

Approved Revised Version for Ratification By Board at BGM 2008

BY-LAWS of the International Association for Ecology and Health

Article 1 - Establishment

The International Association for Ecology and Health (EcoHealth), hereafter the “Association”, was established in 2006.

Article 2 – Purposes

The Mission, Objectives and Functions of the Association are set down in its Constitution.

Article 3 - Classes of Membership

Membership in the organisation shall be open to **individuals** or **organisations** who promote the objectives of the Association and pay membership fees. Membership to the Association shall be granted annually by calendar year.

Two categories of **Individual membership** are available:

Individual membership is open to all individuals who pay the full prescribed membership fees or agreed discounted fees, including five-year, retiree and developing country membership (see Article 4). In addition to voting rights at General Assemblies, Individual members benefit from online access to all issues, quarterly print and supplementary issues of EcoHealth (including postage and handling), and discounts at EcoHealth activities and events where available.

Student membership

Student members enjoy the same benefits as Individual members and also receive representation on the board. Student membership is available to all currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To be eligible for student member rates, all students will be required to fax or post evidence of FULL-TIME student status, usually by signature of their Departmental Head.

Two categories for **Organisational membership** are available. Conditions apply and benefits are optional at the discretion of the Organisation.

Partner Organisation

Entitles an organisation to prominent recognition in the *EcoHealth* journal, on the *EcoHealth* website, and at all *EcoHealth* activities or events.

Multiple-Year Sustaining Organisation

In addition to the benefits received by Partner Organisations, the Multiple-Year Sustaining Organisation will be recognised for its long-term support with a seat on the *EcoHealth* advisory panel. Minimum of two years.

Article 4 – Membership fees

Membership fees are structured according to three principles:

1. There should be special dispensation according to relevant socio-economic conditions found in the member’s country of origin. This is calculated for

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- members who reside in countries designated in the WHO HINARI program as listed at <http://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/> as Band 1 countries (GDP < US \$1000) or Band 2 countries (GDP US \$1000-\$3000);
2. There should be some dispensation for student members and retiree members (any member who is no longer professionally or self-employed);
 3. Those subscribing for multiple years may receive a discount.

Based on these principles, the Association's Membership subcommittee shall prepare a membership fees document that shall contain current subscription rates for all types of membership. This fees document will be approved by the Board and the content advertised prominently on the Association website and newsletter.

Article 5 - Donations

Donations to the Association are welcomed, at the discretion of the Board. They may be tied to support/sponsorship of Biennial Conference, or other regional activities, or to developing country membership support and/or student grants.

Article 6 - Organisational Administration

The Association will have three statutory bodies: (1) General Assembly; (2) Board; and (3) Executive Officers. The General Assembly, which is open to all members as defined in Article 3, shall meet every second year, normally in conjunction with the Biennial Meeting, as prescribed in the Constitution.

The Board shall be broadly representative of the balance identified in the Association's Constitution, Article 6.1. The primary function of the Board will be to govern the Association. Other functions (as set out in these Bylaws) will concern the Biennial conference, the Journal's Editorial group and its copyright, other relevant publications, activities and networking operations for the purposes of the advancement of the Association.

The term of membership of board members shall be for a two-year period, starting from the end of one Biennial Meeting and finishing at the end of the next Biennial Meeting. The same individual may be reelected for a second or third term, but no member may serve more than three terms without an interval of at least one two-year term. The Treasurer shall determine the eligibility of nominees. About half of the Board members will change each two years.

Article 7 - Executive Officers

There shall be four Executive Officers – President, Treasurer, Vice-President and Secretary. Each Executive Officer shall be elected for a term of two years.

The Executive of the Charter Board will be by nomination and election by the Charter Board. The Constitution dictates the election of the Executive for each Board subsequent to the Charter Board (ie. after the initial two years).

On assuming their office, the Executive Officers shall determine their operational processes for fulfilling the required roles and responsibilities outlined in Articles 7.4-

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7.8 of the Constitution, and report their determinations to the Board on an as-needed basis.

Article 8 – Advisory Council

The Board will establish an Advisory Council consisting of representatives from all Sustaining Organisational Members (one representative per membership). The Board will be represented on the Advisory Council by the President (or her/his delegate) who will Chair meetings of the Council. All matters pertinent to the Association's programs, Biennial meetings, balloting, etc., shall be included in notifications to Sustaining Organisational Members through the operations of the Advisory Council.

Article 9 - Standing Committees, Other SubCommittees of the Board

The Board can establish Standing Committees to deal with particular matters that will require regular reporting at each meeting of the Board. Standing Committees will include membership from the Board (and Chaired by the President of the Association or her/his delegate), membership from the Advisory Council where appropriate, and other relevant persons from the Association membership.

The Board can establish SubCommittees to accomplish tasks from time to time. SubCommittees will include membership from the Board (and Chaired by an Executive Officer), membership from the Advisory Council where appropriate, and other relevant persons from the Association membership. SubCommittees will report to the Board when appropriate.

