

Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



41st Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear members of gtö,

Our next annual conference in Göttingen is approaching very fast and although preparations are still under way, we can already anticipate that it will be a very well attended conference with excellent presentations. As every year, also in Göttingen, we will have our members' assembly. So I would like to direct your attention especially to the invitation and agenda of the assembly on page 3-4 in this newsletter. But of course I hope that you will also find all other information contained in this newsletter useful and entertaining. Let me remind you that all of us who are members of the Executive and Advisory Board of gtö and those who are putting together this newsletter do it "free of charge" and we would very much welcome your feedback and comments on the format and contents of the newsletter.

When working as a team, it is not always useful or possible to single out one person, but here I would like to mention especially Eike Lena Neuschulz who again has put together all the bits and pieces to produce this newsletter. Also I would like to thank Raffael Ernst for his considerable commitment to update the gtö webpage (read more about the new outfit of the webpage on page 8). Finally, I would like to thank Ute Radespiel, who translated our "Satzung", the statutes, into English (see page 22 ff.). We owe them all a big thanks! The English translation of the statutes is not a legal document (as gtö

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was established under German law), but it is crucial for achieving one of our maybe most important strategic goals: to make gtö more international. Some of us feel that we should even change our name and acronym “gtö” as the “ö” is a strange letter not existing on many keyboards and in most languages. On the other hand, this “ö” is so typical for German speaking regions that it reflects a little bit the founding history of our international organization. At the moment we are legally the “Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie / Society for Tropical Ecology - gtö”. And, in the end, also our next meeting place, Göttingen, spells as well with an “ö” - and nobody thinks about changing that.

I am looking forward meeting you all in Göttingen! All best wishes,



Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch

President of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)



Invitation to the European Conference of Tropical Ecology and 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology, Göttingen, 2016

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to announce that the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen and the Deutsches Primatenzentrum (DPZ) will host the European Conference of Tropical Ecology and Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie, gtö) in Göttingen, Germany. The overarching theme of the conference is "Tropical Diversity, Ecology and Land Use". The conference will run from **Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 February 2016**, in the Faculty of Geoscience and Geography of the University of Göttingen. It will provide a forum for the scientific exchange between tropical ecologists at all levels of their career, for the personal interaction in a friendly and international atmosphere and for establishing new contacts and cooperation. We particularly encourage students and young scientists to participate in this event. Contributions from all fields within tropical ecology are welcome. Please check the conference website <http://gtoe-2016.de/> for details.

We look forward to welcoming you to Göttingen!

Local organizers:

Prof. Dr. Hermann Behling

Dr. Ingo Grass

Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann

Dr. Stefan Hohnwald

Dr. Jürgen Homeier

Prof. Dr. Dirk Hölscher

Dr. Simone Pfeiffer

Contact conference office: info@gtoe-conference.de

Einladung zur 29. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö in Göttingen 2016 / Invitation to the 29th annual members assembly of gtö in Göttingen 2016

Das Präsidium der gtö lädt alle Mitglieder zur **29. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö am 25. Februar 2016 von 17:30 bis 19:00 Uhr im Hörsaalgebäude der Geowissenschaften und Geographie**, Goldschmidtstr. 1, 37077 Göttingen.

The Executive Board of the gtö invites its members to the 29th annual general assembly held on the **25th of February 2016 from 17:30 to 19:00 at the lecture hall of geosciences and geography**, Goldschmidtstr. 1, 37077 Göttingen.

Tagesordnung / Agenda:

1. Eröffnung der MV durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung / Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda
2. Wahl des Schriftführers / Election of the assembly's secretary
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 28. MV / Approval of the minutes of the 28th general assembly
4. Korrektur Satzung*/Amendment Statutes*
5. Bericht des Präsidiums über das Geschäftsjahr 2015 und Bericht des Schatzmeisters / Report of the executive board on financial year 2015 and report of the treasurer
6. Bericht des Sprechers des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats / Report of the advisory board
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer / Report of the cash accountant
8. Entlastung des Präsidiums / Discharge of the board
9. Wahl des Kassenprüfers / Election of the cash accountant
10. Ecotropica / Ecotropica
11. Vorbereitung der Tagungen / MVs 2017 und 2018 / Preparation of annual meetings / general assemblies in 2017 and 2018
12. Verschiedenes / Miscellaneous

*** Zu TOP 4 / to Agenda item TOP 4:**

§6: Satzungsänderungen und die Auflösung des Vereins können nur mit einer Mehrheit von 2/3 der anwesenden Mitglieder beschlossen werden.

§9: Die Auflösung des Vereins erfolgt durch Beschluss der Mitgliederversammlung, wobei drei Viertel der abgegebenen Stimmen für die Auflösung stimmen muss.

Abzustimmende Satzungsänderung / Korrektur §9: Die Auflösung des Vereins erfolgt durch Beschluss der Mitgliederversammlung, wobei zwei Drittel der abgegebenen Stimmen für die Auflösung stimmen müssen.

§6: Changes of the statutes and the dissolution of the society can only be decided by the majority of $\frac{2}{3}$ of the attending members.

§9: The dissolution of the society results from the respective resolution of the general assembly, at which $\frac{3}{4}$ of the delivered votes need to be in favor of the dissolution.

Voting for amendment of the statutes §9: The dissolution of the society results from the respective resolution of the general assembly, at which $\frac{2}{3}$ of the delivered votes need to be in favor of the dissolution.

§8: Die Mitglieder erhalten in ihrer Eigenschaft als Mitglied keine Zuwendungen aus Mitteln des Vereins.

Abzustimmende Satzungsänderung / Korrektur §8: Die Mitglieder erhalten keine Zuwendungen aus Mitteln des Vereins.

§8: Members do not receive allowances in their function as members from the society.

Voting for amendment of the statutes §8: Members do not receive allowances from the society.

