Dear IALE Community:

As a global organization dedicated to promoting global collaboration, we are being acutely affected by the ongoing pandemic. We also have a unique responsibility to our each other and the networks of connections we have built. How can IALE help during this global health crisis? To answer that question, I reflected on the values that our community shares. I believe that IALE is different from most professional societies. We are less transactional, more relationship focussed. We are a small group that cares deeply about each other. This is why I joined IALE over 20 years ago: It was clear that this organization passionately cared about its members and, particularly, its students.

Furthermore, as landscape ecologists, we understand that our world is shaped by people and that the choices we make will have long-term and positive consequences. We love landscapes and therefore we love the people on them - this is one of the key values we all share. This love of place and humanity connects us and our discipline to society much more deeply than more purely physical or ecological sciences.

From those values, I believe we can derive some general principles that help lend meaning to this moment:

- **Let's remember each other and our members and our colleagues.** We need to turn outward and not inward. Although some conferences have been postponed or moved on-line (landscape-ecology.org/events), let's continue our local, regional, and global collaborations! Now more than ever, we need to communicate and extend our IALE family out to the broader community.

- **Let's consider that the subsequent economic consequences may be severe for some of our chapters and colleagues.** The IALE executive committee will be working over the coming weeks to ensure that all of our chapters remain functioning. We will also consider ways that direct contributions can be fairly allocated to people and chapters in need.

- **Let's keep our great work moving forward!** People crave normalcy. They want to see us functioning and communicating. Our partners - colleagues, landscape practitioners, local leaders, and policy advocates - want to see us continue our great work, despite the disruptions, despite the challenges.

- **Let's take the long view.** As was noted during the World Congress last year, the world needs landscape ecology more than ever. This is still true. Landscape ecologists assist with climate adaptation and mitigation, food security, water security, achieving developmental goals, to name just a few of our contributions. Some of these needs may shift due to this pandemic; most will not.

Our core values can serve as a guide both through the pandemic and beyond. We have made tremendous progress connecting landscape ecologists and making our world more just and sustainable. We must continue these efforts, despite the challenges and uncertainty ahead.

Please take care and be safe. If you would like to discuss more specifically how you can help, feel free to contact me at any time.

Rob Scheller
IALE President
Dear IALE Community,

We are very excited to announce a new benefit for our members! We have renegotiated our agreement with Springer in regards to our flagship journal, Landscape Ecology. Our new agreement includes the following benefits for all members in-good-standing:

• Open-access (digital) to all of Landscape Ecology, including past and current issues.
• Annual book prize for best article (for a member)
• Annual book prize for best poster at a conference
• Our logo on the cover
• Our logo on their electronic table-of-contents
• Discounted subscriptions

We sent out the annual password and link in January 2020. If you have not received the email and your dues are fully paid for 2020, please contact Irene Petrosillo (IALE Treasurer) who organizes our membership list. Likely causes are that you forgot to pay your dues (it happens to all of us from time-to-time), your email address is incorrect, or your chapter has not reported your membership to IALE-World.

The IALE Executive Committee

IALE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2019

The administrative management of the IALE finances for 2019 has been developed and monitored systematically. The initial budget given by € 30,564.76 and the final budget of € 61,960.43 highlight a positive balance of € 31,359.67. In particular, the incomes are related to the membership fees, included the subscriptions to Landscape Ecology (€ 22,124.00), and the refund of the loan (€ 20,000.00) that has supported the financial management of the World Congress, held in Milan last July. On the other side, the total IALE expenses resulted in € 10,728.33, where € 3,000.00 have been dedicated to the support of new IALE Chapters. The present balance has been closed with a reserve of € 20,000.00 for the next World Congress. Given this, € 20,000.00 was available to support new chapters and working groups in 2020. IALE also refunded 20% of membership fees for 2019 paid by IALE Chapters by the end of June 2019. We thank the IALE Chapters that are in compliance with the payment of membership fees and on time, because this guarantees the financial resources to support the activities of new IALE Chapters and working groups. The IALE Executive Committee used Zoom calls to meet with the aim to save costs.
The payments can be done through a bank transfer - the bank account is in ABN-AMRO Bank, or through PayPal (for details send an e-mail to the treasurer: irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it)

The costs are exactly the same as 2019:

For Chapters in regular income Countries:
- Full membership (€ 20)
- Student membership (€ 10)
- Full membership incl. Landscape ecology, only printed (US$ 100 or € 95)
- Student membership incl. Landscape ecology, only printed (US$ 70 or € 65)

