

## **International Committee Report (2011-2012)**

Report submitted by Kristin Vanderbilt and Bill McDowell, Co-chairs

The US LTER International Committee (IC) engages in activities that support the goals of the committee, which are:

- 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 infrastructure to 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.

### *General*

Bill McDowell was elected co-chair in late 2011 to replace Patrick Bourgeron, who remains on the IC since he serves as chair of the ILTER Science Committee. Kristin Vanderbilt serves as senior co-chair until Fall 2012. Other committee members include Chris Madden, Tiffany Troxler, Rinku Roy Chowdhury, Chuck Redman, Sieglinde Snapp, Jim Tang and Bob Waide. Ex officio members are Kate Lajtha and David Hartnett. The IC held two conference calls during the last year, the minutes from which are on the committee web page at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/content/us-ilter>.

### *ILTER Network News*

The ILTER continues to grow as a science organization. The following activities were reported during the ILTER Coordinating Committee meeting in September 2011.

- Continuing initiatives include:
  - Ecosystem Services across ILTER sites. Two manuscripts are in preparation. (Patrick Bourgeron, leader)
  - High Elevation Ecosystems to include the Colorado Front Range, European countries with Alps, China, and Japan (Patrick Bourgeron, leader)
  - Citizen Forum. This is a website which facilitates dialogue between scientists and society. The aim of the project is to build an internet-based communication tool for national LTER networks or individual LTER sites/LTSER platforms around the world. (Eeva Furman & Riikka Paloniemi, FinLTSER, leaders)
- New ILTER science initiatives:
  - Hideaki Shibata (JaLTER): "Socio-biogeochemistry of nitrogen cascades and interactions". IC members Jim Tang and Bill McDowell have joined this project, along with LTER scientists Serita Frey, Daniela Cusack, and Myron Mitchell.

- Martin Forsius (FinLTSER): “Ecosystem based local-scale impacts and adaptation practices in relation to global change drivers.” A paper is in development with CERN (Bojie Fu) to be published in *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability (COSUST)*
- Patrick Bourgeron: “Linking Scenarios Of Climate Change With Drivers Of Land Use And Land Cover”
- Terry Parr (UK LTER) will lead an initiative wherein ILTER will take the lead in GEOSS/ GEO BON to develop a global network of biodiversity and ecosystem sites aimed at providing consistent site-based in situ data on biodiversity, ecosystem processes and ecosystem services.
- ILTER will contribute to ICSU/ICSS “Earth System Science for Global Sustainability” (ESSGS) Initiative

#### *US LTER Support of ILTER:*

- US LTER committed to paying \$10K per year to ILTER as dues. Bob Waide asked for \$30K from NSF as part of the ASM 2012 supplement to pay dues for 2009, 2010, 2011. The dues have been paid. ILTER used dues in 2011-2012 (contributed by all member networks) to provide seed money (\$3K-\$6K) for research initiatives, production of literature about the ILTER, and support of developers to create an ILTER email system and improved sites database.

#### *US International Committee Activities:*

- IC members Bill McDowell, Chuck Redman, Tiffany Troxler, Chris Madden, and Kristin Vanderbilt received NSF Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) funding for a project entitled: “*US-Mexico Workshop: Catalyzing International Collaborations to Develop a Platform for Ecohydrological Research - Chamela, Jalisco, Mexico, September 2012.*” LTER scientists Cathy Pringle, Fred Scatena, Dan Childers, Ted Gragson, Nancy Grimm, Rinku Roy Chowdhury, and three LTER graduate students will join the workshop along with 15 members of Mexico LTER. LTER sites FCE, CAP, CWT, and LUQ will be paired with similar sites in Mexico. 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.
- IC members Patrick Bourgeron and Rinku Roy Chowdhury organized a symposium entitled “*Interactions among ecosystem services and human behavior: Thresholds, stable states, and trade-offs in response to climate and anthropogenic change*” for EcoSummit 2012. This symposium presents examples of Long-Term Ecological Research investigations into ecosystem responses to climate and human-induced changes and associated changes in ES. Speakers are included from the French LTER (*Zones Ateliers*) and Chinese Ecological Research Network (CERN). IC member Bill McDowell is also giving a presentation in this symposium.

- A symposium entitled “*International perspectives from long-term research on ecosystem carbon budgets*” and co-organized by IC member Tiffany Troxler and Guanghui Lin (China) has been accepted to INTECOL 2013. Scientists from UK, Tanzania, FinLTSER and US LTER have been invited to speak.
- A symposium entitled “*Phenology and climate change: perspectives from ecosystems across the International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER)*” was co-organized by IC members Jim Tang and Kristin Vanderbilt and accepted to INTECOL 2013. Speakers from the US LTER, UK LTER, CERN, and Switzerland have been confirmed.
- Jim Tang visited CERN in May 2011, and spoke with several scientists there about opportunities for US-China LTER collaboration. His meetings with CERN personnel paved the way for a later visit by Xiubo Yu, Secretary General of CERN, with Kristin Vanderbilt and Patrick Bourgeron at the University of Colorado. During this visit it was agreed that US LTER and CERN would seek opportunities for stronger ties, including a series of product-oriented workshops.
- IC Member Sieglinde Snapp attended an FAO-sponsored meeting in Africa where she met with scientists who have long-term agricultural research projects in Malawi and Kenya. These scientists are interested in regularizing their methods and having greater interactions with others doing long-term agricultural research.
- Kristin Vanderbilt has co-organized, with scientists from Taiwan Ecological Research Network (TERN) and China Ecological Research Network (CERN), an ILTER Information Management workshop to be held in Shanghai, China in June 2012. The workshop will focus on semantic approaches for developing an information management system for the ILTER which can operate across several languages. LTER IMs attending, besides Kristin, are John Porter, Don Henshaw, and Margaret O’Brien. Informaticians from UK, Denmark (GBIF), Taiwan, Israel, and Austria will also attend. CERN is supporting local costs.
- \$30K from the ASM Supplement has been dedicated for support of ILTER scientists to attend ASM. The IC requested nominations for whom to invite from the whole LTER community, and there has been a tremendous response. Through this effort, the IC will make LTER students, researchers, and IMs more aware of ILTER activities and also encourage international collaborations.