



Bulletin

International Association for Landscape Ecology

THE IALE COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT 2007

By Jesper Brandt, brandt@ruc.dk

What is the IALE Council?

The IALE council consists of an elected representative for each formalized regional IALE Chapter (in May 2007 there were 12 representatives) and the members of the IALE Executive Committee (9 persons, one of whom is also a regional representative). In addition to the 20 ordinary members, several "contact members", without voting rights, are affiliated with the Council representing chapters that have been recently formalized or under formalization, but have not yet submitted an elected representative for the Council.

The Council works as a background group for the Executive Committee, but also as a second chamber, expressing the regional interests and concerns in collaboration with the IALE Executive Committee. The Council makes recommendations to the Executive Committee and through the IALE Nomination Committee, chaired by the chair of the Council, the Council is involved in the preparation of the election to the Executive Committee.

The history of the IALE Council

From 1982 to 1991 the Council was the basic democratic institution in IALE, formed as an association of representatives from all the independent regional chapters of Landscape Ecological Societies. The Council formally elected the IALE Executive Committee. By the revision of the IALE Statutes in 1991 individual membership in international IALE was instituted with optional membership in one or more regional chapters as the normal option. Correspondingly the Executive Committee was subsequently elected directly by the international IALE members, not indirectly by the representatives of the Council.

The new structure resulted in a greater efficiency of the

international association and the representation within the IALE Executive Committee, however has also resulted in a loss of influence of the regional chapters, as well as a decline in the effort develop new regional chapters and coordinate the activities of existing regional chapters.

The Council met during the Congresses in Toulouse (1995) and Snowmass (1999), but the Council has not been active since.

The re-establishment of the IALE Council

During the last years the Executive Committee of IALE has worked hard to re-establish the IALE Council. Since no formal meeting of the Council was held in connection with the IALE Congress in Darwin 2003, the Executive Committee asked the former chairman of the Council (Jesper Brandt, elected in 1999), to continue as chairman and to develop a formal description of the work to be performed by the Council. To ease the process, the chairman of the Council was invited to all meetings in the Executive Committee, and during the last years the re-establishment of the Council has been on the agenda at all meetings.

As a primary condition for a re-establishment of the Council the following goals have been established:

1. All elected ordinary members of the Council should be elected according to rules consistent with the statutes of IALE (that is; directly elected by the members, not indirectly by a local E.C. and not IALE-appointed or self-appointed regional contact persons),
2. There should be more elected ordinary members of the Council than members from the Executive Committee, to ensure that the Council will not automatically be overruled by a united Executive Committee.

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These goals were approached in the summer 2006, and the re-established Council started its work in the late autumn 2006.

How does the Council work?

The Council will meet physically during the Congress of IALE, where a chair of the Council will be elected and plans for the coming period discussed and decided upon. The Council will also meet physically in conjunction with international meetings between the Congresses, but only for consultations, and not to make formal decisions, as all members may not be able to attend.

All communication and formal decisions by the Council will be made electronically. For each meeting, a commented agenda will be distributed together with a response form, making it possible for the members to comment (and eventually vote) on each item on the agenda. The deadline for response (at least one week, but preferably more) will be followed to make it possible for each member to discuss and/or contact other members before the deadline for decision. The chair collects the responses and produces the minutes from the meeting. These minutes are then distributed before the next meeting.

Items handled by the Council 2006-2007

The re-established Council has begun to follow this protocol since the autumn of 2006. The limited period of functioning has nevertheless proved to be productive, providing a needed link of the activities and interests of the regional chapters with the Executive Committee and involving a broad representation of members in the daily work of IALE. Only the most important items considered by the Council are mentioned below.

Revision of the IALE Statutes

In collaboration between the chair of the Council and the Executive Committee a revision of the statutes has been prepared. A provisional proposal was circulated and commented on by the Council before being finalised for a secret ballot among the members. The most important change in the statutes concerned IALE Working Groups that will be established to study and report findings on issues of concern related to landscape ecology. The new statutes allow non-IALE-members to join Working Groups related to IALE, with the intention of enhancing cooperation with other organisations: Consequently, in the future Working

Groups will report directly to the Executive Committee, while their formal representation in the IALE Council will be discontinued, freeing them to invite non-IALE members. An elected rapporteur from each Working Group will report the Executive Committee and, therefore, should be an IALE member.

