. Satzungsänderung

Mit der Verabschiedung des Code of Conduct wird es notwendig, auch die Satzung des Vereins zu ändern, um den Code of Conduct angemessen zu integrieren. Die folgenden notwendigen Änderungen wurden vom Anwalt der gtö vorgeschlagen und werden erläutert:

Satzung

- Fassung 2020 und Änderungsvorschläge für 21. Juni 2023 (in gelb) -

...

§ 4

Mitglieder

...

Ein Mitglied kann durch Beschluss des Vorstandes ausgeschlossen werden, wenn es den Vereinszielen zuwiderhandelt, **gegen den Code of Conduct verstößt**, oder seinen Verpflichtungen gegenüber dem Verein nicht nachkommt, z. B. mit seiner Beitragszahlung länger als ein Jahr nach Fälligkeit im Rückstand ist.

...

§ 6

Mitgliederversammlung

Die Mitgliederversammlung stellt die Richtlinien für die Arbeit des Vereins auf und entscheidet Fragen von grundsätzlicher Bedeutung. Zu den Aufgaben der Mitgliederversammlung gehören insbesondere

i. Erlass und Änderung eines Code of Conduct

j. Beschlussfassung über Änderungen der Satzung und die Auflösung des Vereins

Satzungsänderungen, die Auflösung des Vereins und Änderungen des Code of Conduct können nur mit einer Mehrheit von 2/3 der anwesenden Mitglieder beschlossen werden.

Drei Mitglieder verlassen die Versammlung, bevor die Abstimmung über die Satzungsänderung stattfand (verbleibende = 35 Mitglieder).

Abstimmung über die vorgeschlagenen Satzungsänderungen:

Ja zu den Änderungen: 35 Mitglieder

Nein zu den Änderungen: 0 Mitglieder

Stimmhaltungen: 0 Mitglieder

10. Bericht des wissenschaftlichen Beirats

Die Sprecherin des wissenschaftlichen Beirats, Eike Lena Neuschulz, berichtet über die Aktivitäten des wissenschaftlichen Beirats. Der wissenschaftliche Beirat hat im Jahr 2022 viermal zusammen mit dem Vorstand getagt.

Die jüngeren Mitglieder des Beirats haben eine sehr aktive Nachwuchsgruppe der gTö gebildet, die von zwei Beiratsmitgliedern (Annemarie Wurz, Dominik Schüßler) geleitet wird. Die Nachwuchsgruppe hat 19 Mitglieder und hat bisher vier Treffen im Jahr 2022 und fünf Treffen im Jahr 2023 durchgeführt.

Mitglieder des Beirats haben seit der letzten Konferenz sechs weitere Veranstaltungen im Rahmen der TEO-Seminarreihe organisiert. Obwohl erfolgreich, hat der Vorstand beschlossen, diese Aktivitäten einzustellen, um von nun an wieder persönlichen Treffen den Vorrang zu geben. Der Vorstand bedankt sich herzlich bei den beiden Beiratsmitgliedern Annemarie Wurz und Melanie Dammhahn für die Organisation dieser Veranstaltungen in den letzten Jahren. Links zu den bisher aufgezeichneten Vorträgen (auf YouTube) sind auf unserer Webseite zu finden.

Ein Newsletter wurde rechtzeitig vor dieser Konferenz verschickt. Falls es Probleme gibt mit dem dem Erhalt des Newsletters, melden Sie sich bitte bei der Schatzmeisterin.

11. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden

Einer der bisherigen Kassenprüfer, Dr. Dominik Martin, wäre bereit, das Amt des Kassenprüfers im Jahr 2023 weiterzuführen. Dr. Omer Nevo wird als zweiter Kandidat vorgeschlagen und hat sich bereit erklärt, für diese Aufgabe zu kandidieren.

Die Anwesenden stimmen über beide Vorschläge en bloc ab.

