

Society for Tropical Ecology - *gtö*



48th Newsletter


Letter from the President

Dear members of gtö, dear friends and colleagues,

On 28 March 2018, during the European Conference on Tropical Ecology in Paris, France, you elected me President of the Society for Tropical Ecology. Then, as your President, my goal was to promote partnerships between scientists, researchers, environmentalists and resource managers to improve education, research, forest conservation and human development in the tropics. I can write that after five years, my will remains unchanged, unaffected by the various crises we went through during the COVID pandemic. I still have the same energy as when I (co-)chaired several annual meetings and symposia in Suriname (2008), France (2010, 2016) and Brazil (2012). In 2023, the Society for Tropical Ecology is back on track, thanks to you, the members of the Society, but also to partners and collaborators from other societies, associations or organizations who attended the European Conferences of Tropical Ecology in June 2022, back to Montpellier for many tropical biologists and ecologists. During the crisis, you can list the friends you can rely on and ask for help. The whole directorate was helpful, despite the distance, the lockdown and the closure of the borders. These were certainly not the best conditions for socialising and interacting in order to prepare for the days, months and years after the pandemic. Over the past two years, I have always found the support and confidence I needed from the Society's Executive and Scientific Committees to carry on. I've continued to push the boundaries of what we can do at such a difficult time without funding to maintain the Society's activities to meet members' expectations and our

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commitments. The organization of the Annual Meeting is essential to the continuity of the Society's activities. I'm therefore grateful to Katerina Sam, from the Advisory Board, who has agreed to chair the forthcoming European Conference on Tropical Ecology entitled "Tropical Ecology: Many Species, Many Challenges" in Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

I am happy to formally invite you to the Annual General Assembly of the Society for Tropical Ecology on Wednesday 21st June at 17:00-18:00 (Room B2, Building B of the Faculty of Sciences) at the University of South Bohemia Campus, Czech Republic. I am delighted to welcome you all in person in Ceske Budejovice, but virtual participation at the General Assembly will also be possible. All necessary information, maps and travel facilities to access the campus, the Conference and the General Assembly is here: <https://gtoe2023.bc.cas.cz/>

Katerina Sam and her team at Biology Centre, and the scientific committee prepared a scientific program and two social events (welcome mixer, and conference dinner). A total of 11 thematic sessions are listed, and I highly encourage all members to join us in Ceske Budejovice!

Finally, I would like to remind participants and members that the Society will be renewing the Executive and Scientific Committees at the next Annual Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in 2004 (dates will be communicated soon). After two terms as President, it is time to pass the baton. Our Society needs to recruit new faces and younger members to develop and continue to facilitate the exchange and sharing of knowledge between countries. This is especially true in the face of the environmental challenge of climate change and other crises.

Friendly yours
In Freundschaft
Avec toute mon amitié

Pierre-Michel Forget
President, Society for Tropical Ecology

<https://www.soctropecol.eu/content/membership>

<https://soctropecol-conference.eu/>

<https://www.ecotropica.eu/index.php/ecotropica>



A four-year-old secondary forest growing back naturally from a pasture. This is one of the 62 research plots examined by the Research Unit "Reassembly", studying the recovery of species interaction networks in a lowland tropical rainforest. Location: Canandé forest reserve in North-West Ecuador, protected by the Fundación Jocotoco. For more information, see www.reassembly.de.

*Tropical ecology:
Many species,
many challenges*



6th EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE
OF TROPICAL ECOLOGY

CESKE BUDEJOVICE
Czech Republic
19 - 23 June 2023



Invitation to the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology and the 6th European Conference for Tropical Ecology, 19-23 June 2023, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.

We are pleased to invite all scientists and students involved in tropical ecology to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology. We are delighted to announce that the Annual Meeting will be hosted in Ceske Budejovice, a small university town in the South of the Czech Republic. The conference will be organized in collaboration with Faculty of Science of University of South Bohemia and the Biology Centre of Czech Academy of Sciences and with help of The Czech Society for Ecology. Join tropical ecologists from around the world in June 2023 for Europe's largest and the most welcoming conference dedicated to tropical ecology. Each year our Annual Meeting attracts over 200 attendees and provides opportunities to meet future colleagues and collaborators, develop your career, learn new skills, and share your science with the global ecological community.

We will be offering an exciting programme of internationally renowned plenary speakers, diverse thematic sessions, and a variety of networking events. It will be an honour to host this prestigious conference in the Czech Republic for the very first time.

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

<https://qtoe2023.bc.cas.cz/registration-2/>

On behalf of the organization committee,
Katerina Sam

Student travel grants – Deadline until 10. May 2023

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

The extended deadline for submissions is the **10. May 2023**. As soon as your abstract has been accepted by the conference organizers, the committee will select up to 25 students that will receive a travel grant. Students eligible to apply will need to:

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

Invitation to the 36th general assembly of gtö - 2023

The Executive Board of the *gtö*, represented by its President, invites its members to the **36th general assembly held in person on Wednesday, 21st June 2023 from 17h30 to 18h30**. The meeting will take place in Room B2, Building B of the Faculty of Sciences, Branišovská 1160/31, University of Southern Bohemia, České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

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 35th general assembly
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2021
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2021
6. Report of the cash accountants
7. Discharge of the executive board
8. Code of conduct for the gtö (draft: see Appendix III in the newsletter)
9. Change of statutes
10. Report of the advisory board
11. Election of the cash accountants
12. Ecotropica
13. Preparation of future annual meetings
14. Miscellaneous

Einladung zur 36. Mitgliederversammlung der *gtö* - 2023

Das Präsidium der *gtö*, vertreten durch den Präsidenten, lädt alle Mitglieder ein zur 36. Mitgliederversammlung der *gtö* am Mittwoch, 21. Juni 2022 von 17:30 bis 18:30 Uhr. Die Sitzung wird in Präsenz im Raum B2, Gebäude B der Faculty of Sciences, Branišovská 1160/31, University of Southern Bohemia, České Budějovice, Tschechien, stattfinden.

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung
2. Wahl des/der Schriftführenden
3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 35. Mitgliederversammlung
4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2022
5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2022
6. Bericht der Kassenprüfenden
7. Entlastung des Präsidiums
8. Code of Conduct für die *gtö* (Entwurf siehe Appendix III in diesem Newsletter)
9. Satzungsänderung
10. Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats
11. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden
12. Ecotropica
13. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen
14. Verschiedenes

Explanations on agenda:

The executive board of the *gtö* suggests to adopt a code of conduct that shall guide the way in which *gtö* members work together and interact with one another to create a professional environment in which everyone feels safe, welcome and respected. Since its content and implications concern all members of the society, this code of conduct shall be discussed and, if agreed upon, issued by all present members at the general assembly of the *gtö* in 2023 (agenda point 8). The draft text of the code of conduct is distributed together with this newsletter.

