

# Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



## 44<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

### Letter from the President

Dear members of *gtö*, dear friends and colleagues,

The year we have left behind us has been an important one for our society in many respects. We were able to organize the annual European conference and our general assembly on 26-29 March in Paris, France. Without the dedication of our PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) Heike Kuhlmann and the staff of Kuhlmann Convention Service, and the help of the local organizing committee at the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle and Sorbonne Université, chaired by Catherine Reeb, Elodie Dubuisson, Eric guilbert, I would have been unable to lead that event. Needless to say that this would not have been possible in such a short time period without the strong support and trust from our past-president Manfred Niekisch. Manfred, we all missed you in Paris, especially because its success was the result of your presidency, during the last 6 years, changing *gtö* into the Society for Tropical Ecology.

Second, 2018 was important because it was the year for the election of our new European executive and scientific boards. I am deeply honored to have been elected as President of the Society of Tropical Ecology (*gtö*). I will do all my best to represent it, and to continue your efforts at transforming it into a European, now a renowned international society. It follows Past-President Eduard Linsenmair's initiative, who paved the way starting in 2005 (my 1st *gtö* at Berlin, with all talks in English), till 2009, when we (*gtö*) met with ATBC in Marburg, a joint meeting, also the continuity of our dual effort in Suriname (2008) under my 2008 ATBC Presidency. I might also acknowledge that Eduard was the first to invite me for a seminar in Germany, at Würzburg, in 1991. Soon after, I've met Elizabeth ('Eli') Kalko in Paris, then Oxford, when she started her new life at Smithsonian Institution in the USA and in Panama. It's somehow ironical to write that it is finally the USA scientists who contributed to unite French and German tropical ecologists. That is interaction

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network with reciprocal benefits, e.g. mutualism, and it worked very well. I especially want to thank Eduard for inviting me on board, and then proposed me to candidate for the vice presidency along with Eli. I also thank you for your renewed trust, and then for inviting me to candidate for the President position of gtö. Manfred, you've been so supportive during the last months when we had to organize the conference with such a short notice. I will always remember how you were pleased visiting the Zoological Park of Paris, and see your favorite lizard swimming through the window of its 'cage'.

So, I am thankful to both of our past-Presidents Eduard Linsemair and Manfred Niekisch for what you have done for the Society.

Third, we welcomed the relaunching of our Open access e-journal Ecotropica. I thank co-editors Eckhard Heymann and Marco Tschapka, as well as all subject editors for their help with the editing and the review process. I invite our members to think of ECOTROPICA and to contribute with articles, notes and comments, book review, essays, etc. Our society has two priorities, our journal and our annual meeting.

Fourth, we have invitations to five European destinations for our annual meetings, starting in Edinburgh, Scotland this year. Then, we'll be back to mainland Europe, moving freely within Europe across national borders, from West to East, from North to South, from Leipzig, Germany (2020), Prague, Czech Republic (2021), Braunschweig, Germany (2022) to Lisbon, Portugal (2023) [see also page 11 in this newsletter].

The next board election will be in 2021. To be very honest and frank with you, it was not my plan to become President of gtö, really. I never had in mind to do a "Coup d'Etat", and to be the first European fellow with a French citizenship to Preside The Society for Tropical Ecology (formerly Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V., gtö) ! I already received enough honors and greetings after being elected ATBC president in 2007. Since then I continuously worked to promote our two sister societies, and sciences in our respective fields of interest, Tropical Biology and Ecology. It should have been Eli, or another woman after her loss in 2011. We will then have to wait till the next election to see a woman in Science at the head of the Society, my formal condition during our Beirat (board-council) meeting on 1st July 2017 when I accepted to run for President. It is now written in marble.

Eli wanted to do more work in Africa. That is the next challenge for our European society in the coming decade. I was so pleased to see a good representation of African scientists during our three first European conferences in Göttingen, Bruxelles and Paris thanks to the support by our respective partners and sponsors, and European institutions. I'm impatient to meet you again for the 4th European conference in Edinburgh, and to continue to unify tropical ecologists, and to strengthen collaborative science, now also beyond marine barriers. Our society is composed of unique fellows, and I'm sincerely proud to preside gtö, our truly European Society for Tropical Ecology.

Friendly yours  
In Freundschaft  
Avec toute mon amitié  
Pierre-Michel Forget



Orang-utan in Matang Wildlife Center close to Kuching, Sarawak, Borneo. Young orangutans, who were either orphaned or rescued from captivity, are taught here how to survive in the wild. Others, like the old man on the picture, stay in the reverse. Picture: Pia Parolin

# Invitation to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology and the first joint meeting with the British Ecological Society (BES), 08-12 April 2019, Edinburgh, UK.



8 - 12 April 2019  
Appleton Tower  
Edinburgh, UK

## Joint BES/gtö Symposium – Unifying Tropical Ecology: Strengthening collaborative science

Join us for this Joint Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) and the British Ecological Society Tropical Ecology Group (BESTEG). #UTE2019



We are pleased to announce the next Joint Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) and the British Ecological Society (BES). The event "**Unifying Tropical Ecology: Strengthening collaborative science**" (#UTE2019) celebrates the fourth European Conference of Tropical Ecology, the annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology and the Annual Meeting of the BES Tropical Ecology Special Interest Group (BES-TEG). The meeting held from Monday 8 to Friday 12 April 2019, in the UK city of Edinburgh, jointly hosted by the University of Stirling, the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. This collaborative venture will bring together ecologists from the UK and Europe, together with their research partners from across the entire tropics. The meeting will promote the work of diverse research groups, foster innovation in linking people, research topics, countries and continents and inspire participants to collaborate in work that will strengthen the field.