28th annual gtö Conference in Zürich, Switzerland, 2015

The annual meeting of the gtö 2015 took place in Zürich from 7-10 April under the title “Resilience of Tropical Ecosystems – Future Challenges and Opportunities”. With 193 talks in three parallel sessions and 74 poster contributions, the Zürich meeting was one of the largest in the history of the society. Six plenary speakers (from the USA, Malaysia, UK, Spain, Sweden, and India) gave enlightening presentations on their research. In the Elisabeth-Kalko Memorial evening lecture, Prof. Johan Six and Dr. Frank Eyhorn discussed with Michelle Grant the challenges confronting the world food system and debated the question “Food systems resilience



in theory and practice: organic agriculture as a prototype?”

We thank the local organizers, **Dr. Chris J Kettle, Prof. Dr. Jaboury Ghazoul, Dr. Barbara Becker, Prof. Dr. Kentaro Shimizu, Dr. Claude Garcia and Michelle Grant** for this great and inspiring meeting that will for sure remain in people’s memories.

See Appendix I for the minutes of the general assembly, in both German and English

See Appendix II for budgetary revenues and expenditures (“Kassenbericht”) Year 2014

Winners of the Merian Award 2015

At the annual meeting in Zürich, the best three talks and the best three posters of young scientists were honoured with the Merian Award. From left to right on the picture: Julia Adams, Delphine Zemp, Tom Van der Stocken, Manfred Niekisch, Bea Maas, Graham Prescott. Not on the picture: Anne Gérard. **The gtö congratulates the winners for their excellent presentations!**



Merian Awards 2015 for the best talks

1st: Graham Prescott, University of Cambridge: “Effects of land-use change and landscape configuration on avian functional diversity”

2nd: Tom Van der Stocken, Vrije Universiteit Brussel: “Interaction between wind and water as a driver of passive dispersal in mangroves”

3rd: Bea Maas, University of Göttingen: “Birds and bats in tropical agroforestry landscapes – multitrophic interactions and crop yield”

Merian Awards 2015 for the best posters

1st: Delphine Zemp, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research: “Exploring the complex network of the Amazon’s water pump and flying rivers”

2nd: Anne Gérard, University of Göttingen: “Experimental gap enrichment with native trees in an oil palm plantation in Jambi, Sumatra – initial survival and growth”

3rd: Julia Adams, University of Bayreuth: “From abandoned sites to valuable pasture land: implementing the story of success in the Andes of South Ecuador”

Announcements for conferences & future events:

The **Annual Meeting of the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation (ATBC)** will take place from **19-23 June in Montpellier, France**. The theme of the meeting is:



**Association
for Tropical
Biology and
Conservation**

“Tropical Ecology and Society: Reconciling Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity”.

<http://www.atbc2016.org/EN/events.php?IDManif=837&IDModule=71&IDRub=1239>

In a rapidly changing world where untouched ecosystems are vanishing and biodiversity will have to be maintained in human-modified and sometimes novel environments, reconciling conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the tropics has become a critical issue. The 53rd ATBC Annual Meeting focuses on this issue and aims to gather scientists from many different disciplines to exchange ideas, concepts and approaches, as well as to elaborate and promote innovations for the conservation of tropical ecosystems in the decades to come. Gtö and ATBC have been cooperating for many years. There was a joint meeting in Marburg in 2009. The meeting in Montpellier is a great opportunity to interact with ATBC in general and with the recently formed ATBC Europe Group in particular.

Pre-announcement of the European Conference of Tropical Ecology in Brussels, 2017

The Society for Tropical Ecology – Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie - and the local organizing committee are happily announcing the second European Conference of Tropical Ecology and the 30th annual Conference of the Society of Tropical Ecology gtö. The conference will be held in **Brussels** in the week of **6-10 February 2017** and will be chaired by the **Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)** and the **Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB)**.



We are looking forward meeting you all in Brussels 2017!

Local organizers:

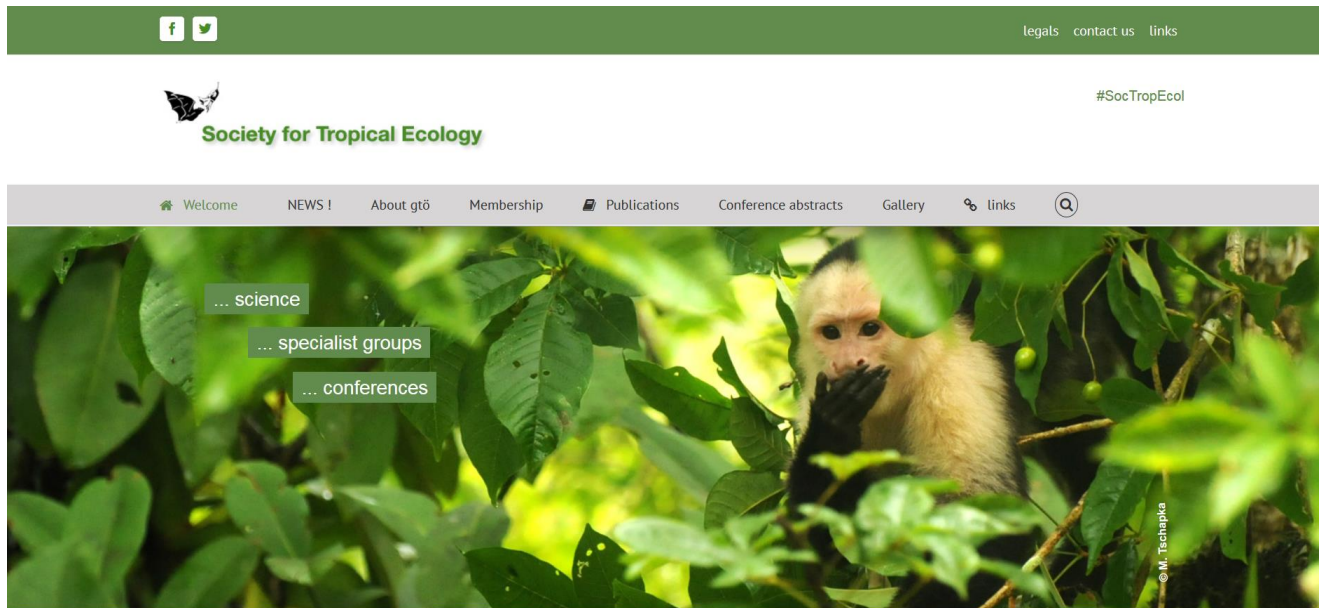
Olivier Hardy (ULB)