Preparation of the election to the Executive Committee 2007-2011

In the preparation of nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee 2007-2011 the Council discussed possible nominees in collaboration with the nomination committee, with special attention to ensure sufficient nominations for each position. Although we were only able to meet the goal of a minimum of two nominations for four of the six vacant positions, we consider it a good result compared to earlier nominations: A well-functioning Council will without doubt have a positive influence on the future nomination process, due to the broadening of the active network. The election was the first web-based election in IALE, which proved to be a success by raising the voting level to approximately 20 %. The organisation of the election however revealed problems that should be resolved before the next election, primarily those related to a better coordination of timing and accuracy of the updating of the regional membership lists.

New fee structure and the relation between fee structure and the budget of IALE

The Council has agreed with the new structure proposed by the treasurer, providing a membership fee structure based on the economic ranking of countries published by the World Bank. However, this fee structure has raised some concerns. For instance, 1/3 of IALE members currently come from lower income countries, and if this segment grows, it might have adverse effect on the economic sustainability of the society. The Council has also recommended a long-term (at least 4 years) membership fee policy, to ease the planning and budgeting for the regional chapters, many of whom normally integrate the regional and international fee into a single membership payment.

Although the Council is not responsible for the budget of IALE International, the Council has an interest in the efficient use of the membership fee and the balance between expenditures of the Executive Committee (i.e., business meetings, the IALE Bulletin, the Directory etc.) and supplementary expenditures to support the development and

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coordination of regional activities. The Council also has an interest in the membership fee structure, with the goal of developing an equitable balance of income and allocation of resources.

Items handled by the Council 2006-2007 - to be continued in the coming period

More transparent and comparable information on the work of the regions

To stimulate the development and success of regional-level organisation promoting landscape ecology the Council should provide more accessible information on the work of the regions. This has briefly been discussed in the Council. Some information might be collected through the web-sites of the different regional chapters, but to make such reports more accessible and comparable, new initiatives are needed. It has been proposed to produce short (one page) regional reports giving information on how the regions work during the year, with emphasis on both successes and failures, and a couple of examples have been initiated. Also the IALE Bulletin could invite specific regional chapters to report on their activities, to give inspiration for other chapters.

Approval or rejections of regions

Approval or rejection of new applications for a regional chapter is a core of the democracy of IALE at the regional level. It has also been an Achilles heel for IALE since the very beginning: As scientist we are often primarily engaged solely with our individual contribution to the scientific development, and not always inclined towards engagement in the basic democracy of our association. To stimulate the formation of new regional chapters and to emphasize the international character of the association the first years of IALE was dominated by a long list of contact persons appointed by the Executive Committee. Not all these appointments resulted in new regional IALE-chapters, and in several cases it was even counterproductive by preventing other interested members in the region to become involved.

Although new chapter formation is a burden, it is an essential requirement for the international association to ensure that the democratic rules for the regional organisations are observed by the foundation and obeyed by the practise of the regional chapters.

As a part of the reconstruction of the IALE archive the retiring Executive Committee and the chair of the Coun-

cil have initiated a collection of existing basic documents from the regions and formulated rules for the formal acknowledgement of the formation of new regional chapters. The Council is naturally involved in this process, since approval of new regional chapters is a constituting part of its duties. It should be a goal for the coming period to develop and implement a smooth and realistic system of approval of new regional chapters.

A volunteer network for improving translation into English

It is an important challenge for IALE as an international association to ease the member's access to publication of landscape ecological research in internationally reviewed journals almost uniformly published in English. The Council has discussed a proposal to set up a volunteer network for improving the English in manuscripts to be submitted for publication. A list of conditions has been outlined, details specified and a draft implementation plan is presented later in this Bulletin for discussion at the Council meeting in July. The intention is to recommend the coming Executive Committee to appoint a Vice-President as responsible for the development of such a network.

Additional themes for the following period

Voluntary and paid work for IALE

IALE is a non-profit organisation basically financed through the voluntary efforts of its members. Especially the regional officers and the officers elected for the IALE Executive Committee invest a considerable amount of time in the administration and development of the organisation. Since international scientific cooperation is considered a part of a scientists working obligations and since many science-based organisations can take advantage of the international networking made by their academic staff, work for IALE is often naturally supported by IALE-officers professional institutions. However much of the IALE-based workload assumed by the IALE officers is not a part of their normal professional work, but constitutes a considerable voluntary effort.

