

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MEDITERRANEAN ECOLOGY (ISOMED)  
BY-LAWS**

**CHAPTER I  
NAME, DURATION, SEAT AND LANGUAGE**

**Article 1º**

**(Constitution and Denomination)**

The International Society for Mediterranean Ecology (ISOMED) is a non-profit scientific society established according to the laws of Portugal, and has its own independent legal identity.

**Article 2º**

**(Duration)**

The Society is created with an unlimited duration.

**Article 3º**

**(Seat)**

The Society is registered in Lisbon, Portugal and has its seat in Centro de Ecologia Aplicada Prof. Baeta Neves, Tapada da Ajuda, 1349-017 Lisboa, Portugal. By decision of the General Assembly, The Seat of the Society may change, and delegations of the society or other forms of representation may be created in other countries.

**Article 4º**

**(Language)**

The working language of the Society is English. Other languages may be used within different Regions of the Society.

**CHAPTER II**  
**PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES**

**Article 5<sup>º</sup>**

**(Purpose)**

1. The purpose of the Society is scientific research, expert knowledge and consultancy, organizing congresses and meetings, and scientific publications.
2. The purpose and objectives of the Society are:
  - a) To promote and improve communication and cooperation among investigators, educators, environmental managers, and human communities in the five mediterranean-climate regions of the world.
  - b) To promote an awareness of the global significance of mediterranean-climate ecosystems, their biodiversity, and their conservation within the scientific community, resource managers, and the general public.
  - c) To promote research in all aspects of the ecology and conservation of mediterranean-climate regions.
  - d) To encourage the preservation of biodiversity in mediterranean-climate regions and to safeguard it for posterity for its intrinsic worth and its aesthetic and tangible values to humanity.
  - e) To promote education in the ecology and conservation of mediterranean-climate regions.
  - f) To provide expert knowledge to government and non-government agencies and organizations whose administrative decisions affect Mediterranean-climate habitats and their biota.
  - g) To encourage the establishment, improvement, maintenance and accessibility of physical facilities, databases, and collections of biological materials for the study of Mediterranean-climate ecosystems and their conservation.

**Article 6<sup>º</sup>**

**(Activities)**

In order to achieve its purpose, the Society develops activities of scientific research, cooperation, and consultancy in Mediterranean Ecology, namely:

- a) By organizing or cooperating in international General Assemblies, Symposia, Courses, or other meetings for the sharing of scientific knowledge;
- b) By publishing and disseminating at international level the abstracts and other publications as a result of the scientific activities of the society;
- c) By establishing and promoting cooperation and exchange of ecologists of the five regions;
- d) By developing projects of common interest and consultancy at the international and national level.

**Article 7<sup>º</sup>**

**(External cooperation)**

1. The Society may establish protocols or other forms of agreement with national or international entities, with the aim of cooperating in activities within its purpose.
2. The society may join, associate, or adhere to similar entities at national or international level.

**CHAPTER III**  
**MEMBERSHIP, DUTIES AND RIGHTS**

**Article 8<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Membership)**

1. Membership is open to anyone interested in mediterranean-climate ecosystems and the goals of the Society.
2. In addition to the individual or collective entities who subscribe the present bylaws in the creation of the society, the founding members, other entities may be later accepted for membership by the Executive Committee.
3. Anyone attending a Society conference can become a member.
4. A membership fee will be included as part of the registration fee for each Society conference.
5. New applications for membership can be addressed by sending an email to the Society website with a letter of intention with a brief paragraph describing their position and interests. Members not attending a Society conference should affirm their interest in maintaining membership status by sending an email to the General Secretary.
6. Students are encouraged to join the Society.

**Article 9<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Duties from members and sources of income)**

Duties of the members of the Society are the payment of fees should these be established by the Executive Committee and ratified by the General Assembly. Other sources of income to the Society are:

- a) Other contributions from members;
- b) Subsidies, donations or other similar funds;
- c) Funds resulting from its activities;
- d) Funds resulting from applications or similar sources from courses, research projects, conferences or other activities organized or participated by the society;
- e) Funds resulting from services, namely in consultancy;
- f) Any other sources originated by its own property or by other contributions according to the Law and Bylaws.

**Article 10<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Rights of members)**

The rights of members are:

- a) To participate in the activities of the Society as defined by the General Assembly or the Executive Committee;
- b) To participate and vote in the General Assembly, where each member has one vote;
- c) To have reductions in costs or other benefits when participating in courses, conferences or other initiatives organized or participated by the Society, as in the acquisition of journals and other publications edited by the Society;
- d) To utilize the resources and the documents owned by the Society;
- e) To propose or to be proposed to participate in the various organs of the Society.

**CHAPTER IV**  
**ORGANS AND FUNCTIONING**

**Article 11<sup>o</sup>**  
**(The organs of the Society)**

The organs of the Society are: the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the Audit Board.

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**Article 12<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Composition)**

In these bylaws the General Assembly is the meeting of the members of the Society.

**Article 13<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Meetings)**

The General Assembly meets once a year for the approval of the financial accounts, and every three to four years during the MEDECOS Conferences, but may also be convened when necessary by initiative of the President, by request of the Executive Committee or by one third of its members.

