

Bylaws of the TropiRoot Research Group

August 30th, 2024 (Daniela Cusack)

Article 1: NAME

The official name of this research group shall be "TropiRoot," which stands for "Tropical Root Trait Initiative."

Article 2: PURPOSE

The purpose of TropiRoots shall be to promote research and education in studies of roots in tropical biomes. In particular, the group is interested in root characteristics, dynamics, and function in tropical forest ecosystems, how roots respond to natural and anthropogenic disturbances, and drivers of variation over space and time. The Section shall act as a hub for tropical root researchers around the world, linking these researchers to funding agencies, professional societies, and other related researchers (e.g. modelers, soil and forest research). The purpose of Tropiroot shall be reviewed and renewed by a vote of the membership every **two years**.

Article 3: MEMBERS

Any researcher or practitioner, regardless of career stage, interested in tropical root characteristics and dynamics may request to be added to the membership list and will be invited to open meetings (held quarterly to biannually). Members will in turn be asked to make a 5-minute presentation to the larger group about their own interests or research in tropical roots at some point. There is no fee for membership.

Article 4: GOVERNANCE AND TRANSITIONS

Article 4a: OFFICERS

The officers of TropiRoots shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Membership Director, Publicity and Outreach Director, Grants Coordinator, and Database Director (listed below in Articles 5 - 11). The Chairperson and Vice-Chair shall be elected by majority vote taken by written and/or electronic ballot of members of the group, with any member free to nominate themselves or someone else to run in the open election for positions. The other officers can be appointed by the Chairperson from any members who volunteer. Officers can serve multiple

terms, but preferably these would not be continuous in order to open up leadership opportunities to new individuals each cycle. The Past-Chairperson shall stay on for the first 6-months to help orient the newly elected officers. Service terms shall be 1.5 years, with an additional 0.5 year overlap with new officers for training. Each officer will lead a team as they choose to help them complete their goals for TropiRoot.

Article 4b: LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

In intervals between large group meetings, the Leadership Committee composed of the officers listed below (~8-10 officers) and members of their teams as interested shall meet to discuss the management and direction of TropiRoot.

Article 4c: CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson shall preside at the meetings of TropiRoots, take the lead on organizing these meetings, and help coordinate new projects among members. The Chair will also help ensure fair authorship and co-PI practices among members for group efforts. The Chairperson shall serve for a term of two years, with the final 0.5 years served as advisor to the Vice-Chair as they prepare to move into the Chairperson position if they wish. Otherwise, an open election will be held for a new Chairperson during the final 0.5 years.

Article 4e: VICE-CHAIR

The Vice-Chair shall keep the records of TropiRoots, ensure note taking and recording of meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be needed to assist the Chair with setting up and running meetings, for a term of 2 years. During the final 0.5 years, the Vice-Chair will prepare to move up and take over the Chairperson role, unless the Leadership committee or Vice-Chair decide to have open elections for Chairperson.

Article 4f: PAST-CHAIRPERSON

Upon completion of terms, past Chairpersons have the option to stay on the Leadership Committee, and can help train or fill in positions as needed..

Article 4g: MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Shall monitor the social media and Gmail accounts monthly to look for new requests for membership, and ensure that the membership list is updated with emails. This director may also maintain a listserv for TropiRoots announcements.

Article 4h: The PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Shall promote TropiRoot's interests through maintaining and updating the Section's web page and social media accounts with new events and publications of the group. This director will also pursue ways to publicize and support TropiRoot efforts at meetings, conferences, and other media outlets.

Article 4i: GRANTS COORDINATOR

Shall maintain a list of all active, submitted, or upcoming grant proposals that are relevant to TropiRoots' activities, ensuring that there is no overlap.

Article 4j: DATABASE DIRECTOR

shall lead efforts to continue extraction of data from the literature for the TropiRoot database in coordination with FRED. The extent of the work on this can vary depending on funding and time availability, but at the least the position will monitor the status of the database and data extraction.

Article 5: FINANCES

The group currently has no funds or finances, but if workshop, grants, etc. become available, the PIs of that grant shall administer those.

No officer or member shall have authority to incur any expense in the name of TropiRoot, except as specified within approved grants.

Article 6: MEETINGS

Quarterly to biannual large-group meetings shall be coordinated by the Chair and Vice-Chair, and shall be open to all TropiRoots members. Leadership committee meetings will be held up to 12 times per year, and shall only include the officers and their teams.

Article 7: PUBLICATION AUTHORSHIP AND GRANT CO-PI INCLUSION

Authorship and positions as co-PI on TropiRoot publications and grant proposals shall have a general policy of broad inclusivity of any members that feel they contributed, acknowledging that grant proposals typically limit the number of Co-PI allowed. Specific suggestions and guidelines are presented in our [authorship and grant guidelines](#) as agreed upon by the Leadership Committee.

Article 8: AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be approved or amended by two-thirds vote of the Leadership Committee.