

## IOS STATUTES

*Version ratified by the 34th IOS Congress October 2017*

**Art. 1. Name:** The name of the Organization is ‘International Organization for Succulent Plant Study’ (‘Internationale Organisation für Sukkulenten-Forschung’; ‘Organisation Internationale de Recherches sur les Plantes Succulentes’; ‘Organización Internacional para el Estudio de Plantas Suculentas’)

**Art. 2. Objects:** The objects of IOS shall be to promote the study and conservation of succulent and allied plants and to encourage international collaboration amongst those interested in them.

The objects of IOS will be achieved by the following means:

- a. congresses;
- b. publication and distribution of information, reports and other scientific publications;
- c. promotion of all possible collaboration between members;
- d. facilitation and support of the work of appropriate organizations and individuals;
- e. organization and support of Reserve Collections of living plants, herbaria, reference libraries and the exchange and introduction of plant material.

**Art. 3. Status:** IOS is a member of the International Union for Biological Sciences (IUBS).

**Art. 4. Membership:** IOS consists of:

1. Personal Members
  - a. Ordinary Members
  - b. Student Members
  - c. Honorary Members
  - d. Retired (*Emeritus*) Members
  - e. Regional/National Representatives
2. Institutional Members

**Art. 5. Admission:** Applications for Personal Membership shall be submitted on an official form provided by the Secretary or downloaded from the IOS website. All applications shall be considered by the Executive Board, at whose discretion admission shall be granted

Applications for Student Membership shall be approved and countersigned by the student’s Supervisor.

Honorary Membership may be conferred on individuals who have rendered the IOS services or to IOS members who have excelled in succulent plant activities. Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary at least three months before a Congress. Nominations approved by the Executive Board shall be ratified by the Congress.

Application for Institutional Membership may be made by any recognized Institution or Organization wishing to support the objectives of IOS, receive its publications and/or participate in its activities. Applicants are requested to provide the name(s) and postal and e-mail address(es) of persons to whom IOS should send its publications and other communications including subscription renewal invoices.

If the partner of an IOS Ordinary or Emeritus Member wishes to participate in IOS activities they may do so, and be included in the membership list, without applying for personal membership or paying the subscription, but will not be entitled to vote at the General Meeting.

**Art. 6. Withdrawal of membership:** Membership of IOS may be terminated by resignation or by decision of the Executive Board when the member no longer fulfils the conditions stipulated in these Statutes or acts against the interest of IOS, subject to appeal at the next Congress.

**Art. 7. Management:** The management of IOS shall be vested in an Executive Board consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and two other members. The Executive Board shall be responsible for putting into effect the decisions of the Congress, for preparing the Organization's budget and carrying out its provisions, and shall assist the President in every activity that furthers the aims of the Organization. The Executive Board shall have the power to make, amend or delete bye-laws to assist the operation of the Statutes. Bye-laws may also be deleted by a simple majority vote at the Congress. It is desirable that the Executive Board should be composed of members of different nationalities.

**Art. 8. Vacancies:** Vacancies in the Executive Board occurring between Congresses shall be filled by nomination from the Executive Board.

**Art. 9. Tenure:** All members of the Executive Board shall hold office between two consecutive Congresses. The officers shall be eligible for re-election, but the President and Vice-President shall not normally serve more than two consecutive terms of office.

**Art. 10. Board Meetings:** The Executive Board shall meet in person at least once per year when practicable. The quorum for a meeting shall be three members.

**Art. 11. Election of Executive Board:**

Written nominations, proposed and seconded by members of IOS and bearing the consent of the member nominated, shall be invited prior to each Congress for all posts on the Board. Nominations in writing must be in the hands of the Secretary not less than three months before a Congress. If more than one nomination is received for any post, there shall be a postal ballot of all members, to be decided by a simple majority.

**Art. 12. Finance:** The activities of IOS shall be financed by donations, bequests and such other income as may be available.

**Art. 13. Exemptions** [Deleted 2017]

**Art. 14. Congresses:** Congresses shall be held (so far as is possible) biennially.

**Art. 15. Congress Venue and Organization:** The venue for the Congress shall be chosen by the Executive Board taking account of the wishes of members. A Local Organizer shall be appointed to act in liaison with the Executive Board. All financial and programme arrangements shall be subject to the agreement of the Executive Board.