The scientific program of the meeting includes four internationally renowned plenary speakers, and 14 thematic sessions. Thematic Sessions aim to create a high profile forum for the discussion of timely, innovative and/or important questions, provide local flavor within the program, and showcase integration with disciplines outside of ecology (including other natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities). This year, we were particularly interested in considering proposals that represent collaborative research that spans national boundaries, both within and across Europe and the tropics. This will be particularly relevant in 2019, in light of the changing political landscape in Europe. We hope to reaffirm European scientific collaborations and promote further collaborative endeavors between European researchers and those in tropical countries, as well as to facilitate and support collaborations within the tropics.

We will welcome you during the mixer event with complimentary drinks and nibbles at the beautiful Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on Monday 8 April and invite you to join us at the conference dinner on Wednesday 10 April at The Hub – Edinburgh's Festival Centre! This

will include a welcome drink, a buffet dinner, 2 complimentary drinks, and a traditional Scottish ceilidh band – so get those dancing shoes at the ready!

We are pleased to offer a number of post conference tours on 11-12 April to enhance your stay in Edinburgh!

Please share this information with colleagues, students and all other persons who have an interest in participating, and visit the website to register: <http://www.soctropecol-conference.eu/> or <https://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/ute2019/>

## **NEW – Student travel grants – Extended deadline until 01. March 2019**

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](mailto:travelgrant@soctropecol.eu)).

The extended deadline for submissions is the **01. March 2019**. 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 32nd annual members assembly of gtö in Edinburgh 2019**

The Executive Board of the gtö, represented by its President, invites its members to the 32nd general assembly held on Wednesday, the 10th of April 2019 from 16h30 to 18h00 in the Appleton Tower lecture complex, 11 Crichton St, Edinburgh EH8 9LE, UK.

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 31st general assembly
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2018
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2018
6. Report of the advisory board

7. Report of the cash accounters
8. Discharge of the executive board
9. Election of the cash accounters
10. Ecotropica
11. Preparation of future annual meetings
12. Miscellaneous

## **Einladung zur 32. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö in Edinburgh 2019**

Das Präsidium der gtö, vertreten durch den Präsidenten, lädt alle Mitglieder ein zur 32. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö am Mittwoch, den 10. April 2019 von 16:30 bis 18:00 Uhr im Appleton Tower lecture complex, 11 Crichton St, Edinburgh EH8 9LE, UK.

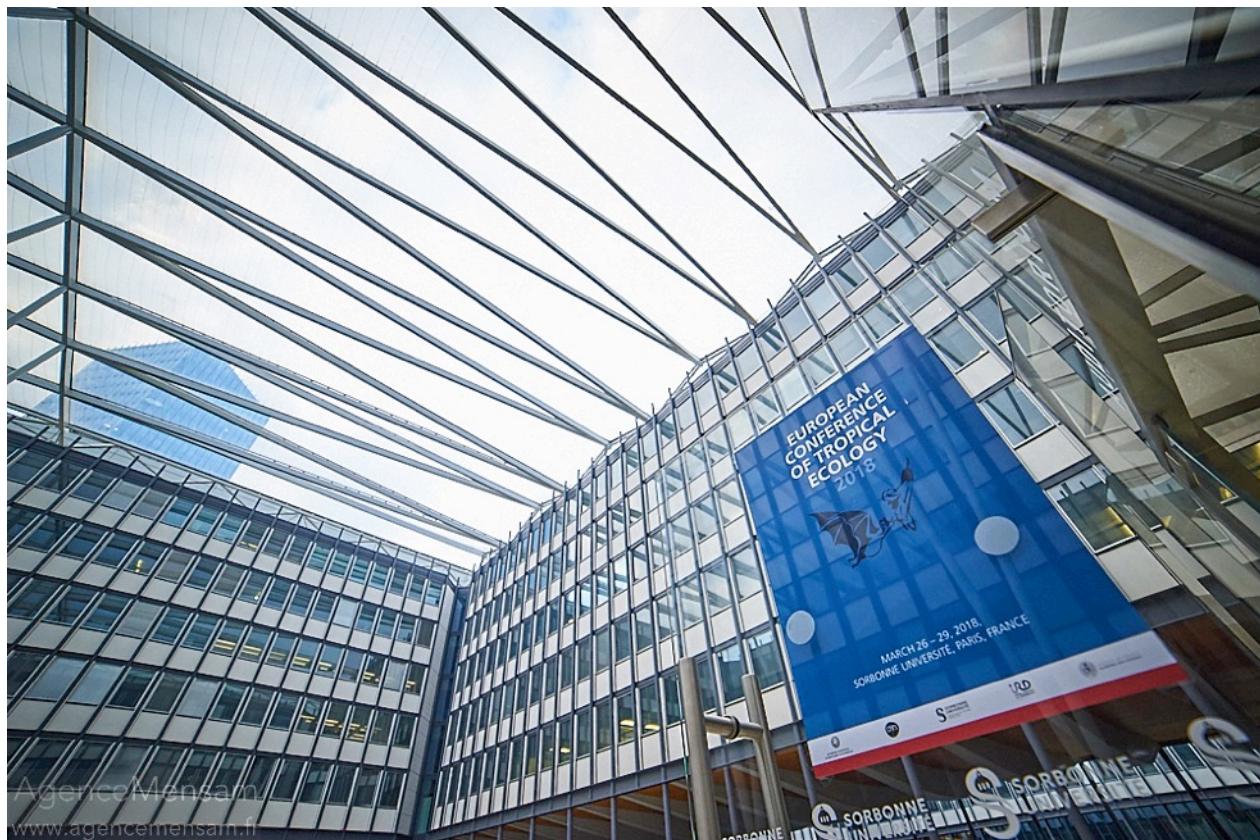
Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung
2. Wahl des Schriftführers
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 31. Mitgliederversammlung
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2018
5. Bericht des Schatzmeisters zum Geschäftsjahr 2018
6. Bericht des Sprechers des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats
7. Bericht der Kassenprüfer
8. Entlastung des Präsidiums
9. Wahl der Kassenprüfer
10. Ecotropica
11. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen
12. Verschiedenes