Nico Koedam (VUB)

Farid Dahdouh – Guebas (ULB – VUB)

Society for Tropical Ecology in the Web

Our webpage has a **new outfit!** Read about the latest gtö activities, conference announcements, and board members or follow the Twitter news feed at <http://www.soctropecol.eu/>. You will also find the newsletter, previous conference abstracts, the societies' statutes and much more... Thanks to Raffael Ernst and to our Webmaster Sascha Rösner for this beautiful new look of the webpage!



You may also want to sign up for the societies' twitter account! @SocTropEcol - We will keep you posted on all new activities and events!

Or sign up for the “Society of Tropical Ecology gtö” groups on facebook or LinkedIn.

Twitter news feed ...



Treasurer's corner

The treasurer of the Society of Tropical Ecology, Holger Kurz, reminds that **2015 members' fees** will be collected **mid December 2015**.

gtö welcomes its new members

We welcome all new members that joined the Society in the past year!

Wiebke Berg, Siria Biagioni, Annika Busse, Macarena Cardenas, Samuel Carleial Fernandes, Dennis de Ryck, Matthias Dehling, Boris Demenou, Felix Kwabena Donkor, Gang Feng, Melanie Forker, Andrés Gerique-Zipfel, William Gosling, Ingo Grass, Leonie Greiner, Sven Günter, Olivier Hardy, Sonja Hassold, Ulrike Hiltner, Alice Catherine Hughes, Sascha Ismail, Patrick A. Jansen, Joshua Jones, Maria Kaye, Julia Kieslinger, Phyo Kay Kine, Fritz Kleinschroth, Sarah Luke, Bea Maas, Manuel J. Macía, Daniela Marenco Hurtado, Marco Marklewitz, Jérémy Migliore, Keely Mills, Emma Morgan, Elenora Neugebauer, Omer Nevo, Elisabeth Ofner, Imma Oliveras Menor, Marta Quitian Rodriguez, Lily O. Rodriguez, Chadtip Rodtassana, Ervan Rutishauser, Jhenny Liliana Salgado Vásquez, Vinicio Santillán, Ulf Schneidewind, Steffen A. Schweizer, Sarah Scriven, Kentaro Shimizu, Natalia Sierra Cornejo, Miriam Teuscher, Ole Theisinger, Birthe Thormann, Yvonne Tiede, Nerea Turreira Garcia, Masha van der Sande, Tom Van der Stocken, Maximilian Vollstädt, Anita Weißflog, Julie Gwendolin Zähringer, Delphine Zemp, Martin Zimmer

Book raffle amongst new gtö members at the conference in Zürich

Book prices were raffled amongst all new gtö members that have applied during, or for the conference in Zürich. The winner of the books were Joshua Jones (Aberystwyth University), Imma Oliveras Menor (Wageningen University) and Yvon Tiede (University of Marburg).

Miscellaneous

The forthcoming annual meeting of the society and the **European Conference on Tropical Ecology**, held in February 2016 at Göttingen University, will be supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). For the first time, two **DAAD Alumni Special**



Projects will be hosted by the Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use (CBL), Göttingen University and the Centre for Rural Development (SLE), HU Berlin prior the conference. Invited researchers and practitioners from developing countries – alumni of German research institutions - will present their field of expertise in tropical ecology, discuss and network in the seminars and participate in the conference.

<https://www.daad.de/entwicklung/hochschulen/alumniarbeit/08175.en.html>

<http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/international-daad-alumni-seminar-tropical-diversity-ecology-and-land-use/525045.html>

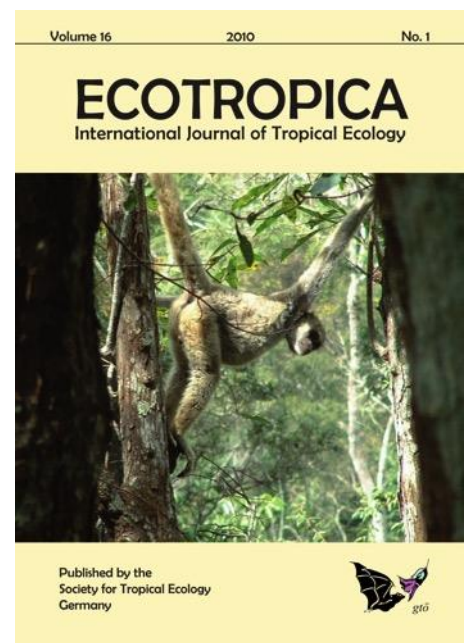
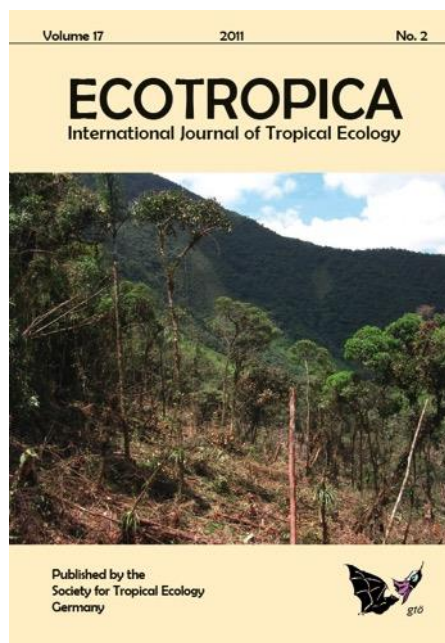
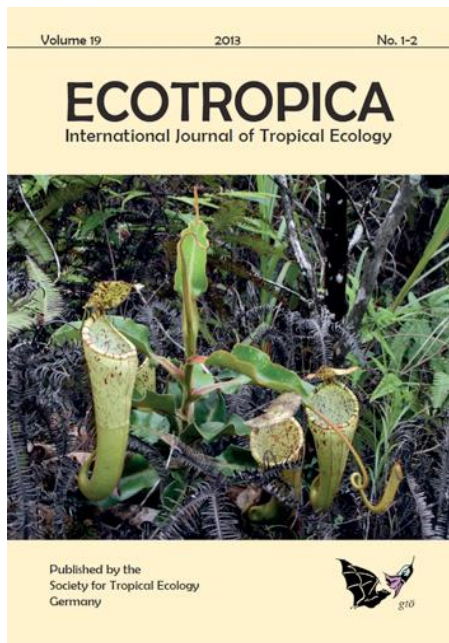
<https://www.sle-berlin.de/index.php/de/training-dt/tropical-diversity-alumni-workshop>

