

**Minutes of the International Council of Ethologists
XXX International Ethological Conference
17 and 21 August 2007
Halifax, Canada**

Delegates

2007 Country	First Name	Last Name	e-mail
Australia	Greg	Johnston	gjohnston@zoossa.com.au
Austria	John	Dittami	John.dittami@univie.ac.at
Austria	Michael	Taborsky	michael.taborsky@esh.unibe.ch
Belgium	Mark	Nelissen	mark.nelissen@ua.ac.be
Brazil	César	Ades	cesarades@gmail.com
Canada	Richard	Brown	rebrown@dal.ca
Canada	Debbie	Kelly	debbie.kelly@usask.ca
Czech Rep	Ludek	Bartos	bartos@vuzv.cz
Denmark	Torben	Dabelsteen	tdabelsteen@bi.ku.dk
France	Catherine	Blois-Heulin	catherine.blois-heulin@univ-rennes1.fr
France	Martine	Hausberger	Martine.Hausberger@univ-rennes1.fr
Germany	Raimund	Apfelbach	raimund.apfelbach@uni-tuebingen.de
Germany	Fritz	Trillmich	frillmich@uni-bielefeld.de
Hungary	Vilmos	Altbacker	altbac@ludens.elte.hu
India	Raghavendra	Gadagkar	ragh@ces.iisc.ernet.in
Ireland	John	Kent	john.kent@ucd.ie
Italy	Elisabetta	Visalberghi	elisabetta.visalberghi@istc.cnr.it
Japan	Kei	Ueda	keisuke@rikkyo.ac.jp
Mexico	Constanino	Macias-Garcia	maciasg@servidor.unam.mx
Netherlands	Ton	Groothuis	A.G.G.Groothuis@rug.nl
Netherlands	Simon	Reader	s.m.reader@uu.nl
New Zealand	Joe	Waas	waasur@waikato.ac.nz
Nigeria	Sunday	Bisong	bisongsa@yahoo.com
Norway	Helene	Lampe	h.m.lampe@bio.uio.no
Norway	Gunilla	Rosenqvist	gunilla.rosenqvist@bio.ntnu.no
Portugal	Rui	Oliveira	Rui.Oliveira@ispa.pt
Russia	Zhanna	Reznikova	zhanna@reznikova.net
Sweden	Grete	Ågren	Greta.Agren@surgsci.uu.se
Switzerland	Barbara	Koenig	bkoenig@zool.unizh.ch
UK	Clive	Catchpole	c.catchpole@rhul.ac.uk
UK	Roger	Elwood	r.elwood@qub.ac.uk
USA	Jane	Brockmann	HJB@zoo.ufl.edu
USA	Janet	Leonard	jlleonar@ucsc.edu
USA	Jan	Randall	janners98@yahoo.com
USA	Judy	Stamps	jastamps@ucdavis.edu
USA/Venezuela	Zuleyma	Tang-Martinez	zuleyma@umsl.edu

1. Introduction, Overview of Agenda

Secretary General Michael Taborsky opened the meeting and thanked the organizers for hosting the meeting. All of the delegates introduced themselves.

2. Approval of minutes from the 2005 IEC meeting (Budapest)

The minutes were approved. The host from the 2005 commented that the current meeting should pay for the previous host's travel to the current meeting and this needs to be included in the budget for the current meeting.

3. Report of the Secretary General

Michael Taborsky was concerned about the low number of participants at IEC2007. Projections called for 600 attendees at Halifax, but the actual number was just above 400.

Comments/suggestions from the delegates on possible ways to increase attendance included:

- More involvement by the national/international behavioural organisations
- Advertise the meeting more effectively and earlier than in previous years
- Develop a strategy for how to advertise the meeting, and reach more people
- Change the length of the meeting
- Avoid overlap with other meetings
- Change procedures for registration. The process of registration to the meeting is costly, difficult, and is currently developed again by every host. Discussion of how to develop a registration procedure that could be used for a series of meetings.

-

4. Report of the Treasurer (Financial status of the ICE)

The Treasurer Bob Elwood reported that we have funds in two banks. In total \$ 26,619, as well as a loan to the meeting in Halifax for \$10,000 that will be paid back. There will also be a payment from IEC2007 of 10 dollars for each attendee who paid the full registration fee.

The Treasurer was concerned that the low amount of funds provides no buffer for unforeseen problems in the future. It was decided to adjust the amount of money per full paying participant to 12 dollar for the next meeting.

Discussion of the ICE funds lead to discussion of the pros and cons of becoming a society, as opposed to the current organization of the ICE and IEC.

5. Report of the Corresponding Secretary

Jane Brockman reported on the website and problems with updating e-mail addresses. The delegates were thankful for the effort that Jane and others at her institution have put into the website, knowing the large amount work that it takes to keep a website.

6. Appointment of Vice Secretary-General and Vice Secretary-General

Judy Stamps was elected Secretary General, and Gunilla Rosenqvist vice Secretary General.

