

Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



50th Newsletter

Letter from the President

Dear Members of the Society for Tropical Ecology,

Have you ever wondered what truly defines the Society for Tropical Ecology? Is it love for tropical forests or animals? For Ecological concepts? For me, it's you — our members. While our shared mission to advance the understanding and protection of tropical ecosystems serves as our guiding light, it is the people within our Society who bring this mission to life. Over the years, the ways we gather and share knowledge have evolved, but the passion, dedication, and curiosity of our members remain the heart of our success.

It brings me joy to see the great work of our diverse Executive Board, Scientific Board, Early Career Group members and important research of the members. Each of you plays a vital role in guiding the Society's activities, ensuring that we embrace the challenges and opportunities of today's rapidly changing world. Together, we are fostering meaningful discussions, identifying new opportunities, and supporting initiatives that benefit not only our members but also the broader field of tropical ecology.

The past few years have tested our resilience in both personal and professional spheres. With the disruptions to our annual meetings in 2020, 2021, and need to re-plan 2022, it was a challenging time for all of us. Yet, I am incredibly proud of how the Society has emerged stronger, with renewed energy and purpose. Our two recent meetings have welcomed many new, active members, and we continue to

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support the community through research and travel grants and awards.

Last year, we gathered in Lisbon under the inspiring theme, “Tropical ecosystems in a fast-changing planet.” Very soon, we will meet again in Amsterdam with the fitting motto, “Time for Tropical Ecology.” Both these themes underscore the critical importance of our collective work in understanding and protecting tropical ecosystems in an era of unprecedented change. Indeed, it is time for us, as a community, to take collective action and make meaningful impact in safeguarding tropical ecosystems.

Thank you for your continued support, enthusiasm, and engagement with the Society. It is a privilege to work alongside such a vibrant and committed group of individuals. Together, I believe we can continue to make a lasting impact for tropical ecology and conservation.

With warm regards,

Katerina Sam

President of the Society for Tropical Ecology



Invitation to the 38th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology and the 8th European Conference of Tropical Ecology, 24-28 February 2025, Amsterdam, Portugal.

We are pleased to invite all scientists and students involved in tropical ecology to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology. The “Time for Tropical Ecology” event will be held in the dynamic city of Amsterdam between 24 and 28 February 2025. Over 250 abstracts have been submitted and we hope that enhanced poster and oral sessions will provide everyone an opportunity to discuss exciting science, develop scientific networks, and feel part of the global community.

We will be offering a plenary program including ‘rising star’ and ‘senior’ scientists, thematic sessions catering for a broad range of research interests, and additional opportunities for workshops and excursions within Amsterdam. The program is sponsored by the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO).

We are honoured to be hosting this prestigious event in the Netherlands for the first time and hope you will join us. To get the **early bird registration** rate, and confirm your abstract in the program, please register before **18 December 2024** at:

<https://www.aanmelder.nl/gtoe2025/registration>

Note, if you have missed this deadline **final registration closes on 27 January 2025**.

On behalf of the organization committee,
Will and Crysta

Student travel grants – Deadline until 03. January 2025

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

The deadline for submissions is the **03. January 2025**. 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 38th general assembly of gtö - 2025

The Executive Board of the *gtö*, represented by its President, invites its members to the **38th general assembly held on Tuesday, 25th February 2025 from 18h00 to 19h00**. The meeting will take place in person in Hotel Casa, room UVA 1-4 Amsterdam, Netherlands.

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 37th general assembly
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2024
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2024
6. Report of the cash accountants

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7. Discharge of the executive board
 8. Election of the cash accountants
 9. Report of the advisory board
 10. Preparation of future annual meetings
 11. Miscellaneous

Einladung zur 38. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö - 2025

Das Präsidium der gtö, vertreten durch die Präsidentin, lädt alle Mitglieder ein zur **38. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö am Dienstag, 25. Februar 2025 von 18:00 bis 19:00 Uhr**. Die Sitzung wird in Präsenz im Hotel Casa, Raum UVA 1-4 in Amsterdam, Niederlande, stattfinden.

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch die Präsidentin und Annahme der Tagesordnung
2. Wahl des/der Schriftführenden
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 37. Mitgliederversammlung
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2024
5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2024
6. Bericht der Kassenprüfenden
7. Entlastung des Präsidiums
8. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden
9. Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats
10. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen
11. Verschiedenes

37th general assembly of gtö in 2024 in Lisbon

The 37th general assembly of gtö was held on 14.02.2024 at building C3, room 3.2.13 in the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal

See Appendix I for the minutes of the general assembly 2024

See Appendix II for budgetary revenues and expenditures 2023 ("Kassenbericht")

Photo competition of the European Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö)

Society for Tropical Ecology

PHOTO CONTEST

Open call for members



3 categories:

1. Beauty of biodiversity
2. People & nature
3. Research applications & biodiversity solutions

Submit photos to: GTOE2025@soctropecol.eu

- only members may submit
- maximum 3 photos per participant per category (i.e., 9 photos max. per person)
- max. photo size below 10 MB
- avoid signatures / water-marks
- re-name jpg by category - numbering - your name (e.g. Biodiv-1-NAME) – the jury will judge in blind review

Deadline for submission: 31 December 2024!

Photos of the finalists will be printed and exhibited at the annual conference of the European Society for Tropical Ecology, 24-28 February 2025 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

We would like to draw your attention to the **Societies' annual photo competition**. The photos of the finalists will be printed and exhibited at the forthcoming annual conference, 24-28 February 2025, in Amsterdam. Please send in your best photos until **31. December 2024**.



Past meeting: 7th European Conference of Tropical Ecology and 35th annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology, 12-16 February 2024, Lisbon, Portugal

The Tropical Ecology Conference helped make 2024 Lisbon a little more Tropical!

The European Conference of Tropical Ecology 2024, hosted by the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, was marked by high participation and a wonderfully friendly atmosphere. Over 250 researchers and students from 31 countries gathered to exchange knowledge, spark ideas, forge meaningful partnerships, and plan future research. The plenary talks and presentations were excellent overall, covering a broad spectrum of fascinating topics. It was particularly encouraging to see so many presentations by young researchers, underscoring that Tropical Ecology remains a vibrant field of research with a promising future.



We hope the conference helped support their enthusiasm and advanced our understanding of the ecology, conservation, and sustainable use of tropical ecosystems.

Lisbon, a wonderfully scenic and historic city, and its surrounding region offered a rich variety of natural areas for participants to explore during their free time and on two



conference excursions, guided by local volunteer colleagues. These visits included the Tagus estuary, one of Europe's most important sites for wetland birds; the small but beautiful Arrábida mountains, home to significant remnants of Mediterranean forest; the steep cliffs of Cabo Espichel, overlooking the vast expanse of the Atlantic; and the biodiversity-rich cork oak woodlands.