IALE international will cover minimal travel and accommodation costs related to business meetings, but will always also try to keep these expenditures as low as possible, by combining such business meetings with other events (conferences, seminars, guest lectures etc.) that might lower the costs by support through other sources.

Other costs should only be covered with clear reference to the statutes and the budget.

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The Council acknowledge the enormous effort done by the Executive Committee to run IALE as an international association. However, we also wish to emphasize that the work done at the regional level is just as crucial for landscape ecology at the international level, and can be just as much in need for financial support as the work done at the central level. The Council therefore keep an interest in following the budgeting of IALE-international to ensure, that the limited funds are used in an efficient and balanced way for the support of the association at all levels.

A European IALE

During the last term a considerable effort has been undertaken to develop a frame for the organisation of landscape ecologists at a European level. A European IALE should not be seen as an alternative to the national chapters of IALE within Europe, all having important functions at the regional level, but as a strong instrument for landscape ecology at the European level. So, the Executive Committee of IALE, at its meeting in May 2007 in Grenoble, expressed the opinion that 'A European IALE should involve setting up standards and a procedure for recognising the necessary procedures for implementation of landscape ecological principles and associated best practices.' This implies not only a strong European organisation of IALE members, but also a close cooperation with groups and organisations not affiliated with IALE through any membership. The new revised statutes of IALE, promoting working groups based on cooperation with other groups outside IALE related to the application of landscape ecology, should be used to find practical ways of combining the common interests of European IALE-members and the outside world's interest in implementing landscape ecological principles and practise at the European level. This will be an important challenge for the Council in the coming period, also by providing experience for other super regional collaborations with similar ambitions. In principle all 'superregions' might need a certain formalised organisation, e.g. by the decision on the location of super-regional IALE-conferences between the congresses. Like other regional chapters, the establishment of superregions has to be confirmed by the Council. It is however probably not possible to establish any general model on how and by whom such a superregion should be initiated.

Election of a Council chair for 2007-2011

A standard point at the agenda of the Council meeting at the IALE Congress is the election of a chair of the Coun-

cil. Although Jesper Brandt expects to stay in the Council as a representative for the Danish section of IALE, he will not stand for election as chair for another term.

The job is attractive: It is voluntary and non-paid, and connected with a considerable amount of work, if the goal - to coordinate the common effort of the regional chapters and their mutual influence on the development of international landscape ecology - is to be pursued successfully. The related rich international networking makes it an interesting job delivering many inspiring opportunities.

As retiring chair of the Council I would like to thank the old Executive Committee for an excellent cooperation during the period of the re-establishment of the IALE Council. I also want to thank all the members of the Council for their patient involvement in the rather complicated process of re-establishing the Council. Finally I welcome the new Executive Committee, hoping that the re-established Council can offer a strong dialogue on the many scientific and organisational challenges for landscape ecology in the coming years.

Roskilde, May 2007

Jesper Brandt,
Chair of the Council



**Looking forward to
seeing you in
Wageningen**

PROPOSAL FOR A VOLUNTEER NETWORK FOR IMPROVING TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH

Prepared by the IALE Council

In the late autumn 2006 the Representative for the Chinese IALE chapter, Xiuzhen Li, made the following proposal to the IALE Council: *I have an idea of "volunteer network" for a long time. Since many IALE members are from non-native English speaking countries, their work has difficult to be published in international journals due to awkward English. If we can establish a "volunteer network" for the Native English Speakers to help non-natives to polish their English in the manuscripts, more research results will be presented in the international world. But I wonder if there will be people happy to help out.*

We used to ask professional companies to improve our manuscripts. But the quality was not so good because their staffs are not landscape ecologists. We need some one who understands the science of our paper as well.

The proposal was positively received by the Council. It was clear that some general conditions for editorial reviews and volunteer recruitment should be established as follows:

1. guidelines should be established regarding authors qualifying for this service (e.g., all IALE members or only a certain subset of members from particular countries, etc.), which types of manuscripts should be edited (e.g. only those destined for peer reviewed journals?), and the level of detail of the editing process (e.g. how to distinguish between linguistic correction and improvement versus a general review), etc.;
2. an IALE volunteer, who will also eventually become a member of the Executive Committee, should be recruited to keep a list of IALE members willing to serve as volunteer editor; and
3. this volunteer (preferably, but not necessary from an English speaking country) should also be willing to collect and distribute manuscripts for linguistic editing.