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/>

Ecotropica goes online!

From 2016 onwards, **Ecotropica** will be published **open access and online only**. This has been decided on the board meeting held in July 2015 in Frankfurt. The new online format keeps pace with the times and shall increase the popularity of Ecotropica. Publishing in Ecotropica shall in the beginning be free of page charge. Once the online format has well established, page charges for non-members will be considered. In this way, it is granted that the members of the society benefit from their membership.



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Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht, Dept. of Plant Ecology, University of Bayreuth, Germany

Dr. Raffael Ernst, Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden, Germany

Dr. Ingo Grass, Department of Crop Sciences – Agroecology, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany

PD Dr. Sven Günter, Forestry Worldwide Thünen Institute of International Forestry and Forest Economics, Hamburg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann, Deutsches Primatenzentrum Göttingen, Germany – *speaker of the advisory board*

Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Albrecht-von-Haller-Institut für Pflanzenwissenschaften, University of Göttingen, Germany

Dr. Alice Hughes, Centre for Integrative Conservation Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Department of Environmental Sciences, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Dr. Chris J Kettle, ETH Zürich, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. K. Eduard Linsenmair, Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, University of Würzburg, Germany

Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre (BiK-F), Frankfurt am Main – *co-speaker of the advisory board and editor of the gtö Newsletter*

Prof. Dr. Vojtech Novotny, Department of Zoology at the Faculty of Science, University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic

Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany

Prof. Dr. Ute Radespiel, Institute of Zoology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany

PD Dr. Marco Tschapka, Institute of Experimental Ecology, University of Ulm, Germany



Frisch gewählte
Präsidiumsmitglieder auf der
Jahrestagung in Zürich.

New elected board members at
the conference in Zürich.



Treffen von Beirat und Vorstand in Frankfurt, 23. - 24. Juli 2015.

Board meeting at Frankfurt, 23 - 24 July 2015.

APPENDIX I: Protokoll der 28. Mitgliederversammlung / Minutes of the 28th annual general assembly

28. Mitgliederversammlung der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö) / 28th General Assembly of the Society for Tropical Ecology gtö

Zürich, 9. April 2015, 17:30 bis 18:30 im AudiMax 'Lemur1' der ETH Zürich)

Zurich, 9th April 2015 (17.30-18:30h in the "AudiMax Lemur1" of the ETH Zurich)

Protokoll/Minutes: Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig

Anwesende Mitglieder / Number of members present: 56

Tagesordnung/Agenda:

1. Eröffnung der MV durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung / Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda
2. Wahl des Schriftführers / Election of the assembly's secretary
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 27. MV / Approval of the minutes of the 27th general assembly
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über das Geschäftsjahr 2014 / Report of the executive board on financial year 2014
5. Bericht des Sprechers des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats / Report of the advisory board
6. Bericht des Schatzmeisters / Report of the treasurer
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer / Report of the cash accountant
8. Entlastung des Präsidiums / Discharge of the board
9. Abstimmung über Änderung der Satzung (geänderte Satzung siehe Appendix III in diesem Newsletter) / Vote on the revision of the statutes (see Appendix III in this newsletter for the revised version of the statutes)
10. Wahl des Kassenprüfers / Election of the cash accountant
11. Vorstellung der KandidatInnen für die Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Candidates' presentation for the election of the board
12. Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Election of the board
13. Ecotropica / Ecotropica
14. Vorbereitung der Tagungen / MVs 2016 und 2017 / Preparation of annual meetings / general assemblies in 2016 and 2017
15. Verschiedenes / Miscellaneous

1. Eröffnung der MV durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung / Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda

Der Präsident, Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, begrüßt die Anwesenden und stellt die ordnungsgemäße Einladung zur Mitgliederversammlung 2015 fest. Die Tagesordnung wird ohne Ergänzungen angenommen.

The president, Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, welcomes all attendees and asserts the correct invitation to the general assembly in 2015. The agenda is accepted without changes.

2. Wahl des Schriftführers / Election of the assembly's secretary

Als Schriftführerin wird die Generalsekretärin Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig vorgeschlagen. Dies wird angenommen.

The secretary general Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig is proposed as assembly's secretary. This suggestion is accepted.

3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 27. MV / Approval of the minutes of the 27th general assembly

Das Protokoll wurde im Januar zeitgerecht veröffentlicht und allen Mitgliedern zugestellt. Das Protokoll wird ohne Ergänzungen angenommen.