As the code of conduct concerns in parts membership obligations and membership rights, we will also need to change the statutes accordingly if we issue the code of conduct (agenda point 9). In the following, we list the suggested changes in the statutes.

Suggested changes in statutes/vorgeschlagene Satzungsänderungen:

German version:

Satzung

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

...

§ 4

Mitglieder

...

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

...

§ 6

Mitgliederversammlung

...

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

...

i. Erlass und Änderung eines Code of Conduct

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

...

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

...

English version:

Statutes

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

...

§ 4

Members

...

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

...

§ 6

General assembly

...

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

...

a. Issuing and changing the Code of Conduct

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

...

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

...

35th general assembly of gtö in 2022 in Montpellier

After two purely virtual general assemblies, the 35th general assembly of gtö was held on 08.06.2022 at Amphi Louis Malassis, Agropolis, Montpellier and via Zoom.

See Appendix I for the minutes of the general assembly 2022

See Appendix II for budgetary revenues and expenditures 2021 ("Kassenbericht")



EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE OF
TROPICAL ECOLOGY

Montpellier
FRANCE
7- 9 June 2022

“The future of tropical ecosystems – new insights and innovative methods”



Past meeting: European Conference of Tropical Ecology and 33rd annual meeting of the Society for Tropical Ecology in Montpellier, 2022 (#gtoe2022)

In 2019, the European Conference of Tropical Ecology “Unifying Tropical Ecology: Strengthening collaborative science” (UTE2019) was jointly organised by gto and the BES Tropical Ecology Group in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (see Newsletter 44). The year after, we had planned to meet in Leipzig, Germany (see Newsletter #45). Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, we had to relocate the conference to Montpellier, France (see Newsletter #47). It took place from Tuesday, 7th to Thursday, 9th June 2022, at the Campus Agropolis and CIRAD in Montpellier, South France. It was a joint effort between the chairs of gtoe2020 and gtoe2022. Consequently, the gtoe2020 conference theme, “The future of tropical ecosystems – new insights and innovative methods” was not changed, and most programmed symposia were rescheduled during gtoe2022. The theme had been chosen by the Leipzig organizing team as a response of science to ongoing global discussion and concerns. Increased public awareness and new movements after the two very dry summers of 2018 and 2019, fostering debates with regard to climate change and the lack of political action, call for ecological research to become more relevant to support activities with the aim to protect tropical ecosystems and design strategies towards more sustainable management. The complexity of biodiversity science requires integration across disciplines and scales, and the gtoe2022 was thus a perfect occasion to unite the scientific community for a common endeavor.

Readers can find the conference abstract and program here. Again, the Society of Tropical Ecology is thankful to the colleagues from IRD (research Unit AMAP, ISEM and SENS), CIRAD, CNRS and the University of Montpellier as well as to the chairs of sessions who contributed to making it a success in Montpellier after such a difficult 2-year period.

The final list of Sessions and Symposia

- Biotic interactions
- Tropical Forest Dynamics and Succession
- Diversification in the tropics

- Tropical paleovegetation
- Mangrove ecosystems in the Anthropocene
- Biodiversity and ecology of oceanic and terrestrial tropical islands
- Low land-use systems for people and nature
- Forest Modelling and Remote Sensing
- Tropical lianas: functional traits, ecology and impact in the tropics
- Sustainable hunting
- Mountain biogeography
- Integrating biodiversity assessment, land surface modelling and sensing
- Tropical Molecular Ecology
- Tropical Soil Life
- Tropical ecosystems response to disturbances
- Forest values and landscape approaches to protect them
- e-DNA in the tropics

A total of 254 participants were registered as follows, with a majority of academics and a third of students. Overall, parity was balanced (male: 52 %; female: 48%). Out of 254 participants, 85% came from institutions based in Europe, the others from Africa (6%), America (6%) and Asia-Oceania (2%). Most were from France (plus Guyane and Polynesia), Germany, the UK, Czechia, Belgium and Switzerland, where the Society for Tropical Ecology had previously hosted our European Conferences. The video of the Opening Session and the keynotes (2-to-6) are available at the dedicated channel: <https://vimeo.com/channels/gtoe>

Categories of registrants	N (%)
Student	88 (34.6)
Academic Gtoe non-member	77 (30.3)
Academic Gtoe member	42 (16.5)
Invited (Chairs, keynotes and staff)	17 (6.7)
Volunteers	15 (5.9)
Academic Low-Income Country	10 (3.9)
Academic - One day	3 (1.2)
Unemployed	2 (0.8)



The participants (© Agropolis International)



Keynotes, from left to right: Renske Onstein, Sophie Lanco Bertrand, Guilherme Tavares Nunes, Hans Verbeeck, Erika Berenguer, Dolors Armenteras, and Plinio Sist).



Keynotes Renske Onstein (left), Sophie Lanco Bertrand and Guilherme Tavares Nunes (right) (© Gtoe2022)



Symposium “Biodiversity and ecology of oceanic and terrestrial tropical islands” (left), participants of the Symposium “Tropical paleovegetation dynamics” (right, © Reserved).

Upcoming conferences

We are very happy to announce the **future conference locations of the society for tropical ecology / gtö** for the upcoming years. We very much hope that we will be back on a regular meeting schedule from now on.

2023: Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic

2024: Lisbon, Portugal

2025: Amsterdam, The Neatherlands

News from the gtö early career group

The early career group of the Society for Tropical Ecology is growing! In 2022, the early career group (formerly called student group) has been growing rapidly. In February 2022 we had six active members. Today, we count 16 members from 10 different nationalities. The early career group is a platform for early career researchers to exchange about their experiences in science. Every Gtoe member can join the group. We also offer a 1-year free trial for non-members. The early career group facilitates the networking of early career researchers based in different countries. Furthermore, the early career group offers the opportunity to get actively involved with the Society for Tropical Ecology, by e.g., developing new ideas for society activities and representing the society on social media.