7. Election of Recording Secretary

Carel ten Cate, from the Netherlands, was elected new Recording Secretary

8. Final Report from the 2005 Meeting in Budapest

The final report from the 2005 meeting in Budapest was presented.

Expenses euro 128,250

Income euro 131,357

Balance euro 3,108

9. Presentation of a bid for the 2011 IEC meeting

A written bid for a joint meeting of the IEC and the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) was prepared by Emilia Martins of Indiana University, Bloomington, USA, and presented to the ICE by Judy Stamps and Jan Randall. The joint meeting would take advantage of the staff and organizational structures that the Animal Behavior Society already employs to run its own meetings, and Indiana University has the facilities required to host a large joint meeting.

The delegates discussed a number of the pros and cons of having a joint meeting with the Animal Behavior Society, with a focus on differences between the ways that the two meetings are currently run. For instance, the IEC has a tradition of having a longer meeting than the ABS, the IEC has an excursion-day in the middle of the meeting and the ABS does not, and the IEC restricts the number of oral presentations, whereas the ABS does not. One possible advantage of a joint meeting was that it would attract participants who do not currently attend the IEC.

Further discussion and voting on the bid for 2011 was deferred to the second meeting of the ICE (see paragraph 13) to allow delegates several days to consider the positive and negative aspects of having a joint meeting with the Animal Behavior Society.

10. Council membership

It was suggested that the council secretary (Jane Brockman) and the recording secretary (Carel ten Cate) should help the Secretary General identify new delegates to the ICE prior to the next meeting of the IEC. It was noted that assignment as a delegate to the ICE is not a formal process, and that the procedure for assignment varies by country. However, it was felt that it is important to identify delegates well before the IEC meetings, so that those delegates can help organize and advertise future meetings of the IEC.

The delegate lists should be kept up to date; it was suggested that the corresponding and recording secretary should keep in touch 1-2 times per year to do this.

12. Rennes 2009

The initial proposal for IEC2009, presented by Martine Hausberger, called for a meeting that will last 7 days with 1 day off, in the period 19-26 August. The French Ethological Society will be heavily involved in the meeting. Participants can arrive by train from Paris. There is a possible reduction on Air France flights. It will be possible to book hotel rooms from the conference website. There are more than 400 student rooms (€8 per night) and some flats. A day care centre has 50 places for delegates with kids (to be booked at the

time of registration). The whole conference will be in one building (Faculty of Law), where there is one large hall (730 people) and 4 smaller ones in addition to a large poster hall. Lunch will be included in registration. Plans included a social program on the day off and an accompanying persons program. In addition there will be short and long trips before and after the conference. The conference website is already open.

Proposed Budget

Registration fee €330 (regular)
€180 (student)
(includes congress material, lunch and tea breaks)

Initial Program

Day 1: Ontogeny/development
Day 2: Causal/mechanisms
Day 3: Applied/fundamental ethology
Day 4: Tours
Day 5: Evolution
Day 6: Functions
Day 7: Integrative studies

Morning: 2 plenary speakers; one ethologist and one other
Afternoon: Symposia and oral sessions

The ICE delegates discussed ways that this meeting might attract participants. It was suggested that the organizers of IEC2009 might contact the European Behavioural Ecological Society, ASAB and other behavioural societies to explore possibilities of a joint meeting, and to help avoid overlap with other behavior meetings. Another suggestion from the delegates was that the length of the meeting be reduced, and the length of the mid-conference break be reduced from 1 day to ½ day.

This latter change would require a change to the constitution, which specifies 7-10 days for IECs.

It was proposed that the constitution be changed, to indicate that from now on, conferences will last from 5 to 7 days.

The delegates voted on this proposal. All of the delegates but one voted in favor of this proposal. The person who voted no on this proposal suggested an alternative proposal, that the constitution be changed to indicate that conferences be 5 or more days. This suggestion attracted only 6 votes.

Conclusion: the constitution of the IEC is now changed to 'Conferences last 5-7 days'.

There was additional discussion of ways to improve advertisement and attendance by advancing the dates for several important deadlines. Suggestions included:

Decisions on Plenary speakers at least a year in advance
Symposia and Round Table submissions: 15 December 2008
Regular contribution submissions : 1 February 2009

Symposia: these have different structure and timetables than contributed papers. This was discussed, but will be left with local organizing committee.

The delegates discussed the initial proposed length for IEC2009. It was suggested that it might be possible to reduce the length of the IEC meetings beginning in 2009. The delegates to the ICE voted on whether they would prefer that the IEC2009 be a 5 day conference. 25 of the delegates voted in favor of a 5 day conference, and 1 delegate voted for a 7 day conference. Based on these votes, the organizers for IEC2009 agreed to reconsider their original proposal for a 7 day IEC meeting in 2009, and informed the ICE that they would revise their proposal for the meeting, based on a 5-day rather than a 7 day conference.

Conclusion: 5 days conference in Rennes 2009.