The protocol was timely published in January and delivered to all members. The protocol was accepted without changes.

11. Vorstellung der KandidatInnen für die Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Candidates' presentation for the election of the board

Prof. Dr. Heribert Hofer erklärt die Wahlprozedur. Für die 5 Positionen im geschäftsführenden Präsidium gibt es je ein/e Kandidat/in, sodass hier en Block abgestimmt werden kann. Für den wissenschaftlichen Beirat kandidieren 19 KandidatInnen für 15 Positionen, sodass hier eine geheime Wahl stattfinden muss. Prof. Hofer stellt die KandidatInnen für die Neuwahl des wissenschaftlichen Beirats vor. Die Wahlzettel werden verteilt und ausgefüllt, damit am Ende der Sitzung das Ergebnis feststeht.

Heribert Hofer explains the election procedure. There is only one candidate for each of the 5 positions within the executive board meaning that we can vote en block. There are 19 candidates for 15 positions in the scientific board. Thus secret elections have to take place. Voting ballots are distributed and filled so that the result will be ready at the end of the assembly.

4. Bericht des Präsidiums über das Geschäftsjahr 2014 / Report of the executive board on financial year 2014

Vorgestellt vom Präsidenten der gtö Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch

- Es gab eine Klausurtagung in Fabrikschleichach auf der mehrere Punkte für die Zukunft der Gesellschaft besprochen wurden und verschiedene Treffen von Mitgliedern des Präsidiums insbesondere zur Vorbereitung der Jahrestagung.

- Dieses Jahr hat die Gesellschaft 51 neue Mitglieder gewonnen.

- Der Newsletter ist am 24.02.2015 erschienen. Dank an Eike Lena Neuschulz für die Zusammenstellung des Newsletters.

Presented by the president of gtö, Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch

- There was a retreat of the board in Fabrikschleichach at which the future of society was discussed and a few meetings with board members to prepare the annual conference.

- The newsletter of gtö was published on 24th February 2014. Special thanks to Eike Lena Neuschulz.

5. Bericht des Sprechers des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats / Report of the advisory board

Vorgestellt vom Sprecher des wiss. Beirats Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann

- Besprechungen mit geschäftsführendem Präsidium wurden immer gemeinsam abgehalten.

- Dank an alle gewählten und kooptierten Beiratsmitglieder, die nicht mehr zur Wahl antreten:

Gewählt: Jörg Bendix, Sigmar Breckle, Heribert Hofer, Gerhard Kost, Michael Lakatos, Reinhard Mosandl, Ulrich Saint Paul, Simone Sommer, Rainer Wirth.

Kooptiert: David Burslem, Konrad Fiedler, Jaboury Ghazoul, Andreas Gettkant

- Dank an Eike Lena Neuschulz, die als Ko-Sprecherin des Beirats aktiv für die Gesellschaft wirkt.

Presented by the chair of the advisory board, Prof. Dr. Eckhard Heymann

- Meetings were always together with the executive board.

- Thanks to all the elected and coopted members of the board who are resigning.

Elected: Jörg Bendix, Sigmar Breckle, Heribert Hofer, Gerhard Kost, Michael Lakatos, Reinhard Mosandl, Ulrich Saint Paul, Simone Sommer, Rainer Wirth.

Coopted: David Burslem, Konrad Fiedler, Jaboury Ghazoul, Andreas Gettkant

- Thanks to Eike Lena Neuschulz who as co speaker of the board is very active for the society.

6. Bericht des Schatzmeisters/Report of treasurer

Der Schatzmeister stellt die einzelnen Posten der Einnahmen und Ausgaben in 2014 vor und erläutert die Abweichungen zu den bisherigen Jahren. Diese betrafen Reisekosten und Verpflegungskosten des Beirats.

The treasurer presents all incomes and expenses for 2014 and explains the variation from previous years. These were travel costs and catering costs for the board.

7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer/Report of cash auditors

Die Kassenprüfer Prof. Dr. S. Breckle and Prof. Dr. H. Hofer hatten keine Einwände. Alle Belege haben vorgelegen.

The cash auditors Prof. Dr. S. Breckle and Prof. Dr. H. Hofer have no complains. All receipts were present.

8. Entlastung des Präsidiums / Discharge of the board

Der Vorstand wird einstimmig entlastet. Sehr großer Dank an den Schatzmeister!

The Executive Board is discharged. Special acknowledgements to the treasurer.

9. Abstimmung über Änderung der Satzung (geänderte Satzung siehe Appendix III im Newsletter) / Vote on the revision of the statutes (see Appendix III in the newsletter for the revised version of the statutes)

Die Überarbeitung der Satzung wird vom Präsidenten erläutert, danach wird abgestimmt (51 stimmen dafür, 5 Enthaltungen, keine Gegenstimmen).

The revision of the statutes are explained by the president and voted (51 in favor, 5 abstentions, with no dissentient).

10. Wahl der Kassenprüfer / Election of the cash auditors

Prof. Dr. Heribert Hofer und Prof. Dr. Sigmar Breckle werden als Kassenprüfer vorgeschlagen. Dieser Vorschlag wird angenommen.

Prof. Dr. Heribert Hofer and Prof. Dr. Sigmar Breckle are proposed as cash auditors. This suggestion is accepted.

12. Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Election of the board

Die folgenden 15 KandidatInnen sind für den wissenschaftlichen Beirat gewählt worden:

Bettina Engelbrecht, Raffael Ernst, Ingo Grass, Sven Günther, Eckhard Heymann, Jürgen Homeier, Alice Hughes, Patrick Jansen, Chris Kettle, Eduard Linsenmair, Eike Lena Neuschulz, Vojtech Novotny, Simone Pfeiffer, Ute Radespiel, Marco Tschapka

Dank an die 4 KandidatInnen, die nicht gewählt wurden, dass sie sich bereit erklärt haben für die Gesellschaft zu engagieren.