We meet once per month online and our topics are diverse such as career planning, the presentation of our research projects, and the publication process. In the past months, we have been discussing a platform for early career researchers in tropical countries. This online platform could serve as a source for students to build up their capacities. The idea is to offer support in e.g., career mentoring, statistics, writing, or project management and to share useful documents, contacts, or job and scholarship advertisements. Based on our discussions at the last member assembly in Frankfurt, we still need to find a way how to make this platform a self-sustaining system without too much workload for individual people.

During the last Gtoe conference in Montpellier (June 2022), two of our members (Paulina Grigusova & Andres Angulo Rubiano) presented the early career group to conference participants with a poster. Furthermore, we now also have our own page on the Gtoe website: <https://www.soctropecol.eu/content/early-career-group> . Here, we inform interested people about our activities and offers.

For 2023, we are ambitious to offer a diverse schedule: We kicked off the year with a session on our new year's resolution. In our February meeting, we drafted a guideline presentation on the common steps of the publication process (e.g. journal choice, authorship order, and reviewing process). For our meetings in March and April, we have invited two senior researchers for exchange and discussions. We will interview our Gtoe board member Melanie Dammhahn about her career path to becoming a professor. In addition, we will have a







discussion with Gtoe board member Pablo Orozco-terWengel about how to find a postdoc position.

For the conference in June 2023 in Ceske Budejovice, we are preparing a flyer and poster. Also, conference participants will have the opportunity to talk to members of the early career group during one of the lunches.



TEO – Tropical Ecology Online

All good things come to an end: TEO (Tropical Ecology Online) launched its last seminar in March! In October 2022, we started the second episode of our online seminar series TEO. In 2021, the society created TEO as a response to the Covid pandemic and the absence of in-person conferences. With these monthly online meetings, we aimed to keep in touch with our members and followers and continue to share updates on research in tropical ecology. Here, TEO aimed to offer a platform for in particular early career researchers to present ongoing research and to network. We combined presentations of established researchers with one or two presentations by early career researchers. From October 2022 to March 2023 we covered the following six topics: camera trapping, thermal tolerance, paleoecology, mangrove ecology, island biogeography, and metabarcoding. We were happy to host exciting talks of researchers from Universities all over Europe. For each meeting, we had between 10-30 participants. Discussions were moderated by different board members. All talks were recorded and shared publicly on our youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzOaG3EGcP0&t=42s>). Here, some of our recordings got up to 300 views. Compared to the first episode of TEO in 2021, we noted a decrease in online participants, most likely due to the increasing “zoom fatigue” and the wish to meet in person again. Therefore, our TEO seminar in March was our last online event before the conference in Ceske Budejovice in June 2023.

	Date	Main Topic	Speakers
	10.10.2022	Camera Trapping	Pierre-Michel Forget, Desamarie Antonette P. Fernandez
	14.11.2022	Thermal tolerance	Owen Lewis, Melanie J. Thiery
	12.12.2022	Paleoecology	Vincent Montade, Antonia Reinhardt, Juliette Duval
	09.01.2023	Mangrove ecology	Emma Michaud, Adriana Spedicato
	13.02.2023	Island biogeography	Christopher Thebaud, Barbara Freitas, Amandine Vidal- Hosteng
	13.03.2023	Metabarcoding	Johan Pansu, Max Tercel

Social media news

A short comment on the societies twitter and facebook activities: As of March 2023, we count 3458 followers on twitter and 2467 members on facebook. Since the acquisition of twitter by Elon Musk in October 2022, many things have changed on twitter. Rules about posting and account management have been changed leading to a surge of people leaving twitter fearing that free speech is constrained. After months of chaotic leadership by Elon Musk and uncertain prospects, many people have opened new accounts on mastodon and Instagram. Also, we as a society, have been critically observing the situation and discussing if we shall continue our membership on twitter. For now, we have decided to continue to use the platform. Twitter has been a useful vehicle for dissemination of news, job adverts, conference news, TEO talks, Ecotropica publications etc. We are confident to contribute positively to the overall community of twitter by following a communication based on respect, kindness and equity.

Our facebook group has been unimpressed by the turmoil on twitter. Group members are sharing frequently publications, job adverts and talk invitations. We also take the opportunity to advertise our monthly TEO seminars as well as conference updates on the facebook group timeline.

Miscellaneous

Suggested reading: New book invites to discover the many facets of Neotropical avifauna - *María A. Maglianesi. Tecnológico de Costa Rica; Universidad Estatal a Distancia.*

In a world quite different from the one we know, some 180 million years ago, an animal with four reptilian limbs, cold-blooded, covered in scales and limited to living close to the ground, has begun a unique transformation process. Evolution, persistently and without hesitation, has designed a new creature based on modifications in all its organs, giving way to an archetype with feathers, capable of regulating its body temperature and, most impressively: capable of flying through aerial space. This talent is the one that will allow it to take over virtually every corner of the planet. In this way, millions of years of evolutionary changes gave rise to a new group of vertebrates: the birds. These unique animals have attracted human attention since ancient times due to their extraordinary ability to fly, their plumage, their beauty, their colour and their song.

Birds are a fundamental component of biodiversity, being the origin of key ecological processes that ensure the functioning of ecosystems. Knowing the many aspects of their ecology is a prerequisite to understanding, appreciating and protecting them. However, addressing the study of the ecology and conservation of bird communities is not an easy task, especially in tropical regions, because these are highly diverse, which leads to great complexity. Therefore,



Neotropical avifauna is a challenge, a commitment and a literary scientific journey that reveals to us step by step the fascinating world of birds as we enter a multicolour universe. It intends to encourage its readers to join the gratifying work of getting to know this very particular group of organisms better. It is an extremely educational work aimed at a wide audience, both in an academic context and outside it, whose enjoyable reading is guaranteed by the quality seal of the Technological Editorial of Costa Rica.

The journey begins by exploring the paths that led to the evolution of birds, continues describing the variety of

their behaviours to finally introduce the various facets related to their feeding, reproduction, habitat, and migration. But the tour does not end there, once the most important aspects of bird ecology are addressed, the pages change course, focusing on the conservation status of their species. An exhaustive analysis of the main causes that have led to the extinction of a variety of them is made, which leads us to intense reflections on the human-nature relationship. In addition, some research and conservation efforts aimed at reversing the critical state in which certain bird species are currently found are described.