Ja zu den Vorschlägen: 35 Mitglieder

Nein zu den Nominierungen: 0 Mitglieder

Stimmhaltungen: 0 Mitglieder

12. Ecotropica

Einer der beiden Herausgeber, Eckhard Heymann, berichtet über die Situation mit *Ecotropica*. Die Herausgeber hatten gehofft, dass viele Artikel eingereicht werden - da *Ecotropica* eine Online-Zeitschrift ist, die keine Publikationsgebühren erhebt, aber die Einreichungen sind seit der Pandemie zurückgegangen. Außerdem

mussten einige Manuskripte wegen thematischer Unzulänglichkeiten abgelehnt werden. Andere Manuskripte erforderten Überarbeitungen, die nie abgeschlossen wurden - alle diese Manuskripte sind nun aus der Publikationspipeline entfernt worden.

Ecotropica veröffentlicht Forschungsartikel - Standortprofile - Buchbesprechungen - oder Essays.

Wenn die Zeitschrift nicht genügend Einreichungen erhält, wird sie niemals einen Impact-Faktor erhalten können, den wir anstreben. Die Herausgeber ermutigen daher alle Mitglieder, eine Veröffentlichung in *Ecotropica* zumindest über einen kleineren Teil ihrer Arbeit in Betracht zu ziehen. Um einen Impact-Faktor zu erhalten, benötigen wir zwei Jahre in Folge mindestens fünf Forschungs- und/oder Übersichtsarbeiten pro Jahr. Wenn die Zeitschrift jedoch nicht genügend Beiträge erhält, werden wir irgendwann die Konsequenzen ziehen und die Zeitschrift schließen müssen.

Frage eines Mitglieds: Zu welchem Zeitpunkt können Beiträge eingereicht werden? Antwort: Einreichungen sind jederzeit möglich, und Veröffentlichungen werden online gestellt, sobald sie angenommen und redigiert wurden.

Anregung eines Mitglieds: *Ecotropica* könnte Mitglieder und Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen als Gutachter einsetzen. Antwort: Ja, das können wir tun, aber wir brauchen zuerst eingereichte Manuskripte.

Die Mitgliederversammlung dankt den Herausgebern Eckhard Heymann und Marco Tschapka für ihren Einsatz für *Ecotropica*.

Ein Mitglied verlässt die Mitgliederversammlung nach diesem Punkt der Tagesordnung (= 34 Mitglieder).

13. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen

2024: Lissabon - Portugal - Termin: 12.-16. Februar 2024 (Webseite bereits online)

Jorge Palmeirim, der lokale Organisator, stellt sich vor und präsentiert den Plan, 2024 mit der gtö in Lissabon zu tagen. Veranstaltungsort: Universität Lissabon (Gebäude der Naturwissenschaftlichen Fakultät), Präsentation der Räume A, B1-B3 (jeweils für bis zu 90 Personen), C (Raum für poster sessions).

Mehrere kleinere (historisch oder landschaftlich ausgerichtete) Exkursionen rund um Lissabon werden angeboten werden.

Der Erfolg von gtoe2024 wird von der Anzahl der Teilnehmenden abhängen - JP lädt daher die Mitgliederversammlung ein, nach Lissabon zu kommen und auch wissenschaftliche Sitzungen zu organisieren.

2025: Amsterdam - Niederlande (W. Gosling) - ist bestätigt

2026: Passau - Deutschland (Ch. Schmitt) - ist bestätigt

2027: TBA

2028: Montpellier - Frankreich (P.M. Forget) - ist bestätigt

2029: Freiburg - Deutschland (K. Heer) - ist bestätigt

14. Verschiedenes

Nächstes Jahr werden wir wieder Wahlen für alle Vorstandspositionen (Vorstand und Beirat) durchführen müssen - und es wird sicherlich freie Positionen geben, einschließlich der Position des Präsidenten. Wir freuen uns über Nominierungen von Mitgliedern für jedes Amt. Ein Newsletter wird an alle Mitglieder verschickt werden, um alle Schritte zu den Wahlen rechtzeitig zu erläutern.