## European Conference of Tropical Ecology and 31<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology in Paris, 2018



The annual meeting of the gtö and the European Conference of Tropical Ecology took place from 26-29 March 2018 at the International Conference Center Sorbonne Universités (CICSU) at Pierre Marie Curie University (UPMC) in Paris. The overarching topic was “Challenges in tropical ecology and conservation - global perspectives” and highlighted both tropical aquatic (marine and freshwater) and terrestrial ecosystems. As part of the program, the Academy of Science-Institute of France organized a side event and sponsored African ecologists to attend a mini-forum with the aim to discuss the “Diversity and conservation of afrotropical forests”.



A total of 314 participants from 54 countries attended the conference. The scientific program of the conference included five plenary talks by renowned international early-career women scientists, and 215 talks and 51 posters organized in 28 thematic sessions in five parallel rooms during three entire days. In the Elisabeth-Kalko Memorial evening lecture, Dr. Sebastian

Lotzkat gave a very entertaining performance demonstrating why current exploration of the diversity of Central American amphibians and reptiles remain an adventure in this 21st



Prof. Dr. Andreas Huth (Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ) and Prof. Dr. Alexandra Muellner-Riehl (Leipzig University, and Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research - iDiv). Chairs of the gtö conference 2020 in Leipzig.



century. During the event, the Institut Ecologie et Environnement (INEE) of the CNRS officially launched the beautifully illustrated book "Mangroves, une forêt dans la mer" published by CNRS/leChercheMidi. In addition, since the conference has been labelled as an event of the 3rd International Year of Coral Reef (IYOR2018), the Tropical Aquarium of the Porte Dorée hosted the conference dinner, participants being surrounded by the colourful diversity of both freshwater and marine ecosystems, and all the diversity of the coral reefs intra-muros in Paris.

The chairs Pierre-Michel Forget (MNHN, UMR MECADEV) and Catherine Reeb (Sorbonne Université, UMR ISYEB) thank the members of the organizing and academic committees Elodie Boucheron-Dubuisson, Eric Guilbert, Jacques Gignoux, Sébastien Barot, Virginie Roy, Sandrine Grouard, Aude Lalis, Violaine Nicolas-Colin, Jérôme Sueur, Tarik Meziane, Malika Trouillefou, Colin Fontaine for this great

European Conference. Research national and international institutions including the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, the CNRS-INEE, the Labex CEBA, LabEx CORAIL, the IRD, the Academy of Science, the Embassy of France in the USA, Tropimundo, XTBG China, and the Association des Amis du Muséum largely contributed to sponsor the invitation of the plenary speakers and the conference overall. We also would like to acknowledge that without the professionalism of Heike Kuhlmann, the staff of the PCO KCS-convention service, all the volunteering helpers and the gtoe board it would have been impossible to organize the conference between September 2017 and March 2018 on such a short notice.

We thank the local organizers for this great European meeting!

**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 2017**

## Winners of the Merian Award 2018

At the annual meeting in Paris, the best three talks of young scientists were honoured by the Merian Award. From left to right on the picture: Omar Nevo, Robert Muscarella, Natalia Ocampo-Peña and Pierre Michel Forget. **The gtoe congratulates the winners for their excellent presentations!**

**We also strongly encourage the young members of the gto who will present their research at the conference in Edinburgh to sign up for the Merian Award 2019!**



## Merian Awards 2018 for the best talks

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Robert MUSCARELLA: Global patterns in palm abundance

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Natalia OCAMPO-PEÑUELA: Four decades of forest loss in Borneo and its lasting effects on forest frugivores and seed dispersal

**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Omer NEVO: Is fruit odor an adaptation for Lemur seed dispersal?

## Treasurer's corner

Dear members of the society for tropical ecology,

In this section I would like to give you an insight in my regular work as a treasurer. In particular, I would like to report here on how I process membership applications and kindly ask you for your support to make my work as a treasurer easier.