Neotropical avifauna could be just another book in the ornithological literature, however, it stands out for covering both the ecology and conservation of birds in an integrated and complete way. Although it illustrates the topics through bird species from around the world, it has a clear emphasis on the Neotropical avifauna, as this is the most diverse on the planet and is currently under serious threat. Given the daunting outlook faced by many species of birds, this work is also a matter of responsibility. The extinction of species is a direct consequence of an unsustainable lifestyle that has characterized the development of our modern societies. Exposing the causes that lead the loss of biodiversity is a way of alerting and raising awareness about the need to reconcile ourselves with the natural world. With the species that we lost, it is no longer possible to reverse the process, but with those that have been pushed to the limit of their existence, we still have time to rethink the future. Learning about birds not only expands our knowledge, but also promotes a relationship of respect and invites us to commit to their conservation.

My Message as a Scientist

Photo portrait project of scientists and their statements by Pia Parolin

Scientists analyse, question, teach, discuss, study. We are constantly learning exciting new things. But how about the communication with people outside of our academic world? Science influences society. Scientific knowledge and the procedures used by scientists influence the way societies think about themselves, others, and the environment. Human beings have spent a lot of time figuring out how to stay alive and be happy, and science has been a powerful tool for this.

We, the scientists have to share our global knowledge and world views. This is fundamental for the communication of facts, but more importantly to show that we, the scientists, are intensively and passionately involved in different research topics. And all of these are extremely valuable for the daily life of everybody. Our deepest desire is to help people understand the way the world works in very specific ways. And we have to share this in a simplified way, bridging gaps. This project aims at building that bridge.

Apart from being a scientist - a tropical ecologist and conservation biologist - I am also a photographer. I am combining my two passions into a project that aims at highlighting key messages in science through a portrait exhibit. Results from this project will be presented during scientific meetings all over the world.

If you are a scientist, you are welcome to contribute, just write me: photo@piaparolin.com

Thanks for sharing!

Pia Parolin

#mymessageasascientist

<https://www.piaparolin.com/PROJECTS/Message-as-a-Scientist/>

The Society for Tropical Ecology (*gtö*)

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

gtö Executive Board



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APPENDIX I: Minutes of the 35th general assembly of the gtö - 2022

Date: 8th June 2022

Place: Amphi Louis Malassis, Agropolis, Montpellier and virtually via ZOOM

Beginning: 17h00 End: 18h10

Number of participants: 18 persons onsite and 2 persons online (participants on site sign list of participants, online participants are documented by archived chat protocol)

Agenda:

1. Opening of the general assembly by the president and approval of the agenda
The president, Pierre-Michel Forget, opens the general assembly and welcomes all present members of the society. The agenda was sent out in time to all members (5.4.2021) and is approved all present members.
2. Election of the assembly's secretary
Ute Radespiel, the secretary general of gtö, is elected secretary of the general assembly by all participants.
3. Approval of the minutes of the 34th general assembly
The minutes of the 34th general assembly are approved by all participants.
4. Report of the executive board on the activities of the society in 2021
The president of the gtö, Pierre-Michel Forget, reports on the activities of the board during the last year. The society has performed its work during unusual times with the still ongoing COVID pandemia. After the last general assembly it was decided to organize the 2022 meeting in Montpellier. The executive and scientific board met 10 times via ZOOM since the last general assembly in February 2021. These meetings took place in February 2021 (2x), May 2021, June 2021, September 2021 (2x), January 2022 (2x), May 2022, and again this week on 6th June 2022. Many thanks are expressed to local organizers of the ongoing Montpellier meeting. The president is one of four French co-chairs of the present meeting. The main task of the executive board over the last year was to consolidate our finances and to clean up our membership database. For the enormous efforts on this end, the president, on behalf of the society, thanks our treasurer, Simone Pfeiffer. He also expresses his thanks to all members of the board. The board also decided and started our new seminar series "Tropical Ecology Online" (TEO), accompanied the gtö student group activities, and planned ahead for the next conferences including the one in Montpellier 2022.
5. Report of the treasurer on the financial year 2021
The treasurer, Simone Pfeiffer, reports on the completion of the new online payment system which now allows for the payment of membership fees via Credit Card with or without PayPal Service. Besides, members can like before enable the treasurer to draw the membership fees from their account via the SEPA service of the German bank system.

The board also decided upon a new membership fee structure for the society, which now offers special rates for members from poor countries. For details please see the web-page. We have currently 203 paying members. Our bank account will be changed to a business account by July, 1st, 2022 following some new bank regulations.

The treasurer presents the results of the financial accounting of 2021 together with the numbers for 2020 for comparative reasons. Details are listed below. The annual cash flow in 2021 was unfortunately negative (-1.422,94 Euro), but this is largely due to the payment for our new online payment platform and some leftover payments for costs of the cancelled meetings in Leipzig and Prague which are now all regulated. The actual balance of our bank account in June 2022 is 10,442.15 Euro and was 3,927.63 Euro by the end of 2021. Therefore, the trend is positive and the treasurer will take care that the upcoming conferences will be carefully calculated and will impose no large financial risks for the society. All present members thank the treasurer for her essential contribution in consolidating the finances of the society.

Question from the audience: can we reinforce the SEPA procedure for new members so that the flow of membership fees becomes more predictable again? Answer: all options for payment are offered on the webpage, but we need to stay flexible to facilitate payments by international colleagues who cannot join SEPA. In addition, the participation in SEPA must remain voluntary due to bank regulations.

Question from the audience: how many of our members participate in SEPA? Answer: About 3/4 of our members are based in Germany (154) and 83 of these are paying via SEPA.

6. Report of the cash accountants

The two cash accountants (Dominic Martin (Zürich), Stefan Hohnwald (Göttingen)) could not come to this meeting in person, but both have checked the accounts and certified the correctness of all accounting activities during the business year 2021. Both have delivered a written report to the society which has been archived by the treasurer.

7. Discharge of the executive board

Hermann Behling suggests to discharge the executive board. This proposal is the basis for a vote:

Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstentions: 5

The executive board is discharged. The members of the executive board thank all members for their trust.

8. Report of the advisory board

The speaker of the scientific board, Eike Lena Neuschulz (participating via ZOOM), reports on the activities of the scientific board since our last general assembly. These included attendance at the board meetings and the preparation of the 46th Newsletter which was circulated in April 2022. In addition, the webpage of the society was improved and adapted. Furthermore, the scientific board initiated the "Tropical Ecology Online" seminar (TEO), which was held successfully six times in 2021, thanks to the particular efforts of Melanie Dammhahn and Annemarie Wurz who took over its organization. The major talks of TEO are recorded and deposited at YouTube to allow asynchronous attendance. The board has now decided to continue TEO from October 2022 onwards in monthly intervals. Each event will be announced to all members and also on our webpage.

