



**Minutes of the 30th General Assembly
of the
International Union of Biological Sciences
Cape Town, 10-11th October, 2009**

Saturday, 10th October

0730: registration

1100: The General Assembly was formally opened

Welcome by B. O'Connell, UWC Rector & Vice-Chancellor

Address by J. Buckeridge, IUBS President

Address by L. Holtman, Chairperson of the local organising committee

Opening of the General Assembly by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Naledi Pandor

1200: lunch

1300: IUBS Business Session

State of the Union by J. Buckeridge, IUBS president

IUBMB presentation by Mr. I. Parker

Adoption of the modified agenda

Appointment of the GA ad hoc working committees

Report of the Treasurer by E. Beck

Report of the Activities by N. Fomproix

1500-1530: Tea/Coffee break

1600: Reports of the programmes

iCEB, J. Buckeridge

iCCB, C. Scheidegger

BioEd: J. Jungck

Human Dimension & Biodiversity: K. Bawa

Darwin 200: G. Bernardi

Traditional Knowledge: K. Bawa

Integrative Biology: M. Hoshi

1800: Keynote Address: F. Thackeray

In attendance:

National Delegates:

Australia : John Buckeridge; Austria: Uwe B. Sleytr; China: Zhibin Zhang; Croatia: Pavao Rudan; Denmark : Søren Laurentius Nielsen; Egypt: Hussein Salama; Finland : Mikael Fortelius; France: Roland Perasso; Germany: Roswitha Schönwitz; Hungary : Peter Birò; Italy : Giorgio Bernardi; Japan: Harufumi Nishida; Netherlands: Annelies Pierrot Bults; Russia: Yury Dgebuadze; South Africa : Lorna Holtman; Sweden: Eric Warrant; Switzerland: Christoph Scheidegger; Taiwan : Chang-Hung Chou; USA : John Jungck

Scientific Delegates:

International Association of Biological Oceanography: Annelies Pierrot-Bults;
International Association of Human Biologists: Gian Franco De Stefano; International



Commission for Plant-Bee Relationship: Connal Earley; International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature: Denis Brother; International Congresses of Entomology: James Ridsdill-Smith; International Phycological Society: John Bolton; International Society for Plant Pathology: Greg Johnson; International Society of Vertebrate Morphology: Marvalee Wake; International Society of Zoological Sciences: Zhang Zhibin; World Congress of Herpetology: David Wake.

Plus 50 observers.

A quorum was confirmed.

Sunday, 11th October

0900: The General Assembly was reconvened by the President, J. Buckeridge.

Presentations of the programmes:

0900-1030: Bioethics (hall B1)/ iCCB (hall B2)/ Genetics & Evolutions (hall B3)

1030-1100: Tea/Coffee break

1100-1230: BioEd (hall B1)/ Human Dimension (hall B2), Traditional Knowledge (hall B3)

1300: Lunch, Library Auditorium

1400: Focus meeting

1405: ICEB

1420: iCCB

1435: BioEd

1450: Human Dimension and Biodiversity

1505: Genetics & Evolution

1520: Traditional Knowledge

1535: New programmes

1600-1700: Working coffee break

1700: reports of the *ad hoc* committees and votes

1800: closing of the 30th General Assembly

30th General Assembly Committees

- Credentials: **J. Buckeridge**, G. Bernardi, N. Fomproix
- 31st General Assembly: **G. Bernardi**, Z. Zhang
- Resolutions: **J. Buckeridge**, E. Beck, D. Brother, N. Fomproix, S. L. Nielsen
- Scientific Programmes: **C. Scheiddeger**, G. Bernardi, Y. Dgebuadze, M. Fortelius, L. Holtman, J.M. Jallon, R. Reski
- Finance: **E. Beck**, A. Pierrot-Bults, N. Fomproix, Z. Zhang
- Nominations: **M. Hoshi**, H. Baijnath, V. Neronov, R. Perasso, R. Schönwitz, M. Wake, S. Wang
- No Statutes and Bylaws was appointed since no changes were announced 3 months before the GA.