Standing or SubCommittees of the Board may include:

1. Events (Committee responsible for development of Board policy concerning the Biennial Conference and other events and activities; see Article 10 of these Bylaws);
2. Finance and Development (Committee responsible for investigating matters concerning the financial affairs of the Association);
3. Membership, Marketing and Promotions Committee (Committee responsible for providing advice to the Board on membership, marketing and promotional issues);
4. Awards (Committee responsible for establishing criteria, nomination and selection processes for any Awards granted by the Association).
5. Journal Editorial Executive Committee (see Article 14).

Article 10 –Meetings and Conferences

Board meetings are specified in the Constitution. At least one Board Meeting will coincide with the Biennial Conference. Other meetings of the Board shall be called by the Secretary whenever requested to do so by Board or President. All meetings of the Board shall be held at a convenient place, and/or with an appropriate medium (like teleconference) as determined by the President, as specified in the notice of the meeting.

The Association shall sponsor a Biennial Conference (Meeting). The meeting venue and location will be set by the Board at least two years in advance, wherever possible. The Board will provide to a Conference Chair the policy framework for appropriate planning and execution of Biennial Conferences.

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The Association may also initiate or select strategic affiliations with events other than the Biennial Conference, in keeping with the criteria and policies proposed by the meetings subcommittee and approved by the board.

Article 11 – Association’s Fiscal Year

The fiscal year will be from January 1 to December 31.

Article 12 – Student Group

The Association recognises the significance of a strong and active student body, and the likelihood that a student group may wish to operate as an integral unit within the Association. Under these circumstances, the Board may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the student group, within the bounds of these Bylaws and the Association’s Constitution, to specify a working relationship. Such a MoU should include:

- i. The Association’s roles and responsibilities to the Student Group;
- ii. The Student Group’s roles and responsibilities to the student membership of the Association, including any organisational structure for coordination of activities;
- iii. A statement of representation showing evidence of consultation with, and consent of, the student body at large;
- iv. A date of expiry; and
- v. Signatures of one representative of the Student Group, and the President of the Association.

A signed Memorandum of Understanding must be tabled at a General Assembly Meeting for information of all members, and an electronic version subsequently posted on the Association’s website.

Article 13 – Regional Chapters and other defined membership sub-groups

The Association recognises the significance of an active regional membership, and the likelihood that a regional chapter, or other defined sub-groups of membership may wish to operate as an integral unit within and in support of the Association. Under these circumstances, the Board may enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the regional chapter or defined sub-group of membership, within the bounds of these Bylaws and the Association’s Constitution, to specify a working relationship. Such a MoU should include:

- i. A definition of the regional chapter or membership subgroup;
- ii. The roles and responsibilities of the Association in relation to the regional chapter or defined sub-group;
- iii. The roles and responsibilities of the defined sub-group or regional chapter in relation to membership of the Association, including any organisational structure for coordination of activities;
- iv. A statement of representation showing evidence of consultation with, and consent of, the relevant Membership at large;
- v. A date of expiry; and
- vi. Signatures of one representative of the Regional Chapter, and the President of the Association.

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A signed Memorandum of Understanding must be tabled at a General Assembly Meeting for information of all members, and an electronic version subsequently posted on the Association's website.

Article 14 – Journal Matters

The Board will have responsibility for negotiating publishing contracts, holding of the copyright of the journal EcoHealth and any other copyright, all on behalf of the Association. Each Board will appoint a Editor in Chief, Co-Editors, a Book Review Editor and an Art and Culture Editor, who together will i) form an Executive Editorial group, normally chaired by the Editor in Chief; ii) be responsible for fulfilling the terms of any publishing contracts entered into by the Association and iii) prepare a description of all editorial roles and responsibilities for approval by the Board.

As owner of the journal, the Board will grant authority to the Editor in Chief and Co-Editors to formulate policy with respect to the journal content, to appoint any other Editorial Board members. The Editor in Chief will present a Biennial Report to the General Assembly at each Biennial Conference on behalf of the Executive Editorial group.

It is expected that by the third term of the Board, the Editor in Chief of the journal will be an *ex officio* member of the Board, and co-editors will not normally be members of the Board. Should the position of Editor in Chief become vacant, or where Co-Editors need to be appointed, the Board will form a selection sub-committee.

Article 15 – Awards of the Association

The Board, on behalf of the Association, will seek to make a biennial award (The International Ecohealth Award) to an individual or an organisation for outstanding contributions towards the Association's Mission. Award criteria, nomination and selection processes will be authorised by the Board, and made available to the membership on its Website. As per Article 9 of these Bylaws, the Board will establish a SubCommittee for the purpose of recommending that an Award be made.

Article 16 - Provisions for Amending the By-Laws

Proposed amendments to the By-laws may be initiated by members of the Board or through a petition signed by no less than five percent of the General Assembly. Such amendments must be approved by the Board. By-laws approved by the Board may be considered valid until such time as they are duly ratified or rejected by the next General Assembly. The Board must fully advertise proposed amendments for all members six months in advance of General Assembly meetings. This provision safeguards the legal validity of the Association to respond and comply with requirements for its functioning in reference to its purpose as set forth in Article 2 of the Constitution.