Through the discussion at two Council meetings some specific proposals were made:

- the manuscript to be edited should have passed some preliminary test for scientific merit. Working on a scientifically inferior paper will discourage volunteers from volunteering again;
- the manuscript must be complete and clearly written. The English need not be correct (that's for the editor to help with), but it needs to be understandable. There is a difference between editing for clarity, and actually

writing the paper;

- soliciting volunteers is the secret for success. As former editor Robert Gardner did this for the Landscape Ecology journal by allowing the volunteer to set their own parameters in terms of numbers of papers and the time of the year they would be available;
- special recognition (on the title page) needs to be given to the editors. This is NOT authorship, but a footnote on the front page similar to what journals do to recognize their editors, might be worth considering; and
- a call for volunteers in the Bulletin should be made.

Based on the proposal and these suggestions for implementation, the Council recommends that the new Executive Committee consider an appointment of a member (perhaps a Vice-President) to be responsible for the implementation of a volunteer network for improving translation into English, to be used for manuscripts intended for journals with an international peer review system, related to IALE, and to also include the IALE Bulletin.

IALE 2007

25 years Landscape Ecology: Scientific Principles in Practice



Wageningen, The Netherlands 8-12 July

This world congress of the International Association for Landscape Ecology will offer:

Plenary sessions on -Landscape Ecology in agriculture, forestry, urban areas and wetlands -Perspectives for the future	Symposium and workshop e.g.: -Impact of globalisation -Climate change and energy crops -Landscape functions and design -Fragmentation and connectivity	Certified intensive courses on: -Spatial statistics -Sustainability and landscape planning -Wetlands	Congress excursions e.g.: -River rehabilitation -Nature and van Gogh -North Sea dunes Post congress excursions e.g.: -Belgian heathlands -Amsterdam -Wadden sea
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www.iale2007.com

NEW IALE-IUFRO WORKING GROUP ON FOREST LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY ESTABLISHED

By

Raffaele Laforteza, Sandra Luque (IALE representative), Thomas Crow, Jiquan Chen



1. Introduction

We propose to establish a new working group joining the forces of the existing IUFRO Landscape Ecology Group (IUFRO-8.01.02) with the IALE members interested in forest landscape ecology issues. Members of the IALE and the IUFRO-8.01.02 would be encouraged to join the Forest Landscape Ecology working group, thus creating the basis for solid advances of landscape ecology in both naturally disturbed and managed forest landscapes (including urban settings).

The working group aims to collate landscape ecologists with an interest in forestry science and ecology including studies and methods for monitoring, planning, designing, and managing forest ecosystems and landscapes. The group will promote joining forces and participation from regional chapters of IALE and IUFRO members in the South and the North of the Globe. Therefore, members of the IUFRO-IALE working group will be able to exchange experiences and share common needs and interests to build up on the strength of the network. As species and ecosystems are not contained by political boundaries, international cooperation is essential to ensure their preservation and sustainable management. This group will serve as an international platform for advocating and updating research and management on forest landscapes in the context of emerging issues, such as climate change and habitat fragmentation.

2. Objectives of the working group

As landscape ecology advances to face new challenges in resource management and conservation, there is an urgent need to consolidate this knowledge into working models and applications. Cross-disciplinary/cultural backgrounds are required in order to devise a more realistic and relevant foundation for guiding management. Landscape ecology is

the 'common language' facilitating the transfer of concepts to practitioners and the dissemination of research findings to policy makers or even the general public. The demand for input and guiding principles from landscape ecologists to resource management decisions at all scales is indeed very high. Forest resources are within this context, as they constitute fundamental parts of our living landscape.

In this context, the Forest Landscape Ecology working group intends to set up a collaborative framework crossing disciplines and cultural boundaries with the goal to contribute to the theoretical and empirical rationale for linking landscape ecology with current practices in forest landscapes monitoring, planning, design, and management. Within this general goal, the activity of the working group will be aimed to the following objectives:

- 1) to promote and facilitate the application of landscape ecology concepts in practical management activities wherever forests exist in the world;
- 2) to encourage communication and interaction among IALE and IUFRO scientists with an interest in landscape ecology and forestry (including urban forestry);
- 3) to foster landscape ecological applications and building capacity into developing countries, such as eastern Asia, southern America, and central Africa;
- 4) to study and report findings addressing the planning and management of forest resources at ecosystems and landscape-scale levels;
- 5) to develop a network of experts and practitioners with common interests that can facilitate the preparation of funded projects through EU and International funded programs to enhance landscape forest research North-South;
- 6) to link scientists with practitioners.