To retract the membership fees, **I would highly recommend using SEPA**, because it is safe (within 8 weeks you may contradict the retraction) and much easier for me to handle. It is also cheaper for the society, as we pay about € 1000 for handling Visa and Mastercards on a yearly basis. By the way: I am not allowed to keep your credit card data on a computer, which is connected to the Internet. That means I have to write down all data on paper and type 23 numbers in a template for each credit card each year – this costs me a lot of time. So, please use SEPA instead of credit cards. If your bank account resides in a country, which is member of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA), please let me know your International Bank Account Number (IBAN) and, if your bank is located outside of Germany, also your Bank Identifier Code (BIC) too. In case you live in a country outside Europe, of course you may use your credit card to pay your membership fee.

For all new members: As I am doing my work as a treasurer as a voluntary service, please be patient when you apply for membership. Normally, I am processing new membership applications once a week on Sunday. Once you are registered, you will receive an email confirming your membership. As I had some computer problems recently, I am still processing a number of applications, so please be patient until you receive a confirmation email. As the matching of our membership data with the British Ecological Society will only take place shortly before the conference starts, you may already register for the conference 2019, even without having received a confirmation email of your membership.

I hope, we'll meet at Edinburgh!

Kind regards, Holger Kurz

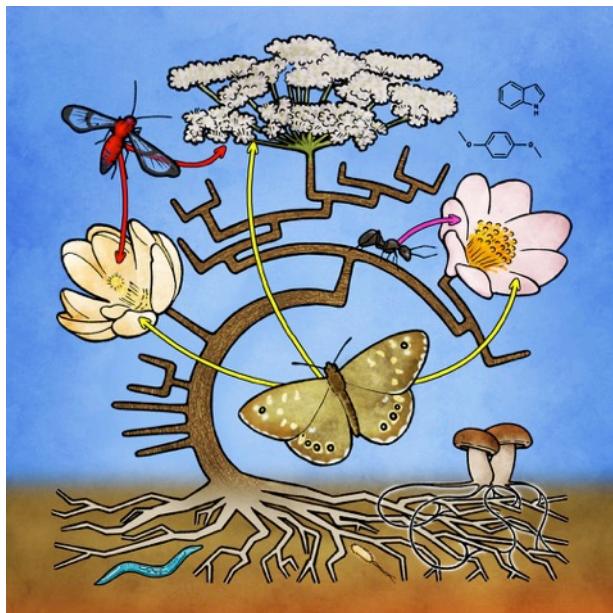
## Upcoming events and conferences

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

- 2019: Edinburgh, UK (see conference invitation above)**
- 2020: Leipzig, Germany**
- 2021: Prague, Czech Republic**
- 2022: Braunschweig, Germany**
- 2023: Lisbon, Portugal**

### **43rd New Phytologist Symposium: Interaction networks and trait evolution, Zürich, Switzerland | 1–4 July 2019**

The 43rd New Phytologist Symposium will explore how ecological networks shape the evolution of biological diversity.



Fifteen leading scientists from the formerly separated disciplines of network ecology and trait evolution will share insights into how the range of different species interactions within ecological communities shape the selection of plant traits in nature. The symposium will take place over four days at the University of Zürich, Switzerland, and include sessions organised by broad research topics. There will be dedicated time for discussions, poster presentations, selected talks, a conference dinner and a field trip. Travel grant submission deadline: Thursday 28th March 2019. Poster abstract submission deadline: Thursday 25th April 2019.

[newphytologist.org/symposia/43](http://newphytologist.org/symposia/43)

### **44<sup>th</sup> New Phytologist Symposium: Determinants of tropical vegetation structure and function, Accra, Ghana | 7–9 August 2019**

Vast areas of the tropics lie within climates that have the potential to support either savanna or forest. The extent to which vegetation is controlled by soils, fire, and climate has been strongly debated, and future vegetation change will depend on which of these factors most strongly regulates vegetation. This symposium will provide a forum dedicated to what seem



to be widely contrasting views. The symposium will take place over three days at the Swiss Spirit Hotel and Suites Alisa, Accra, Ghana. The symposium will be organised into sessions by research topics and there will be dedicated time for discussions, posters, selected poster talks and field trips. Travel grant submission deadline: Thursday 25th April 2019. Poster abstract submission deadline: Thursday 23rd May 2019.

[newphytologist.org/symposia/44](http://newphytologist.org/symposia/44)

## Suggested reading / Lesetipp

A new volume of the „Bielefelder Ökologische Beiträge (BÖB)“ has been published. The 21<sup>st</sup> volume contains the „Floristic analysis of the subnival-nival Vegetation of the Hindu Kush and Caucasus“ including a list of all high mountain species and another chapter on the „Recent desiccation history, succession on the Aral Sea floor and gradient studies on the Northern Aralkum“. The content of all 21 volumes and information on how to obtain the volumes can be downloaded here:

<http://www.s.breckle.name/BÖB/Bielef Ökol Beitr Inhalt 1-21+Ti+Be.pdf>

## 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.socstropecol.eu/>

## Impressum

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## gtö Executive Board



### **President**

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## gtö scientific advisory board

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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  
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 – *Ecotropica editor*  
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 – *co-speaker of the advisory board*  
Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Department of Environmental Sciences, Wageningen University, The Netherlands  
Dr. Chris J Kettle, ETH Zürich, Switzerland  
Dr. Sarah Luke, University of Cambridge, UK  
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*  
Dr. Pablo Oroczo-Trwengel, Cardiff School of Biosciences, Cardiff University, UK  
Dr. Pia Parolin, INRA, Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, CNRS, France  
Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, Centre of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Use, Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany  
PD Dr. Marco Tschapka, Institute of Experimental Ecology, University of Ulm, Germany – *Ecotropica editor*



Newly elected board members at the conference in Paris 2018.