Due to centuries of historical ties and exchanges with tropical regions, their cultures are deeply woven into Portuguese culture. We aimed to share this heritage through African music during the welcome reception and conference dinner, along with delicious traditional African cuisine. After all, culture is one of the factors that draws so many of us to work in tropical regions.

At the conclusion of the event, the General Assembly of the Society for Tropical Ecology (GTO) thanked the outgoing board for their dedicated contributions to the society and elected a new board and president, Katerina Sam, setting the stage for the organization's future endeavours. Following a humorous tradition, the organizers presented "The Pineapple" to the main organizer of next year's conference, symbolizing the handover of responsibilities. Amsterdam will have the honour of hosting the next edition, and we wish the organizers great success!

The conference owes much to the dedication of enthusiastic student volunteers who managed nearly every aspect of the event. Their tireless efforts ensured the conference ran smoothly, with few hiccups, and their positive energy and smiles greatly contributed to the warm and friendly atmosphere. Likewise, the good spirits and generosity of the participants made organizing the event a truly rewarding experience.

Thank you all so much!

The Organizing Committee,
Jorge Palmeirim, Ana Leal, Ana Rainho, Hugo Rebelo, Luis Catarino and Rúben Oliveira

Winners of the Merian Award 2024

At the annual meeting in Lisbon, the best talks and posters of young scientists were honoured by the Merian Award. Kim Lea Holzmann (left) and Thomas Luypaert (right). The gtö congratulates the winners for their excellent presentations! Photo: © Rúben Oliveira



Merian Awards 2024 for the best talks

1. **Thomas Luypaert:** Extending species-area relationships to the realm of eco-acoustics: Island Soundscape-Area Relationships
2. **Finn Rehling:** Animal carrion decomposition and decomposers are influenced by canopy cover, topography, ants and tree species richness in a subtropical forest biodiversity experiment

Merian Award 2024 for the best poster

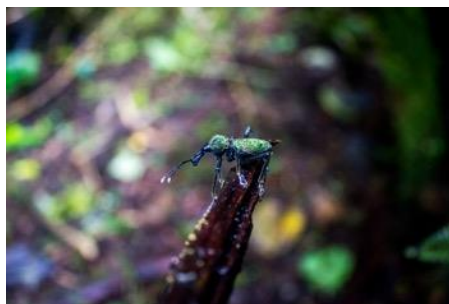
1. **Kim Lea Holzmann:** From large mammals to small dung beetles: Diversity & abundance along a forest elevational gradient in Peru

We also strongly encourage the young members of the gtö who will present their research at the conference in Amsterdam to sign up for the Merian Award 2025!

Winners of the gtö / ATBC Photography contest in Lisbon 2024

Category: Beauty of biodiversity

1. Christian Schwarz (+ public vote price), 2. Thomas Luypaert, 3. Pierre-Michel Forget



Category: People and nature

1. Kim Holzmann, 2. Mohammad Abdus Shakur, 3. Pierre-Michel Forget



Category: Research applications and biodiversity solutions

1. Pierre-Michel Forget, 2. Emmanuel Barde Elisha, 3. Kyle E. Harms



Travel Grant Awardees – Annual meeting in Lisbon 2024

The following students were selected for a travel grant (200 Euros) to Lisbon: **Olivier Jean Leonce Manzi** (University of Gothenburg, Sweden & University of Rwanda, Rwanda), **Linh Nguyen** (German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Leipzig, Germany), **Lea Kerwer** (Senckenberg Biodiversity a Climate Research Center, Frankfurt Main), **Eliza Nathalie Van de Sande** (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), **Noreen Mutoro** (University of Salzburg), **Gladys Kung'u** (University of Salzburg), **Gargi Roy Chowdhury** (Wildlife Institute of India), **Laura Würzburg** (University of Göttingen).

Student Research Grant Program 2024

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

Abdieel Quisehuatl Medina: Nutrient dynamics and microbial activity in a Mexican tropical dry forest: soil and mulch properties structuring tree communities

Charlotte Taylor: Competition amongst endemic lizard species on Rouns Island, Mauritius

Jamal Kabir: Quantifying the effects of riparian buffer restoration treatments on frogs and associated ecosystem functions in oil palm plantations

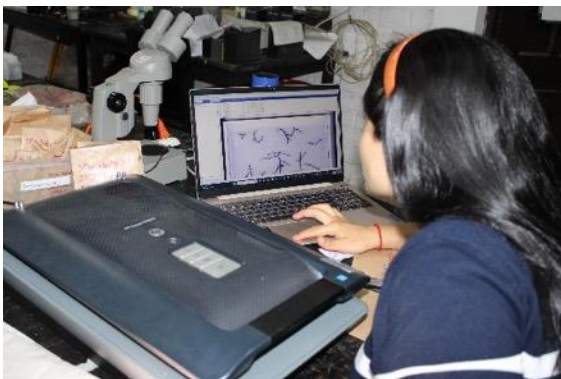
Jonne Bonnet: Exploring the trade-off between hosting mycorrhiza and keeping out pathogenic fungi by tree roots in dry tropical forest

Reports from Research Grant Program 2023

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



In South Ecuador we find a wide range of different floristically diverse vegetation types along gradients of elevation and climate (Homeier et al. 2008). The montane tropical forests in South Ecuador are among the best studied worldwide (Beck et al. 2008, Bendix et al. 2013). These species-rich forests are composed by many rare species of trees, and only few, locally more abundant, tree species. However, little is known about the role of individual species and their contribution to ecosystem functioning. Currently, the literature on the effects of rare species on ecosystem processes, including productivity, is limited, especially so for tropical ecosystems that are in constant threat by loss of habitat. In my PhD project, I investigate the role of rare species for ecosystem functionality (using stand biomass and productivity). My research focus is on understanding how rare tree species are functionally different from common tree species. This knowledge will contribute to our ecological understanding of how tree community structure affects ecosystem functioning and will contribute to a better-informed conservation of the endangered tropical forests of South Ecuador.



Tyler Cuddy (Cardiff University, UK): Tropical Mesopredator Ecology and the Effects of Heavy Metals on the Environment

Heavy metals (HMs) are a class of “forever chemical” that can be highly toxic in an ecosystem at elevated levels. They are widely utilised in agricultural products, making the industry a known source of HM contamination, contributing to elevated and potentially harmful levels, along with industrial processes such as mining and urban development. This study assesses HM contamination in a tropical landscape on the island of Borneo, which is dominated by the oil palm industry causing widespread deforestation and loss of natural habitats. We aim to use mesopredator species which are tolerant to the oil palm plantation matrix as potential sentinel/bioindicator species due to their usage of the agricultural habitat as foraging and hunting grounds. To understand how HMs are transported up the food chain we also sample potential terrestrial and aquatic prey items. Through live trapping and largely non-invasive sampling within the forest of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary and a neighbouring oil palm plantation estate we collected hair, blood, and faecal samples from 24 mammalian carnivores; scale, blood, and faecal samples from 15 Asian water monitor lizards; hair from 72 small mammalian prey items; and scale samples from 267 aquatic prey items. Using inductively coupled plasma optical emissions spectroscopy (ICP-OES), we will quantify heavy metal burdens of mesopredators and compare between species, habitats, and dietary ecology considering HM toxicokinetics and dynamics. We will also identify potential prey items that serve as primary modes of biomagnification of these contaminants up the food chain and establish whether risk is more apparent for terrestrial or aquatic hunters.



