CONGRATULATIONS MILAN!

The jubilee Xth International Symposium on Problems of Landscape Ecological Research was held in Smolenice (Slovakia) 21-24, November 1994 with the title: The present State and New Trends in Landscape Ecology.

This series of symposiums held in Slovakia since 1967 can be considered one of the flagships of the landscape ecology. They were very clearly devoted to and importantly influenced modern landscape ecology from the very beginning up to the last one. So, at the 6th in Piestany was established our International Association for Landscape Ecology - IALE. All the following symposiums included also important IALE meetings. As a jubilee, one part of the symposium was dedicated to an overview of landscape ecology and its achievements in the sphere of practice and the real environmental politics. The other part dealt with the theory, methodology and application of landscape ecology, as well as with the landscape ecological education. More than 60 papers and about 30 posters were presented at the symposium by participants from 13 countries. The main organizer of the Symposium was - as from the beginning - the Institute of Landscape Ecology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (ILE SAS). Information on the professional evaluation and conclusions of the symposium will be published in one of the next issues of the IALE Bulletin.

The jubilee Xth Symposium was dedicated also to another kind of event - to the 65th birthday anniversary of the main organizer of all ten of these symposiums - Milan Ruzicka, the director of the ILE SAS. He has been one of the main driving forces in the development of landscape ecology in Czechoslovakia, as well as in the formation of IALE. His achievements were remembered and distinguished by all participants of the symposium, as well as by the president of IALE, Henri Décamps.

Live long, Milan!

IALE BULLETIN EXPANDS TO 6 TIMES A YEAR

In cooperation with Landscape Ecology

From 1995 IALE Bulletin will be distributed regularly 6 times a year. It will be printed at SPB in the Netherlands together with the journal Landscape Ecology. The size of the Bulletin will be changed a bit to allow it to be inserted for all subscribers of Landscape Ecology. All others will receive the Bulletin as usual.

PAPERS AND POSTERS FOR THE IALE CONGRESS 1995

The final circular for the IALE Congress in Toulouse has been distributed. Additional copies of the preliminary program and the registration forms can be ordered at

Europa Organisation/IALE 95
40 Boulevard des Récollets - BP 4406
F-31405 Toulouse Cedex
France
Phone: +33 61 32 66 99
Fax: +33 61 32 66 00

There will be different possibilities to present non-invited papers or posters during the congress: You can indicate on the abstract form, if you will prefer to present a paper or poster in connexion with one of the parallel sessions on Wednesday 30 August. Or your contribution might be related to one of the sessions with free communication Thursday morning. Abstracts for posters and papers (= presentation form: Poster or Slide, on the abstract form) should be send to the same adress before Tuesday 28th January.

All participants having send their abstract in due time, will receive information, whether there contribution has been accepted for a session or not. This information will be send before the March 15, in due time before the deadline for Congress-registration March 31.

POLISH ASSOCIATION FOR LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

Polish Association for Landscape Ecology (Polska Asocjacja Ekologii i Krajobrazu - PAEK) has been founded in 1993 as a Polish Division of IALE. First plenary assembly was held on October 6th in Warsaw, in conjunction with the 1st Conference of the IALE working group "Landscape System Analysis in Environmental Management".

The assembly elected the following governing body:
Andrzej Richling - Chairman
Maciej Pietrzyk - Deputy Chairman
Daniele Solowiej - Secretary
Wojciech Lewandowski - Treasurer
Krzysztof Wojciechowski - member of the body
Jerzy Solon - "
Wojciech Widacki - "

Contact can be made through the following persons:
Professor Andrzej Richling, University of Warsaw, geography

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THE IALE WORKING GROUP ON GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The origin of the working group.
At the first International IALE seminar in Roskilde 1984 Bob Bunce (UK) took the initiative to start a working group on geographic information systems within the IALE, and several persons enlisted.