Paulina Grigusova reports on the activities of the gtö student group that meets regularly, exchanges news among its members but also communicates latest gtö-related news via social media with its

“Tropical Tuesday” activity, and generally offers help among peers. New members are welcome and do not have to pay the membership fees of the society during the first year. Anybody who is interested can contact board member Annemarie Wurz for more details. The society thanks the student group for their activities and enthusiasm.

9. Code of Conduct for the gtö

The society is aware of the risks of harassment of various kinds for members, for example in the professional context of conferences or field work. A group of four board members (Melanie Dammhahn, Ute Radespiel, Pablo Orozco-terWengel, Annemarie Wurz) discussed the implications in more depth and developed a draft for a Code of Conduct for the Society of Tropical Ecology. It has now been advanced further by the complete board and shall eventually serve as a basis of joint understanding for all members. We will next consult a lawyer about the final wording of some sentences. We then plan to present the final document to all members for commenting, after which the final version will be released by the board and deposited on our webpage.

10. Election of the cash accountants

The previous two cash accountants (Dominic Martin (Zürich), Stefan Hohnwald (Göttingen)) have agreed to perform this service to the society for another year. The present members agree vote on these two candidates en bloc:

Yes: 20, no: 0, abstentions: 0

The two cash accountants are elected for the year 2022.

11. Ecotropica

One of the two editors-in-chief, Eckhard Heymann, reports on the status of the journal. In 2020 there were five papers included in one volume (Ecotropica received 10 manuscripts, but three had to be declined directly because they were out of scope). In 2021 there were three papers included in one volume (received 8 manuscripts, 3 had to be declined). The editors will now provide final and definite deadlines for responses, revisions, or resubmissions, and will then clean up the pipeline accordingly. In 2022 the journal has so far received eight new submission (1 had to be declined). The editors express the following concerns: 1. the number of manuscripts is still too low, 2. it is difficult to find reviewers, and 3. there are still some technical problems with the editorial software (Open Journal Systems)

The editors plan and hope to further streamline the steps and processes, to attract more manuscripts, which will enable us to register the journal at the Directory of Open Access Journals. However, for that we need to publish 5+ articles per year which we do not have yet.

The society thanks the editors and scientific board members Eckhard Heymann and Marco Tschapka for their long-term efforts for the journal.

12. Preparation of future annual meetings

(a)“Looking back”: The president briefly reviews the succession of past meetings since 2009. Meetings moved between venues in Germany and other European countries quite regularly: Marburg-09, Frankfurt-11, Erlangen-12, Wien-13, Freising-14, Zürich-15, Göttingen-16, Bruxelles-17, Paris-18, Edinburgh-19, 2020-2021-cancellations due to COVID, Montpellier-22.

The GTOE2022 meeting in Montpellier had 254 inscriptions and only 4 cancellations, thus 250 participants in total. Overall, there were about 50% academic (members: 16%, non members: 30%, low income countries: 4%), 35% students (88 students), 6% volunteers, 7% invitees (incl. chairs of conference and plenary speakers), 1% academic one-day, 1% unemployed. Furthermore, there were 52% women and 48% men registered. Unfortunately, there was a rather low proportion of gtö members among all participants (19.7%) and in particular we had only 8 student members participating. Therefore, we could not give out Merian prizes for the best student member presentations. This needs to change next year. Participants registered from 24 countries (Top 5 countries: 30% France, 20% Germany, 10% UK, 6% Czech Republic, 4.4% Belgium). Five of six keynote speakers agreed to have their presentations recorded and deposited under <https://vimeo.com/channels/gtoe>. Overall, the president is quite optimistic about the financial result of the Montpellier conference, but the numbers are not yet available.

(b)“Looking ahead”: The gtö is next invited to come to Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, between 19.-23. June 2023. The invitation and the venue is presented by Katerina Sam. There will likely be some options for post-conference tours available and the conference will take place on the campus of the University to keep the costs at an affordable level. The venue permits 4-5 parallel sessions and will accommodate about 400 participants on site.

Question from the audience: is there already a general theme available for the conference?

Answer: not yet, but the local organizers plan to set up the webpage around September 2022 and will then have everything in place and send out the call for symposia.

2024: Berlin, organized by Heribert Hofer

2025: Lisbon, organized by Jorge Palmeirim

2026: Amsterdam, organized by William Gosling

2027: maybe Passau, organized by Christine Schmidt

2028: come back to Montpellier, organized by Pierre-Michel Forget and local colleagues, maybe planned as a joint meeting with ATBC

13. Miscellaneous - none

Montpellier, 8th June 2022

Protokoll der 35. Mitgliederversammlung der gtö - 2022

Datum: 8. Juni 2022

Ort: Amphi Louis Malassis, Agropolis, Montpellier und virtuell über ZOOM

Anfang: 17h00 Ende: 18h10

Anzahl der Teilnehmenden: 18 Personen vor Ort und 2 Personen online (Teilnehmende vor Ort unterschreiben TN-Liste, online Teilnehmende werden durch Chat-Protokoll dokumentiert)

Tagesordnung:

1. Eröffnung der Mitgliederversammlung durch den Präsidenten und Annahme der Tagesordnung
Der Präsident, Pierre-Michel Forget, eröffnet die Mitgliederversammlung und begrüßt alle anwesenden Mitglieder der Gesellschaft. Die Tagesordnung wurde fristgerecht am 5.4.2022 an alle Mitglieder versendet und wird einstimmig angenommen.

2. Wahl der Schriftführenden

Ute Radespiel, die Generalsekretärin der gtö, wird einstimmig zur Schriftführerin der Mitgliederversammlung gewählt.

3. Genehmigung des Protokolls der 34. Mitgliederversammlung

Das Protokoll der 34. Mitgliederversammlung wird einstimmig genehmigt.