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



The world population continues to grow and is predicted to reach 9.7 billion in 2050 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division 2022). Likewise, the demand for agricultural products is predicted to increase by 50%. Land-use change like deforestation and agricultural intensification are main drivers of biodiversity loss (IPBES 2018; Curtis et al. 2018). Voluntary Sustainability Standards (VSS) try to reduce the environmental impact of agricultural production by defining criteria for producers, for example, no deforestation for plantation establishment. The number of VSS has increased rapidly within the last years but studies on VSS effectiveness for cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) and in Asia remain rare (Traldi 2021). The aim of this mission and research was to close this knowledge gap and to gain better understanding of the effectiveness of VSS for sustainable cocoa production in Indonesia, i.e., if VSS lead to environmental benefits and how the design of VSS shape environmental outcomes. The specific research questions were: I) do certified and non-certified cocoa plantations in Luwu Timur, Sulawesi Selatan, Indonesia differ in biodiversity? II) which VSS criteria cause differences in environmental outcomes among VSS? III) do trade-offs among environmental and socioeconomics outcomes of VSS exist? The certified cocoa plantations in our sample were certified under the Rainforest Alliance (RA). RA was founded in 1987 but has updated its standard with the most recent version being from 2020 (Rainforest Alliance 2020). The latest RA environmental criteria, among others, are (Rainforest Alliance 2020) that there is a minimum of 15% native vegetation cover, that remnant forest trees are maintained, and that certified plantations not located on land deforested after 2014.

The outcomes of this research were published as a Perspective article in the journal *Ambio*: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-024-02061-0>

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



Gesneriaceae exhibit a remarkable diversity in floral traits and mating strategies and flowers exhibit a variety of pollination syndromes. Despite that, there are rarely studies on the pollination biology and reproductive ecology of old-world Gesneriaceae. *Didymocarpus* Wall., an old world Gesneriaceae belonging to the tribe Trichosporea, vary in their floral shape, size, and color and also exhibit a stylar polymorphism called enantiostyly which is defined as a form of floral asymmetry in which the style is deflected away from the main axis of the flower either to the left (left-styled) or right (right-styled). The evolution and fitness consequence of this stylar trait in the genus *Didymocarpus*, including how the floral morphology of *Didymocarpus* flowers along with the presence of enantiostyly affects the reproductive fitness of the plant and how this is advantageous to the plant compared to non-enantiostylous *Didymocarpus* is still unknown. In the application submitted for the Society for Tropical Ecology Field Grant, I proposed to study the functional aspects of enantiostyly such as

pollination mechanisms, pollen transfer dynamics, the role of morph ratio in reproductive success, inbreeding, and outcrossing rates, and overall reproductive assurance provided by enantiostylous flowers in *Didymocarpus* Wall. (Gesneriaceae). I requested 1000 euros to cover the costs of fieldwork in northeast states of India for a period of ~ 120 days during July-October of the year 2023.

Upcoming conferences

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

2025: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

2026: Passau, Germany

2027: Aarhus, Denmark

2028: Montpellier, France

2029: Freiburg, German

New moderating team and new ideas for our Early Career group

After a short break in 2024 due to parental leave of the moderators, the early career group has reformed again, now with a new moderating team consisting of Noreen Mutoro, Gladys N. Kung'u and Annemarie Wurz. Currently, our email list has now 45 members from at least 21 countries. We meet online on the first Wednesday of every month at 4.00 pm, CET and focus on one topic at each Journal meeting. Some of the topics that were on our agenda this year included: paper writing, thesis writing, dealing with reviewer comments and new year's resolutions. In each session, we have someone giving content input with a presentation. Thereafter, we discuss the topic and collect important remarks from all participants. After each session, we summarize the discussed content on one slide and share it with all participants. In addition, to our online meetings we now have a WhatsApp group in which we share reminders about our monthly meetings but also interesting links to job adverts, conferences, workshops and blogposts related to scientific research. All members of the WhatsApp group can post questions and get advice from the group on topics such as search for funding or job applications. With this we aim to build capacity among early career researchers. Despite these diverse efforts, participation in our online meetings is rather low. To increase participation, we sent out a survey to our members to help us tailor the meetings to the needs and interests of our participants. However, it seems to be simply a time constraint that hinders PhD students from participating in additional online meetings during their work time. Despite these obstacles, we plan to continue our regular meetings and be available for questions from our gto early career researchers.

<u>Tips for paper writing</u>	<u>Tips for thesis writing</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Find the journal Talk with supervisor to find suitable journal. Check journals that are covered by the University. Check Journal finder• Know your journal Fonts, structure, etc. The journal's requirements are your new bedtime story! Reading other papers in the same journal might help, too.• Find your productivity sweet spot When are you the unstoppable force of nature? That's when you write!• Just write! Let the words flow, even if they're messy. You can polish the chaos later.• Write for the outsider Imagine your reader isn't an expert in your field. Make sure your writing is clear enough for someone outside your specialty to understand.• Proofread x3! Seriously, check it. Then check it again. And... yep, one more time!• Details, details, details Provide enough detail that another researcher could replicate your study. If it's too much, shove the excess in the Appendix!• Phone-a-Friend Got a draft? Pass it to a friend before your supervisor gets their hands on it.• AI: an ally, not a hero AI is great for proofreading, sentence juggling, or cutting down unnecessary words. But ideas and references? That's all you, hero!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear the bureaucracy: check guidelines, deadlines, requirements• Decide on the format: cumulative or monography, language, structure• Writing chapters: set priorities, set deadlines for feedback, communicate transparently to supervisor & co-authors your plan, a thesis can include a draft!• Writing frame: check if you will include papers you co-authored in your thesis before starting, do a mind map or sketch to arrange chapters and find title• Writing introduction: write paragraph headers, read other theses to get inspirations, decide which personal pronouns to use (my thesis, our work..), share text parts (not the complete thesis) to friends or colleagues for proofreading• Unproductive windows: use them for writing summaries of chapters, acknowledgements and dedications or to do artwork for thesis cover or chapters• Final formating: Take enough time to do so, consider continous numbering of figures throughout chapters, consider reference list (after each chapter or one at the very end), check thesis with plagiarism test, figure glossary needed?• Additional advise: combine individual chapters and frame at the very end - the document will get heavy to work in smoothly, back up daily, check if there are University funds for binding and printing

Summaries of the online session on "thesis writing" and "paper writing" from the gto early career group.