For Chapters in low income Countries:
- Full low income membership (€ 10)
- Student membership (€ 5)
- Full membership incl. Landscape ecology, only printed (US$ 95 or € 85)
- Student membership incl. Landscape ecology, only printed (US$ 65 or € 60)

**Irene Petrosillo**
IALE International Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deadlines</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020, March 31</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020, June 30</strong></td>
<td><strong>2020, December 20</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020, March 31</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The list of Landscape Ecology subscriptions for 2020, only for printed version, has to be sent to the treasurer: <a href="mailto:irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it">irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020, June 30</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Early membership registration* and Landscape Ecology subscription payments (the list of paying members, by specifying full or student members, and LE subscribers has to be sent to the treasurer: <a href="mailto:irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it">irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it</a>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020, December 20</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Late registration (the list of paying members has to be sent to the treasurer: <a href="mailto:irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it">irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it</a>)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The 20% refund for early registration considers June 30 as the reference deadline.

The list of Landscape Ecology subscriptions for 2020, only for printed version, has to be sent to the treasurer: irene.petrosillo@unisalento.it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IN</th>
<th>OUT</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from 01.01.19 to 31.12.19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region fee</td>
<td>€ 19.114,00</td>
<td>€ 1.814,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Region fee</strong></td>
<td>€ 19.114,00</td>
<td>€ 1.814,00</td>
<td>€ 17.300,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual fee</td>
<td>€ 630,00</td>
<td>€ 42,14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Individual fee</strong></td>
<td>€ 630,00</td>
<td>€ 42,14</td>
<td>€ 587,86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from regional and individual fees</td>
<td>€ 19.744,00</td>
<td>€ 1.856,14</td>
<td>€ 17.887,86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LE subscription</td>
<td>€ 2.380,00</td>
<td>€ 2.264,30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>€ 3.187,89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank costs</td>
<td></td>
<td>€ 180,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website and Bulletin</td>
<td></td>
<td>€ 240,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Supports (loan and donations) to IALE Regions</td>
<td>€ 20.000,00</td>
<td>€ 3.000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total transactions 31.12.19</strong></td>
<td>€ 42,124,00</td>
<td>€ 10,728,33</td>
<td>€ 31.395,67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance without reservations 31.12.2019</strong></td>
<td>€ 61.960,43</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservations</td>
<td>Bulletin 2019</td>
<td>€ 480,00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% refund to Chapters for the early payment of membership 2019</td>
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<td>€ 500,00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next World Congress</td>
<td></td>
<td>€ 20.000,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal reservations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>€ 20.980,00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance with reservations (31.12.2019)</strong></td>
<td>€ 40.980,43</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support for IALE chapters and working groups in 2020

IALE supports the activities of chapters and working groups every year. This year the executive committee decided to support seven chapter activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IALE Africa</td>
<td>Support for the GORILLA conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE Africa together with the International Geographical Union are cosponsoring the organization of the 1st International Conference on Geographical Science for Resilient Communities, Ecosystems and Livelihoods under Global Environmental Change (GORILLA). The GORILLA conference is due to take place in Kampala, Uganda by the end of 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE Belarus</td>
<td>Travel grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In order to support its individual members, to develop capacity of institutional members, to increase visibility of the Belarusian IALE chapter in the Belarusian academic community, and in its broader region, and in order to establish and strengthen international cooperation links IALE Belarus will be supported with travel money to take part at conferences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE Russia</td>
<td>Support for the IALE Russia conference 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE supports the international conference “Landscape Science and Landscape Ecology: Considering Responses to Global Challenges” organized by IALE-Russia and Lomonosov Moscow State University to cover the expenses for keynote speakers. The IALE Russia conference is scheduled for September 14-18, 2020, in Moscow, Russia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE Germany</td>
<td>Support for Landscape Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE covers some of the annual costs of the open access journal Landscape Online. The journal is published by IALE Germany and supported by several IALE chapters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE North America</td>
<td>Support for the IALE North America conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE supports the conference with money for the Foreign Scholar Travel Awards. The Foreign Scholar Travel Award is an established program with eligibility requirements, a structured application process, and selection criteria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE Brazil</td>
<td>Support for the IALE Brazil Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE supports the III Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology. It will be held between 09 and 13 of November 2020. The theme for the 2020 congress is “15 years of IALEBr: Challenges and Perspectives of Landscape Ecology in Brazil”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IALE Romania</td>
<td>Support for a special issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IALE supports the costs for publishing a special issue in the journal Landscape Ecology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overview Conferences

The corona-pandemic has also impacted scientific conferences. An overview of current IALE conferences around the globe that are going online, are postponed, or due to timing will hopefully not be affected is shown below.

