



INTERPRAEVENT

Internationale
Forschungsgesellschaft

STATUTES

of the
International Research Society
INTERPRAEVENT

(formerly Research Society for Preventive Flood Control)



§ 1 Name, Seat and Activity

- (1) The name of the Society shall be "International Research Society Interpraevent".
- (2) Its domicile shall be Klagenfurt.
- (3) The Society shall devote itself to the protection of habitats against floods, debris flows, mass movements and avalanches including their anthropogenic causes and the search for compensation by sustainable care and maintenance in all endangered landscapes of the world with special emphasis on the alpine region.

§ 2 Purpose of the Society

- (1) The objective of the Society shall be to practice, on an interdisciplinary basis, preventive protection against extreme natural disasters and their effects and to encourage interdisciplinary research as well as the exchange of knowledge and experiences between practice and science in order to protect the habitat, especially against floods, debris flows, mass movements, avalanches, anthropogenic impact and destruction, including investigations into the causes for events that are of negative influence on soils and water systems, as well as on the ecological integration of flowing water into the landscape. The Society shall carry out these activities also by itself and shall seek to prevent disasters of this kind by passing on research results to those involved in teaching and practical application, and by imparting relevant experience in the protection of endangered regions to research and administrative agencies.
- (2) The purpose of the Society shall be strictly scientific and non-profit making. The objectives pursued by the Society shall be exclusively and directly of public benefit as defined by the Austrian Federal Fiscal Code.



§ 3 Means to Achieve the Purpose of the Society

(1) To achieve its purpose the Society shall make use of the following means:

1. Intellectual Means

- a) Organization of meetings (in particular of the congress INTERPRAEVENT), lectures, courses, exhibitions and seminars;
- b) Publication of special articles, contributions to the daily and professional press, writing of printed material;
- c) Collection of relevant publications;
- d) Deployment of staff to handle certain special fields;
- e) Cooperation with experts, professional circles and societies pursuing similar objectives in Austria and abroad;
- f) Coordination, promotion and execution of research activities;
- g) Public relations activities.

2. Financial Means

- a) Membership and admission fees;
- b) Donations, endowments, bequests, subsidies and other grants (contributions from sponsors);
- c) Proceeds from meetings, lectures, seminars, training courses, field trips and exhibitions;
- d) Proceeds from publications and printed material.

(2) The means of the Research Society shall not be used for any other purposes than those laid down in the Statutes.

§ 4 Types of Membership

The Members of the Society shall be:

- a) Regular Members
- b) Sponsors
- c) Honorary Members
- d) Associate Members



§ 5 Regular Members and Sponsors

(1) Eligible for membership as Regular Members and Sponsors are corporate bodies, public authorities and administrative agencies of all states, their länder, provinces, regions and local communities, as well as scientific institutions, enterprises, organizations and individuals whose work is specifically linked with the protection of habitats acc. to § 2.

(2) Sponsors are members who, for other reasons, are willing to support the objectives of the Society.

§ 6 Joining Together of Members

Members and Sponsors shall be free to join together in national or supranational / regional groups. The Board of Directors shall decide on the use of the name INTERPRAEVENT by such a group and define its rights and duties.

§ 7 Honorary Members & Associate Members

(1) Eligible for membership as Honorary Members are individuals who have rendered outstanding service to the Society or given special support to it in the pursuit of its objectives. They enjoy the same rights as Regular Members (§ 5). They are appointed by the General Assembly (§ 13). The title Honorary President may be conferred to an outgoing President.

(2) Associate Members may be appointed by the Board of Directors to foster professional cooperation. However, such honorary appointment shall not substantiate Regular Membership with all its rights and duties.

§ 8 Admission to Membership

Admission of Members shall be decided upon by the Board of Directors, whose decision shall be final. No reasons need to be stated if the application for Membership is denied.



§ 9 Rights and Duties

- (1) Members shall be entitled to:
 - a) Participate in the General Assembly with seat and vote and to submit motions;
 - b) Participate in all other events of the Society, such as lectures, visits, etc.
- (2) Members shall be required to:
 - a) Observe the Statutes and to assist the Society in the pursuit of its objectives;
 - b) Pay duly the specified Membership Fee (§10);
 - c) Accept when being elected into an office unless there are substantial reasons to refuse.

§ 10 Membership Fee

- (1) Each Regular Member shall pay his or her Membership Fee within the first three months of a calendar year. Its size shall be fixed by the General Assembly upon a proposal submitted by the Board of Directors. The Membership Fee may be graded for different groups of Members. The General Assembly may also set general guidelines as to the level of Membership Fees and leave the final decision to the Board of Directors.
- (2) Honorary Members and Associate Members shall be exempt from payment of Membership Fees.