4. Bericht des Präsidiums über die Aktivitäten der Gesellschaft in 2021

Der Präsident der gtö berichtet über die Aktivitäten des Vorstands während des letzten Jahres. Die Gesellschaft musste ihre Arbeiten erneut während eines ungewöhnlichen Jahres mit anhaltender COVID-Pandemie durchführen. Nach der letzten Mitgliederversammlung wurde entschieden, die nächste gtö Konferenz 2022 in Montpellier durchzuführen. Das Präsidium und der wissenschaftliche Beirat haben sich seit der letzten Mitgliederversammlung im Februar 2021 insgesamt 10 Mal über ZOOM getroffen. Diese Treffen fanden im Februar 2021 (2x), Mai 2021, Juni 2021, September 2021 (2x), Januar 2022 (2x), Mai 2022 und noch einmal diese Woche am 6.6.2022 statt. Der Präsident dankt den lokalen Ausrichtern der noch laufenden Montpellier Tagung, die vom Präsidenten und drei weiteren Hauptorganisatoren vorbereitet wurde. Der Schwerpunkt der Arbeiten des Präsidiums bestand im letzten Jahr in der Konsolidierung der Finanzen und der Bereinigung der Mitgliederdatenbank. Für ihren enormen Einsatz in dieser Sache dankt der Präsident im Namen des gesamten Vorstands der Schatzmeisterin, Simone Pfeiffer. Der Präsident dankt darüber hinaus den anderen Mitgliedern des Vorstands. Des Weiteren entschied der Vorstand über die online Seminarserie „Tropical Ecology Online“ (TEO), die im letzten Jahr begann, hat die Aktivitäten der sich entwickelnden Studierendengruppe der Gesellschaft konstruktiv begleitet, und sich mit der Planung der nächsten Konferenzen einschließlich der diesjährigen in Montpellier beschäftigt.

5. Bericht der Schatzmeisterin zum Geschäftsjahr 2021

Die Schatzmeisterin, Simone Pfeiffer, berichtet über die Fertigstellung des neuen Online Zahlungssystems der Gesellschaft, das den Mitgliedern jetzt die Zahlung der Mitgliedsbeiträge über Kreditkarte mit oder ohne PayPal Service erlaubt. Daneben können wie zuvor Mitglieder die Schatzmeisterin gerne beauftragen, ihren Beitrag von Ihrem Bankkonto über eine SEPA-Ermächtigung einzuziehen bzw. auf das Bankkonto überweisen.

Der Vorstand hat eine neue Beitragsstruktur für die Gesellschaft beschlossen, die nun Sondertarife für Mitglieder aus ärmeren Ländern vorsieht. Für Details wird auf die Webseite der Gesellschaft verwiesen. Die gtö hat zur Zeit 203 zahlende Mitglieder.

Unser Bankkonto wird aufgrund neuer Richtlinien zum 1. Juli 2022 auf einen Geschäftskonto-Status umgestellt. Die Schatzmeisterin stellt den Jahresabschluss von 2021 zusammen mit dem Vergleich zu 2020 vor. Die Detailaufstellung ist unten angehängt. Der jährliche cash flow der Gesellschaft in 2021 war negativ (-1.422,94 Euro), was sich vor allem durch hohe initiale Kosten für unsere neue

internetbasierte Zahlungsplattform und einige verspätete Zahlungen für die abgesagten Tagungen in Leipzig (2020) und Prag (2021) erklären lässt, die jetzt komplett abgedeckt sind.

Der aktuelle Kontostand (Juni 2022) beträgt 10.442,15 Euro, zum 31.12.2021 waren es 3.927,63 Euro. Es zeigt sich also langsam ein positiver Trend in unseren Finanzen, und die Schatzmeisterin wird die Kalkulation der zukünftigen Tagungen sorgfältig begleiten, damit diese positive Entwicklung nicht gefährdet wird.

Die anwesenden Mitglieder danken der Schatzmeisterin für ihren unverzichtbaren Beitrag zur Konsolidierung der Finanzen unserer Gesellschaft.

Frage aus dem Plenum: Können wir die SEPA Prozedur für neue Mitglieder nicht verpflichtend machen, so dass die Einnahmen für die Gesellschaft besser kalkulierbar werden? Antwort: alle Zahlungsoptionen werden auf der Webseite angeboten und wir müssen diese Flexibilität vorhalten, v.a. auch für die internationalen Mitglieder, die nicht über SEPA zahlen können. Zudem kann gemäß der Bankrichtlinien SEPA immer nur ein freiwilliges Angebot an die Mitglieder sein.

Frage aus dem Plenum: Wie viele Mitglieder nehmen an SEPA teil? Antwort: Etwa 3/4 der Mitglieder (154) sind in Deutschland ansässig und 83 von diesen zahlen über SEPA.

6. Bericht der Kassenprüfenden

Die beiden Kassenprüfenden (Dominic Martin (Zürich), Stefan Hohnwald (Göttingen)) konnten nicht in Person zu dieser Tagung kommen. Beide haben jedoch die Unterlagen und Bankgeschäfte der Gesellschaft geprüft und haben die Korrektheit aller Buchungsangelegenheiten für das Geschäftsjahr 2021 attestiert. Beide haben einen schriftlichen Bericht eingereicht, der durch die Schatzmeisterin archiviert wurde.

7. Entlastung des Präsidiums

Hermann Behling schlägt vor, das Präsidium zu entlasten. Über diesen Vorschlag wird abgestimmt:

Ja: 15, Nein: 0, Enthaltungen: 5

Das Präsidium ist entlastet. Die Mitglieder des Präsidiums danken allen Mitgliedern für ihr Vertrauen.

8. Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Beirats

Die Sprecherin des wissenschaftlichen Beirats, Eike Lena Neuschulz (teilnehmend über ZOOM), berichtet über die Aktivitäten des wissenschaftlichen Beirats seit der letzten Mitgliederversammlung. Diese beinhalteten die Teilnahme an den Vorstandssitzungen und die Vorbereitung und Versendung des 46. Newsletter im April 2022. Zudem wurde die Webpage der Gesellschaft weiter verbessert und angepasst. Weiterhin hat der wissenschaftliche Beirat die Seminarserie „Tropical Ecology Online“ (TEO) initiiert, die in 2021 sechs Mal erfolgreich durchgeführt wurde dank dem besonderen Einsatz von Melanie Dammhahn und Annemarie Wurz, die die Organisation übernommen haben. Die Hauptvorträge wurden aufgenommen und auf YouTube auch zur asynchronen Ansicht bereitgestellt. Der Vorstand hat nun entschieden, TEO ab Oktober 2022 in monatlichen Intervallen fortzusetzen. Jeder Termin wird allen Mitgliedern per email und auch auf unserer Webseite angekündigt.

Paulina Grigusova berichtet kurz zu den Aktivitäten der gtö student group, die sich regelmäßig online trifft, Neuigkeiten untereinander austauscht, über soziale Medien am „Tropical Tuesday“ gtö-relevante Informationen verbreitet, und sich generell gegenseitig in vielen Aspekten unterstützt. Neue Mitglieder sind immer willkommen und müssen im ersten Jahr auch noch keinen Mitgliedsbeitrag an die Gesellschaft zahlen. Interessierte wenden sich bitte an das Beiratsmitglied Annemarie Wurz für mehr Informationen. Die Gesellschaft dankt der gtö student group für ihre Aktivitäten und ihren Enthusiasmus.