Eckhard Heymann bedankt sich für die zahlreiche Teilnahme an der Mitgliederversammlung.

Der Präsident schließt die Mitgliederversammlung um 19 Uhr.

APPENDIX II: Budgetary revenues and expenditures 2022 (Simone Pfeiffer)

Ideeller Bereich (non-profit part)	Revenues 2022	Expenses 2022
Membership fees	8.275,35 €	
Donations	10,00 €	
Travel costs of board members		1.576,20 €
Office software, Zoom licence, legal advice, board meetings, account charges		1.194,47 €
Webpage maintenance		1.161,44 €
Ecotropica costs		809,20 €
Gain	3.544,04 €	
Special purpose Conference (external organiser)		
Conference fees	65.912,50 €	
Sponsoring	24.500,00 €	
Expenditures for conference (room rents, program prints, communication, keynotes, guests, catering)		50.436,55 €
Gain	39.975,95 €	
Commercial Business		
Revenues	11.974,95 €	
Expenditures		17.936,34 €
Loss		-5.961,39 €
Asset management		
Interest		0,00 €
Gain/loss		0,00 €

*The revenues of the the conference in Montpellier constituted 34.014,56 Euro. Not all sponsors have payed until now, therefore, only one partial payment of 15.000 Euro was received in 2022. The second installment of 19.014,56 Euro is still pending.

Annual cash flow	18.544,04 €
Account opening balance Giro	2.799,95 €
Account opening balance day-to-day money	47,71 €
Account opening balance Conference	8,74 €
Account opening balance Paypal	1.071,23 €
Overall opening account balance	3.927,63 €
Account closing balance giro	5.103,56 €
Account closing balance day-to-day money	10.047,71 €
Account closing balance Conference	5.070,49 €
Account closing balance Paypal	2.249,91 €
Overall closing account balance	22.471,67 €

Kassenbericht 2022 (Simone Pfeiffer)

Ideeller Bereich (non-profit part)	Einnahmen 2022	Ausgaben 2022
Mitgliedsbeiträge	8.275,35 €	
Spenden	10,00 €	
Reisekosten Vorstand und Vorstandstreffen		1.576,20 €
Mitgliedersoftware, Zoom Lizenz, Rechtsberatung für Satzungsänderung, Kontogebühren		1.194,47 €
gtö Webseite		1.161,44 €
Ecotropica Webseite und DOIs		809,20 €
Überschuss	3.544,04 €	
Zweckbetrieb Tagung Ust.-frei (externer Veranstalter)		
Tagungsgebühren	65.912,50 €	
Sponsoren	24.500,00 €	
Tagungsausgaben (Raummiete, Programm, Kommunikation, Hauptvortragende, Gäste, Tagungscatering)		50.436,55 €
Überschuss	39.975,95 €	
wirtsch. Geschäftsbetrieb (Commercial Business)		
Einnahmen	11.974,95 €	
Ausgaben		17.936,34 €
Verluste		-5.961,39 €
Vermögensverwaltung (asset management)		
Einnahmen		0,00 €
Überschuss/Verluste		0,00 €

*Die Überschuss-Beteiligung der Montpellier Tagung lag bei 34.014,56 Euro. Noch haben nicht alle Sponsoren gezahlt, sodass bisher nur eine Rate von 15.000 Euro im Jahr 2022 gezahlt wurde. Die zweite Rate in Höhe von 19.014,56 Euro steht noch aus.

