



The origins of ISOMED (International Society for Mediterranean Ecology) go back to March 1971, when the first international meeting of Mediterranean-climate ecologists took place in Valdivia, Chile.

At this meeting it was decided to begin a cycle of international conferences on Mediterranean-climate ecosystems that would rotate through time among the five Mediterranean-climate regions of the world: South and Western Australia; California (USA-Mexico); the Cape region of South Africa; Central Chile; and the Mediterranean Basin itself.

The second meeting was held at Stanford, California in 1977; the third at Stellenbosch, South Africa in 1980 and the fourth at Perth, Australia in 1984 and was called MEDECOS.



At the 4th Mediterranean conference at Perth it was proposed that a society be formed to ensure the continuity of the international conferences that had proved so important in fostering inter-continental comparisons and in advancing knowledge of the nature of the unique Mediterranean-climatic regions.

The Society of Mediterranean Ecologists (ISOMED) was thus formed.

The objectives of the Society were to promote communication among ecologists working in the five Mediterranean-climate regions of the world through the continuation of the international conferences, as well as through special symposia and exchanges of personnel.

1971 – Valdivia, Chile  
 1976 – Stanford, California  
 1980 – Stellenbosch, South Africa  
 1984 – Perth, Western Australia



### History of MEDECOS Conferences and ISOMED

1987 – Montpellier, France  
 1991 – Crete, Greece  
 1994 – Reñaca, Chile  
 1997 – San Diego, California  
 2000 - Stellenbosch, South Africa

TREE, 11, 1996



At MEDECOS 10<sup>TH</sup> Conference, Rhodes, Greece



MEDECOS 10<sup>TH</sup> Conference, Rhodes, Greece

The decision of forming an official scientific association was made





# International Society for **M**editerranean Ecology



## Structure of ISOMED

Legal body → yes

by-laws → yes (<http://www.medecosxi2007.com.au/isomed>) and  
(<http://uaeco.biol.uoa.gr>)

Headquarters: Lisbon, Portugal

Organs (executive committee and audit board) → yes

Logo → not yet

## Structure of ISOMED

### Executive committee

Vanda Acacio (Portugal)  
Miguel Bugalho (Portugal)  
Francisco Moreira (Portugal)  
Francisco Rego (Portugal)

Margarita Arianoutsou (Greece)  
Costas Thanos (Greece)

Dave Olson (California)  
Philip Rundel (California)

Grant Wardell-Johnson (Australia)

Karen Esler (South-Africa)

Pablo Marquet (Chile)  
Lohengrin Cavieres (Chile), ad hoc - organizer of MEDECOS XII



### Why ISOMED?

- Visibility and a voice for MED Ecology
- Promotion of collaborations
- Interregional comparisons
- Website for communication, MED ecology news, and access to other MED researchers

### Objectives

- a) To promote and improve communication and cooperation among investigators, educators, environmental managers, and human communities in the five mediterranean-climate regions of the world.
- b) To promote an awareness of the global significance of mediterranean-climate ecosystems, their biodiversity, and their conservation within the scientific community, resource managers, and the general public.
- c) To promote research in all aspects of the ecology and conservation of mediterranean-climate regions.

### Objectives

- d) To encourage the preservation of biodiversity in mediterranean-climate regions and to safeguard it for posterity for its intrinsic worth and its aesthetic and tangible values to humanity.
- e) To promote education in the ecology and conservation of mediterranean-climate regions.
- f) To provide expert knowledge to government and non-government agencies and organizations whose administrative decisions affect Mediterranean-climate habitats and their biota.
- g) To encourage the establishment, improvement, maintenance and accessibility of physical facilities, databases, and collections of biological materials for the study of Mediterranean-climate ecosystems and their conservation.



### Future Plans

Thematic meetings: desertification, restoration ecology, invasive species, etc

Training courses

Networks

Databases and collections

Source of MED expert knowledge

Promotion of science-based ecology in resource management in MED areas

Journal of MED Ecology? (pros and cons, need for a strong editor)