If you are interested in joining our group:

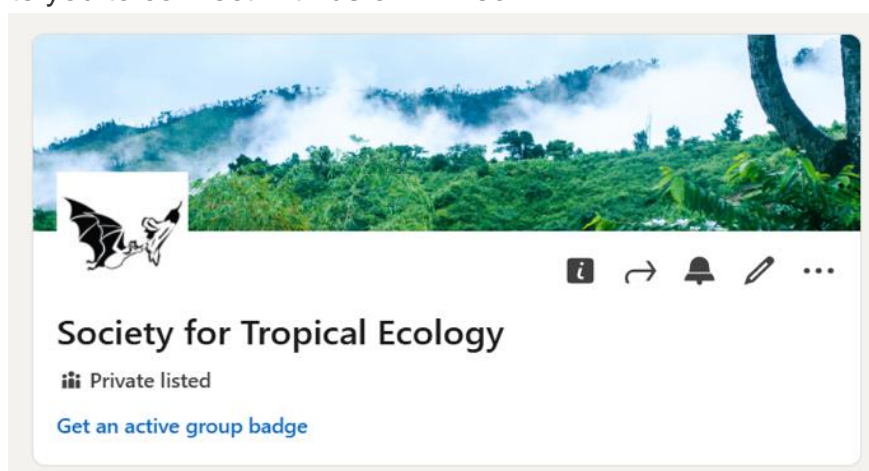
The early career group is a platform for early career researchers to exchange their experiences in science. Every gto member can join the group. The early career group facilitates the networking of early career researchers based in different countries. Furthermore, the early career group offers the opportunity to actively get involved with the Society for Tropical Ecology, by e.g., developing new ideas for the Society's activities. We meet once per month online. Anyone can moderate the meeting.

Visit our page for more information: <https://www.soctropecol.eu/content/early-career-group> .
If you would like to join the early career group of the Society for Tropical Ecology, please email noreenm88@gmail.com, nyakerukungu@gmail.com or wurz@staff.uni-marburg.de for registration.

Social media news

Our goal on social media is to promote our conferences, foster networking among researchers by sharing opportunities and job postings, and raise awareness about the critical importance of tropical ecosystems.

Here is where we stand: X: 3,960 followers (up from 3,774 in November 2023); Facebook: 2,593 members (up from 2,552); Instagram: 51 followers (new account: @soctropeco). While our Instagram growth has been slow, we are exploring new opportunities to enhance engagement. Following a recent board meeting, we have decided to be more active on our LinkedIn group (visit us here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2494972/>). A platform we believe aligns more closely with the society's mission and professional community. In the long term, once our visibility improves across other platforms, we aim to transition away from X. This decision reflects concerns about its evolving direction and the increasingly controversial behaviour of its owner, which we find misaligned with our values. We appreciate your continued support and invite you to connect with us on LinkedIn!



Screenshot of our refreshed LinkedIn group.

In memory of Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch

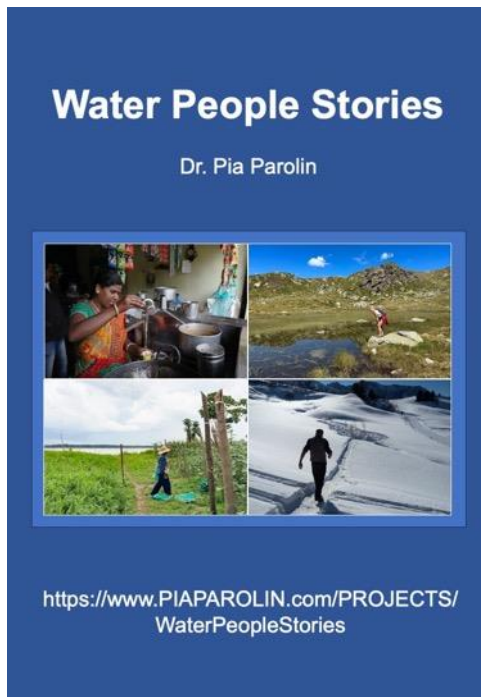
The Society for Tropical Ecology mourns the loss of its former president, Prof. Dr. Manfred Niekisch, who died in mid-November at the age of 73. He served as the society's president from 2009 to 2018. During his time as president, efforts were made to successfully Europeanize the Society for Tropical Ecology. Prior to that, from 2001 to 2009, he contributed his knowledge, critical thinking, and extensive network to the scientific advisory board.



He was a university lecturer in Greifswald from 1998 to 2008 and held a co-opted professorship in international nature conservation at Goethe University in Frankfurt starting in 2010. One of his most significant roles was as director of the Frankfurt Zoo, where he led the institution from 2008 to 2017 with a focus on modernization and nature conservation.


Miscellaneous

Water people stories



Water People Stories

Dr. Pia Parolin



<https://www.PIAPAROLIN.com/PROJECTS/WaterPeopleStories>

Pia Parolin

Water People Stories

This project explores the importance of water in our daily life. I tell the stories of people whom I encounter along my journeys around the world. The aim is to understand and transform how societies see, value and impact freshwater in rivers and wetlands.

I search for the normal, daily routines and their changes. I analyse the connection between people and their water, focusing on the cultural significance of rivers and wetlands, and on the links – or missing connection – to their freshwater. I observe and document the daily use of water, the impacts linked to the water crises, and the role these play for the local people.

I was born amidst rivers in the Italian Po Valley. I hold a **PhD in wetland ecology** and have worked in Brazilian Amazonia and worldwide tropical wetlands most of my scientific life. I lead **interviews and take social documentary photographs** of people and water since 1986, when I first visited the Amazon River.

As a photographer, I employ **visual communication** to integrate **scientific knowledge** and data with nature conservation. I rely on the synergies of science, visual communication and art to **communicate over borders and find solutions** which help **protect and conserve wetlands**, and the **people** who live there.