**Article 14<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Duties)**

The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the Society, with the duties of:

- a) Making general recommendations on the development and functioning of the Society;
- b) Electing members of the Executive Committee;
- c) Approving the annual reports;
- d) Electing the members of the Audit Board;
- e) Approving the annual reports, and ratifying the financial annual accounts after their examination by the Audit Board;
- f) Electing the officers of the Executive Committee;
- g) Changing the bylaws as proposed by the Executive Committee or with its opinion.

**Article 15<sup>o</sup>**  
**(Voting)**

1. Decisions by the General Assembly of the Society may take place if over half of the members are present in first summon, or with any number of members in second summon.
2. Statutory changes to the Society require a minimum of three quarters of favourable votes from members present at the General Assembly, and the dissolving of the Society requires a minimum of three-quarters of favourable votes from the total number of members of the Society.
3. Elections of persons are always done by secret ballots.

## **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Article 16<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Composition)**

1. The Executive Committee of the Society has six members elected jointly in the General Assembly (except for the past president) on a list that indicates the names of the President, two Vice presidents (one of them may be the past President), the General-Secretary, and two at-large members. The Host/Organizer of the next MEDECOS meeting will be an ad hoc member of the committee.
2. The Executive Committee can make appointments to fill the term of members of the committee who are unable to continue their duties.
3. Nominations for open positions on the Executive Committee may be made in writing to the General Secretary by any member no later than 24 hours before a meeting of the General Assembly.
4. The Executive Committee should include at least one member from each of the five mediterranean-climate regions, and one member from both the western and eastern Mediterranean Basin.
5. Should the Society as it evolves vote to have a paid position as General-Secretary of the Executive Committee, the Committee is empowered to select an individual for that position and determine an appropriate salary level.
6. Members of the Executive Committee will be elected at each of the international conference of the Society and serve until the next conference.
7. The election of the Executive Committee requires over half of favourable votes from the members present.

### **Article 17<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Role of the General Secretary)**

1. The role of a General Secretary of the Executive Committee is to manage the current functioning of the Society as well as to represent the Society in the way decided by the Executive Committee.

### **Article 18<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Duties and activities)**

1. The Executive Committee is responsible for the management and the representation of the Society;
2. The Executive Committee may:
  - a) propose to convene the General Assembly;
  - b) establish the rules for the functioning and the good development of the activities of the Society;
  - c) elaborate an Annual or special Action Plan and Budget;
  - d) appoint subcommittees of Society members to address issues of significance to the Society
  - e) elaborate and present to the General Assembly an Annual Report of the Society,
  - f) determine formal protocols for individuals to establish and maintain membership;
  - g) determine membership fees, if any, and any other payments that could be due for membership;
  - h) develop, in general, all actions required for the adequate functioning of the Society and the achievement of its purpose;
  - i) represent the Society in all situations.
3. The Executive Committee can delegate its duties to any of its members. Any decision of the Executive Committee in matters that are of joint responsibility with other organs of the Society and that have to be decided with urgency by the Executive Committee must be ratified in the following General Assembly.

## **AUDIT BOARD**

### **Article 19<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Composition)**

1. An Audit Board will be established should the society collect membership fees or establish other sources of funds and assets.
2. The Audit Board is composed by a Chairman and two other members appointed by the Executive Committee, with the possibility of having two extra acting members for replacements if necessary.

### **Article 20<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Duties)**

The duties of the Audit Board are:

- a) to follow and to control the financial management of the Society;
- b) to advise on the Budget of the Society;
- c) to advise on the Annual Report and the Final Accounts of the Society;  
to give opinion about the financial aspects of all actions that result in significant costs, when requested by any other organ of the Society.

### **Article 21<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Meetings)**

1. The Audit Board meets once a year to advice on the Annual Report and Accounts of the Society and at any time by initiative of its Chairman or of any other organ of the Society;
2. The meetings of the Audit Board must have the presence of the majority of its members.

### **Article 22<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Voting)**

The Executive Committee will allow electronic voting of all registered members on issues of major significance or changes in the structure of the Society.

### **Article 23<sup>o</sup>**

#### **(Signing for the Society)**

Two members of the Executive Committee have the authority to sign jointly on behalf of the Society, but the Executive Committee can also make provisions that one of its members jointly with another authorized person to sign for the society.

**CHAPTER V**  
**FINAL AND TEMPORARY RULES**

**Article 24<sup>o</sup>**

**(Duration of mandates)**

1. The mandate of the members of the organs of the Society has a three to four year duration, until the next meeting of the General Assembly, and can be renewed until the elections of the new members, with a limit of three mandates.
2. The mandates begin at the end of the General Assembly and continue until the end of the following General Assembly.

**Article 25<sup>o</sup>**

**(Organs of the Society)**

1. For the current period the constitution of the organs is:  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President (Francisco Rego - Portugal), Vice-President1 (Margarita Arianoutsou - Greece), Vice-President2 (Richard Cowling - South Africa), General-Secretary (Philip Rundel – California), Member 1 (Gidi Neeman – Israel), Member 2 (Richard Hobbs – Australia);  
AUDIT BOARD: Chairman (Maria João Maia – Portugal), Member 1 (Conceição Colaço-Portugal), Member 2 (Dimitris Kazanis - Greece);  
GENERAL-ASSEMBLY: President (Francisco Moreira-Portugal), Vice-President (Vanda Acácio-Portugal), Secretary (Miguel Bugalho-Portugal).
2. The organs now proposed are temporary and new elections to Executive Committee and Audit Board positions will be held at the General Assembly meeting of the Society in Perth, Australia, in September 2007.