The rules for voting as per *Statute 11* were explained:

- a) *On all scientific questions, each Ordinary Member and each Scientific Member represented at the General Assembly has one vote.*
- b) *On all administrative questions, each Ordinary Member has one vote.*
- c) *Associate Members have no voting rights.*
- d) *In case of doubt, the President decides whether a question is to be considered as scientific or administrative.*
- e) *If the votes are equally divided, the President may cast a deciding vote. If the President does not cast a deciding vote, the motion does not pass.*

1. Resolutions adopted by the 30th General Assembly in Cape Town

- 1.1. **Membership** of the following countries which have not paid their dues for 3 or more consecutive years, or have given plausible explanation for the default and have not applied for extension **shall be suspended: Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Korea, Philippines, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Tunisia, Venezuela.**

Note : In the case that these members are willing to pay in future, the treasurer shall negotiate about the accumulated debt.

- 1.2. **Programmes :** That this General Assembly approves the current programmes, new programmes and their committees as per the recommendations of the Programmes Committee.
- 1.3. **Finance :** That this General Assembly approves the recommendations of the Finance Committee.
- 1.4. **31st General Assembly :** That this General Assembly approves the venue of the 31st General Assembly in China, 2012.
- 1.5. **Awards :**
 - 1.5.1. That this General Assembly approves the establishment of a student's award for each programme
 - 1.5.2. That this General Assembly approves the establishment of an IUBS medal for excellence and/or service in biology. Proposed title: 'Darwin Medal'
- 1.6. **Organismal Biology :** That this General Assembly approves the initiative to highlight our concerns about the declining resources for organismal biology, and that these be expressed on our revised web page.
- 1.7. **New Executive :** That this General Assembly approve the recommendations of the Nominations Committee for the new Executive.
president: G. Bernardi (Italy)
Vice presidents: J. Jungck (USA)
Z. Zhang (China)

Secretary General: J.M. Jallon (France)
Treasurer: A. Pierrot-Bults (The Netherlands)
Executive Committee Members:
P. Biro (Hungary)
Y. Dgebuadze (Russia)
R. Gadagkar (India)
L. Holtman (South Africa)
P. Kevan (Canada)
N. Mascie-Taylor (UK)
R. Reski (Germany)
L. Rodriguez (Peru)
H. Salama (Egypt)
N. Stenseth (Norway)
H. Takeda (Japan)
J.L. Wu (Taiwan, China)

Approved

- 1.8. On the basis of the Treasurer's report to the GA and the preliminary budget, the *ad hoc committee for finances* proposes that the GA discharge the Treasurer for the fiscal triennium 2007-2009.

Approved

- 1.9. **Appreciation**: That this General Assembly commends and expresses sincere thanks to our hosts, the team led by Professor Lorna Holtman and the University of Western Cape for providing a wonderful, friendly venue, enabling a most enjoyable gathering of the world's bioscience community.

Approved

2. Approved Recommendations

Recommendations of the Programmes Committee

- 2.1. **Integrative Climate Change Biology (iCCB)** Co-Chairs: Mikael Fortelius, Christoph Scheidegger, Nils Christian Stenseth.

Recommendation: That support for the iCCB Programme be maintained. That this be chaired by Professors Mikael Fortelius, Christoph Scheidegger, Nils Christian Stenseth.

- 2.2. **Biological Education (BIOED)** President: John R. Jungck. Vice-president : Lorna Holtman. Sec-Treasurer : Susan Adams. *Ex officio* members : Michael Atchia, Motonori Hoshi, John Buckeridge, André Giordan. Members Executive Committee: Anat Jarden, Israel; Chang-Hung Chou, Taiwan; Daniel Raichvarg, France ; Maria Rui de Vilar Correia, Portugal ; Nina Vorobjeva, Russia ; Franz Radits, Austria ; Lee Traynor, Germany ; Bouaziz Azzoura, Tunisia ; Sonia Teppa, Venezuela ; Plus IUBS Executive Director: Nathalie Fomproix.

Recommendation: That support for the BIOED Programme be maintained. That this be chaired by Professor John R. Jungck.

2.3. Traditional Knowledge Chairperson: Jan Salick

Recommendation: That support for this Programme be maintained. That this programme be chaired by Professor Jan Salick.

2.4. Darwin 200 Chairperson: Giorgio Bernardi

Recommendation: That this Programme be closed by the end of 2010 as its aims have been achieved in an excellent way.