Water People Stories are on

Instagram: @water.people.stories

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@piaparolin>

Contact: photo@piaparolin.com



Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/water.people.stories/>

Website <https://www.piaparolin.com/PROJECTS/WaterPeopleStories/>

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/>

Impressum

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- PD Dr. Raffael Ernst, Senckenberg Natural History Collections Dresden, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Pierre-Michel Forget, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, France
- Dr. Nathaly R. Guerrero Ramirez, Biodiversity, Macroecology & Biogeography, University of Göttingen, Germany
- MSc. Noreen Mutoro, Department of Environment and Biodiversity. Paris Lodron University of Salzburg, Austria – *early career group and editor of the gtö newsletter*
- PD Dr. Eike Lena Neuschulz, Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre, Frankfurt am Main, Germany – *co-speaker of the advisory board and editor of the gtö newsletter*
- MSc. Gladys Nyakeru Kung'u, University of Salzburg, Department of Environment and Biodiversity, Salzburg, Austria – *early career group*
- Dr. Pia Parolin, INRA, Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, CNRS, France
- Prof. Dr. Christine B. Schmitt, University of Passau, Germany
- MSc. Dominik Schüßler, Universität Hildesheim, Germany
- Dr. Elise Sivault, Laboratory of Multitrophic Interactions, Biology Centre of Czech Republic, Institute of Entomology, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic – *social media*
- Dr. Annemarie Wurz, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany – *early career group, social media*
- Dr. Omer Nevo, German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig Institute of Biodiversity, Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany



APPENDIX I: Minutes of the 37th general assembly of the gtö - 2024

Place: Building C3, room 3.2.13 in the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Portugal, in person

Date: Wednesday, 14th February 2024

Start: 17h50, **End:** 18h35

Participants: 36 members present

Agenda:

1. Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda
The president, Pierre-Michel Forget, welcomes everybody and opens the general assembly. The general assembly votes by hand signal on the approval of the agenda:
Yes - 36, No – 0 votes
2. Election of the assembly's secretary
The Secretary General, Ute Radespiel, is nominated as the assembly's secretary.
The general assembly votes by hand signal on the nomination:
Yes - 36, No – 0 votes
3. Approval of the minutes of the 36th general assembly
The general assembly votes by hand signal on the approval of the last minutes:
Yes - 36, No – 0 votes
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2023
The president reports on the activities of the executive after the last general assembly: The executive board was engaged with various administrative tasks for the society since the last General Assembly in June 2023 in Ceske Budejovice. Two subsequent board meetings were held in 2023 via Zoom, one on 13. July, one on 14. December 2023 together with the Scientific Board, and an additional meeting took place on 12. February 2024 before the conference in Lisbon started. These meeting served to organize and discuss certain aspects of the gtoe2024 conference in Lisbon. For these points, Jorge Palmeirim also attended the meeting as the host of this conference. We further continued organizing future meetings, such as the 2025 gtoe meeting in Amsterdam that we discussed about together with William Gosling. We also evaluated and decided on our funding instruments, the travel grants (managed by Simone Pfeiffer, treasurer) and the research grants (managed by Pablo Orozco-terWengel, vice-president). Furthermore, we prepared the 2024 online elections that were conducted via the tool Balotilo prior to this conference. Finally, some members of the board met with the board of the Gesellschaft für Ökologie (GfÖ) on the side of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, held on 12-16 September 2023 in Leipzig, Germany, to discuss options for future collaboration.
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2023
The treasurer, Simone Pfeiffer, presents the financial report for 2023 that also included parts of the conference fees for 2024 (see appendix). The conferences in 2022 and 2023 ended each with a positive balance which benefitted the financial situation of the society quite a bit. Based on these positive numbers, the board decided to offer research grants again this year and the call will soon be visible on the webpage of the society. The treasurer presents the non-profit part (= routine society business), the special purpose part (= conference organization), and the commercial part (= conference dinner) of the society's accounts. Overall, the closing account balance for the society was 50,930.66€ at 31.12.2023, which corresponds to 36,715.66€ after removing the incoming fees for the Lisbon conference. The gtoe conference in 2023 ended with a total net gain of 966.00€ for the society. While the non-profit part showed an overall loss of -5,750.31€ in 2023, previous conference gains resulted in an overall gain of 28,458.99€ in 2023.
Even though this balance provides a positive outlook for the society, the treasurer reminds all members to pay their membership fees yearly in due time, if they do not participate in the SEPA-procedures.
The society has gained 47 new members since July 2023 and has now a total of 358 members. This very positive development can also be interpreted as the result of our efficient conference fee system that attracts new members quite convincingly.

Our tax declaration was handed in for 2020-2022 in the last year, in time for the financial authorities, and we

are currently waiting for their response. We hope to get our non-profit status confirmed again in due time. In order to secure the financial wellbeing of the society for the future, the treasurer asks to always be involved in the financial planning of future gtoe conferences.

Based on the healthy financial situation of the gtoe, we have approved nine travel grants in early 2024 for the gtoe conference in Lisbon and did not have to reject any suitable application.

6. Report of the cash accountants
Dominik Martin & Omer Nevo reviewed the documentation of all movements on society bank accounts, and prepared and submitted the requested reports with their reviewing results for the general assembly. They did not find any fault with the documentation and have identified nothing to complain about in the accounting.
7. Discharge of the executive board
William Gosling proposes to discharge the members of the executive board. The general assembly votes by hand signal on the discharge of the executive board:
Yes - 30, No – 0, Abstentions – 6 votes
8. Report of the advisory board
The speaker of the advisory board, Eike Lena Neuschulz, reports on the activities of the scientific advisory board in 2023. The advisory board met together with the Executive board on three days after the last general assembly, once in July 2023, once in December 2023, and on the 12. February 2024. The advisory board helped to prepare the online elections by preparing the Newsletters containing all the details of the candidates and all election procedures well ahead of time.
Board members (mainly Pia Parolin) organized the photo competition for gtoe 2024 together with the sponsor ATBC who formed a subcommittee for that task and evaluated all submitted photos in three categorical groups. The young scientist group of the gtoe met regularly online after the gtoe2023 conference and helped each other, for example, by revising each other's presentations for gtoe2024.
9. Elections of the executive board
The online election period started on 5th January 2024 and ended at 9th February 2024. A total of 128 members participated at the elections of the executive board. Votes for the executive board included YES, NO and ABSTENTION. The elections were anonymous and were conducted via the online voting tool of Balotilo.

Results of elections for executive board (in bold: first time elected members):

Position	Candidate	yes	no	abstention
President	Katerina Sam	119	1	8
Vice-President	Nina Farwig	114	3	11
Vice-President	Pablo Oroszco-terWengel	99	3	26
Secretary General	Ute Radespiel	113	1	14
Treasurer	Simone Pfeiffer	112	1	15

➔ All candidates were elected and declare to accept the vote.

10. Elections of the scientific advisory board
The online election period started on 5th January 2024 and ended at 9th February 2024. A total of 113 voters participated at the election of the scientific advisory board. The election for the advisory board allowed each member to vote for a maximum of 15 (out of 16) candidates. The elections were anonymous and were conducted via the online voting tool of Balotilo. The 15 candidates who gained most votes were elected into the advisory board.

