

ILTER Committee (IC) Annual Report 2013 Science Council Meeting

The US ILTER Committee (IC) was established in 2003 to help the International LTER (ILTER) Network to transition from a loosely organized group of national LTER Networks into a self-sustaining network with a governance structure and clear goals. This transition was achieved in 2006 with the adoption of the *ILTER Strategic Plan*. The goal of the US ILTER Committee now centers on developing research and education initiatives with ILTER Network partners. Specifically, the goals of the committee are to:

- To facilitate the development and maintenance of long-term projects and collaborations between US-LTER scientists and ILTER Network colleagues;
- To facilitate and coordinate the involvement of US-LTER scientists, including junior faculty and graduate students, in developing and strengthening regional ILTER networks as well as individual country LTER networks;
- To facilitate the participation of US-LTER scientists in the establishment and maintenance of ILTER Network 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:

- IC co-chairs are Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV) and Bill McDowell (LUQ)
- Minutes for IC meetings are posted online at <http://intranet2.lternet.edu/committees/us-ilter>. The IC held a face-to-face meeting at the LTER All Scientists Meeting (ASM) in September 2012.
- All ILTER member networks pay dues, and NSF committed in 2008 to paying \$10K per year to ILTER for US LTER membership. Dues for 2013 have not yet been paid.

US ILTER Committee Activities (2012/2013):

- IC Co-chair Kristin Vanderbilt led an ILTER Information Management workshop in Shanghai, China (June 18-23, 2012) entitled "*LTER Information Management Workshop on Semantic Approaches to Discovery of Multilingual ILTER Data.*" The workshop focused on 1) developing a multilingual thesaurus for ILTER that can be used to discover data from throughout the network that is documented in different languages, and 2) developing a prototype tool that will accomplish a multilingual search. Products of the workshop included 1) translations of the US LTER Controlled Vocabulary in to traditional Chinese characters (used in Taiwan), simplified Chinese characters (used in China), Korean and Japanese; 2) a prototype tool for searching across languages which is available at this link: <http://vocab.lternet.edu/ILTER/>; and 3) a draft manuscript describing the process of developing the multilingual thesaurus. LTER Information Managers participating

in the workshop were John Porter (VCR), Don Henshaw (AND), and Margaret O'Brien (SBC). This workshop was co-organized by scientists from the Taiwan Ecological Research Network (TERN) and China Ecological Research Network (CERN), and local costs were covered by CERN. Informaticians from UK, Denmark (GBIF), Taiwan, Israel, Korea, and Japan also attended. More about this workshop can be found in this LTER Network News Article: <http://news.lternet.edu/Article2540.html>

- The IC took responsibility for advertising to the LTER community the opportunity to invite International LTER scientists to the LTER All Scientists Meeting (ASM) with support from LNO funds. US LTER scientists were asked to submit proposals to the IC describing why they wanted to invite their international colleagues, and the IC reviewed the proposals, selected scientists to receive travel funds, and made invitations. Twenty-five international scientists were funded to attend ASM via this mechanism.
- IC members organized several working groups at ASM (September 10-13, 2012) that had an international theme and included international participants:
 - Tiffany Troxler (with Jennifer Wickland): "*Promotion of Population of Emission Factors in the IPCC Emission Factor Database*"
 - Jim Tang: "*Synthesizing long-term phenology data: Perspectives across the International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER)*"
 - Bill McDowell (with Lauren Koenig and Kristin Vanderbilt): "*US-Mexico Ecohydrology Workshop Planning Meeting*"
 - Patrick Bourgeron (with Jim Gosz and Mark Williams): "*Resilience and Sustainability of Complex Mountain Landscapes*"
- IC members Patrick Bourgeron and Rinku Roy Chowdhury chaired 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 (September 30 – October 5, 2012). IC members Patrick Bourgeron, Rinku Roy Chowdhury, and Bill McDowell gave presentations during this symposium, as did members of the French LTER (Zones Ateliers) and the Chinese Ecological Research Network (CERN).
- IC Members Bill McDowell, Kristin Vanderbilt, Patrick Bourgeron, and Jim Tang attended the ILTER Annual Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal (September 17-21, 2012).
 - Patrick Bourgeron, who serves as chair of the ILTER Science Committee, organized and led the ILTER Science Symposium entitled "*Role of the ILTER in the Science to Policy Process*";
 - Bill McDowell and Jim Tang both took part in the ILTER research initiative entitled "*Socio-biogeochemistry of Nitrogen Cascades and Interactions.*" McDowell gave a presentation during the working group on this topic.
 - Patrick Bourgeron (with Jacques Baudry, French LTER) chaired a working group on the ILTER research initiative entitled "*Linking Scenarios of*

Climate Change with Drivers of Land Use Land Cover Change, Sustainability and Tradeoffs in Ecosystem Services".

