

## **International Committee Report (2010-2011)**

Report submitted by Patrick Bourgeron and Kristin Vanderbilt, co-Chairs

### **Summary**

The International Committee (IC) membership and leadership underwent changes as the committee entered its 9<sup>th</sup> year. As former members rotated out, six new members were selected after a formal nomination process and final approval by the science board. The committee comprises 10 voting and two ex-officio members. Kristin Vanderbilt was elected co-Chair. New activities were launched.

The report is organized along the goals of the IC which include:

- To facilitate the development and maintenance of long-term projects and collaborations between US-LTER scientists and ILTER colleagues.
- To facilitate and coordinate the involvement of US-LTER scientists, including junior faculty and graduate students, in developing and strengthening regional networks as well as individual country networks.
- To facilitate the participation of US-LTER scientists in the establishment and maintenance of ILTER effective data/information infrastructures that facilitate broad-scale research and synthesis.
- To create an atmosphere in which participation in the ILTER network is seen as a central component of each US-LTER site's activities.
- To facilitate cooperation between the LTER and other global science programs.

### **Report**

#### *General*

Six new members were selected after a formal process and final approval of the science board. The committee comprises 10 voting and two ex-officio members. Kristin Vanderbilt was elected co-Chair for a period of two years. Bourgeron will rotate out of the co-Chair this summer and a new co-Chair will be elected. Vanderbilt will then serve as the senior co-Chair. The IC held four conference calls, the minutes from which are on the committee web page at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/content/us-ilter>.

During the first committee meeting, members discussed their reasons for wanting to be on the IC. A common theme was developing international opportunities for graduate students, either as a Summer Institute course or as members of a research project. Other themes included developing a strategy for the North American region of the ILTER, working with other international programs, and increasing the visibility of the US-LTER on the international scene. Activities were initiated along these themes.

The IC lacks a Terms of Reference document, and has embarked on the process of creating one. The "Structure and Operating Guidelines for US LTER International

Committee” document (Draft 11/13/03) prepared by Bourgeron and Hamburg will be used as the basis for the Terms of Reference. A document should be circulated for review and approval this summer.

### *ILTER Network*

The ILTER continues to grow as a science organization.

- Bourgeron and Vanderbilt attended the ILTER coordinating committee (CC) meeting in September 2010. Vanderbilt stepped down from the Chair of the ILTER Information Management Committee that she has held since 2006 to devote more time to her role as co-Chair of the IC (which includes being the voting representative of the US-LTER on the ILTER CC). Bourgeron was reelected Chair of the ILTER Science Committee for a period of five years.
- Bourgeron and Vanderbilt made presentations during workshops held at the CC meeting on science initiatives. Four new initiatives were identified by the CC.
- Phase I of the ILTER ecosystem services initiative (<http://www.ilternet.edu/research/ecosystem-services-assessment>) is nearing completion. One manuscript will be submitted this summer. Phase II will include the development of proposals to NSF and other funding sources.
- Terry Parr (ILTER Chair) wrote a proposal to the UK NRC to support ILTER activities and the development of research projects. Bourgeron and Vanderbilt will lead the organization of a workshop on ILTER science to match Parr’s proposal.

### *Communication with NSF*

Information on the ILTER and the IC, including an historical overview, working documents, and proposals for funding activities, was submitted to Nancy Huntly, NSF LTER PO. Communication took place through a meeting, phone calls, and email. US-LTER Chair, Chair-elect and LNO Director were kept informed.

### *US-Mexico Workshop: Catalyzing Collaborations to Develop a Platform for Socio-Ecohydrological Research*

Several members of the IC developed a workshop proposal for senior researchers and graduate students focusing on the hydrology of sister sites in the US and Mexico. A subcommittee of the IC (McDowell (chair of subcommittee and proposal submitter), Vanderbilt, Troxler, Maser, and Redman) wrote a proposal for the NSF program “Catalyzing New International Collaborations.” The proposal is entitled: “US-Mexico Workshop: Catalyzing Collaborations to Develop a platform for Socio-Ecohydrological Research.” The proposed workshop would bring together social scientists and ecohydrologists from the US and Mexico to catalyze collaborative research to explore the tension between water extraction for human use and water needed to sustain aquatic ecosystems. Six US LTER sites will be paired with six Mexican LTER sites based on vegetation, geology, and hydrology. The proposed workshop activities will include

discovering what datasets are accessible for all sites to allow short-term site characterization and comparison, and also the initiation of a proposal to the NSF RCN-SEES (The Science, Engineering, and Education for Sustainability) program. Ten researchers and five graduate students would attend the workshop in Mexico, along with the same number of Mexican scientists and students.

#### *Other Science Activities*

- A proposal was submitted for a session during the Planet Under pressure meeting to be held in 2011 (Bourgeron, junior author).
- Rinku Roy Chowdhury (IC member) and Bourgeron will lead the development of a proposal for a session during the Ecosummit 2012 meeting.
- Jim Tang (IC member) will meet with colleagues at CERN (Chinese LTER) to explore joint projects.
- Bourgeron made a presentation about the ILTER ecosystem services project during the Global Land Project 2010 Open Science meeting (<http://www.glp2010.org>). A short article co-authored with colleague Hideaki Shibata (Japanese LTER) is featured in the March 2011 GLP newsletter ([http://www.globallandproject.org/Newsletters/GLP\\_NEWS\\_07.pdf](http://www.globallandproject.org/Newsletters/GLP_NEWS_07.pdf)).
- A conversation was initiated to develop close ties with GLP and INTECOL.