§ 11 Termination of Membership

- (1) Membership shall be terminated upon:
 - a) Death of natural persons,
 - b) Dissolution or loss of legal personality by other Members specified in § 4,
 - c) Withdrawal from Membership,
 - d) Exclusion.
- (2) Notification of the intended withdrawal from Membership shall be given by registered letter not later than two months prior to the end of each calendar year, otherwise the Member shall be liable for payment of his or her Membership Fee for another year.



(3) The Board of Directors may decide to exclude a Member if his or her conduct is detrimental to the interests or reputation of the Society, or if he or she fails to meet his or her obligations vis-a-vis the Society although he or she has been admonished to do so. However, prior to his or her exclusion, the Member shall be given the opportunity to comment on the motion to exclude him or her from Membership. Forfeiture of Membership shall not discharge him or her from meeting any of his or her obligations.

§ 12 Organs of the Society

The Organs of the Society shall be the General Assembly, the Board of Directors, the Auditors, and the Board of Arbitration. Exercise of any function in the Society by its Members shall be on an honorary basis.

§ 13 The General Assembly

(1) In the course of the first six months of each year the Members of the Society shall be convened to a General Assembly. To elect the Business Management, the Auditors, the non-delegated Members of the Chair as well as the Committee Members, provided that the term of office (§14, para. 2) has expired.

Its duties shall be:

- a) To elect the Business Management, the Auditors, the non-delegated Members of the Chair as well as the Committee Members, provided that the term of office (§ 14, para. 2) has expired.
- b) To accept the report of activities and the financial statement, to give formal approval of the Board's action;
- c) To fix membership (sponsors') fees;
- d) To appoint Honorary Presidents and Honorary Members;
- e) To take decisions on motions submitted by Members, the Board of Directors, or an Auditor;
- f) To take decisions on the amendment of the Statutes;
- g) To decide upon the dissolution of the Society.

(2) If necessary, the Chair may convene an extraordinary General Assembly any time; the Chair shall have the obligation to convene an extraordinary General Assembly if so



requested by the Board of Directors, an Auditor or one fourth of all Members.

(3) The General Assembly shall be convened in writing at least one month in advance. If properly convened, the General Assembly shall have a quorum regardless of the number of Members present.

(4) Motions by Members shall be submitted to the President at least one week in advance.

(5) Decisions shall require a simple majority of the votes cast. Votes may be cast by acclamation. Excluded are decisions acc. to para.1, f and g, which require a three fourths majority and a vote by roll-call or by ballot.

§ 14 The Board of Directors

(1) The Board of Directors shall be composed of:

- a) The Chair,
- b) The Business Management,
- c) The Delegates.
- d) The Committee Members
- e) The two Chairmen of the Science & Technology Advisory Board

(2) The Board of Directors' term of office shall be four years. In any case, it shall last until the election of a new Board of Directors. Re-election shall be possible.

(3) The Board of Directors shall handle all matters not reserved for the Chair and the General Assembly. It shall define, in particular, the competences of all other Organs unless these have already been specified in the Statutes. The Board of Directors shall be convened by the President as required, however, at least twice a year. It must be convened at any rate within one month if this is requested by at least one third of its members. Decisions taken by the Board of Directors shall require a simple majority of votes; in case of a tie, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote; in case of his or her absence, his or her deputy shall have the casting vote.

(4) The Board of Directors shall be competent to make decisions if all members have been invited in writing at least two weeks in advance and shall have a quorum if at least one



third of its members, one of whom must be the President or one of his or her deputies, are present.

§ 15 The Chair

(1) The Chair shall be composed of the President and the Vice-Presidents. The President shall be appointed by the Federal State of Carinthia. The Vice-Presidents shall be appointed by those Regular Members, who annually pay financial minimum dues, as well as by those Common Representatives of all other Members, who are being elected by the General Assembly.

(2) The amount of these minimum dues shall be composed of the Membership Fee and other annual supporting dues and shall be determined by the General Assembly.

(3) The President shall represent the Society in the public, supervise the management of the Society, and sign all important documents jointly with the Secretary. He or she shall convene the Board of Directors and the General Assembly and chair these meetings. In case of his or her absence, he or she shall be represented by one of the Vice-Presidents.

(4) The Chair shall run the current affairs of the Society, submit motions on matters concerning the Board of Directors and the General Assembly and implement their decisions. It shall meet as required.

(5) The Chair shall be competent to make decisions if all members have been invited in writing at least two weeks in advance by either the President or by one of the Vice Presidents and shall have a quorum if at least three members, one of whom must be one of the Presidents, are present.

(6) Decisions by the Chair shall require simple majority; in case of a tie, the President or his or her deputy shall have the casting vote.



§ 16 The Business Management

(1) The Business Management shall be composed of the Business Manager, the Treasurer as well as their deputies. They shall be elected by the General Assembly.