Results of elections for executive board (in bold: first time elected members):

Candidate	Votes
Pia Parolin	92
Pierre-Michel Forget	92
Eike-Lena Neuschulz	87
Annemarie Wurz	82
Melanie Dammhahn	82
Nathaly Guerrero	81
Raffael Ernst	79
Christine Schmitt	78
Gladys Nyakeru Kung'u	75
Omer Nevo	75

Dominik Schüßler	74
Noreen Mutoro	71
Elise Sivault	71
Chris Barrett	70
Andres Angulo	67
Giovanni Bianco	62 (not elected)

→ 15 candidates were elected and all who are present at the general assembly accepted the vote.

11. Election of the cash accountants

The previous cash accountants cannot be re-elected for different reasons. Two new candidates were found: Jürgen Homeier (Göttingen) & Achim Bräuning (Erlangen).

The general assembly votes by hand signal and en bloc on the new cash accountants:

Yes – 36, No – 0, Abstentions – 0 votes

→ both candidates are elected and accepted the vote.

12. Ecotropica

Editor Eckhard Heymann presents the report on Ecotropica. The situation of the journal had not changed much since last year. Currently, only one manuscript is under production. Under these circumstances and after a longer discussion of the pros and cons, the executive and advisory boards decided during the last board meeting to not continue the production of this journal. However, we will maintain this domain for archiving purposes and will continue to use it to publish the abstracts of our annual conferences, but will no longer receive and accept regular submissions for Ecotropica, and this policy change will also be announced on the webpage. It should be mentioned that the future of the journal remains open for some time, in case that the entire board decides to evaluate or revise this decision at some point. The senior editor expresses his thanks to all contributors from past years. The general assembly thanks the two editors (Eckhard Heymann and Marco Tschapka) for their engagement with the journal. One member (Jörg Bendix) suggests to move the journal to another publishing service, e.g., that of Copernicus Publications (Göttingen), although it would then no longer be a free-of-charge publication. This may be considered by future boards.

13. Preparation of future annual meetings

2025: Amsterdam, NL: William Gosling invites all members to an exciting February meeting in early 2025. In addition to the conference, which will be held in a conference hotel in the city, there are some very nice other places that the organizers aim to explore and offer as post conference tour destinations in the city and also nearby. One advantage will be that Amsterdam is very accessible via the train system. Calls for sessions will be put out well in advance.

The following conference localities are already agreed upon.

2026: Passau, D (organized by Christine Schmitt)

2027: Aarhus, DK (organized by Hanna Tuomisto)

2028: Montpellier, F (organized by Pierre-Michel Forget)

2029: Freiburg, D (organized by Katrin Heer)

The president and the society thanks Jorge Palmeirim for organizing the present conference in Lisbon.

14. Miscellaneous

The new president thanks the old president for his service for the society. The new president also thanks everybody for their contribution to this assembly.

The president closes the general assembly at 18h35.

Protokoll der 37. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö – 2024

Ort: Gebäude C3, Raum 3.2.13 in der Fakultät für Naturwissenschaften der Universität Lissabon, Portugal, persönlich

Datum: Mittwoch, 14. Februar 2024

Beginn: 17h50, Ende: 18h35

Teilnehmende: 36 Mitglieder sind anwesend

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung
Der Präsident, Pierre-Michel Forget, begrüßt alle Anwesenden und eröffnet die Mitgliederversammlung. Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt per Handzeichen über die Genehmigung der Tagesordnung ab:
Ja – 36, Nein – 0 Stimmen
2. Wahl der Schriftführenden
Die Generalsekretärin, Ute Radespiel, wird als Schriftführerin der Versammlung nominiert. Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt per Handzeichen über die Nominierung ab:
Ja – 36, Nein – 0 Stimmen
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 36. Mitgliederversammlung
Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt per Handzeichen über die Genehmigung des letzten Protokolls ab:
Ja - 36, Nein - 0 Stimmen
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2023
Der Präsident berichtet über die Aktivitäten des Vorstandes nach der letzten Mitgliederversammlung im Juni 2023 in Ceske Budejovice: Der Vorstand war seit der letzten Mitgliederversammlung mit verschiedenen planerischen Aufgaben für die Gesellschaft beschäftigt. Zwei weitere Vorstandssitzungen wurden im Jahr 2023 via Zoom zusammen mit dem wissenschaftlichen Beirat abgehalten, eine am 13. Juli, eine am 14. Dezember 2023, und eine weitere gemeinsame Sitzung fand am 12. Februar 2024 kurz vor der Konferenz in Lissabon statt. Diese Treffen dienten u.a. der Organisation und Diskussion bestimmter Aspekte der gtoe2024-Konferenz in Lissabon. Zu diesen Punkten nahm auch Jorge Palmeirim als Gastgeber dieser Konferenz an den Treffen teil. Darüber hinaus haben wir die Planungsorganisation künftiger Treffen fortgesetzt, wie z.B. gemeinsam mit William Gosling über das gtoe-Treffen 2025 in Amsterdam beraten. Außerdem haben wir über unsere Finanzierungsinstrumente, die Reisestipendien zur Tagungsteilnahme (verwaltet von Simone Pfeiffer, Schatzmeisterin) und die Forschungstipendien (verwaltet von Pablo Orozco-Wengel, Vizepräsident), beraten und das weitere Vorgehen beschlossen. Wir bereiteten ferner die Online-Wahlen für 2024 vor, die im Vorfeld dieser Konferenz über das Tool Balotilo durchgeführt wurden. Schließlich trafen sich einige Mitglieder des Vorstandes mit dem Vorstand der Gesellschaft für Ökologie (GfÖ) am Rande der 52. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Ökologie im Sommer 2023 in Leipzig, um Möglichkeiten der zukünftigen Zusammenarbeit zu erörtern.
5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2023
Die Schatzmeisterin, Simone Pfeiffer, legt den Finanzbericht für 2023 vor, der auch bereits Teile der Tagungsgebühren für 2024 enthält (siehe Anhang). Die Konferenzen 2022 und 2023 haben jeweils mit einem positiven Saldo abgeschlossen, was der finanziellen Situation der Gesellschaft sehr zugute kam. Aufgrund dieser positiven Zahlen hat der Vorstand beschlossen, in diesem Jahr wieder Forschungstipendien auszugeben, und die Ausschreibung wird demnächst auf der Website der Gesellschaft bekannt gegeben. Die Schatzmeisterin stellt den gemeinnützigen Teil (= Routinegeschäfte der Gesellschaft), den zweckgebundenen Teil (= Konferenzorganisation) und den kommerziellen Teil (= Konferenz-Dinner) des Jahresabschlusses vor. Insgesamt ergibt sich zum 31.12.2023 ein Kontostand der Gesellschaft von +50.930,66€, was nach Abzug der eingehenden Tagungsgebühren für die Lissabon Konferenz einer Summe von +36.715,66€ entspricht. Die gtoe-Konferenz im Jahr 2023 endete mit einem Nettogewinn von insgesamt +966,00€ für die Gesellschaft. Während der gemeinnützige Teil im Jahr 2023 einen Verlust von -5.750,31€ aufwies, führten die zwei letzten Konferenzüberschüsse zu einem insgesamt positiven Saldo von +28.458,99€ im Jahr 2023 gegenüber dem Vorjahr. Obwohl diese Bilanz einen positiven Ausblick für die Gesellschaft bietet, erinnert die Schatzmeisterin alle Mitglieder daran, ihre Mitgliedsbeiträge jährlich fristgerecht zu bezahlen, wenn sie nicht am SEPA-Verfahren teilnehmen.
Die Gesellschaft hat seit Juli 2023 47 neue Mitglieder dazugewonnen und zählt nun insgesamt 358 Mitglieder. Diese sehr positive Entwicklung kann auch als Ergebnis unseres effizienten Konferenzgebührensysteams interpretiert werden, das neue Mitglieder überzeugend anzieht.
Unsere Steuererklärung für 2020-2022 wurde im vergangenen Jahr rechtzeitig bei den deutschen Finanzbehörden eingereicht, und wir warten derzeit auf deren Antwort. Wir hoffen, unsere Gemeinnützigkeit bald wieder bestätigt zu bekommen. Um das finanzielle Wohlergehen der Gesellschaft für die Zukunft zu sichern, bittet die Schatzmeisterin darum, stets frühzeitig in die Finanzplanung künftiger gtoe-Konferenzen einbezogen zu werden.
Auf der Grundlage der gesunden finanziellen Situation der gtoe haben wir Anfang 2024 neun Reisestipendien für die gtoe-Konferenz in Lissabon bewilligt und mussten keinen einzigen formal geeigneten Antrag ablehnen.