11. Preliminary report from Halifax conference

Early full registration: 219 people and 6 before, 130 students (reduced by 1) and 13 guests. 418 people came to IEC2007.

Budget

Total		\$ 205,000
Expenses	\$ 45,000 for Budapest	
	\$ 10,000 loan from IEC	
	\$ 20,000 registration company	\$ 200 each plenary speaker
	\$ 8,000 conference room rentals	
	\$ 6,000 audio-video	
	\$ 14,000 bus tours etc	
	\$ 62,000 catering	
	\$ 1,500 gala	
	\$ 6,000 bags/tags etc	
	some for employees	
Total ca		\$ 205,000

The budget was made on the basis of 600 delegates, but they managed to cancel some of the food and rooms to keep within the budget with fewer delegates than anticipated.

13. Ballot on items related to the bid for the 2011 IEC

At the second meeting of the ICE at IEC2007, there was additional discussion of differences between the IEC and the Animal Behavior Society meetings. ABS has an open-door policy, and recent meetings have lasted 4 days. Typically, there is one plenary talk per a day, and one or more all day symposia. Contributed papers are not currently screened, but may need to be in the future. One symposium at the ABS meeting is reserved for student presentations. There are usually one or more poster sessions with receptions in the evening. Attendance at ABS is about 600 (the last meeting had 630 attendees). ABS tends to focus on behavioural ecology, with sexual selection as a major topic at previous meetings.

It was suggested that ABS meetings could benefit from a joint meeting with the IEC not only because of the international scope of attendees at the IEC, but also because of the breadth of topics covered in IEC meetings, and the high quality of the plenary talks at the IEC. It was suggested that the name of the joint meeting be IEC/ABS.

In order to allow a joint meeting with the ABS to occur, a change was required in the Policy of the IEC. Currently, the policy states (paragraph 6): ‘The number of delegates at an International Ethological Conference from the host country shall be limited to 25% of the total number of places open at that conference. If the number of total places open for a conference has not been filled at a time several months prior to the opening of the conference additional delegate places may be permitted for the host country.’

Proposal: Change the Policy of the IEC by deleting Paragraph 6

Vote: unanimous for deleting this paragraph from the Policy

Conclusion: Policy changed to remove the restriction on the number of delegates from the host country to the International Ethological Conference

Next, the delegates to the ICE voted on whether to accept the bid, submitted by Indiana University, to host a joint meeting of the IEC-ABS in 2011.

The vote was unanimously in favor of accepting this bid.

Conclusion: 2011 joint IEC-ABS meeting at Indiana University approved.

The delegates of the ICE charged the Secretary General and the Executive Committee of the IEC with the task of coordinating with the hosts at Indiana and with the officers of the Animal Behavior Society to resolve any issues that might arise in organizing and hosting a joint meeting of the IEC and ABS.

14. Revision of other ICE Policies

‘1. The ICE derives funds from two sources a deposit account interest and the \$10 for each delegate at a conference and it the responsibility of the host to collect and remit these funds to the ICE treasurer within 6 months of the conference.’

There were several suggestions that this amount be increased, with three options: no increase, \$15 per delegate, and \$20 per delegate.

These suggestions received the following votes, respectively:

No change in fees = 1 vote
\$15 per delegate = 9 votes
\$20 per delegate = 17 votes

Conclusion: Fees per delegate were increased to \$ 20

'2. Reserves should be \$10-15,000. If the amount drops below \$6,000, then the fee should be raised'

Suggestion: Revise this section to read: 'Reserve should exceed \$15,000.'

Passed on an unanimous vote.

Conclusion: Change this section to: 'Reserve should exceed \$ 15,000.' The rest of this paragraph should be deleted.

'3. Each conference is given and can keep \$6,000 as seed money which has to be matched with local funds. The \$6,000 is to be used to bring in delegates who cannot otherwise afford to come.'

Suggestion: omit this paragraph
Passed on a unanimous vote.

Conclusion: omit this section

'4. Suggestion that a new section be added to IEC policy:

'Each conference may receive \$ 10,000 as a loan.'

Passed on a unanimous vote.

Conclusion: Add to Policy: 'Each conference may receive \$ 10,000 as a loan.'

15. Potential future meeting sites

It was suggested that Europe should host IEC2013. Delegates were invited to consider ideas for hosting this meeting, including the possibility of arranging for a joint meeting between the IEC and other international animal behavior meetings in 2013. It was also suggested that we might consider a " three corner " cycle for future meetings, which would alternate between Europe, North America, and sites in other regions of the world.

16. Matters arising

Further discussion about the problem of gaining access to the current email addresses of individuals who should be contacted with information about IEC meetings. Email lists quickly become out of date, and it has proven very difficult (and very time-consuming) for hosts to try to assemble current lists of email addresses, even when they have had access to the email lists of other organizations (e.g. ABS or ASAB).

Gunilla Rosenqvist, Recording Secretary (paragraph 1-9)
Helene Lampe, Substitute Recording Secretary (paragraph 10-16)