10-14 May 2020
NEW: online-only (originally slated for Toronto, Ontario, Canada)
More information: www.ialena.org

14-18 September 2020
iale Russia 2020 International Conference - Landscape Science and Landscape Ecology: Considering Responses to Global Challenges
Deadline for abstract submission: 31 August 2020
Moscow, Russia
More information: www.iale-russia.ru

09-13 November 2020
III Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology: 15 years of IALEBr: Challenges and Perspectives of Landscape Ecology in Brazil
São Bernardo do Campo, Brazil
Deadline for abstract submission: 03 July 2020
More information: www.eventos.ufabc.edu.br

05-09 July 2021
IALE 2021 European Landscape Ecology Congress: Making the future, learning from the past
The call for symposia starts April 2020
Warsaw, Poland
More information: www.iale-europe.eu
The organizers of the first-ever IALE-North America 2020 conference, originally slated for Toronto in May, are now planning an online-only conference. There will be a number of synchronous events scheduled on the original conference dates (May 10-14), including plenaries, some of the symposia, and four workshops. All accepted presenters (general contributions and posters) will have a chance to present their talks or posters via an exciting interactive platform called iPoster that is very flexible in terms of the types of presentations and provides tools for live chat and asynchronous interactions. Finally, we are thinking of creative ways to maintain some of the most valuable parts of the conference, including the student-mentor lunch and informal social interactions. Stay tuned as we work out more details.

All members of IALE International are warmly invited to register for the conference. We regret that at this point, we are unable to accept new abstracts. Still, participating will be a great opportunity to attend a conference without leaving your home and to test a climate-friendly and inclusive alternative conference format. Unless presenters opt-out individually, all presentations will be archived on the website for a full year, so in theory, a registrant can experience the full conference over the next 12 months.

Please watch this site (www.ialena.org) for further updates and here (www.ialena.org) for online registration information. We look forward to your participation in this exciting new way for our society to interact!
III Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology:
15 years of IALE-Br: Challenges and Perspectives of Landscape Ecology in Brazil

In Brazil, the field of Landscape Ecology is relatively recent and has the potential to expand in light of the country’s environmental challenges. The Brazilian chapter of IALE (IALE-Br) was founded in November 2005 in response to such challenges and the growing national academic interest in related issues. The IALE-Br is a society which aims to develop Landscape Ecology as a scientific basis for analysis, planning and management of Brazilian landscapes in view of its sustainable development. In September of 2012, the IALE-Br, in partnership with the Brazilian Association for Ecological Science and Conservation (ABECO), held in the city of Salvador (Bahia), the II Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology (II IALE-Br), with the theme: „Landscape Ecology and sustainability: connecting theory to conservation practice“. The event drew 261 participants and 125 presentations were held; 29 of them in the form of symposia and 96 as oral presentations in open sessions, in addition to 133 posters.

After a seven-year hiatus and to commemorate 15 years of the establishment of IALE-Br, the III Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology will be held between 09 and 13 of November 2020. The theme for the 2020 congress is "15 years of IALE-Br: Challenges and Perspectives of Landscape Ecology in Brazil". The event will take place at the ABC Federal University (UFABC), on the São Bernardo do Campo campus, and is being organized by professors and graduate students from the Federal University of São Carlos (UFSCar), the ABC Federal University (UFABC), the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), the University of São Paulo (USP) and the Federal University of Espirito Santo (UFES).

About the event: The III Brazilian Congress of Landscape Ecology (III IALE-Br) will be held over three intense days and will consist of lectures and round tables, in addition to pre-event activities (mini-courses) and post-event activities (field trips). The main goal of the event is to continue the work of developing Landscape Ecology as a scientific discipline and a tool for environmental planning and management at the national level, through the dissemination of scientific and technological production in this area of knowledge. This event represents the continuation of over a decade of work focused on this goal, beginning at the I IALE-Br Meeting, held in April 2007 in Rio de Janeiro; at the I Latin American IALE Conference in October 2009 in Campos de Jordão (SP); and at the II IALE-Br conference held in September 2012 in Salvador.

The III IALE-Br will strengthen scientific development, expand the possibilities of practical applications of Landscape Ecology in Brazil and continue the work of the IALE (International Association of Landscape Ecology) in Latin America. Although it is a national congress, researchers from all over Latin America and other parts of the world are expected to attend. The intention is to attract students and professionals from both academia as well as the technical, public and business sectors, with the goals of exchanging information and experiences, training personnel across all sectors of society and, above all, stimulating the formation of partnerships both nationally and internationally.

