

Collaborative LTER Research in the Baltic Region



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East Asia Pacific Regional LTER Network

- Australia
- China
- China-Taipei
- Mongolia
- South Korea

North American Regional LTER Network

- Canada
- Mexico
- United States

Central/Eastern European Regional LTER Network

- Austria
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Poland
- Slovak Republic
- Ukraine

African Regional LTER Network

- Mozambique
- Namibia
- South Africa
- Zambia

Middle East Regional LTER Network

- Israel

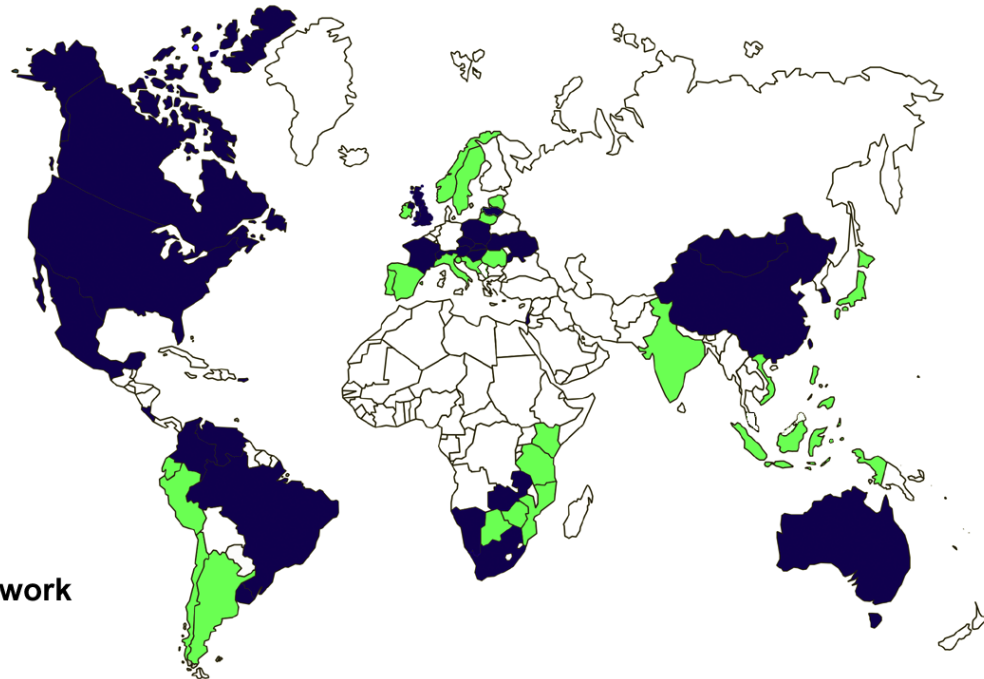
Western European Regional LTER Network

- France
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

Central/South American Regional LTER Network

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

The International Long Term Ecological Research Network



■ Official ILTER Networks
■ Countries Considering LTER Networks

Argentina	Ireland	Philippines
Botswana	Italy	Romania
Chile	Japan	Slovenia
Croatia	Kenya	Spain
Ecuador	Lithuania	Sweden
Estonia	Norway	Tanzania
India	Portugal	Vietnam
Indonesia	Peru	Zimbabwe

Updated August 04



ILTER Organization

- **ILTER Chairperson:** Hen-biau King (Taiwan)
- **ILTER Executive Committee**
 - Western Europe - Christian Leveque (France)
 - Central/Eastern Europe - Julius Oszlanyi (Slovakia)
 - North America - Manuel Maass (Mexico)
 - Central/South America - Jorge Jimenez (Costa Rica)
 - East Asia/Pacific - Zhao Shidong (China)
 - Southern Africa (ELTOSA) - Johan Pauw (S. Africa)
- **ILTER Coordinating Committee**

Consists of one voting person from each ILLTER member network
- **ILTER Support**

Short-term support for a coordinator to insure success during transition - John VandeCastle (USA)



Baltic Regional Network

- **Countries represented at this meeting:**
 - Belarus
 - Finland
 - Lithuania
 - Russia
 - Ukraine
 - Estonia
 - Latvia
 - Poland
 - Sweden
- **Other potential collaborators for future research:**
 - Denmark
 - Germany
 - Additional Russian Collaborators



Long-term research is necessary to reveal:

- Slow or transient processes
- Episodic or infrequent events
- Trends
- Multi-factor responses
- Processes with major time lags



THE IMPORTANCE OF CROSS-SITE SYNTHESIS

“The power of the network approach of the LTER program rests in the ability to compare similar processes (e.g., primary production or decomposition of organic matter) under different ecological conditions. As a result, LTER scientists should be able to understand how fundamental ecological processes operate at different rates and in different ways under different environmental conditions” (Risser Report, 1993).