Jahresgewinn	18.544,04 €
Eröffnungsstand Girokonto	2.799,95 €
Eröffnungsstand Tagesgeldkonto	47,71 €
Eröffnungsstand Konferenzkonto	8,74 €
Eröffnungsstand Paypal	1.071,23 €
Gesamt Eröffnungsstand Konten	3.927,63 €
Abschlussstand Girokonto	5.103,56 €
Abschlussstand Tagesgeldkonto	10.047,71 €
Abschlussstand Konferenzkonto	5.070,49 €
Abschlussstand Paypal	2.249,91 €
Gesamt Schlussstand Konten	22.471,67 €

APPENDIX III: Code of Conduct for the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)

(approved version from: June, 21st 2023)

Preamble

The Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) promotes research on the ecology and conservation of tropical ecosystems and their unique biodiversity by connecting academics, researchers at all stages of their career, and practitioners from around the globe. We offer a platform for scientific exchange in the form of yearly conferences, an early-career group, an international peer-reviewed journal (Ecotropica), and provide research and travel grants to early career scientists.

In this context this Code of Conduct aims to guide the way in which all Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) members work together and interact with one another to create a professional environment in which everyone feels safe, welcome and respected. It provides a common understanding of the shared values prevailing in gtö and guiding principles for all members and people participating in our events (such as conferences, student meetings etc.). These principles are relevant in all scientific contexts, e.g., when conducting field work, when organizing and participating in scientific conferences, or when publishing and communicating scientific results. We expect all members of the gtö to adhere to this code of conduct which will be reviewed at regular intervals. By having created this Code of Conduct in a joint effort and living it to the fullest, we aim to prevent any intended and unintended abuse of power by any member of our society.

Our values and guiding principles

Awareness and openness

We are aware of differences in cultural, religious, and social backgrounds, appearances, sexual orientations, gender, personal experience and abilities, and thrive for an open and inclusive environment that is reflected in the working atmosphere. We are willing to learn about different forms of discrimination to raise our own awareness. We are willing to continuously reevaluate and fine-tune this Code of Conduct.

Respect and appreciation

We respect each individual, voice our appreciation, and in particular, seek to raise the self-confidence of early career scientists. We consider different personalities and personal circumstances in our daily interactions, as well as in all organizational matters of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö). We discuss rationally and refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour and speech directed to others. We thrive to create an environment where “No” is accepted as a “No”. If discussions are at loggerheads in matters which one or several of the parties involved consider important, we will seek help by a mediating person.

Care

We talk about and listen to each other’s needs and expectations. We are responsive and take actions to offer solutions or support where appropriate and possible. In case of problems between individuals, we facilitate an open dialogue. We are committed to support the career development of young scientists and take their voices into account on all aspects of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö).

Transparency

We are transparent about expectations, regulations and decision-making processes, also by providing accessible information.

Equality and diversity

Everyone has to be treated equally. Someone’s background should not affect how they and their work is perceived. We do not favor people over others and act professionally regardless of personal sympathies in the way we treat our colleagues and students. We thrive to treat everyone with equal kindness, respect and consideration, valuing the diversity of backgrounds, views and opinions (including those we may not share).

Judgment neutrality

We are aware of potential power imbalances among academics and how they can affect interactions between people. We aim to increase our awareness of the signs of such imbalances and of the damaging consequences

of any misuse of power in the context of academic leadership and scientific exchange. Power imbalances should not affect how one and one's work is judged upon.

Safety and Security

We are committed to a safe, healthy, and violence-free work environment. We actively endeavor to eliminate harassment of all kinds and have no tolerance to it, whether by members of gtö, authors, conference hosts and participants, or by any other affiliation with gtö in the course of its operations.

Information for those potentially affected by breach of this Code of Conduct is made available at the webpage of the gtö and at conferences of the society. Please feel free to contact the early career group representative, mentors, or the person of trust of the society. Those affected by potential violation of this Code of Conduct are provided a safe and trustful environment where they are respected and can talk about their situation without being judged. We thrive to create a safe and trustful environment, where no one has to fear negative consequences for speaking out.

Take action

When this Code of Conduct is possibly violated, we take the incident seriously and we take action. We encourage everyone in gtö to do the same. In all actions taken, we respect those affected and we do not victimize them. We provide contact information for our person of trust on our webpage.