Schedule: The committee is planning three conferences and three main roundtables, both offered by experienced Brazilian researchers working in the field of Landscape Ecology and using different approaches. This will enable the public to become familiarized with their work and to share knowledge and experiences. Similarly, parallel oral communications sessions, thematic symposia and poster sessions are planned.

Submission of expanded abstracts: The deadline for submissions of expanded abstracts is July the 3rd, 2020. Abstracts must be submitted using the appropriate form - it is mandatory to follow the standards for writing the expanded abstracts. Forms and standards are available on the event’s homepage (www.eventos.ufabc.edu.br/ialebr2020/). The first author must be registered and can submit up to two abstracts. The abstracts will be evaluated by members of the scientific committee and the result, including an indication of changes, if any, will be sent to the lead author by August 03, 2020, with a deadline of seven days for sending the final version of the expanded abstract.

Organizing Committee
- Prof. Dr. Alexandre Martensen (UFSCar)
- Dra. Andrea Santos Garcia (USP)
- Profa. Dra. Angela Terumi Fushita (UFABC)
- Prof. Dr. Danilo Boscholo (USP)
- Prof. Dra. Elisa Hardt (UNIFESP)
- Prof. Dr. Leandro Reverberi Tambosi (UFABC)
- MSc. Marta Leite Oliver Batalha (UFES)
- Prof. Dr. Paulo Guilherme Molin (UFSCar)
- Prof. Dr. Renato Coutinho (UFABC)
- Prof. Dr. Ricardo Hideo Taniwaki (UFABC)
- Profa. Dra. Simone R. Freitas (UFABC)
- Profa. Dra. Vanessa Empinotti (UFABC)

Contacts: For more information go to the event’s homepage at www.eventos.ufabc.edu.br/ialebr2020/e-mail: ialebr.congresso2020@gmail.com Phone: +55 (11) 2320-6338
OVERVIEW
The IALE 2021 European Landscape Ecology Congress, which will take place in Warsaw on July 5-9, 2021, aims to focus on landscape ecology as the multidisciplinary platform linking past, present and future. Such an approach is especially needed nowadays when the world is facing global challenges such as climate change, decrease in biodiversity, environmental pollution, migrations, urbanization etc.

A holistic, landscape approach to the complex cultural-environmental systems – which is the scope of landscape ecology – gives a great opportunity to combine the transdisciplinary tools and perspectives to better understand the diverse phenomena and processes around us and to be able to predict and properly manage them. Therefore we want to learn from past experiences and knowledge to take a responsibility to shape the sustainable landscapes and societies in the future.

To achieve this aim we invite both researchers and practitioners from any landscape-related disciplines, including environmental and social perspectives, to share their experience and interact within the broad, international community of anyone interested in landscape issues. We believe that landscape ecology – as the study of multifacet interactions – has the potential to integrate not only natural sciences and humanities but also researches and policy-makers, which is the key to implement the Congress theme into practice.

The call for symposia will be open in April with a deadline on May 30 and call for abstracts – in autumn 2020. Further information will be successively published on the dedicated congress website (www.iale2021.eu - to be launched with the call for symposia in April). For enquiries contact congress@iale2021.eu.

On behalf of the organizers

Andrzej Affek
(Congress chair)

THEMES
The general congress theme will be discussed through four connecting topics, representing the four main pillars of the overall congress scope:

Past
- Reconstructing, protecting and promoting heritage
- Understanding and mapping transformations
- Assessing drivers and actors of changes
- Tracing landscape (dis)connectivity
- Paleoecology and nature restoration
- History, memories and identity in the landscape

Learning
- Communication and transferring knowledge
- Education and awareness
- Multi-/inter-/trans-disciplinary dialogue with landscape
- Landscape perception and multiperspectivism on landscape
- Landscape monitoring
- Evaluation of policies and measures

Future
- Modelling and scenarios of landscape transitions and expectations
- Technology, innovations and new tools in landscape studies (virtual, artificial intelligence, big data, social media etc.)
- Landscape genetics, regeneration and security
- Sustainability and resilience in facing challenges and finding solutions
- Measuring landscape

Making
- Implementation into practice and policy in governance and management of landscape
- Design and placemaking
- Protection, conservation and valuation of landscape
- Conflict mitigation and solving
- Ecosystem services, stewardship and impact assessment
Call for Special Issue in Landscape Online:

Education in landscape ecology – Sharing knowledge and experience

The IALE-Europe working group “Education in landscape ecology – Sharing knowledge and experience” is announcing a living special issue in Landscape Online. We invite contributions on different educational approaches that arise from the landscape ecology perspectives such as holistic, humanistic, and society-centred views, as well as analytical and biological ecology-centred approaches. Also encouraged are educational approaches that bring together different disciplines and promote interaction within those disciplines as well as with the ‘real world’, the society.

