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*Announcing*  
*the First Annual Meeting*  
*of the*  
**THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL LTER NETWORK**  
*to be held in conjunction with the*  
**ESA Annual Meeting**  
**7 August 1999**  
**Spokane, Washington**

Following an initial workshop in 1993, the International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER) Network has developed to include networks of LTER sites from 16 countries. Additional countries are in the process of forming LTER Networks and will be added in the near future (see [Status of the ILTER Network](#)).

The formation of Regional LTER Networks is the most recent development in the International LTER Network. The purpose of Regional Networks is to:

- ◆ Focus on environmental issues common to neighboring countries,
- ◆ Facilitate exchanges of scientists and students,
- ◆ Establish scales of research appropriate to the Region.

Regional networks currently are in existence for East Asia, Latin America and Central Europe. Last November, at a meeting in Mexico, the principals of LTER Networks in Canada, U.S. and Mexico agreed to develop the North American Regional LTER Network to facilitate these efforts in this region.

This Special Session at ESA is the first annual meeting of representatives from Canada, the United States and Mexico - the three countries that make up the North American Regional ILTER Network. The meeting will begin to identify the:

- ◆ Existing research programs in the countries
- ◆ Characteristics of sites involved in the networks, and, most importantly,
- ◆ Regional scale questions that could be addressed through this network.

Holding this meeting in conjunction with the annual ESA meeting will broaden the discussion to include the larger ecological community as, well as identifying the research opportunities present in these sites and countries.

*The Current Agenda:*

◆ **ILTER Network**

9:00 - 9:20 James Gosz, "Introduction, ILTER overview and Regional LTER Network activities"

9:20 - 9:40 Gerardo Ceballos, "The Mexican Long-term ecological reserve network proposal"

9:40 - 10:00 Hague Vaughan, "The Canadian Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN): Its Evolution, Design and Policy Linkages"

10:00 - 10:15 Break

◆ **United States (U.S. LTER)**

10:15 - 10:40 Mark Harmon, "Crossing Borders: Continental-Scale Patterns of Decomposition"

10:40 - 11:05 David Lightfoot, "A Cross-site Experiment on faunal community control of vegetation at U.S. LTER"

sites (Sevilleta, Jornada) and Mapimi Biosphere Reserve (Mexico) "

11:05 - 11:30 K.E. Webster, P.A. Soranno, S.B. Baines, C.J. Bowser, T.K. Kratz, J.J. Magnuson, P.J. Dillon, P. Campbell, E.J. Fee, and R.E. Hecky, "Structuring Features of Lake Districts in Wisconsin and Ontario: Geomorphic and Landscape Controls on Lake Responses to Drought"

11:30 - 11:55 Jim Vose, "Comparative Analyses of Hydrologic Processes in Watersheds in Western Mexico and the Southeastern United States"

11:55 - 12:20 David Foster, Diego Perez Salicrup, and Deborah Lawrence, "Regional Analysis of Forest Ecosystem Response to Disturbance: Comparing Temperate and Tropical Landscapes"

12:20 - 12:30 Morning Summary/Afternoon Schedule

12:30 - 1:30 Break for Lunch

#### ◆ Mexican LTER Network (MEXLTER)

1:30 - 1:55 Manuel Maass, " Long-term nutrient cycling in a dry forest of western Mexico"

1:55 - 2:20 Enrique Jardel, " Long term research on human impacts in subtropical montane forests"

2:20 - 2:45 Rodrigo Medellin, "Long-term ecological research in the tropical rain forest of the Chajul Biological station, Chiapas"

2:45 - 3:10 Lucina Hernandez and Miguel Equihua, "Long-term ecological studies in desert habitats of the Mapimi biosphere reserve, Durango"

3:10 - 3:30 Break

#### ◆ Canada LTER Network (EMAN: Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network)

3:30 - 3:55 Cliff Drysdale, "Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia: An EMAN case study site"

3:55 - 4:20 Adam Fenech, "Linking EMAN case study sites and dispersed networks to provide an early warning capability"

4:20 - 4:45 Brian Craig, "Public Participation in EMAN: Using volunteers and linking with associated programs such as the UNESCO MAB"

4:45 Closing Summary

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