- Kristin Vanderbilt displayed a poster entitled "*Multilingual and Thesaurus-Based Search Tools for International Long-Term Ecological Research Data*", which was co-authored by 14 other participants in the IM workshop held in Shanghai in June 2012.

- IC members Bill McDowell and Chuck Redman, with Manuel Maass from LTER Mexico, led a successful workshop at the Chamela Field Station in Jalisco, Mexico (October 9-13, 2012) entitled "*Catalyzing International Collaborations to Develop a Platform for Ecohydrological Research*". Fifteen scientists from the US LTER and fifteen scientists from LTER Mexico met for three days to discuss research issues related to water sustainability in a socioecological context. US LTER participants were Tiffany Troxler (FCE), Chris Madden (FCE), Kristin Vanderbilt (SEV), Cathy Pringle (CWT), Fred Scatena (LUQ), Dan Childers (CAP), Nancy Grimm (CAP), Rene Price (FCE), Alonso Ramirez (LUQ), Lauren Koenig (LUQ grad student), Agustin Robles-Morua (CAP Post-doc) and Edgar Espinoza (FCE grad student). This enthusiastic group discussed many interesting ideas for socio-ecohydrological research spanning sites in the US and Mexico. This group will write a paper based on ideas from the workshop, and will prepare a proposal for the "*Water, Sustainability, and Climate*" NSF solicitation. Support for this workshop came from an NSF "*Catalyzing International Interactions*" grant to McDowell, with co-PIs Redman, Troxler, Madden, and Vanderbilt of the IC. See an LTER Network News Article about this workshop at <http://news.lternet.edu/Article2671.html>.

- In support of the ILTER "*Socio-biogeochemistry of Nitrogen Cascades and Interactions*" initiative, IC member Jim Tang hosted a workshop at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole on January 29-30, 2013 where working group members Hideaki Shibata (Japan), Don Monteith (UK), Cristina Branquinho (Portugal) synthesized data collected from throughout the ILTER. The resulting article will be submitted for publication during summer 2013.

- IC co-Chair Kristin Vanderbilt chaired the committee charged with organizing the NSF LTER Minisymposium for 2013. The title of the minisymposium was "*LTER Research Beyond US Borders: Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the International LTER Network (ILTER)*". Speakers were selected who would demonstrate how US LTER – ILTER partnerships extend the range of educational and research opportunities available to US LTER scientists and students. IC members Tiffany Troxler and Kristin Vanderbilt made presentations during the minisymposium, which was held on Feb. 28, 2013. See the LTER Network News article about this event at <http://news.lternet.edu/Article2714.html>

- Co-chair Kristin Vanderbilt submitted a supplement proposal to NSF for \$50K to support travel of ten US scientists and information managers to the Annual ILTER Meeting to be held in Seoul, Korea in October 2013.

Upcoming IC Activities (2013/2014):

- IC Members have organized two symposia at the 2013 INTECOL meeting that will take place August 18-23 in London. The symposia include speakers from throughout the ILTER Network:
 - *“International perspectives from long-term research on ecosystem carbon budgets”* (co-organized by IC member Tiffany Troxler and Guanghui Lin (Chinese Ecological Research Network))
 - *“Phenology and climate change: perspectives from ecosystems across the International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER)”* (co-organized by IC members Jim Tang and Kristin Vanderbilt)
- IC members Jim Tang, Tiffany Troxler, and Kate Lajtha have had a proposal accepted for a session at the 2014 Global Land Project 2nd Open Science Meeting to be held in Berlin in 2014. The session is entitled *“Global soil carbon dynamics in coupled natural and human systems.”*