

## Resolution for Preparation of an Arctic Vegetation Archive

Whereas, the distribution, characteristics, and history of Arctic flora and vegetation are of essential importance with regard to (1) knowledge of how circumpolar terrestrial ecosystems interact with climate and contribute to the changing earth system, (2) conservation of the biodiversity of these regions; and (3) increasing exploration and development in the circumpolar nations; and

Whereas, our knowledge of arctic regions and the environmental constraints on arctic vegetation has increased;

Whereas, no single existing classification accurately portrays the synthesis of existing knowledge of the vegetation of the circumpolar Arctic;

Whereas an Arctic Vegetation Archive will be useful for a wide variety of purposes, including: Preserving legacy data sets in danger of being lost; classifying and analyzing Arctic vegetation; designing, locating and extrapolating field experiments; identifying research gaps; mapping, remote sensing of vegetation, habitat types, and land cover; assessing Arctic terrestrial biodiversity and biogeographic relationships; modeling functions and ecosystem services of Arctic vegetation; educating scientists, the public and policy makers about the value of Arctic terrestrial systems in relation to the global system; land-use planning, conserving and managing Arctic terrestrial ecosystems.

And whereas the International Arctic Research Committee and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna have endorsed the concept of an international Arctic vegetation database,

Be it resolved that the international community of Arctic vegetation scientists undertakes the joint tasks of:

**1) Developing an international organizational framework and securing funds for the Arctic Vegetation Archive (AVA); 2) compiling vegetation plot data (relevés) into the AVA using the Panarctic species lists as a common taxonomical base; 3) developing a syntaxonomical classification for the circumpolar Arctic; 4) publishing a compilation of Arctic vegetation types (Prodrum) and a bibliography of Arctic vegetation studies; and 5) promoting application of the AVA to northern issues.**

Finally, be it resolved that the undersigned scientists will create a prototype Arctic Vegetation Archive by the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (ICARP III) in 2017.

*[Handwritten signatures of scientists]*

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