

International Committee Report_2010
Submitted by Patrick Bourgeron and Kristin Vanderbilt, IC co-Chairs
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1. International Committee membership and leadership
 - Kristin has been named acting co-chair by the currently active IC members. In/around August 2010, with a fully reconstituted IC, elections will be held by the IC to formally elect a co-chair, who will hold the position for two years (one year as junior co-chair, and the second year as the senior co-chair). Patrick will remain as senior co-chair until August 2011. In December 2010, another co-Chair will be elected who will become the junior co-Chair in August 2011.
 - It was also agreed by the currently active IC members that the IC should have ten members. Phil Robertson solicited suggestions for members from the sites, which included requesting from candidates a statement of their ILTER interests. A list of candidates for membership was compiled and recommendations will be made for Phil Robertson and the EB on new members.

2. Relation with NSF
 - Upon request, Patrick wrote a proposal for funding the IC and the ILTER submitted to Henry Gholz and OISE. IC funding will be provided for 5 years (starting in June 2009) through LNO. ILTER funding venue is under study by OISE.

3. ILTER Information Management
 - Kristin Vanderbilt serves as chair of the ILTER Information Management Committee (IMC). The goal of the ILTER IMC is to develop an information management system that can serve the whole ILTER community. It has been agreed that each of the regions of the ILTER will have its own Metacat (metadata database), to which members of that region will publish their EML metadata. The challenge now is to get the scientists in ILTER to create metadata. To facilitate metadata submission, Kristin developed a PowerPoint presentation that illustrates, step-by-step, how to generate EML documents using the Morpho metadata editor. This has been distributed to the IM Contact and lead PI in each ILTER country network. In addition, Kristin has arranged for all the ILTER Metacats – operated by TERN (Taiwan Ecological Research Network), JaLTER (Japan LTER), SAEON (South African Environmental Observation Network), and LTER Israel to replicate to the LTER Israel Metacat, so there is a single location from which to extract ILTER data.

 - With support from TERN, Kristin participated in the Forest Dynamics Plot Workshop at Lienhuachih Research Center, Taiwan from June 14-18, 2009. Other participants were IMs and scientists from the US, Japan, and Malaysia. The goal of the workshop was to have scientists and IMs interact to ensure that the

developing Center for Tropical Forest Science (CTFS) data management system would meet scientists' needs. A workflow system was developed using Kepler for data visualization. A paper on this experience has been submitted to the *Journal of Tropical Ecology*. Kristin is a coauthor.

- Kristin and other members of the ILTER IMC organized three sessions at the US LTER's All Scientists Meeting in 2009. These sessions were intended to advance Information Management education in the ILTER, including US LTER. All sessions were well attended. The sessions were:
 - 1) A Virtual Learning Commons for LTER Information Management: Vision and Web 2.0 Support (<http://asm.lternet.edu/2009/workgroups/virtual-learning-commons-lter-im-vision-and-web-20-support>). The objective of this workshop was to brainstorm about what IMs would want from a Virtual Learning Commons if one were implemented.
 - 2) Key Elements of Site-Based Information Management: A Curriculum for Educating Ecological Information Managers (<http://asm.lternet.edu/2009/workgroups/key-elements-site-based-long-term-information-management-curriculum-educating-ecolog>). In this session, scientists and IMs brainstormed about what an LTER IM should know.
 - 3) Assessing the IM Training Video Series: Viewer Feedback and Panel Discussion (<http://asm.lternet.edu/2009/workgroups/assessing-im-training-video-series-viewer-feedback-and-panel-discussion>) US IMs Linda Powell, Eda Melendez-Colom, and Jonathan Walsh participated in a panel discussion where they answered questions from an audience of visiting ILTER information managers. The panel was videotaped by Inigo San Gil (LNO), and is to be divided into several "question-length" videos for addition to the ILTER Video Training Series (<http://www.lternet.edu/training/training-online-resources-collection>).
 - Kristin and other members of the ILTER IMC published an article in *Ecological Informatics* describing the challenges that the ILTER faces in building an information management system that is meaningful across cultures and languages. The citation is: Vanderbilt, Kristin L., David Blankman, Xuebing Guo, Honglin He, Chau-Chin Lin, Sheng-Shan Lu, Akiko Ogawa, Éamonn Ó Tuama, Herbert Schentz, Wen Su. 2010. *A multilingual metadata catalog for the ILTER: Issues and approaches*. *Ecological Informatics* 5: 187-193.
4. ILTER Science Committee
- Patrick Bourgeron serves as the ILTER Science Committee Chair. The role of the committee is to define the ILTER science agenda, develop, and implement science initiatives.
 - Patrick continues to lead the Ecosystem Service initiative of the International Long Term Ecological Research Network

<http://www.ilternet.edu/research/ecosystem-services-assessment/esa-project-files/letter-from-patrick-bourgeron>).

- Patrick organized with 2 ILTER colleagues the ILTER synthesis workshop (over 2 days) on Ecosystem Services at the All Scientists Meeting in 09/09, NSF sponsored. “ILTER Synthesis Workshop: Interactions among ecosystem services, ecosystem dynamics, and human outcomes and behavior.” 2009 All Scientists Meeting, Estes Park, Colorado. <http://asm.ilternet.edu/2009/workgroups/ilter-synthesis-workshop-interactions-among-ecosystem-services-ecosystem-dynamics-an>
- Status of the ES initiative. The synthesis is almost completed. Two manuscripts are in preparation. This initiative (partially funded by NSF) is gaining international visibility. Negotiations are underway to link to some extent the initiative to the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON, the biodiversity arm of the Global Earth Observation System of System of Systems, GEOSS) and the Global Land Project (a joint research project for land systems for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program, IGBP, and the International Human Dimensions Program, IHDP).
- Patrick organized a workshop on international research at the All Scientists Meeting in 09/09. NSF sponsored. “Implementing the ILTER Science Agenda: Defining International and Regional Science Initiatives. 2009. ILTER Science Agenda and the US LTER Global, Site-Based, Social-Ecological science.” <http://asm.ilternet.edu/2009/workgroups/implementing-ilter-science-agenda-defining-international-and-regional-science-initia>