Information Management

Potential Database Product for the Baltic Network

Baltic Network Species Database:

- 1) select an organism such as birds or fish
- 2) compile species lists that are already in existence
- 3) note red book species
- 4) generate hypotheses that can be answered by “mining” these databases
- 5) could be conducted by a graduate student who follows up with the participants from this meeting

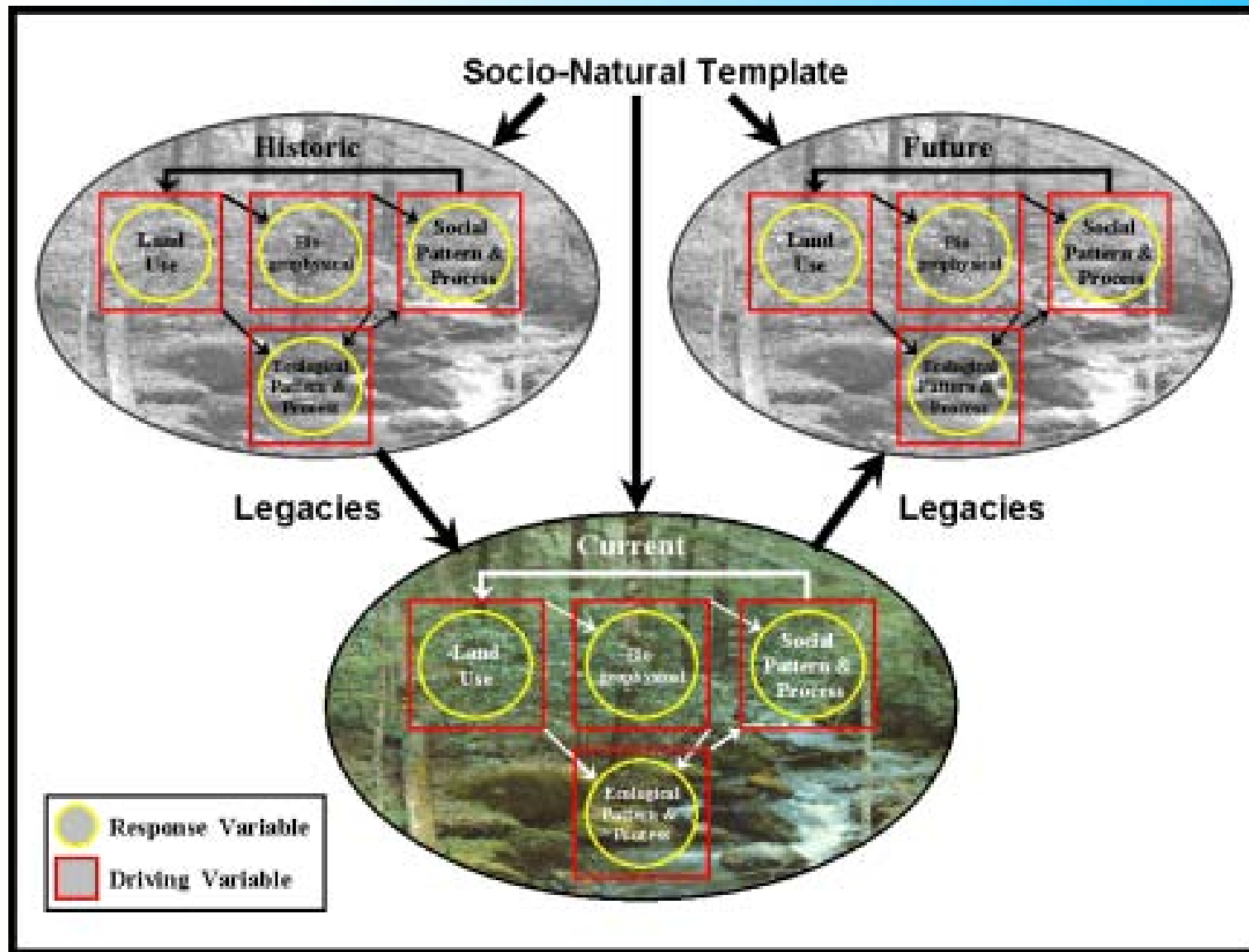


Potential Baltic Network Research Themes

- 1) Biodiversity Indicators
- 2) Bird Population Studies
links with climate change
- 3) Fish Population Studies
links with climate change
- 4) Land Use Change Utilizing Satellite Imagery



Coweeta LTER Land Use Change



Successful Research Projects from the CEE Regional Network

- **Detritus Input and Removal Treatments (DIRT)**
- Study started in 1957 at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum (Nielsen and Hole 1963)
- DIRT research sites were established at the Andrews and Harvard Forest LTER sites (US)
- Sikfokut DIRT site established in Hungary in 2000 with funding from Hungary and US-NSF



Successful Research Projects from the CEE Regional Network

Siemianice Site in Poland

*“Linking Leaf and Root Traits to Ecosystem Structure
and Function in a Common Garden Study of 14
Temperate Tree Species”*

- **Start Date** June 1, 2002
- **End Date** May 31, 2005 (Estimated)
- **NSF Award #0128958: \$630,804 US**
- **Investigators:** Jacek Oleksyn and Peter Reich



LTER Information on the Web

ILTER Network
www.ilternet.edu

US LTER Network
www.lternet.edu

Coweeta LTER Site
coweeta.ecology.uga.edu