(2) The Business Management shall transact the current business of the Society by order of the Chair. The Business Manager shall write the minutes of all meetings of the company organs and present them to the Board of Directors. Important documents, effective in public, shall be written jointly by the Business Manager and the President or his or her deputy.

§ 17 The Delegates

Every Regular Member shall have the right to depute a Delegate into the Board of Directors.

§ 18 The Committee Members

Committee Members are Members of the Board of Directors, who are not deputed by Members of the Society but who shall be elected by the General Assembly into the Board of Directors.

§ 19 The Science & Technology Advisory Board

(1) The Science & Technology Advisory Board shall be composed of a maximum of 12 (twelve) members, who must be engaged in scientific disciplines which are in line with the purpose of the Society. If needed, additional members may be co-opted for a limited period of time upon suggestion of the Science & Technology Advisory Board after approval by the Chair. The Science & Technology Advisory Board may seek the assistance of qualified professionals and of persons delegated by the Chair to deal with special issues.

(2) The Science & Technology Advisory Board shall discuss all technical and scientific matters associated with the purpose of the Society and pursue initiatives that serve the implementation of this purpose. It shall in particular maintain scientific contacts, handle research proposals, and supervise research projects, work out proposals for the



organization of events of the Society, and be actively involved in the organization of such events, in particular of the symposium INTERPRAEVENT. It shall submit the respective recommendations to the Board of Directors.

(3)The members of the Science & Technology Advisory Board and its qualified staff shall be appointed by the Board of Directors for the period of no longer than 4 (four) years upon proposal of the provisional Chairperson of the Science & Technology Advisory Board nominated by the Board of Directors. Upon a motion based on well-founded reasons by the Chairperson, the Board of Directors may prematurely remove individual members from their office. The members of the Science & Technology Advisory Board shall elect a Chairperson and his or her deputy from among themselves. This election shall be valid for the period of four years unless one third of the members apply for a reelection on the occasion of a meeting.

(4)The Science & Technology Advisory Board shall have a quorum if all members received an invitation to the meeting including an agenda at least two weeks in advance and if the meeting is attended by at least half of the members including one of the two Chairpersons.

The Chairperson shall convene the Science & Technology Advisory Board at least once a year. The members shall serve in the Science & Technology Advisory Board on an honorary basis.

Traveling expenses shall be refunded acc. to the Austrian Regulation for Official Journeys (Federal Law Gazette No. 61 I 1977) according to the current rates.

(5)Membership in the Science & Technology Advisory Board shall end:

- a) Upon expiration of the four-year term of office;
- b) Upon withdrawal at the member's request;
- c) Upon continual failure to carry out his or her activities for two consecutive years.

(6)Reelection of the Chairperson and of his or her deputy shall be possible only once.



§ 20 Working Groups

- (1) Special Working Groups may be installed to attend to special fields. Their installation requires the approval of the Board of Directors. Each Working Group may also engage the service of professionals who are not Members of the Society.
- (2) Each Working Group shall elect from among its team a supervisor and his or her deputy, who must be Members of the Society. The supervisor shall be responsible for handling the work in the Working Group.

§ 21 The Auditors

For review of the management of finances and of the financial statement the General Assembly shall elect two Auditors for the period of *four* years. They shall not be members of the Board of Directors. They shall submit the results of their audit to the General Assembly.

§ 22 The Board of Arbitration

- (1) Any disputes arising from Society relations shall be settled definitely by a Board of Arbitration composed of Members of the Society, in which each party to the dispute shall be represented by a spokesperson. They shall agree on a third Member to act as umpire; if no agreement can be reached, the latter shall be appointed by the President. The arbitral award shall be executed by the President.
- (2) Decisions by the Board of Arbitration shall be taken by simple majority. Abstention from voting shall not be permitted.

§ 23 Dissolution of the Society

- (1) The Members shall be notified of a motion to dissolve the Society at least four weeks prior to the General Assembly convened for this purpose. The motion can be adopted only if at least one third of the Members are present at the General Assembly.
- (2) If the Assembly has no quorum, a second General Assembly with the same agenda shall be convened as set forth above, which shall have a quorum irrespective of the



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number of Members present. Reference shall be made in the invitation to this circumstance.

(3) In the event of dissolution or of official rescission or of discontinuation of the preferential purpose of the Society, it shall be guaranteed, that the remaining assets of the Society shall be used for purposes of benefiting donation only as defined by § 4 para. 4 line 5 Income Tax Act 1988 in connection with § 34, Federal Fiscal Code.

This is the sixth, most recent version of the Statutes, which includes all amendments decided upon by all previous General Assemblies that were not interdicted by the Security Office of the Province of Carinthia. The most recent Non-Interdiction Notice of the Security Office was issued on May 22nd, 2006, file number: Vr-606/06.