**Art. 16. General Meeting:** A General Meeting of members shall be held at each Congress for the transaction of the following business: Presentation, discussion and ratification of the Organization's reports and accounts for the preceding inter-Congress period and plans for the future, with the appropriate budget; election of Honorary Members; election of the Executive Board for the ensuing inter-Congress period; election of auditors; discussion of other matters raised by or submitted to the Executive Board prior to the Congress.

All Members except Student Members shall have one vote. The chairman of the Meeting shall have the casting vote.

**Art. 17. Amendments to Statutes:** Amendments to these statutes may be proposed by the Executive Board or in writing by at least four members. Proposals must be in the hands of the Secretary at least three months prior to a Congress. To be adopted, any proposal involving a change to the Statutes, or the dissolution of the Organization, must be supported by two-thirds of the members present at the General Meeting.

**Art. 18. Disposal of Assets and Properties:** In the event of the dissolution of the Organization, the Executive Board shall be empowered to dispose of the Organization's assets and properties to one or more kindred organizations.

## IOS BYELAWS

1. **Language.** The official language of IOS is English, but contributions in other major scientific languages are acceptable, and it is desirable that a translation should be given of important notices and other communications.

2. **Subscription.** [Suspended]

3. **Publications.** The Organization's official publications are IOS Bulletin and Repertorium Plantarum Succulentarum, which shall be issued annually and normally free of charge to members. Members wishing to receive printed copies of publications distributed to the majority of members electronically may be asked to contribute to the cost of printing and mailing in addition to the basic biennial subscription.

4. **Research material.** Members are recommended to donate type material of succulent plant taxa described by them, along with complete documentation and relevant publications, to the Zurich Succulent Collection (Zürich Sukkulanten-Sammlung) and/or other major botanical institutions associated with IOS.'

5. **Reserve Collections.** IOS, in association with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), will promote the establishment of a network of 'Reserve Collections' of living cacti and other succulent plants and measures to assess and enhance the potential of these collections as a resource for research and conservation.

6. **IOS Research Fund.** The IOS Research Fund shall be administered by the Executive Board assisted by external assessors as necessary. Application for grants may be made at any time to the Secretary, but at least four months before funds are required. Applications should include a Project Plan, timetable and budget, names of collaborators, institutional contacts, other actual or potential sources of funding, and names of referees. Successful applicants will be expected to present a written report and/or oral presentation at an IOS Congress and part of their grant may be allocated as a contribution to travel expenses incurred in presenting the report to an IOS Congress.

## The IOS Code of Conduct: Needing revision or replacement?

The IOS Code of Conduct was drawn up by members of the original IOS Conservation Committee following the IOS Congress in 1973. Although national and state controls were already in force in some countries it initially predated CITES and was, so far as known, the first such voluntary Code of Conduct for plant collectors. Following its adoption and publication in the IOS Bulletin 3(4): 127–129 (1975) followed by 2nd edition (l.c. 4(3): 113–115 (1988) and was published by several cactus and succulent hobby societies in various languages. With the introduction of CITES in 1976 and the benefit of feedback from users, the text of the Code was somewhat revised but its recommendations have remained unchanged, as has the unwritten rule and requirement that applicants for IOS membership agree to observe them, any member failing to do so being liable, under the wording of Article 6 of the Statutes, to expulsion on grounds of “acting against the interests of IOS”.

With the provisions of CITES in force since 1976 and more recently those of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, coupled with stricter national regulations and enforcement, some of the basic recommendations in the Code have become legal obligations, at least for the law-abiding, on pain of confiscation of collected plants and plant materials, financial penalties and potential incarceration. Of the other recommendations, some were included with the aim of discouraging the commercial exploitation of wild populations, and some to encourage establishment of *ex situ* institutional or private collections of well-documented plants for research or comparative study, but a guide to the current international legislation and to regulations in countries popular with succulent plant enthusiasts would be more useful. The booklet by Andrew Gdaniec and Olwen Grace “Growing Cacti for successful *ex situ* conservation” (2014), the first publication under the joint auspices of IOS and BGCI (Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) points in this direction with short chapters on the role of *ex situ* collections in conservation, cactus distribution and ecology, cultivation and *ex situ* conservation, management of specialist collections and reserve collections and it is to be hoped a more comprehensive Manual could be produced by IOS/BGCI, if not the IUCN SSC.