9. Code of Conduct für die gtö

Die Gesellschaft ist sich der Risiken von Belästigung unterschiedlicher Art für ihre Mitglieder bewusst, die z.B. im professionellen Kontext von Tagungen oder Feldarbeit auftreten können. Eine Arbeitsgruppe aus vier Vorstandsmitgliedern (Melanie Dammhahn, Ute Radespiel, Pablo Orozco-terWengel, Annemarie Wurz) hat die damit verbundenen Implikationen für die gtö in heutigen Zeiten ausgiebig diskutiert und einen Entwurf für einen Code of Conduct für die Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie vorbereitet. Dieser Entwurf wurde bereits vom Vorstand weiter beraten und der Code soll zukünftig als Grundlage für unser gemeinsames Handeln dienen. Wir werden als nächstes einen Anwalt zu einigen Formulierungen konsultieren und planen dann, das finale Dokument den Mitgliedern zur Kommentierung zu schicken. Anschließend wird das finale Dokument vom Vorstand verabschiedet und dann auf unserer Webpage bereitgestellt.

10. Wahl der Kassenprüfenden

Die zwei bisherigen Kassenprüfer (Dominic Martin (Zürich), Stefan Hohnwald (Göttingen)) haben ihre Bereitschaft erklärt, die Kassenprüfung für die Gesellschaft auch im kommenden Jahr durchzuführen. Die anwesenden Mitglieder stimmen über diese beiden Kandidaten en bloc ab:

Ja: 20, Nein: 0, Enthaltungen: 0

Damit sind die beiden Kassenprüfer für ein weiteres Jahr gewählt.

11. Ecotropica

Einer der beiden Herausgeber, Eckhard Heymann, berichtet über den Status der Zeitschrift Ecotropica. In 2020 wurden fünf Publikationen in einem Band herausgegeben (Ecotropica erhielt zwar 10 Beiträge, wovon jedoch drei wegen einem unpassenden Zuschnitt zurückgewiesen wurden). In 2021 wurden drei Publikationen in einem Band herausgegeben (erhalten: 8 Manuskripts, 3 davon zurückgewiesen). Die Herausgeber werden jetzt endgültige Fristen für die Revision, Antwort oder Wiedereinreichung an alle säumigen Autoren kommunizieren, so dass die Publikationspipeline „aufgereinigt“ werden kann. In 2022 hat die Zeitschrift bisher 8 neue Einreichungen erhalten, von denen eine zurückgewiesen wurde.

Eckhard Heymann bemängelt die folgenden Umstände: 1. es gibt immer noch zu wenige Manuskripte, 2. es ist schwierig, Gutachter für Manuskripte zu finden, und 3. es gibt immer noch einige technische Probleme mit der editorialen Software (Open Journal Systems). Die Herausgeber planen und hoffen, alle Publikationsschritte und -prozesse noch verbessern und mehr Manuskripte anziehen zu können. Gelingt dies und erreichen wir stabil die Zahl von mindestens 5 publizierten Artikeln pro Jahr, kann die Zeitschrift auch beim Directory of Open Access Journals registriert werden.

Die Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie dankt den Herausgebern Eckhard Heymann und Marco Tschapka vom Wissenschaftlichen Beirat für ihren Einsatz für Ecotropica.

12. Vorbereitung der zukünftigen Jahrestagungen

(a) „Ein Blick zurück“: Der Präsident fasst kurz die Entwicklung der Tagungen seit 2009 zusammen. Insgesamt wechselten die Tagungsorte relativ regelmäßig zwischen deutschen und anderen europäischen Austragungsorten: Marburg-09, Frankfurt-11, Erlangen-12, Wien-13, Freising-14, Zürich-15, Göttingen-16, Bruxelles-17, Paris-18, Edinburgh-19, 2020-2021-Absagen wegen COVID, Montpellier-22.

Die GTOE2022 Tagung in Montpellier hat 254 Registrierungen und es gab nur 4 Annullierungen, daher insgesamt 250 Teilnehmende. Insgesamt gab es 50% akademische (Mitglieder: 16%, Nicht-Mitglieder: 30%, low income Länder: 4%), 35% studentische Registrierungen (absolut: 88 Studierende), und 6% freiwillige Helfer, 7% eingeladene Gäste (inc. Konferenzorganisatoren und Redner von Hauptvorträgen), 1% Tagesgäste-academics, 1% arbeitslos. Weiterhin gab es 52% weibliche und 48% männliche Teilnehmende. Leider gab es insgesamt eine recht niedrige Quote von gtö-Mitgliedern unter allen Teilnehmenden (19.7%) und v.a. nur 8 studentische Mitglieder. Daher wurden dieses Jahr keine Merian-Preise für die besten Vorträge und Poster vergeben. Dies sollte sich möglichst bald ändern. Teilnehmende registrierten sich aus 24 Ländern (Top 5 Länder: 30% Frankreich, 20% Deutschland, 10% Großbritannien, 6% Tschechien, 4,4% Belgien). Fünf von sechs Hauptrednern haben zugestimmt, dass ihre Vorträge aufgezeichnet und über <https://vimeo.com/channels/gtoe> verfügbar gemacht wurden. Insgesamt ist der Präsident optimistisch hinsichtlich der finanziellen Aussichten der Montpellier-Tagung, obwohl die finalen Zahlen noch nicht verfügbar sind.

(b) "Der Blick voraus": Die gtö ist im kommenden Jahr von Katerina Sam eingeladen, die Jahrestagung in Ceske Budejovice im südlichen Tschechien in der Zeit vom 19.-23. Juni 2023 auszurichten. Der Tagungsort wird von Katerina Sam vorgestellt. Es soll im Anschluss Gelegenheiten für kleinere Post-Konferenz-Touren geben, und die Tagung soll auf dem Campus der Universität stattfinden, um die Kosten so günstig wie möglich gestalten zu können. Der Tagungsort erlaubt ein Maximum von 400-500 Teilnehmenden vor Ort und die Durchführung von 4-5 Parallelsessions.

Frage aus dem Plenum: gibt es schon ein übergeordnetes Thema für die Konferenz? Antwort: noch nicht, aber die lokalen Organisatoren planen, die Webseite voraussichtlich im September 2022 aufzusetzen und dann wird alles Notwendige bekannt gegeben und der Call für Symposia rausgehen.