Das geschäftsführende Präsidium wird gewählt:

Schatzmeister: Holger Kurz (55 stimmen dafür, 1 Enthaltung, keine Gegenstimmen)

Generalsekretärin: Nina Farwig (55 stimmen dafür, 1 Enthaltung, keine Gegenstimmen)

Vize-Präsident: Pierre-Michel Forget (55 stimmen dafür, 1 Enthaltung, keine Gegenstimmen)

Vize-Präsidentin: Pia Parolin (55 Jastimmen, 1 Enthaltung, keine Gegenstimmen)

Präsident: Manfred Niekisch (55 Jastimmen, 1 Enthaltung, keine Gegenstimmen)

The following 15 candidates have been elected to the scientific board:

Bettina Engelbrecht, Raffael Ernst, Ingo Grass, Sven Günther, Eckhard Heymann, Jürgen Homeier, Alice Hughes, Patrick Jansen, Chris Kettle, Eduard Linsenmair, Eike Lena Neuschulz, Vojtech Novotny, Simone Pfeiffer, Ute Radespiel, Marco Tschapka

Thanks to the 4 candidates that have not been elected for the willingness to get actively involved into the society.

The executive board is elected:

Treasurer: Holger Kurz (55 in favor, 1 abstention, with no dissentient) Secretary General: Nina Farwig (55 in favor, 1 abstention, with no dissentient)

Vice President: Pierre-Michel Forget (55 in favor, 1 abstention, with no dissentient)

Vice President: Pia Parolin (55 in favor, 1 abstention, with no dissentient)

President: Manfred Niekisch(55 in favor, 1 abstention, with no dissentient)

13. Ecotropica / Ecotropica

Vorgestellt vom Editor Dr. Marco Tschapka:

-Versendung der Ecotropica noch nicht erfolgt. Die Ausgabe ist derzeit beim Verlag und wird zeitnah versendet.

-Ecotropica hat den Index verloren. Dies liegt sehr wahrscheinlich an dem zu späten Erscheinen. Auf Rückfrage bei Thomsons Reuters ist keine Antwort erhalten worden.

-Weitere Überlegungen betreffen die technischen Aufgaben in Ulm, derzeit läuft zu viel über den Editor (Nadelöhr), sodass auf ein online-Format umgestellt werden um die Sichtbarkeit der Zeitschrift zu erhöhen.

Presented by the editor Dr. Marco Tschapka:

-Things delayed and the current issue of Ecotropica has not been distributed. The current issue is currently with the publisher and will soon be distributed. So far no response from Thomson Reuters.

-Ecotropica has lost its index. This is most likely due to delayed appearance.

-Other changes are required to reduce workload of Marco (all technical duties in Ulm with Marco which is a bottleneck) and to improve outdated standard of Ecotropica. We aim to change the format of Ecotropica to an entirely electronic journal an option.

14. Vorbereitung der Tagungen / MVs 2016 und 2017 / Preparation of annual meetings / general assemblies in 2016 and 2017

Prof. Dr. Eckhard Heymann, Dr Simone Pfeiffer, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Dr. Dirk Hölscher, Dr. Stefan Hohnwald und Prof. Dr. Hermann Behling richten die Tagung 2016 vom 23. bis 26. Februar 2016 an der Universität Göttingen aus. Weitere Informationen folgen in der Abschlussversammlung und auf der webpage www.gtoe-conference2016.de.

Prof. Dr. Eckhard Heymann, Dr Simone Pfeiffer, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Dr. Dirk Hölscher, Dr. Stefan Hohnwald and Prof. Dr. Hermann Behling will organize the next meeting in Göttingen in 2016. The meeting will take place from 23th to 26th February 2016. More information will be given during the closing ceremony and is available in the web www.gtoe-conference2016.de

15. Verschiedenes / Miscellaneous

-Ein großer Dank an die lokalen Organisatoren Chris Kettle und sein Team.

-Dank an die Mitglieder.

-Herzliches Willkommen an alle neuen Mitglieder.

-Pierre-Michel Forget erläutert, dass die Idee einer Europäischen Gesellschaft bereits vor 20 Jahren auf einer Tagung in Oxford zwischen ihm und Elisabeth Kalko diskutiert wurde. Vor 11 Jahren auf der gtö-Jahrestagung in Kaiserslautern ist die Idee weiter gereift und heute sind wir einen großen Schritt weitergekommen.

-Thanks to local organizers Chris Kettle and his team

-Thanks to all members

-Welcome to all new members.

-Pierre-Michel Forget explains that he discussed the idea of a European Society for Tropical Ecology with Elisabeth Kalko already 20 years ago at a meeting in Oxford. This idea was further shaped during the annual meeting of gtö in Kaiserslautern 11 years ago. Today, we made a big step forward.

Der Präsident, Prof. Dr. Niekisch dankt besonders dem Schatzmeister und allen Mitgliedern der gtö und schließt die Sitzung um 18:30.

The president, Prof. Dr. Niekisch, thanks again the treasurer and all members of gtö and officially closes the general assembly at 18:30.