Board members at the summer meeting in Frankfurt in July 2018.

## **APPENDIX I: Protokoll der 31. Mitgliederversammlung / Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> annual general assembly**

Paris, 28. März 2018, 16:00 bis 17:30 im Auditorium des International Conference Center Sorbonne Université (CICSU) an der Pierre Marie Curie University (UPMC), 4 Place Jussieu, 75005 Paris, Frankreich

Paris, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (16.00-17:30h at the auditorium of the International Conference Center Sorbonne Université (CICSU) at Pierre Marie Curie University (UPMC), 4 place Jussieu, 75005 Paris, France

Protokoll/Minutes: Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig

Anwesende Mitglieder / Number of members present: 35

Tagesordnung/Agenda:

1. Eröffnung der MV durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung mit kleinen Änderungen / Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda with minor changes

2. Wahl des Schriftführers / Election of the assembly's secretary
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 30. MV / Approval of the minutes of the 30th general assembly
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über das Geschäftsjahr 2017 / Report of the executive board on financial year 2017
5. Bericht des Schatzmeisters / Report of the treasurer
6. Bericht der Kassenprüfer / Report of the cash auditors
7. Entlastung des Präsidiums / Discharge of the board
8. Bericht des Sprechers des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats / Report of the advisory board
9. Wahl der Kassenprüfer / Election of the cash accountants
10. Vorstellung der KandidatInnen für die Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Candidates' presentation
11. Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Election of the board
12. Ecotropica / Ecotropica
13. Vorbereitung der Tagungen / MVs 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 / Preparation of annual meetings / general assemblies in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
14. 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

Da der Präsident aus gesundheitlichen Gründen verhindert war begrüßt die Vizepräsidentin, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, die Anwesenden und stellt die ordnungsgemäße Einladung zur Mitgliederversammlung 2018 fest. Die Tagesordnung wird mit leichten Änderungen angenommen.

Due to health reasons of the president the vice president, PD Dr. Pia Parolin welcomes all attendees and asserts the correct invitation to the general assembly in 2018. The agenda is accepted with minor 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 proposal is accepted.

3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 30. MV / Approval of the minutes of the 30th general assembly

Das Protokoll wurde am 31. Januar 2018 zeitgerecht veröffentlicht und allen Mitgliedern zugestellt. Das Protokoll wird ohne Ergänzungen angenommen.

The protocol was timely published on January 31, 2018, and delivered to all members. The protocol was accepted without changes.

4. Bericht des Präsidiums über das Geschäftsjahr 2017 / Report of the executive board on financial year 2017

Vorgestellt von der Vizepräsidentin der gtö PD Dr. Pia Parolin

Es gab verschiedene Sitzungen der Mitglieder des Präsidiums. Es fand kein „retreat“ statt, ein Treffen im kommenden Jahr wird aber angeregt. Es wurden darüber hinaus die Aktivitäten im verstrichenen Jahr erwähnt: Informationsverbreitung über Rundbrief und Website, Plattformen für networking, Ecotropica, Merian-Preis für das beste Poster und den besten Vortrag, Book Raffle für neu eingetretene Mitglieder, die Verbindung zur lokalen Bevölkerung durch die „E. Kalko Memorial Lecture“ und die Vorbereitung der Jahrestagung in Paris sowie der folgenden Tagungen.

Der Rundbrief der *gtö* wurde am 31. Januar 2018 verschickt. Ein besonderer Dank an Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz für die Zusammenstellung.

Die Gesellschaft ist zu einer europäischen Gesellschaft geworden, was während der Tagung hier in Paris deutlich sichtbar wurde. Dies ist insbesondere in der Vielfalt der Mitglieder, Tagungsorte, Tagungsteilnehmende, Keynotes und Beiratsmitglieder sichtbar (2013 Wien mit 164 Teilnehmenden aus 16 Ländern, 2014 Freising mit 179 Teilnehmenden aus 24 Ländern, 2015 Zürich mit 319 Teilnehmenden aus 37 Ländern, 2016 Göttingen mit 363 Teilnehmenden aus 37 Ländern, 2017 Brüssel mit 365 Teilnehmenden aus 37 Ländern, 2018 Paris mit 314 Teilnehmenden aus 45 Ländern).

Presented by the vice president of *gtö*, PD Dr. Pia Parolin

A few meetings with board members took place. There was no retreat but a meeting for the next year is suggested. The activities of the past year were mentioned: distribution of information via newsletter and website, platforms for networking, Ecotropica, Merian Award for best poster and talk, book raffle for new members, connection to local people through the „E. Kalko Memorial Lecture“ and preparation of annual meeting in Paris and future meetings.

The newsletter of *gtö* was published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Special thanks to Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz.

The society has successfully become a truly European society, which is clearly visible at the meeting in Paris. This can be particularly seen in the members, meeting places, meeting participants, plenary speakers and board members (2013 Vienna with 164 participants from 16 countries, 2014 Freising with 179 participants from 24 countries, 2015 Zürich with 319 participants from 37 countries, 2016 Göttingen with 363 participants from 37 countries, 2017 Brussels with 365 participants from 37 countries, 2018 Paris with 314 participants from 45 countries).