2024: Berlin, organisiert von Heribert Hofer

2025: Lissabon, organisiert von Jorge Palmeirim

2026: Amsterdam, organisiert von William Gosling

2027: evtl. Passau, organisiert von Christine Schmidt

2028: Montpellier, organisiert von Pierre-Michel Forget und lokalen Kollegen, evtl. gemeinsam geplant mit ATBC und BES-TEG.

13. Verschiedenes

Keine Meldung

Montpellier, der 8.6.2022

APPENDIX II: Budgetary revenues and expenditures 2021 / Kassenbericht 2022 (Simone Pfeiffer)

non-profit part	Revenues 2021	Expenditures 2021
Membership fees	11.440,00 €	
Donations	110,00 €	
Other costs (travel expenses)	20,01 €	
Travel costs for board members		310,16 €
Office software and zoom license, PR, research grant, legal advise for statutes, account charges, journals		1.289,87 €
Webpage and online payment system		4.566,33 €
<i>Ecotropica costs</i>		1.713,38 €
Gain/loss	3.690,27 €	
Special purpose (Conference)		
Organisation, PR for cancelled conference		2.849,00 €
Gain/loss		-2.849,00 €
Commercial Business		
Conference dinner cancellation fee		2.264,21 €
Gain/loss		-2.264,21 €
Asset management		
		0,00 €
Gain/loss		0,00 €
Annual cash flow	1.422,94 €	
Account opening balance giro	5.287,47 €	
Account opening balance day-to-day money	47,71 €	
Account opening balance conference	15,39 €	
Overall opening account balance	5.350,57 €	
Account closing balance giro	2.799,95 €	
Account closing balance day-to-day money	47,71 €	
Account closing balance conference	8,74 €	
Account closing balance Paypal	1.071,23 €	
Overall closing account balance	3.927,63 €	

Ideeller Bereich (non-profit part)	Einnahmen 2021	Ausgaben 2021
Mitgliedsbeiträge	11.440,00 €	
Spenden	110,00 €	
Andere Posten (erstattete Reisekosten)	20,01 €	
Reisekosten Vorstand		310,16 €
Bürosoftware, Zoom Lizenz, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, Rechtsberatung für Satzungsänderung, Kontogebühren, Zeitschriften-Abo		1.289,87 €
Webseite und Einrichtung des Online-Zahlungssystems		4.566,33 €
<i>Ecotropica</i> Kosten		1.713,38 €
Überschuss/Verluste	3.690,27 €	
Zweckbetrieb Tagung Ust.-frei (special purpose Conference)		
Organisation, Öffentlichkeitsarbeit abgesagter Tagung		2.849,00 €
Überschuss/Verluste		-2.849,00 €
wirtsch. Geschäftsbetrieb (Commercial Business)		
Konferenz-Dinner Stornierungskosten		2.264,21 €
Überschuss/Verluste		-2.264,21 €
Vermögensverwaltung (asset management)		
		0,00 €
Überschuss/Verluste		0,00 €
Jahresverlust	1.422,94 €	
Eröffnungsstand Girokonto	5.287,47 €	
Eröffnungsstand Tagesgeldkonto	47,71 €	
Eröffnungsstand Konferenzkonto	15,39 €	
Gesamt Eröffnungsstand Konten	5.350,57 €	
Abschlussstand Girokonto	2.799,95 €	
Abschlussstand Tagesgeldkonto	47,71 €	
Abschlussstand Konferenzkonto	8,74 €	
Abschlussstand Paypal	1.071,23 €	
Gesamt Schlussstand Konten	3.927,63 €	

APPENDIX III: Draft code of conduct / Entwurf code of conduct

Code of Conduct for the Society for Tropical Ecology (gtö) (draft version from: February 3rd 2023)

Preamble

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

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

Our values and guiding principles

Awareness and openness

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

Respect and appreciation

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

Care

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

Transparency

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

Equality and diversity

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

Judgment neutrality

We are aware of potential power imbalances among academics and how they can affect interactions between people. We aim to increase our awareness of the signs of such imbalances and of the damaging consequences of any misuse of power in the context of academic leadership and scientific exchange. Power imbalances should not affect how one and one's work is judged upon.

Safety and Security

We are committed to a safe, healthy, and violence-free work environment. We actively endeavor to eliminate harassment of all kinds and have no tolerance to it, whether by members of gtö, authors, conference hosts and participants, or by any other affiliation with gtö in the course of its operations. Information for those potentially affected by breach of this Code of Conduct is made available at the webpage of the gtö and at conferences of the society. Please feel free to contact the early career group representative, mentors, or the person of trust of the society. Those affected by potential violation of this Code of Conduct are provided a safe and trustful environment where they are respected and can talk about their situation without being valued. We thrive to create a safe and trustful environment, where no one has to fear negative consequences for speaking out.

Take action

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

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

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

(Entwurfassung vom: 3. Februar 2023)

Präambel

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

In diesem Zusammenhang soll dieser Verhaltenskodex als Leitfaden für die Zusammenarbeit und den Umgang aller Mitglieder der Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie (gtö) dienen, um ein professionelles

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

Unsere Werte und Leitprinzipien

Aufmerksamkeit und Offenheit

Wir sind uns der Unterschiede im kulturellen, religiösen und sozialen Hintergrund, im Aussehen, in der sexuellen Orientierung, im Geschlecht, in persönlichen Erfahrungen und Fähigkeiten bewusst und setzen uns für ein offenes und integratives Umfeld ein, das sich auch in der Arbeitsatmosphäre widerspiegelt. Wir sind bereit, uns über verschiedene Formen der Diskriminierung zu informieren, um unsere eigene Aufmerksamkeit zu schärfen. Wir sind bereit, diesen Verhaltenskodex kontinuierlich zu überprüfen und zu verfeinern.

Respekt und Wertschätzung

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

Fürsorge

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

Transparenz

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

Gleichheit und Vielfalt

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

Urteilsneutralität

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

Sicherheit und Schutz

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

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

Maßnahmen ergreifen

Wenn gegen diesen Verhaltenskodex verstoßen sein könnte, nehmen wir den Vorfall ernst und ergreifen Maßnahmen. Wir ermutigen jede:n in der gtö, das Gleiche zu tun. Bei allen Maßnahmen respektieren wir die Betroffenen und machen sie nicht zu Opfern. Auf unserer Webseite finden Sie die Kontaktdaten unserer Vertrauensperson.

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