APPENDIX II: Kassenbericht 2014 / Budgetary revenues and expenditures 2014

Einnahme-Überschuss-Rechnung 2014	2014	2014
	Kontensumme Einnahmen	Kontensumme Ausgaben
	(Euro)	(Euro)
Einnahmen:		
Mitgliedsbeiträge	16,110.00	
Spenden	10.00	
Buchhandlungen	0.00	
Tagegeld-Zinsen	37.47	
Summe:	16,157.47	
Ausgaben:		
Retouren Mitglieds-Beiträge		480.00
Erstattung von Reisekosten (Vorstand)		982.13
Verpflegung für Keynote Redner, Vorstand und Beirat		1,346.05
Bürobedarf		10.00
Porto- und Versandkosten (außer Ecotropica)		43.90
Internetkosten (Pflege, Gebühren)		938.91
Merian-Preis		1,200.00
Ecotropica Druckkosten		4,352.82
Ecotropica Revision (Muttersprachler)		1,500.00
Ecotropica Werbungs- und Versandkosten		1,116.26
Beitrag für Tagung in Freising		5,982.91
Tagungs-Nebenkosten (Tagungsband)		660.19
Rücklastschrift- und Kontogebühren		100.58
Spende für BioFrankfurt - Netzwerk Biodiversität		150.00
Summe:		18,863.75
Einnahme-Überschuss-Rechnung:		-2,706.28
Kontostand Girokonto Jahresanfang	01.01.2014:	19,258.46
Kontostand Tagesgeld Jahresanfang	01.01.2014:	25,000.00
Gesamtkontostand Jahresanfang	01.01.2014:	44,258.46
Kontostand Girokonto Jahresende	31.12.2014:	16,514.71
Kontostand Tagesgeld Jahresende	31.12.2014:	25,037.47
Gesamtkontostand Jahresende	31.12.2014:	41,552.18

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2014	2014	2014
Revenues:	Account balance	Account balance
	(Euro)	(Euro)
Membership fees	16,110.00	
Donations	10.00	
Booksellers fees	0.00	
Annual interest	37.47	
Sum:	16,157.47	
Expenses:		
Writing back of membership fees		480.00
Reembursement of travelling costs (Executive Board)		982.13
Catering for Keynote speakers, Advisory Board		1,346.05
Office supplies		10.00
Postal charges (except Ecotropica)		43.90
Homepage costs		938.91
Merian Award		1,200.00
Ecotropica printing		4,352.82
Ecotropica revision (native speaker)		1,500.00
Ecotropica advertisement, shipping and handling		1,116.26
Conference grant (Freising)		5,982.91
Representation costs (Tagungsband)		660.19
Account maintenance charges		100.58
Donation for BioFrankfurt - Network Biodiversity		150.00
Sum:		18,863.75
Annual cash flow:		-2,706.28
Account balance giro (beginning of the year)	01.01.2014:	19,258.46
Account balance day-to-day money (beginning of the year)	01.01.2014:	25,000.00
Overall account balance (beginning of the year)	01.01.2014:	44,258.46
Account balance giro (end of year)	31.12.2014:	16,514.71
Account balance day-to-day money (end of year)	31.12.2014:	25,037.47
Overall account balance (end of year)	31.12.2014:	41,552.18

APPENDIX III:

Statutes

(This translation from the German original is not an official document.)

– Version 2015 –

Name and legal office

§ 1

The name of the society is “Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V. (Society for Tropical Ecology)” and the society has its legal office in Frankfurt/Main, Germany.

Purpose

§ 2

The purposes of the society are

1. To support scientific research in tropical ecology
2. To disseminate knowledge on tropical ecology
3. To contribute to the conservation of tropical organisms and habitats.

In particular, the purposes of the society are reached by organizing a conference (if possible to be held yearly), by publishing the scientific journal “Ecotropica”, and by producing a newsletter and sending it to the members.

Tax concession

§ 3

The society is a non-profit association and only pursues charitable objectives that are defined in the section “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” in the general tax code. The society is selfless and does not primarily pursue economic objectives.

The funds of the society can only be spent for the purposes defined in the statutes. Members are not entitled to any part of the asset of the society when leaving the society. No person may be favored by expenses that do not conform to the purposes of the society, or by disproportionate allowances.

Members

§ 5

Each individual person and legal person can become a member of the society if supporting the goals of the society. Membership is obtained by completing the application form and when the first membership due has been received. The application is to be addressed to the executive board for the attention of the treasurer. The executive board can decide to appoint full members but also other individuals who have contributed notably to the society, to honorary members of the society.

Members can withdraw from the society by means of a written declaration that needs to be addressed to the executive board for the attention of the treasurer, with a deadline of nine months towards the end of a financial/calendar year.

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, 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. The member can appeal to the general assembly against this decision. The general assembly decides irrevocably. The member is to be invited to and heard on this general assembly.

All membership claims end with the end of membership. Membership dues and donations are not reimbursed.

Honorary members have the same rights as members, but are exempt from paying membership dues.

Full members and honorary members as well as legal members have a single vote at the general assembly. The general assembly passes the rules for membership dues that administer the amount of the yearly membership dues. Members are obliged to pay the membership dues that have been fixed by the general assembly, until the 31st March of each financial year (= calendar year).

Organs of the society

§ 5

The organs of the society are:

- a) general assembly
- b) executive board
- c) advisory board

General assembly

§ 6

The uppermost organ is the general assembly. As a general rule the general assembly is chaired by the president.

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. Election and deselection of the executive board
- b. Election of the advisory board
- c. Election of auditors of annual accounts
- d. Debate on the status and planning of projects and the work of the society
- e. Resolution on the annual accounts
- f. Acceptance of the annual report of the executive board
- g. Resolution on the formal approval of the executive board
- h. Issuing of the rules for membership dues that are not part of the statutes
- i. Resolution on changes of the statutes and the dissolution of the society

The executive board, represented by the president, has to call the regular general assembly once per year. Members have to be invited in written form and by informing about the agenda items subject to a notice period of six weeks.

If more than 10 members or the advisory board submit motions, they have to be added to the agenda.

An extraordinary general assembly takes place if at least 10% of the members request it and specify the purpose and the reasons in written form. This extraordinary general assembly has to be held at most six weeks after the receipt of the motion.

The general assembly always has a quorum independent of the number of participating members.

A secretary has to be elected at the beginning of the general assembly.

The members of the council and of the advisory board are elected during the general assembly by means of a simple majority of votes. If a member makes a motion, all elections of persons besides that of the auditor of the annual accounts have to be conducted with ballot paper. Otherwise, the elections can also occur by acclamation; voting en-bloc is also permitted, if the general assembly approves this procedure with a prior vote.