6. Bericht der Kassenprüfenden
Dominik Martin & Omer Nevo haben die Dokumentation aller Bewegungen auf den Bankkonten der Gesellschaft geprüft und die geforderten Berichte mit ihren Prüfergebnissen für die Mitgliederversammlung erstellt und vorgelegt. Sie haben keine Beanstandungen an den Unterlagen gefunden und haben nichts an der Führung der Buchhaltung auszusetzen.
7. Entlastung des Präsidiums
William Gosling beantragt die Entlastung des Vorstandes. Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt per Handzeichen über die Entlastung des Vorstands ab:
Ja - 30, Nein - 0, Enthaltungen - 6 Stimmen
8. Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats
Die Sprecherin des Beirats, Eike Lena Neuschulz, berichtet über die Aktivitäten des wissenschaftlichen Beirats im Jahr 2023. Der Beirat tagte gemeinsam mit dem Vorstand an drei Tagen nach der letzten Mitgliederversammlung, einmal im Juli 2023, einmal im Dezember 2023, und am 12. Februar 2024. Der Beirat (v.a. Eike Lena Neuschulz) half bei der Vorbereitung der Online-Wahlen, indem er die Newsletter mit allen Details zu den Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten und allen organisatorischen Abläufen rechtzeitig vorbereitete.
Beiratsmitglieder (vor allem Pia Parolin) organisierten den Fotowettbewerb für die gtoe2024 zusammen mit dem Sponsor ATBC, der für diese Aufgabe ein Komitee bildete und alle eingereichten Fotos in drei Kategorien bewertete. Die gtoe-Nachwuchsgruppe traf sich nach der gtoe2023-Konferenz regelmäßig online und ihre Mitglieder halfen sich gegenseitig, indem sie zum Beispiel gemeinsam die Präsentationen für die gtoe2024 durchgegangen sind.
9. Wahl des Präsidiums
Die Online-Wahlperiode begann am 5. Januar 2024 und endete am 9. Februar 2024. An den Vorstandswahlen nahmen insgesamt 128 Mitglieder teil. Bei der Wahl des Vorstandes konnte mit JA, NEIN oder ENTHALTUNG gestimmt werden. Die Wahlen waren anonym und wurden über das Online-Wahltool von Balotilo durchgeführt.

Der Präsident verkündet die Ergebnisse der Vorstandswahlen (fett gedruckt: erstmalig gewählt):

<u>Position</u>	<u>Kandidat:in</u>	<u>Ja</u>	<u>Nein</u>	<u>Enthaltung</u>
Präsidentin	Katerina Sam	119	1	8
Vizepräsidentin	Nina Farwig	114	3	11
Vizepräsident	Pablo Oroszco-terWengel	99	3	26
Generalsekretärin	Ute Radespiel	113	1	14
Schatzmeisterin	Simone Pfeiffer	112	1	15

➔ Alle Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten wurden gewählt und erklären, die Wahl anzunehmen.

10. Wahl des wissenschaftlichen Beirats
Die Online-Wahlperiode begann am 5. Januar 2024 und endete am 9. Februar 2024. An der Wahl des wissenschaftlichen Beirats nahmen insgesamt 113 Mitglieder teil. Bei der Wahl des Beirats konnte jedes Mitglied für maximal 15 (von 16) Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten stimmen. Die Wahl war anonym und wurde über das Online-Wahltool von Balotilo durchgeführt. Die 15 Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten, die die meisten Stimmen erhielten, wurden in den Beirat gewählt.

Der Präsident verkündet die Ergebnisse der Beiratswahlen (fett gedruckt: erstmalig gewählt):

<u>Kandidat:in</u>	<u>Stimmenzahl</u>
Pia Parolin	92
Pierre-Michel Forget	92
Eike-Lena Neuschulz	87
Annemarie Wurz	82
Melanie Dammhahn	82
Nathaly Guerrero	81
Raffael Ernst	79
Christine Schmitt	78
Gladys Nyakeru Kung'u	75
Omer Nevo	75

Dominik Schüßler	74
Noreen Mutoro	71
Elise Sivault	71
Chris Barrett	70
Andres Angulo	67
Giovanni Bianco	62 (nicht gewählt)

➔ 15 Kandidatinnen und Kandidaten wurden gewählt und alle anwesenden Gewählten nehmen die Wahl an.

11. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden

Die bisherigen Kassenprüfer können aus verschiedenen Gründen nicht wiedergewählt werden. Es werden zwei neue Kandidaten vorgeschlagen: Jürgen Homeier (Göttingen) & Achim Bräuning (Erlangen).

Die Mitgliederversammlung stimmt per Handzeichen en bloc über die neuen Kassenprüfer ab:

Ja - 36, Nein - 0, Enthaltung - 0 Stimmen

➔ Beide Kandidaten sind gewählt und nehmen die Wahl an.