Where it is found that behavior constituting a breach of the gtö Code of Conduct has occurred and is reported to the executive board by consent of those affected, action will be taken. Such action may include the revocation of membership, articles for publication in the society's journal, and awards that have/had been given by the society to individuals.

Code of Conduct der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V. (gtö)

(Beschlussfassung vom: 21. Juni 2023)

Präambel

Die Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö) fördert die Forschung zur Ökologie und Erhaltung tropischer Ökosysteme und ihrer einzigartigen Artenvielfalt, indem sie Forscher:innen aller Karrierestufen und Naturschützer:innen aus aller Welt zusammenbringt. Wir bieten eine Plattform für den wissenschaftlichen Austausch in Form von jährlichen Konferenzen, eine Early-Career Gruppe, eine internationale, von Expert:innen begutachtete Zeitschrift (Ecotropica) und stellen Forschungs- und Reisestipendien für Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen bereit.

In diesem Zusammenhang soll dieser Verhaltenskodex als Leitfaden für die Zusammenarbeit und den Umgang aller Mitglieder der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö) dienen, um ein professionelles Umfeld zu schaffen, in dem sich alle sicher, willkommen und respektiert fühlen. Er formuliert das gemeinsame Grundverständnis unserer Werte und Leitprinzipien, die für alle Mitglieder und Personen gelten, die an unseren Veranstaltungen (z.B. Konferenzen, Treffen der Early-Career Gruppe) teilnehmen. Diese Grundsätze sind in allen wissenschaftlichen Kontexten relevant, z.B. bei der Durchführung von Feldarbeit, bei der Organisation und Teilnahme an wissenschaftlichen Konferenzen oder bei der Veröffentlichung und Kommunikation wissenschaftlicher Ergebnisse. Wir erwarten von allen Mitgliedern der gtö, dass sie sich an diesen Verhaltenskodex halten, der in regelmäßigen Abständen überprüft werden wird. Indem wir diesen Verhaltenskodex gemeinsam erstellt haben und ihn mit Leben erfüllen, wollen wir jeglichen beabsichtigten und unbeabsichtigten Machtmissbrauch durch irgendein Mitglied unserer Gesellschaft verhindern.

Unsere Werte und Leitprinzipien

Aufmerksamkeit und Offenheit

Wir sind uns der Unterschiede im kulturellen, religiösen und sozialen Hintergrund, im Aussehen, in der sexuellen Orientierung, im Geschlecht, in persönlichen Erfahrungen und Fähigkeiten bewusst und setzen uns für ein offenes

und integratives Umfeld ein, das sich auch in der Arbeitsatmosphäre widerspiegelt. Wir sind bereit, uns über verschiedene Formen der Diskriminierung zu informieren, um unsere eigene Aufmerksamkeit zu schärfen. Wir sind bereit, diesen Verhaltenskodex kontinuierlich zu überprüfen und zu verfeinern.

Respekt und Wertschätzung

Wir respektieren jede:n Einzelne:n, bringen unsere Wertschätzung zum Ausdruck und versuchen, insbesondere Nachwuchswissenschaftler:innen Selbstvertrauen zu vermitteln. Wir nehmen Rücksicht auf unterschiedliche Persönlichkeiten und Lebensumstände im täglichen Miteinander sowie in allen organisatorischen Belangen der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie. Wir diskutieren sachlich und verzichten auf herabsetzendes, diskriminierendes oder belästigendes Verhalten und Reden gegenüber anderen. Wir bemühen uns, ein Umfeld zu schaffen, in dem ein "Nein" als "Nein" akzeptiert wird. Wenn Diskussionen in Angelegenheiten, die eine oder mehrere der beteiligten Parteien für wichtig halten, ohne Ergebnis bleiben, werden wir die Hilfe einer vermittelnden Person in Anspruch nehmen.