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

The minutes have to be written down and have to contain the resolutions and, if necessary to understand their formation, also the course of the meeting. The minutes are signed by the chairman and the secretary.

Executive board and advisory board

§ 7

Members of the executive board in the sense of § 26 BGB are: the president, two vice presidents, the secretary general and the treasurer. The executive board is responsible for the administration of the funds of the society and the implementation of the resolutions of the society.

The society is represented judicially and outside court jointly by two members of the executive board, respectively. The procuration for legal acts – without external effects – is given to the president, both vice presidents, the secretary general and the treasurer.

The advisory board is composed of up to 15 assessors. The members of the advisory board elect one speaker and a deputy speaker among themselves. The advisory board is consulted by the executive board in all important matters of the society. The executive board and advisory board are elected by the general assembly for the duration of 3 years. They stay in office until a new executive board and advisory board is elected; re-election is possible. In case of the withdrawal of a member of the executive board or advisory board, the remaining members are entitled to name a replacement until the next general assembly.

The members of the executive board and the advisory board are elected in the general assembly by simple majority (see § 6).

Nominations for the election of members of the executive board and advisory board have to be submitted to the speaker of the advisory board or to the secretary general not later than six weeks prior to the general assembly.

Members of the executive board or the advisory board need to be members of the society. If the membership in the society ends, so does the membership in the executive board or advisory board.

The executive board can entrust certain members of the society with certain tasks and can call them in for the meetings of the advisory board.

The executive board and advisory board meet at least once per year and meetings are chaired by the president. The executive board takes decisions in executive board meetings that have been called by the president or, in absence of the president, by the secretary general. The executive board has a quorum if at least three members are present. In case of a lack of a quorum, the president or the secretary general calls a second meeting within 30 days with the same agenda. This meeting has a quorum independent of the number of executive board members present at the executive board meeting. The executive board takes decisions with simple majority. Executive board members can hand over their authority to vote to other members.

The treasurer administers the cash of the society and is responsible for the accounting of receipts and disbursements.

The executive board determines the editorial staff for the publications of the society.

Expenses and allowances

§ 8

The members of the executive board and the advisory board work gratuitously.

The general assembly can decide to allow individual or all members of the executive board or the advisory board a yearly compensation ("Ehrenamtszuschale" following §3 no. 26a EStG) of up to EUR 500.00 for fulfilling their obligations in the executive board or advisory board. Concerning this matter, paragraph 31a BGB is always taken into account.

Independently, reimbursement of moderate and real expenses that are incurred due to the obligations as executive board member or advisory board member is possible. For this, an application has to be submitted in an appropriate period of up to one calendar year after the date of expenditure. This includes particularly costs for mailing, telephone, office material, travel costs etc.

Members do not receive allowances in their function as members from the society.

If individual members, however, have expenses (travel costs etc.) for participating in certain events on behalf of the society, members can be reimbursed for these costs upon request and when the respective receipts are attached.

The executive board decides upon such reimbursements after dutiful assessment.

Dissolution of the society

§ 9

The dissolution of the society results from the respective resolution of the general assembly, at which $\frac{3}{4}$ of the delivered votes need to be in favor of the dissolution.

In case of the dissolution of the society, its termination, or the abolition of its tax concession, the funds of the society fall to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft which will spend it immediately and entirely on charitable purposes.

Gender-neutral formulation

§ 10

In order to facilitate the readability of the text, the text of the statutes waives gender-neutral formulations. However, both genders are always addressed in terms of equal treatment.

Membership changes

This form is for current Society members who would like to change their address in the Society database. If you are interested in joining the Society, please see the membership application form below.

Full name:

OLD ADDRESS – please give us your old address information (Address – City – Zip Code – Country):

Old E-mail address: _____

NEW ADDRESS – please give us your new address information (Address – City – Zip Code – Country):

Current E-mail address: _____

Please select your membership level:

___ Student (with verification of student status)

___ Regular Member

Please send this form to:

Dr. Holger Kurz
Büro für biologische Bestandsaufnahmen
Ohlestr. 35, D-22547 Hamburg

or via Email to gtoe@bfbb.de

Membership application form

The subscription covers 2 issues of **ECOTROPICA** per year and reduced registration fees for the annual conferences of the society. Payments via credit card are most welcome. Payments by check or international money order must be drawn on a bank. Please make sure to add the appropriate transfer charges.



Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V.

Yes, I want to become a member of the Society for Tropical Ecology
(Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V., gtö, www.gtoe.de).

Family name, given name: _____
 Organisation: _____
 Institutional address: _____
 Postal code & city: _____ / _____
 Private address: _____
 Postal code & city: _____ / _____
 Country: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone (home): _____ Phone (mobile): _____
 Phone (work): _____
 Fax: _____
 Date of birth: _____
 Membership status: regular ☐ student ☐ library ☐
Students please enclose a verification of student status.

I will pay membership dues via

Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Standing Order ☐

Mastercard & Visa (available only for members without a German bank account)

credit-card number: _____
 card holder's name: _____
 expiration date: _____
 3 digit code on reverse side of card: _____

Standing Order (Bankeinzugsermächtigung) (available only for members with a German bank account)

Hiermit ermächtige/n ich/wir die Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V. bis auf Widerruf zum Einzug des jeweiligen Jahresbeitrags mittels Lastschrift von meinem/unseren

Girokonto Nr.: _____
 Kontoinhaber: _____
 Bank: _____
 BLZ: _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Please fax this form to: +49 40 8326151

or send to:
 Dr. Holger Kurz
 Treasurer – Schatzmeister
 Büro für biologische Bestandsaufnahmen
 Ohlestr. 35
 D-22547 Hamburg
 Germany

or via Email to gtoe@bfbb.de