These aims will be accomplished by providing a forum for

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the exchange of ideas; creating and maintaining personal contacts between IALE and IUFRO members; promoting the dissemination of research results and activities through IALE bulletins or IUFRO newsletters; encouraging cooperation with international organizations, e.g., FAO, IUCN, UNESCO, UNEP-WCMC, UNEP-IPCC; promoting uniform nomenclature in forest landscape ecology; summoning periodic meetings (e.g., bi-annual conference); recognizing outstanding scientific and practical contributions; assisting in the application of scientific concepts; supporting the teaching of landscape ecology in institutions of higher learning.

3. Membership

Membership in the IALE working group would be open and free to all persons or institutions interested in or active in the study or the application of landscape ecology in forestry science including studies and methods for monitoring, planning, designing, and managing forest ecosystems and landscapes.

Interested parties would only have to sign up to an online registration form, see:

<http://research.eeescience.utoledo.edu/lees/iufro/member/default.asp>

Through registration, a database of scientists, practitioners and organizations will be developed into a server list. This e-mail list will serve to working group members to communicate globally and exchange information on funding opportunities, fellowships and advances in research among other key topics. In addition members would receive information on upcoming events related to landscape ecological research (e.g., IUFRO-8.01.02 bi-annual Conference, China, Sept. 16-20, 2008; IALE World Congress 2007).

The launching of the IALE-IUFRO Working Group on Forest Landscape Ecology will take place at the IALE 2007 World Congress 8-12 July Wageningen, The Netherlands.

LIVING REVIEWS IN LANDSCAPE RESEARCH (LRLR)

A newly launched online journal supported by IALE international

There is a new summarising voice on purposely integrated landscape research: Living Reviews in Landscape Research (LRLR, <http://landscaperesearch.livingreviews.org>), an international open access online journal expanding the collection of journals supported by IALE international.

Editors-in-chief: H. Wiggering, R. Costanza, A. Johnson, M. Potschin

LRLR publishes peer reviewed solicited review articles that summarise and evaluate the state of the art as well as actual problems and future needs in interdisciplinary domains of landscape research. The review articles identify research needs and highlight the integration of disciplinary fragmented re-search on overlapping topics. Thus, LRLR supplements existing disciplinary journals supported by IALE. As IALE is represented in the top editorial level, the scope of LRLR will be constantly adjusted in cooperation with IALE international.

LRLR articles are updated by authors ("living" reviews) when necessary.

Focus is on physical and administrative interaction of:

- sustainable development and sustainability thresholds of (sensitive) landscapes;
- multi-functionality of land use;
- soil, water, biomass, and biodiversity issues in land use and management; and
- social and cultural effects and demands in relation to land use and management.

Methodological challenges covered are:

- spatial data management and interpretation;
- landscape systems analysis;
- impact assessment of land use; and
- decision support systems and decision implementation.

LRLR has open access via internet (according to Budapest Initiative and Berlin Declaration). There is no charge for authors or readers. The journal website is structured by yearly volumes. However articles appear as they are ready for publication. Special alert will be given to IALE members as new articles go online. Also there is general benefit for IALE by being present at a distinct open access platform providing the broadest potential readership.

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The online performance of LRLR covers:

- articles in interactive html and pdf format (also for download);
- additional resources (videos, audios, program codes);
- citeable permanent link and bibliographic information;
- metadata documentation by RDF standard;
- long-term archiving on MPG server;
- no delay due to immediate online publication; and
- full text search and searchable reference data base.

LRLR is run by its editorial office at the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) and hosted by the back office at Max Planck Society within the “Living Reviews” family of journals (<http://www.livingreviews.org>).

LRLR homepage: <http://landscaperesearch.livingreviews.org>

Editorial Office LRLR:

Claus Dalchow, Leibniz-Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF)

Eberswalder Str. 84, D-15374 Müncheberg

fon +49 (0)33432 82-202 / fax +49 (0)33432 82-223,

contact.lrlr@livingreviews.org

www.zalf.de



SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT TO THE IALE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2007

Upon assuming its responsibility in 2003 (change of two Vice Presidents in 2005) the new Executive Committee (EC) soon came to realize that the work to organise IALE has increased so that two meetings per year with one and half day of administrative work has been necessary.