## 5. Bericht des Schatzmeisters/Report of treasurer

Ein großer Dank an Dr. Holger Kurz, den Schatzmeister, für seine geleistete Arbeit bezüglich der Mitglieder- und Jahresbeitragsverwaltung. Dr. Holger Kurz stellt die einzelnen Posten der Einnahmen und Ausgaben in 2017 vor und erläutert die Abweichungen zu den bisherigen Jahren (siehe Bericht des Schatzmeisters). Die Mitgliederbeiträge für 2017 wurden aus gesundheitlichen Gründen nicht in 2017, sondern werden erst im April 2018 eingezogen. Darüber hinaus wurden Ideen diskutiert, wie die Gelder der Gesellschaft zukünftig verausgabt werden sollen. Hier wurden u.a. Reisestipendien zu Jahrestagungen diskutiert.

Special acknowledgements to Dr. Holger Kurz, the treasurer, for all his work for the society, particularly regarding the administration of the members and the fees. Dr. Holger Kurz presents all incomes and expenses for 2017 and explains the variation from previous years (see treasurer's report). Due to health reasons, the 2017 membership fees were not collected in late 2017 but rather in April 2018. Further, ideas were discussed about how to spend the

money of the society in the future. As one option conference travel grants were discussed.

## 6. Bericht der Kassenprüfer/Report of cash auditors

Die Kassenprüfer Prof. Dr. Achim Bräuning und Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel haben die Kasse geprüft und hatten keine Einwände. Alle Belege haben vorgelegen und die Buchführung ist vorbildhaft.

The cash auditors Prof. Dr. Achim Bräuning and Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel have checked the accounts of the society and have no complains. All receipts were present and the cash auditors certified an excellent book keeping of the treasurer.

## 7. Entlastung des Präsidiums / Discharge of the board

Der Vorstand wird einstimmig entlastet. Großer Dank an die Kassenprüfer.

The Executive Board is discharged. Special acknowledgement to the cash auditors.

## 8. Bericht des wissenschaftlichen Beirats/ Report of the advisory board

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

Alle Besprechungen, sowohl auf der letztjährigen Tagung in Brüssel als auch auf der Klausur in Frankfurt (30.6./1.7.2017), wurden gemeinsam mit dem geschäftsführendem Präsidium abgehalten. Schwerpunkte waren: (a) Findung zukünftiger Tagungsorte und die Tagungsvorbereitungen; (b) Weiterführung der Ecotropica; (c) Gestaltung des Internetauftritts.

Dank an Eike Lena Neuschulz, die als Ko-Sprecherin des Beirats aktiv für die Gesellschaft wirkt insbesondere in der Erstellung des Newsletters.

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

All meetings – during the 2017 conference in Brussels and on the retreat in Frankfurt – always took place together with the executive board. The main topics were: (a) finding places for future annual conferences and preparation of conferences; (b) continuation of Ecotropica; (c) organization of the website.

Thanks to Eike Lena Neuschulz who as co-speaker of the board is very active for the society particularly in compiling all the information for the annual newsletter.

## 9. Wahl der Kassenprüfer / Election of the cash auditors

Prof. Dr. Achim Bräuning und Dr. Mia-Lana Lührs werden als Kassenprüfer vorgeschlagen. Dieser Vorschlag wird angenommen.

Prof. Dr. Achim Bräuning and Dr. Mia-Lana Lührs are proposed as cash auditors. This proposal is accepted.

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

Die folgenden KandidatInnen stehen zur Wahl für das geschäftsführende Präsidium:  
Präsident - Prof. Dr. Pierre-Michel Forget, Vizepräsidentin - Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig,  
Vizepräsident - Prof. Dr. Vojtech Novotny, Generalsekretärin - Prof. Dr. Ute Radespiel,  
Schatzmeister - Dr. Holger Kurz

Die folgenden 15 KandidatInnen stehen für den wissenschaftlichen Beirat zur Wahl: Dr. Melanie Dammhahn, Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht, PD Dr. Raffael Ernst, PD Dr. Sven Günther, Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Prof. Dr. Alice Hughes, Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Dr. Chris Kettle, Dr. Sarah Luke, Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, Prof. Dr. Marco Tschapka

The following candidates are eligible for the executive board: President - Prof. Dr. Pierre-Michel Forget, vice president - Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig, vice president - Prof. Dr. Vojtech Novotny, secretary general - Prof. Dr. Ute Radespiel, treasurer - Dr. Holger Kurz

The following candidates are eligible for the scientific board: Dr. Melanie Dammhahn, Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht, PD Dr. Raffael Ernst, PD Dr. Sven Günther, Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Prof. Dr. Alice Hughes, Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Dr. Chris Kettle, Dr. Sarah Luke, Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, Prof. Dr. Marco Tschapka

## 11. Neuwahl des Präsidiums / Election of the board

Das Mitglied Prof. Dr. Erwin Beck wird gebeten, die Wahl zu leiten. Die anwesenden Mitglieder sind einstimmig mit einer Blockabstimmung einverstanden. Die folgenden KandidatInnen sind einstimmig für das geschäftsführende Präsidium gewählt worden: Präsident - Prof. Dr. Pierre-Michel Forget, Vizepräsidentin - Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig, Vizepräsident - Prof. Dr. Vojtech Novotny, Generalsekretärin - Prof. Dr. Ute Radespiel, Schatzmeister - Dr. Holger Kurz

