



LTER Intranet

Serving the LTER Community

LTER - US International Committee Report August 2004 Prepared by Steven Hamburg

The International Committee had its first face-to-face meeting at the beginning of August, 2004. The discussion focused on how to increase the international research undertaken by LTER scientists as well as strengthening the ILTER network and the science being done by member networks.

Funding - The Committee has been awarded two years of funding from NSF International Programs to facilitate its work. The award includes funding for a person in support of ILTER activities, some support for the International Committee, as well as travel funds for US scientists to participate in international activities.

Short-term goals – During the next two years the committee hopes to institutionalize the role of facilitating collaborative-international research among US LTER scientists. We also hope to improve the ease with which researchers and students are able to establish collaborative research with international colleagues by providing an easy to use framework.

As a member of the ILTER we will work to help establish a long-term funding mechanism for supporting ILTER and a stable organizational structure.

Short-term activities – In order to meet our short-term goals we will be undertaking specific actions:

- Highlight international collaborative research at next All Scientist Meeting
- Develop International Committee web site to facilitate international collaborations
- Develop list of international LTER related projects/collaborations projects
- Presence at INTECOL meeting in Montreal
 - Symposium of papers of successful collaborations
 - Poster session of site descriptions of ILTER sites
 - Meeting of regional affinity groups
- Help energize regional interest groups among US LTER scientists
- Inclusion of ILTER scientists in Meeting of 100 to plan future of US-LTER
- Set up bilateral contact lists – US contact person for each country and vice versa
- Identify graduate student opportunities to work at ILTER sites – seek additional funding if insufficient funding is currently available.

Long-term goals – Over the next two years the committee will try to establish longer-term goals and the strategies for meeting them

Involvement of LTER sites – There is a desire to increase knowledge of international opportunities among scientists at a larger number of sites and to emphasize the opportunities that working in ecosystems in other parts of the world offer. Conversely there is a need to establish a system for finding out who is doing work in other countries and how to utilize the knowledge accumulated by scientists with this experience.

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