Based of the well done administrative and financial work of the former EC we could now concentrated on creating more transparency of the EC work for the members. We achieved this as follows:

- We have created a process where we have a **call of interest for super regional meetings** such as the European one, but also for the World Congress. Therefore, the venue for these meetings will be decided with a democratic process and every region can apply. The 2009 European meeting will be a joint organisation between three IALE regions (Germany, Slovakia and Switzerland) and will take in July 2009 in Salzburg/Austria. The 8th IALE World Congress will be hosted by the IALE-China region and take place in Beijing.
- We have created **guidelines for setting up** a IALE-region and IALE working Groups. These can be obtained from the IALE Secretary General or from the IALE-homepage.
- We have established two new working groups: one on teaching and education in Landscape Ecology (**LE-Net**) and one in collaboration with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) “The IALE-IUFRO Working Group on Forest Landscape Ecology”. Both were announced in the Bulletin and will be introduced during the 7th World Congress.
- We have created two volumes of a “**IALE handbook**”. This is a live document containing all historical and administrative developments of IALE, which will be regularly updated.

Furthermore the following activities were achieved:

- We have created and update regularly an **IALE flyer**. We would like to encourage each member to download it from the IALE portal and circulate it widely – take it to landscape and related conferences you participate in.
- We have reactivated the **IALE Council**. The chair of the Council – Jesper Brandt – has held three (electronic) meetings.

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- We have updated our **regions inventory** and are very pleased to see that IALE has 15 quite active regions all over the world. We also have two new chapters: ASADEP-IALE (Asociación Argentina de Ecología de Paisaje) Argentina and a chapter in Brazil.
- We are pleased that after negotiation with the journal Landscape Ecology IALE has now one page in each issue to announce IALE related activities. Sandra Luque – in her role as Vice President – is going to coordinate this **public relation**.
- Besides being closely linked to the Journal of Landscape Ecology IALE now also supports the **open access journal** “Living review in landscape research“ (LRLR, <http://landscaperesearch.livingreviews.org>). The Secretary General is the IALE representative for this journal.
- The **statutes** were discussed over a series of EC meetings and finally accepted through an electronic vote in April 2007; see IALE web portal at: <http://www.landscape-ecology.org/>).
- The nomination committee was very active and presented many nominations for the **2007 election**. Thanks to Roskilde (Jesper Brandt and his team) we now introduced an E-mail voting system. The success was visible immediately as twice as many IALE members voted over the 2005 election.

We also introduced some novelties:

- From the 2007 onward the organisation of the next World Congress and the Presidency are separated; and
- we formalised the process in which teaching activities are now linked to IALE congresses, especially the tradi-

tion of PhD/Master courses and short courses has been established.

Activities as laid out in the last Secretary General Report (2003 in Darwin) have continued, including:

- Finances have been thoroughly documented and reported (see Treasure’s report).
- The **Minutes from the EC meetings** are all archived as hard copies with the SG but can also be found on the homepage. They therefore create another document for transparency and what has been achieved.
- We are very pleased that IALE can circulate an update of its annual **directory**, thanks to Rob Jongman.
- The **IALE bulletin** is currently very active. The bulletin editor Felix Kienast is always grateful for any information you would like to share with all IALE members, he encourages especially more reports on running or recently finished projects, PhD work, and other related research and teaching activities.
- We have taken steps to further **improve IALE’s profile internationally**, e.g. supported the EcoSummit Conference in Beijing May 2007. We supported as well a workshop on Forest Fragmentation in South America in Argentina, June 2006. The aim was to bring together experts working in the evaluation at the landscape level of temperate and subtropical native forests in the region (South America).
- The **IALE homepage** is well established (thanks to Rob Jongman) and running smoothly.
- The **Landscape Book Series** within Cambridge University Press continues.