As a reminder of the original ‘Code of Conduct’ and its ‘Do’s and Don’ts’ it is here reprinted on the following two pages.

D.H.

## **The IOS Code of Conduct**

### **To the Collector in the Field:**

#### ***Before collecting anything:***

- DO acquaint yourself with CITES and national and state controls, and find out which species are protected.
- DO obtain all necessary permits, both for collecting and for export and import to other countries.
- DO notify interested local organizations of your intentions.

#### ***Then:***

- DO strictly observe restrictions on what may be collected (which species, how many specimens, what kind of material). Where possible, collect seed, offsets or cuttings, not the whole plant.
- DO leave mature plants for seed production. They are needed to perpetuate the wild population, and are unlikely to transplant successfully.
- DO collect discreetly. Don't lead local people to believe the plants are valuable, or encourage or pay them (or their children) to collect for you.
- DO make careful field-notes, including precise locality, altitude, type of vegetation and soil, date of collection and your own field number. Try to assess the number of individuals and extent of the population, the amount of seed-setting and the frequency of seedlings.
- DO note possible threats to the habitat, e.g. through grazing, drainage or cultivation, urban spread or road-widening.
- DO take photographs and/or preserve representative herbarium material. Submit this material, with a copy of your notes, to an appropriate institution or organization.
- DON'T underrate the value of your field observations: carefully recorded they will be a useful contribution to science and to conservation.

IF you plan to collect in commercial quantities, don't.

IF you plan to sell any of the plants you collect to defray the cost of your trip, don't.

IF you plan to collect for research or study, do obtain the agreement (and preferably the collaboration) of competent scientific authorities, such as a government agency or university department, in the host country.

IF you think "two or three plants won't be missed", remember someone else may be thinking the same tomorrow, and the next day, and the next...

### **To the Importer, Private or Commercial:**

DON'T import wild plants, even if legally permitted, except as a nucleus for propagation and seed-production. And then:

- DO check the credentials of suppliers offering wild plants and satisfy yourself they are "legal".
- Do observe international and national export/import regulations.

### **To the Nurseryman:**

DO sell nursery-raised or propagated material only; don't advertise or sell unpropagated wild plants under any circumstances, even when legally permitted to do so.

DO try to propagate all rare or documented material and distribute it to recognized IOS Reference Collections.

DO keep more than one clone of rare species, even self-fertile ones, for seed production.

DO keep careful records of the origin of all stock, especially any with collectors' numbers or locality data, and pass on the information to interested purchasers.

**To the Grower/Collector at Home:**

- DO make successful cultivation your prime objective, not the size of your collection or rarity of the plants.
- DON'T buy any plant unless you are sure it was nursery-grown; remember that your choice will influence the seller's market.
- DON'T buy wild-collected plants even if with the aim of saving the "individual". We want to save the species, not the specimen. Only when importers see their wild-collected plants rotting because nobody buys them they will stop the import of wild-collected plants.
- DO enjoy the satisfaction of raising from seed. Some of the rare or "difficult" species will test your skill and patience, but reward your success accordingly!
- DO record when and from whom you got your plant/seeds, and ask your source for any data: collector's numbers, locality, and so on: all just as vital, to the serious enthusiast, as the name on the label.
- DO try to propagate rare and documented material and distribute it to other enthusiasts. It's the old proverb: To keep a plant, give it away!
- DO notify the IOS secretary if you suspect a supplier is infringing legal controls.

**To the Society and Club:**

- DO endorse the precepts of this Code of Conduct, as a guide for responsible and conscientious behaviour.
- DON'T permit wild plants to be advertised for sale in your publications, either openly or by hints.
- DO publicize national and international regulations on the export, import and sale of wild plants.
- DO sponsor or support national and international measures to protect the habitats of rare and threatened species.
- DO inform the competent authorities of any suspect sale of collected plants. If you know of people travelling to countries where succulents grow wild, with the intention to collecting, inform the competent authorities; the best way to stop habitat exploitation by collectors is to catch them at the port of entry with the plants in hand.

**To the Show Committee and Judges:**

- DO include in the schedule some classes for plants raised from seed by the exhibitor.
- DON'T permit species protected by CITES Appendix I to be shown in competitive classes, except as seedlings or other propagations raised artificially.
- DO make a policy of giving preference to well-grown seedlings over field-collected plants. Check that obvious or suspected "imports" are properly rooted and established.