

Report from the Social Sciences Working Group

Chuck Redman (CAP) and Morgan Grove (BES)

LTER Network Coordinating Committee Meeting, Spring 2002

12 April 2002

Biocomplexity Incubation Grant

Following a workshop funded by the LTER Network, we received a Biocomplexity Incubation Grant to conduct a series of workshops to promote social science and interdisciplinary research. Following some preparatory sessions at the LTER All Scientists Meeting, three workshops have been held to date:

1. Land use change research and models (August, 2001)
2. Use of historical social data (September, 2001)
3. Ecosystem Services (November, 2001)

A fourth meeting will be held this April, focusing on Ecological Function and Social Processes: studying coupled systems.

As a result of these workshops, two full Biocomplexity Grants were submitted this January, one from the second workshop, and one from the third workshop. Participants from the first workshop felt that follow-up activities would be best accomplished through a workshop at NCEAS.

The workshops have been lively and productive. Further, they have helped promote a collegial network of social and ecological scientists from a diverse set of sites.

ILTER activities

A few sites have participated in developing opportunities for cross-site comparisons with projects that are part of France's Zone Ateliers (ZA). Participation from the urban sites, CAP, BES, Piren-Seine (Paris), and Lyons have been particularly strong in the integration of social and ecological sciences. A workshop to develop cross-site comparisons was held in October 2001 in Baltimore. Follow-up projects are developing at this time.

*Note, France's CNRS and its ZAs agreed to join the ILTER network in March, 2002