Die folgenden 15 KandidatInnen sind einstimmig für den wissenschaftlichen Beirat gewählt worden: Dr. Melanie Dammhahn, Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht, PD Dr. Raffael Ernst, PD Dr. Sven Günther, Prof. Dr. Eckhard Heymann, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Prof. Dr. Alice Hughes, Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Dr. Chris Kettle, Dr. Sarah Luke, Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, PD Dr. Marco Tschapka

Ein großer Dank an Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch für seine Führung und sein Engagement als Präsident für die Gesellschaft während der letzten sechs Jahre.

The member Prof. Dr. Erwin Beck is asked to lead the elections. All members are in favour to vote en block. The following candidates have been concordantly elected to executive board:

Präsident - Prof. Dr. Pierre-Michel Forget, Vizepräsidentin - Prof. Dr. Nina Farwig, Vizepräsident - Prof. Dr. Vojtech Novotny, Generalsekretärin - Prof. Dr. Ute Radespiel, Schatzmeister - Dr. Holger Kurz

The following 15 candidates have been concordantly elected to the scientific board: Dr. Melanie Dammhahn, Prof. Dr. Bettina Engelbrecht, PD Dr. Raffael Ernst, PD Dr. Sven Günther, Prof. Dr. Eckhard Heymann, Dr. Jürgen Homeier, Prof. Dr. Alice Hughes, Prof. Dr. Patrick Jansen, Dr. Chris Kettle, Dr. Sarah Luke, Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Dr. Pablo Orozco-terWengel, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, Dr. Simone Pfeiffer, PD Dr. Marco Tschapka

A big thanks to Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch for his great leadership and service as president for the society over the last six years.

## 12. Ecotropica / Ecotropica

Vorgestellt von den Editoren Prof. Dr. Marco Tschapka und Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann: Der Beirat hat im letzten Jahr intensiv diskutiert, wie der Relaunch von Ecotropica stattfinden kann. Hier hat sich Prof. Eckhard W. Heymann bereit erklärt als Ko-Editor zu agieren. Darüber hinaus wurde ein Online Management System (Open Journal System) getestet, die

eine effizientere Organisation des Journals erlauben wird. Ab 1. Mai 2018 können Manuskripte über die neue Website Ecotropica.eu eingereicht werden. Einzelheiten zu den Zielen und Bereichen des Journals sowie zu den Typen von Artikeln werden vorgestellt. Ecotropica wird von nun an ein reines Online Journal mit freiem Zugang zu den Artikeln sein und in der Anfangsphase keine Gebühren verlangen. Die Editoren betonen abschließend, dass der Erfolg der Zeitschrift unseres Verbandes nicht zuletzt auch von einer regen Beteiligung der Mitglieder über die Einreichung geeigneter Manuskripte abhängen wird.

Presented by the editors Prof. Dr. Marco Tschapka and Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann: The board has intensively discussed how a relaunch of the journal would be feasible. Here Prof. Dr. Eckhard W. Heymann has agreed to step in as a co-editor of Ecotropica. Furthermore, an online managing system was tested (Open Journal System) that will allow a more efficient management if the relaunched journal. Submissions through the new webpage Ecotropica.eu possible from 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2018 onwards. Details on the aims and scope of the journal and the types of articles were presented. Ecotropica will be an online journal only, with free access to the published papers and at the moment there are no page charges. The Editors emphasize that the success of Ecotropica will depend also on the active participation of the members of our society, i.e., through the submission of suitable manuscripts.

### 13. Vorbereitung der Tagungen / MVs 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 / Preparation of annual meetings / general assemblies in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022

Die Vizepräsidentin, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, präsentiert eine Zusammenstellung der letzten Tagungsorte und kündigt an, dass die kommende Tagung vom 8. – 12. April 2019 in Edinburgh stattfinden wird (BES-gtö, Universitäten Stirling und Edinburgh). Auch der Zeitraum für die nachfolgende Tagung steht schon fest und zwar vom 23. - 27.03.2020 in Leipzig. 2021 - Prag, 2022 - Hannover/Braunschweig, der Wunsch für 2013 Südeuropa oder die Niederlande.

The vice president, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, presents a summarizing list of the former meeting locations and announces that the next meeting will take place from 8-12 April 2019 in Edinburgh (joint BES-TEG & gtö meeting, co-organized by the Universities of Stirling and Edinburgh). Also the following meeting is set already, namely 23- 27 March 2020 in Leipzig. 2021 - Prague, 2022 - Hannover/Braunschweig, wish for 2013 Southern Europe or the Netherlands.

### 14. Verschiedenes / Miscellaneous

Es wurde angeregt das Protokoll und den Rundbrief ausschließlich auf Englisch statt Zweisprachig zu verfassen. Das wird geprüft.

It was proposed to compose the minutes and the newsletter only in English instead of in two languages. That will be checked.

Die Vizepräsidentin, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, dankt allen Mitgliedern der gtö, dem Beirat und Vorstand für eine sehr aktive und produktive Zeit und schließt die Sitzung um 17:05 Uhr.