At the second International IALE seminar in Münster 1987 a group of interested people sat together and brainstormed about how to activate this working group. As a result a workshop was organized by Bob Bunce in Grange-over-Sands early 1988, in which further discussions about the functioning of the workshop were held. The conclusions were presented at the VIIth International Symposium of Landscape Ecological research in Zemplinsky Sirava at the end of 1988. More people showed their interest in the working group.

Some of them were present at the workshop on Landscape Ecology and spatial Information Systems in Nottingham early 1989, at which occasion again discussions were held about the functioning of the working group and the chairmanship of the IALE-GIS working group was transferred to the present chairman.

Messages in the IALE-bulletin were used to make the existence of the working group more widely known.

Organisation of the working group.
It was clear from the start that, because of the wide geographical distribution of the (potential) members, meetings or workshops with a participation by a fair representation of the total group of members would not be possible. However, regional workshops may be and have been organized, and working group meetings can be held in the context of official IALE seminars.

Only occasional regional meetings of small groups of (potential) members can be envisaged and indeed have taken place.

Therefore the working group in the first place has to be considered as a platform for the exchange of experiences and ideas with respect to GIS and Landscape Ecology, as a network contacts working or interested in the same type of approaches and facing the same type of problems.

Thus, lists with names and addresses and interests and experience of working group members are distributed among them, and they are encouraged to contact each other directly to exchange ideas, experiences and information. For communications and announcements of concern for all working group members at regular intervals -aim is at least twice per year- newsletters are issued.

Present state of the working group.
Since 1989 there has been a constant increase in the number of names on the membership list, but this did not correspond to the active participation in the discussion.

At the pre-conference meeting of the IALE-Europe in Roskilde in 1991, a workshop session was organized in which the chairman was stimulated to continue and several topics to include in the discussions of the working group were suggested. The General Assembly of the IALE has decided to maintain the GIS working group as one of its working groups. But it was suggested that the working group should focus the discussion on a particular topic.

A special membership form was sent around with the newsletter of December 1992 with as double function to verify whether people were still interested in the activities of the working group, and if so, what topic(s) for discussion they suggested.

The reactions on that were stimulating enough to continue, be it that the number of members was restricted to those that responded.

As a result of the response the discussion in first instance will be focused on the application of GIS for planning and/or management on landscape scale, with special emphasis to sustainable development.

Since then a small but steady trickle of contributions has been received and incorporated in newsletters. Also regularly new members can be added to the working group.

A small seminar on GIS for Landscape Ecology has been organized by some members in Thailand in 1993.

Joining the working group.
If you are interested in the activities of the working group please contact the chairman. Working experience with GIS is no pre-condition, also those that want to make their first acquaintance with this topic are welcome. Our main interest is in the type of problems and approaches to solve them, which should be independent of hardware/software configurations. Active participation in the discussions is highly appreciated, but also more passive interest is accepted provided that you let us know every now and then that you are indeed still interested.

Chairman: D. van der Zee. c/o ITC. P.O. Box . 7500 AA ENSCHEDE. The Netherlands. Phone 053-874237. Telefax 053-874399.

GIS-working group meeting at the Toulouse-congress: See next Bulletin.
In October 1994 the conference entitled "Quality of Landscape - Quality of Life" was organised. Two meetings devoted to ecological bases of touristic activity and to new strategies of regional planning are going to be organized in 1995. Integration and information for members is favoured also by way of a bulletin, PAEK Bulletin, distributed two times a year and provides information on activities in the sphere of landscape ecology in the country and in the world.

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR IALE-DUE FOR 1995

If you do not pay through your regional organization, you can pay your due of 10 US$ (115 US$ including the Journal Landscape Ecology) either by sending an international check (we cannot accept other sort of checks, since it would cost us more than the paid due to cash them) to IALE treasurer James F. Thorne, The Nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Chapter, 1211 Chestnut Street, 12th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-4122, Phone: +1 215 963 1400.

Or you can pay directly to the following bank account, adding the cost of transfer:
Mellon Bank, Account no. 95025 6578 (ABA-No 031000037).