12. Ecotropica

Der Herausgeber Eckhard Heymann stellt den Bericht zu Ecotropica vor. Die Situation der Zeitschrift hat sich seit dem letzten Jahr nicht wesentlich verändert. Derzeit ist nur ein Manuskript in Druck. Unter diesen Umständen und nach einer längeren Diskussion über das Für und Wider haben Vorstand und Beirat in der letzten Vorstandssitzung beschlossen, die Produktion dieser Zeitschrift nicht weiterzuführen. Wir werden die dazugehörige Domain jedoch zu Archivierungszwecken behalten und weiterhin die Abstracts unserer jährlichen Konferenzen dort veröffentlichen, aber keine Manuskript-Einreichungen für Ecotropica mehr annehmen. Es sollte erwähnt werden, dass die Entscheidung über die Zukunft der Zeitschrift mittelfristig offenbleibt, falls ein zukünftiger Vorstand und wissenschaftlicher Beirat beschließen möchten, diese Entscheidung zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt zu evaluieren oder zu revidieren. Der Herausgeber bedankt sich bei allen Mitwirkenden der vergangenen Jahre an Ecotropica. Die Mitgliederversammlung dankt den beiden Herausgebern (Eckhard Heymann und Marco Tschapka) für ihr Engagement für die Zeitschrift. Ein Mitglied (Jörg Bendix) schlägt vor, die Zeitschrift in einen anderen Verlag zu verlagern, z.B. in den Copernicus-Verlag (Göttingen), obwohl sie dann nicht mehr kostenlos wäre. Dies bleibt zukünftigen Vorständen vorbehalten.

13. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen

2025: Amsterdam, NL: William Gosling lädt alle Mitglieder zu einer spannenden Februar-Tagung nach Amsterdam ein. Neben der Konferenz, die in einem Konferenzhotel in der Stadt stattfinden soll, gibt es einige sehr schöne andere Orte in der Stadt und in der Nähe, die die Organisatoren als Exkursionsziele nach der Konferenz erkunden und in Erwägung ziehen. Ein Vorteil wird sein, dass Amsterdam mit dem Zug sehr gut erreichbar ist. Ein Aufruf zur Einreichung von Symposien wird rechtzeitig veröffentlicht.

Diese nachfolgenden Konferenzorte sind bereits zugesagt.

2026: Passau, D (organisiert von Christine Schmitt)

2027: Aarhus, DK (organisiert von Hanna Tuomisto)

2028: Montpellier, F (organisiert von Pierre-Michel Forget)

2029: Freiburg, D (organisiert von Katrin Heer)

Der Präsident und die Gesellschaft danken Jorge Palmeirim für die exzellente Organisation dieser Konferenz in Lissabon.

14. Verschiedenes

Die neue Präsidentin dankt dem alten Präsidenten für seinen Dienst an der Gesellschaft. Die neue Präsidentin dankt auch allen Mitwirkenden für ihren Beitrag zu dieser Versammlung.

Der Präsident schließt die Mitgliederversammlung um 18.35 Uhr.

APPENDIX II: Budgetary revenues and expenditures 2023 / Kassenbericht 2023 (Simone Pfeiffer)

Non-profit part	Revenues 2023	Expenditures 2023
Membership fees (- return debit and paypal fees)	11,655.00 €	308,22
Donation	10.00 €	
Travel cost society president and board meeting costs		3,956.28 €
Membership software, zoom license, legal advice, account charges		2,259.70 €
gtö webpage		1,161.44 €
Ecotropica costs (webpage and DOI numbers)	2.13 €	1,624.58 €
research grants		4,907.22 €
travel grants, oral presentation and poster prices		3,200.00 €
Loss		5,750.31 €
Special purpose Conference (externally organised)		
Gain Conference Montpellier 2022 (2.Anteil*)	19,014.56 €	
Gain Conference Ceske Budejovice 2023	966.00 €	
Conference fees Lisbon 2024	13,455.00 €	
Gain	33,435.56 €	
Conference Commercial Business part		
Revenues	760.00 €	
Loss	760.00 €	
Asset management		
interest	13.74 €	
Gain	13.74 €	

* The surplus contribution of the Montpellier conference was 34,014.56 Euros. Not all sponsors had paid yet, so the second instalment has been paid December 2023.

Annual cash flow	28,458.99 €
Account opening balance Giro	5,103.56 €
Account opening balance day-to-day	10,047.71 €
Account opening balance conference	5,070.49 €
Account opening balance Paypal	2,249.91 €
Overall opening account balance	22,471.67 €
Account closing balance Giro	4,360.73 €
Account closing balance day-to-day	5,061.45 €
Account closing balance conference	39,088.45 €
Account closing balance Paypal	2,420.03 €
Overall closing account balance	50,930.66 €

Ideeller Bereich (non-profit part)	Einnahmen 2023	Ausgaben 2023
Mitgliedsbeiträge abzügl. Rücklastschriften und Paypalgebühren	11.655,00 €	308,22 €
Spenden	10,00 €	
Reisekosten Vorstand und Vorstandstreffen		3.956,28 €
Bürosoftware und Zoom-Lizenz, PR, Rechtsberatung für Statuten, Kontogebühren, Reisekosten für den Vereinsvorsitzenden und Kosten für Vorstandssitzungen in Ceske Budejovice		2.259,70 €
gtö Webseite		1.161,44 €
Ecotropica Webseite und DOIs	2,13 €	1.624,58 €
Forschungsstipendien		4.907,22 €
Reisestipendien, Preisgelder		3.200,00 €
Verlust		5.750,31 €
Zweckbetrieb Tagung		
Überschuss Tagung Montpellier 2022 (2.Anteil*)	19.014,56 €	
Überschuss Tagung Ceske Budejovice 2023	966,00 €	
Tagungsgebühren 2024	13.455,00 €	
Überschuss	33.435,56 €	
wirtsch. Geschäftsbetrieb (Commercial Business)		
Einnahmen	760,00 €	
Überschuss	760,00 €	
Vermögensverwaltung (asset management)		
Zinsen	13,74 €	
Überschuss	13,74 €	

*Die Überschuss-Beteiligung der Montpellier Tagung lag bei 34.014,56 Euro. Da die Sponsoren erst 2023 gezahlt haben, wurde der zweite Teil erst im Dezember transferiert.

Jahresgewinn	28.458,99 €
Eröffnungsstand Girokonto	5.103,56 €
Eröffnungsstand Tagesgeldkonto	10.047,71 €
Eröffnungsstand Konferenzkonto	5.070,49 €
Eröffnungsstand Paypal	2.249,91 €
Gesamt Eröffnungsstand Konten	22.471,67 €
Abschlussstand Girokonto	4.360,73 €
Abschlussstand Tagesgeldkonto	5.061,45 €
Abschlussstand Konferenzkonto	39.088,45 €
Abschlussstand Paypal	2.420,03 €
Gesamt Schlussstand Konten	50.930,66 €