Fürsorge

Wir sprechen über die Bedürfnisse und Erwartungen der anderen und hören ihnen zu. Wir gehen auf die Bedürfnisse ein und ergreifen Maßnahmen, um Lösungen oder Unterstützung anzubieten, wo dies angemessen und möglich ist. Bei Problemen zwischen einzelnen Personen fördern wir einen offenen Dialog. Wir engagieren uns für die Karriereentwicklung junger Wissenschaftler:innen und berücksichtigen ihre Stimmen in allen Belangen der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö).

Transparenz

Wir sind transparent in Bezug auf Erwartungen, Regelungen und Entscheidungsprozesse, auch durch die Bereitstellung von zugänglichen Informationen.

Gleichheit und Vielfalt

Alle Menschen müssen gleichbehandelt werden. Der Hintergrund einer Person sollte keinen Einfluss darauf haben, wie sie und ihre Arbeit wahrgenommen werden. Wir bevorzugen niemanden gegenüber anderen und handeln professionell, unabhängig von persönlichen Sympathien, im Umgang mit unseren Kolleg:innen sowie mit Studierenden. Wir bemühen uns, jede:n mit gleicher Freundlichkeit, Respekt und Rücksichtnahme zu behandeln und schätzen die Vielfalt der Hintergründe, Ansichten und Meinungen (einschließlich derer, die wir vielleicht nicht teilen).

Urteilsneutralität

Wir sind uns der möglichen Machtungleichgewichte unter Wissenschaftler:innen bewusst und wissen, wie sie sich auf zwischenmenschliche Beziehungen auswirken können. Wir wollen unser Bewusstsein schärfen für Anzeichen eines solchen Ungleichgewichts und für die schädlichen Folgen eines etwaigen Machtmissbrauchs im Rahmen der akademischen Führung und des wissenschaftlichen Austauschs. Machtungleichgewichte sollten keinen Einfluss darauf haben, wie eine Person und ihre Arbeit beurteilt wird.


Sicherheit und Schutz

Wir setzen uns für ein sicheres, gesundes und gewaltfreies Arbeitsumfeld ein. Wir bemühen uns aktiv darum, Belästigungen jeglicher Art zu unterbinden und tolerieren sie nicht, sei es durch Mitglieder der gtö, Autor:innen, Konferenzveranstaltende und -teilnehmende oder durch Personen mit irgendeiner anderen professionellen Verbindung zur Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie.

Es werden Informationen für diejenigen, die von einem Verstoß gegen diesen Verhaltenskodex betroffen sein könnten, auf der Website der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie und bei ihren Konferenzen zur Verfügung gestellt. Bitte wenden Sie sich an die Sprecher:in der Early-Career Gruppe, an Mentor:innen oder an die Vertrauensperson der Gesellschaft. Denjenigen, die von möglichen Verstößen gegen diesen Verhaltenskodex betroffen sind, wird ein sicheres und vertrauensvolles Umfeld geboten, in dem sie respektiert werden und ohne Wertung über ihre Situation sprechen können. Wir bemühen uns, ein sicheres und vertrauensvolles Umfeld zu schaffen, indem freie Rede keine negativen Konsequenzen zur Folge hat.

Maßnahmen ergreifen

Wenn gegen diesen Verhaltenskodex verstoßen sein könnte, nehmen wir den Vorfall ernst und ergreifen Maßnahmen. Wir ermutigen jede:n in der gtö, das Gleiche zu tun. Bei allen Maßnahmen respektieren wir die



Betroffenen und machen sie nicht zu Opfern. Auf unserer Webseite finden Sie die Kontaktdaten unserer Vertrauensperson.

Wird ein Verhalten, das einen Verstoß gegen den gTö-Verhaltenskodex darstellt, mit Zustimmung der Betroffenen an den Vorstand gemeldet, werden Maßnahmen ergriffen. Solche Maßnahmen können den Entzug der Mitgliedschaft, der Veröffentlichung von Artikeln in der Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft und von Auszeichnungen durch die Gesellschaft an Einzelpersonen beinhalten.