2.5. Human Dimensions and Biodiversity Chairperson: Kamal Bawa.

Recommendation: That future support of this programme depends upon approval of a detailed science plan indicating deliverables and milestones to be evaluated during the upcoming triennium. The Chair is recommended to enlarge the Scientific Committee of the programme and to search for an Executive Committee Member of IUBS to become Co-Chair of this programme.

2.6. Bioethics Chairperson: John Buckeridge. Members : Regine Jahn, Michael Atchia, Harufumi Nishida, Dorsamy Pillas, Wang Sung. Secretary : Jessica Reeves. *Ex officio* member : John Jungck

Recommendation: That support for this Programme be maintained. That the programme be renamed the **IUBS Ethics Commission**. That this programme be chaired by Professor John Buckeridge.

2.7. Genomics and Evolution Chair: Giorgio Bernardi. Initiation group: Werner Arber, Gary Felsenfeld, Daniel Hartl, Takashi Gojobori

Recommendation: That the programme "Genomics and Evolution" be initiated and financial support be provided. That the programme shall be chaired by Professor Giorgio Bernardi.

2.8. Modernizing the codes to meet future needs of scientific communities (BIOCODE) Co-Chairs: David Hawksworth, Regine Jahn, Ellinor Michel, Ralf Reski.

Recommendation: That the programme on BIOCODE be initiated and financial support shall be provided. That this Programme be chaired by Professors David Hawksworth, Regine Jahn, Ellinor Michel and Ralf Reski.

2.9. Biology Research and Education Resources in Africa Co-Chairs: Jean-Marc Jallon, Lorna Holtman, Salama Hussein.

Recommendation: That this programme shall be initiated and financial support shall be provided. That this Programme be chaired by Professors Jean-Marc Jallon, Lorna Holtman, Salama Hussein.

2.10. Biological Consequences of Global Change (BCGC) Co-Chairs: Zhang Zhibin, Yury Dgebuadze, Hari Sharma

Recommendation: That the programme BCGC be initiated and financial support be provided. That this Programme be chaired by Professors Zhang Zhibin, Yury Dgebuadze, Hari Sharma.

2.11. **Diversitas**

Recommendation: That IUBS maintains links with Diversitas through *ex officio* Programme Committee members, Professors Nils Christian Stenseth and Jean-Marc Jallon. That the Executive Director informs Diversitas about this decision.

IUBS Activities :

2.12. **Recommendation:** That IUBS supports the international conference on invasive species as a contribution to the programme BCGC. (5000 Euro)

Recommendations of the Finance Committee

2.13. The committee recommends seeking advice from the bank about the most **advantageous management of the time deposit account** maintaining a low risk profile.

2.14. The **account in US \$** should be used when payment has to be made in this currency and the account **should be closed in due time**.

2.15. The **basic funds for the programmes** should be **increased to 7,500.-€** for the first year. Application for further funding requires a report about the achievements and an action plan including a budget.

2.16. The **mandatory reserve**, covering the costs for one year should be reduced to **400,000.-€**

2.17. A **young scientists fund** should be established to support participation of doctoral student and postdocs in the activities of IUBS. An active contribution (oral/poster) is required for application. The financial ceiling of that fund shall be **10,000.-€** per year. Selection of the funded applications shall be by the officers.

2.18. As stated in the Treasurer's Report, the *ad hoc* committee suggests to the G.A. to encourage IUBS Ordinary and Scientific Members to provide financial support to specific scientific initiatives and programs on an *ad hoc* basis.

2.19. **Statutes and other Protocols:** That this General Assembly approve the establishment of a working party to undertake the revisions of the Statutes, Bylaws, including procedures and protocols. Specifically that

2.19.1. Only Ordinary and Scientific Members of IUBS may nominate candidates for the Officers and Members of the Executive Committee as described in the By-laws. As approved at the 28th GA, nominees need not be from IUBS member countries/regions.

2.19.2. The practical deadline for the nomination should be two weeks before the opening of the General Assembly.

2.19.3. Only one person from any country/region may serve on the EC regardless of whether the nominating body is an Ordinary Member or a Scientific Member of IUBS.

2.19.4. The following documents should be attached to every nomination sheet, and they must be 5 pages or fewer in total: A one-page statement on what and how the nominee will serve IUBS if elected, CV, a list of major publications.



Note: Since changes in Statutes and Bylaws must be announced 3 months in advance of a G.A., these proposals, which were only approved in principle by the 30th G.A. must be formally approved by the 31st G.A.