You can also use Cassa di Risparmio della Spezia, I-54011 AULLA, Italy, No. 1846/42.

In some European countries the cheapest way to pay will be to transfer the due through the postal giro system to our Danish Giro account No. 467-6157.

If you have problems with the payment the secretariat will be at your disposal finding a solution. But you have to give a sign of life, otherwise you will not receive the Bulletin any more!
EUROPEAN IALE MEETING 1994 FRAGMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Organized by IALE (UK) at Myerscough College, Preston, UK

Twenty-two lectures and seven posters were presented over this two day meeting, concerned with two session themes:
1. Sustainable landscapes and threats
2. Impacts of fragmentation on fauna.

The inaugural lecture by Richard Hobbs (CSIRO, Australia) set out many of the concepts of landscape ecology within the context of fragmentation of natural habitat by arable farming in Western Australia. There were a multitude of issues about large scale processes which threatened both wildlife in remnant biotopes and the future production of the arable farming, in particular, by salination. A multidisciplinary but integrated solution was described which prescribed replanting of natural vegetation to deal with salination of arable land and extension of the network of semi-natural biotopes for wildlife. The main concepts were, appropriately, reiterated in many of the talks presented over the two days.

In the first session, D. McCracken (Joint Nature Conservation Committee) outlined the value of extensive farming systems across Europe to the maintenance of a high nature conservation value, whilst D. Crook (Huddersfield University) gave an outline of long term effects on alpine meadows caused by bisse in the Wallis region of Switzerland. The social and technological basis for the continuity of the irrigation system was described. E. Thomas (University College Wales, Bangor) and R. A. Hughes (Scottish Natural Heritage) outlined work that characterized the extent of different landscape elements and evaluated the sensitivities of those elements to changes in land use. These were practical means to evaluate fragmentation and change in landscapes of the Llyn Peninsula in Wales and the Grampian Region of Scotland but did not identify the functional links with associated wildlife populations. S. Bell (Forestry Authority) showed how natural self-organised patterns of habitats can be maintained and incorporated into the planning of new agricultural landscapes. It was argued that such patterns are visually and ecologically superior to formal organised planning.

Further contributions dealt with the scale at which birds responded to remnant grass, shrub and woodland fragmentation in arable land, and outlined how the functional relationship of the species with the habitat affected the response of species to fragmentation. For example, woodland species responded adversely (S. Hinsley, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, T. Pakkala, Zoology, University of Helsinki; J. Tiainen, Finnish Game and Fisheries Institute, Helsinki) whilst pheasants increased positively (P. Robertson, Game Conservancy Trust) to increased edge habitat.

Day two began with a perspective of process based studies which have been used to find how different fauna respond to fragmentation of agricultural landscapes within Norway (Gary Fry, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research). The theme was extended by talks about fragmentation effects associated with grasslands (A. Cooper, University of Ulster), heathlands (N. Webb, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology), woodlands (K. Kirby, English Nature) and ponds (M. Swan, British Herpetological Society), S. Falk (Coventry) and I. Woold (Institute of Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted) dealt with the species and genetic structure of insects over biogeographical scales in agricultural areas. The meeting closed with a cautionary tale. D. G. Dawson (London Ecology Unit) showed how little and controversial was the evidence of the role of wildlife corridors from work carried out so far.

The meeting enjoyed the facilities of Myerscough College at Bilsborrow near Preston, a part of the Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture. The lecture theatre, accommodation and refreshments were all within close proximity, which allowed plenty of discussion around the lectures and poster sessions. We thank John Dover and college staff for a superbly organised event.

A comprehensive proceedings volume was produced for the start of the conference and thanks are expressed to the contributors for making this possible. Copies are available from the secretary, IALE (UK), Dr P. Dennis, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB9 2QJ UK, priced £14 for all IALE members, although we can as yet, accept payment only by cheques drawn on a UK bank in UK £ sterling.