The vice president, PD Dr. Pia Parolin, thanks all members of gtö, the board for a very active and productive time and officially closes the general assembly at 17h05.

## APPENDIX II: Budgetary revenues and expenditures 2017 / Kassenbericht 2017

<b>Statement of Revenues and Expenditures 2017</b>	<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>	<b>Account balance (Euro)</b>	<b>Account balance (Euro)</b>
Membership fees	690.00	
Donations	13.00	
Booksellers fees	0.00	
Annual interest	0.16	
<b>Sum:</b>	<b>703.16</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Writing back of membership fees		510.00
Reembursement of travelling costs (Executive Board)		345.00
Catering for Keynote speakers, Advisory and Executive Board		0.00
Office supplies		0.00
Postal charges (except Ecotropica)		0.00
Homepage costs		871.08
Merian Award		1,200.00
Ecotropica printing		0.00
Ecotropica revision (native speaker)		0.00
Ecotropica advertisement, shipping and handling		129.06
Legal advice for statutes (lawyer)		0.00
Conference grant		0.00
Representation costs		0.00
Account maintenance charges		157.34
Donation for BioFrankfurt - Network Biodiversity		150.00
Sponsoring Plenary Speaker		0.00
<b>Sum:</b>		<b>3,362.48</b>
<b>Annual cash flow:</b>		<b>-2,659.32</b>
Account balance giro (beginning of the year)	01.01.2017:	29,059.72
Account balance day-to-day money (beginning of the year)	01.01.2017:	25,047.16
<b>Overall account balance (beginning of the year)</b>	<b>01.01.2017:</b>	<b>54,106.88</b>
Account balance giro (end of year)	31.12.2017:	26,400.24
Account balance day-to-day money (end of year)	31.12.2017:	25,047.32
<b>Overall account balance (end of year)</b>	<b>31.12.2017:</b>	<b>51,447.56</b>

<b>Einnahme-Überschuss-Rechnung 2017</b>		<b>Einnahmen</b>	<b>Ausgaben</b>
		<b>Kontensumme Einnahmen</b>	<b>Kontensumme Ausgaben</b>
<b>Einnahmen:</b>		<b>(Euro)</b>	<b>(Euro)</b>
Mitgliedsbeiträge		690.00	
Spenden		13.00	
Buchhandlungen		0.00	
Tagegeld-Zinsen		0.16	
<b>Summe:</b>		<b>703.16</b>	
<b>Ausgaben:</b>			
Retouren Mitglieds-Beiträge			510.00
Erstattung von Reisekosten (Vorstand und Beirat)			345.00
Verpflegung für Keynote Redner, Vorstand und Beirat			0.00
Bürobedarf			0.00
Porto- und Versandkosten (außer Ecotropica)			0.00
Internetkosten (Pflege, Gebühren)			871.08
Merian-Preis			1,200.00
Ecotropica Druckkosten			0.00
Ecotropica Revision (Muttersprachler)			0.00
Ecotropica Werbungs- und Versandkosten			129.06
Rechtsanwaltskosten (Satzungsänderungen)			0.00
Beiträge für Tagungen			0.00
Tagungs-Nebenkosten (Tagungsband)			0.00
Rücklastschrift- und Kontogebühren			157.34
Spende für BioFrankfurt - Netzwerk Biodiversität			150.00
Zuschüsse für Plenarvorträge			0.00
<b>Summe:</b>			<b>3,362.48</b>
<b>Einnahme-Überschuss-Rechnung:</b>			<b>-2,659.32</b>
Kontostand Girokonto Jahresanfang	01.01.2017:	29,059.72	
Kontostand Tagesgeld Jahresanfang	01.01.2017:	25,047.16	
<b>Gesamtkontostand Jahresanfang</b>	<b>01.01.2017:</b>	<b>54,106.88</b>	
Kontostand Girokonto Jahresende	31.12.2017:	26,400.24	
Kontostand Tagesgeld Jahresende	31.12.2017:	25,047.32	
<b>Gesamtkontostand Jahresende</b>	<b>31.12.2017:</b>	<b>51,447.56</b>	

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Current E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **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  
Moorkamp 10, D-20357 Hamburg

or via Email to [gtoe@bfbb.de](mailto:gtoe@bfbb.de)

## Membership application form



The subscription covers reduced registration fees for the annual conferences of the society. **Payments via SEPA 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.

Yes, I want to become a member of the Society for Tropical Ecology – Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V.

**Family name, given name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institutional address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal code & city:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Private address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Country:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (private):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (work):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership status:

regular

student

library

Students please enclose a verification of student status.

I will pay membership dues via:

**Standing order      Master Card      Visa**

Standing Order / Bankeinzugsermächtigung

Herewith I authorize the Society of Tropical Ecology (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V.) to retract the yearly memberships fee until cancelled.

**Card holder:** \_\_\_\_\_

**IBAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

Master Card & Visa (available **only for members outside the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)**)

**Credit-card number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Card holder's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3-digit code on reverse side of card:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form to: +49 40 8326151 (fax)

or            Dr. Holger Kurz, Treasurer – Schatzmeister  
Büro für biologische Bestandsaufnahmen  
Moorkamp 10, D-20357 Hamburg

or via Email to [gtoe@bfbb.de](mailto:gtoe@bfbb.de)