The IALE Bulletin is distributed six times a year to the members of the IALE. The IALE - International Association for Landscape Ecology - was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Executive Committee: **President:** Bob Bunce 2003-2007, ALTERRA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, bob.bunce@wur.nl; **Secretary General:** Marion Potschin 2003-2007, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, Marion.Potschin@nottingham.ac.uk; **Treasurer:** Rob Jongman 1995-2007, ALTERRA Green World Research, Wageningen UR, Postbox 47, 6700AA Wageningen, The Netherlands, Rob.Jongman@wur.nl or rob.jongman@planet.nl; **Past President:** Richard J. Hobbs 2003-2007, School of Environmental Science, Murdoch University, Murdoch, WA 6150, Australia, rhobbs@essun1.murdoch.edu.au; **Vice Presidents:** Louis R. Iverson 2003-2007, USDA Forest Service, 359 Main Rd., Delaware, OH, 43015, USA, liveron@fs.fed.us; Nobukazu Nakagoshi 2003-2007, Hiroshima Univ., Dept of Environmental Studies, 1-7-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima 739-8521, Japan, nobu@hiroshima-u.ac.jp; Maria Kozova 2005-2009, Comenius University in Bratislava, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ml. dol. B-2, 842 15 Bratislava 4, Slovakia, kozova@fns.uniba.sk; Sandra Luque 2005-2009, Cemagref - Institute for Agricultural and environmental engineering research, 2, rue de la papeterie, BP 76, F-38402 St-Martin-d’Hères, cedex, France, sandra.luque@cemagref.fr; **Bulletin Editor and Deputy Secretary General:** Felix Kienast 1999-2007, Swiss Federal Institute of Forest, Snow and Landscape Research, Division of Landscape Dynamics and Management, 8903 Birmensdorf, Switzerland, felix.kienast@wsl.ch; **Chairman of Council:** Jesper Brandt 1995-2007, Roskilde University, P.O. Box 260, DK 4000 Roskilde, Denmark, brandt@ruc.dk.

IALE on the Internet: IALE International: www.landscape-ecology.org

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As one can see from the list of activities, the work load for the EC members is high. We have now extended our Executive Committee meetings to 1½ days for the administration only. The members of the EC are doing the work on a voluntary base. We meet bi-annually and rotate to the home places of the EC members. However to save our members' money we concentrate on locations in Europe (shorter distances for most of us) and usually add a third day to the meeting to organise seminars where EC members can present their research and in return can get some travel expense from their home organisation. The morale and spirit within the Executive Committee of IALE is high and we managed to get all EC members to almost all EC meetings.

These activities also have a down side. The item "travel expenses for EC members" in the IALE-budget has increased over the former years. For the next term the EC will decide on how much of those issues we can possibly discuss over video- or e-mail-conferencing. But it needs to be said, that we will not be able to replace all face-to-face meetings.

Marion Potschin, June 2007



Bulletin Deadlines

Vol. 25 no.4: Aug 31, 2007

Vol. 25 no.5: Oct 31, 2007

MEETINGS

September 3-5, 2007

Permanent and temporary grassland: plant, environment, economy. 14th Symposium of the European Grassland Federation. Gent, Belgium,

More information: <http://www.egf2007.com>

September 3-6, 2007

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Nature Conservation Programmes. Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL, Birmensdorf, Switzerland

More information: http://www.wsl.ch/event_07/monitoring/

September 11-14, 2007

Landscape Ecology of Energy. Lancaster University, UK

More information: <http://www.iale.org.uk/>

September 24-26, 2007

Conference on the Science and Education of Land Use: A transatlantic, multidisciplinary and comparative approach. Washington DC, USA

More information: <http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/TALUC/>

November 5-7, 2007

ForestSat'07 International Conference on Remote Sensing, GIS, and Forestry. Montpellier, France

More information: <http://forestsat.teledetection.fr>

April 6-10, 2008

Landscape Patterns and Ecosystem Processes. US-IALE 23rd Annual Symposium. Madison, Wisconsin, USA

Contemporary landscape ecology continues to explore the causes and consequences of landscape heterogeneity across a range of scales, and demand for the scientific underpinnings of landscape planning and management remains high. The 23rd annual symposium will focus on one of the current frontiers in landscape ecology: understanding the patterns, causes, and consequences of spatial heterogeneity for ecosystem function. Spatial fluxes of matter, energy and information influence the functioning of individual ecosystems and heterogeneous landscapes, but progress at the interface of ecosystem and landscape ecology has been relatively slow compared to other areas. Integrating the understanding gained from ecosystem and landscape ecology will enhance progress in both disciplines while generating new insights into how landscapes function.

Deadlines:

Symposium proposals are due by 7 September, 2007, and regular submissions will be due by 2 November, 2007.

More information: <http://www.usiale.org>