The special issue will address topics such as:

- how to develop learning lines for teaching landscape ecology in the curricula of students;
- how to cross the bridges between different levels of education;
- how to go beyond traditional teaching methods from different perspectives;
- how to integrate different approaches to understanding the holistic landscape;
- how to integrate different knowledge on real-life examples; – how to use innovative technologies that contribute to the understanding of the socio-ecological relations in the landscape;
- how landscape can be used as a living lab to build up the social skills of students;
- how to evaluate the landscape ecological knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to understand and tackle the fast-changing environment and society;
- how to prepare the future teachers to teach landscape ecology.

Opened: 2019 - ongoing
Edited by: IALE-Europe working group Education in Landscape Ecology

More information and call for papers: www.landscape-online.org
Belarusian IALE chapter - the purpose and the mission

To comply with the Belarusian legislation, the chapter needs to be established as an NGO and a recognised legal entity, it needs to have members from all the seven regions of Belarus. Currently the Steering Group is working on the registration file. The Belarusian IALE chapter will be therefore founded as NGO "Ландшафтна-Экалагічнае Таварыстава – LET" ("Landшафтна-Экалагічнае Таварыстава – ЛЭТ") in Belarusian, or "Society for Landscape Ecology" in English) with 53 members representing academia, NGO and business from all the seven regions of Belarus. A portion of this membership (preliminary 15 members) will also be members of IALE International through their membership in LET. The website will be set-up after the formal registration is completed, as per the Belarusian legislation. The elected Chair (President) of LET is Dr. Hanナ Sidarovich of the Centre for Biological Resources, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, and the vice-chair (vice-president) and the regional Representatives to the IALE Council is Dr. Anton Shkaruba of the University of Life Sciences. The logo of LET – Belarusian IALE (the registration is pending):

In their professional interests, members of the LET primarily focus on landscapes, ecosystems, biodiversity and cultural heritage of Belarus. This also includes broader regional and international contexts, such as international institutions and agreements relevant for the environment and people of Belarus (including international recognition of conservation sites, international assessments, such as IPCC and IPBES), EU integration and neighbourhood policies (e.g. European regions and INTERREG programs, Forest Europe, Baltic and Nordic policies and mechanisms, Eastern Partnership, Emerald, European transport corridors etc), transboundary ecosystems and protected areas, migratory species and so on.

Based on interests of LET members, the following research areas will be prioritised:

- Remote sensing and GIS applications for habitat and vegetation mapping to support biodiversity and landscape conservation, and mitigate habitat fragmentation;
- Environmental monitoring;
- Landscape geochemistry and geophysics;
- Wildlife management and policy;
- Designation and management of conservation sites and networks, including international and transboundary sites and policy processes;
- Urban and physical planning, including public participation in decision making and citizen science;
- Heritage management and policies, including preservation of cultural landscapes;
- Smart green and blue, including valuation and promotion of nature-based solutions and ecosystem services;
- Adaptation of sectors and socio-ecological systems & climate-proof cities;
- Multilevel landscape and biodiversity governance and its institutions.

As a field of research and praxis, landscape ecology is very fragmented in Belarus, both in terms of disciplinary areas (e.g. biologists vs. geographers) and organisationally (e.g. National Academy of Science vs. Belarusian State University). As a result, people from different research backgrounds or organisations often do not speak to each other and have little understanding of what is going on beyond their silos. As its most important objective, LET is seeking to overcome this fragmentation and get people from across fields and affiliations to work together on achieving better environmental and preservation status of Belarusian biodiversity, landscapes and cultural heritage, and to promote Belarusian science and landscapes worldwide. Doing so, we also recognise that "landscape ecology" goes much beyond landscape studies as they were understood by the Soviet physical geography (i.e. «ландшафтознание»), and therefore our foundation group is very inclusive and multidisciplinary, and we welcome academic and praxis experts from any relevant academic and professional backgrounds.

Another issue we recognise and are going to address is that Belarusian academia is somewhat isolated from international and European research communities and their work. There are several reasons for this, such as language barriers, financial constraints (both result in low incoming and outgoing research mobility), strong and resilient research legacies, which are not open to new research and policy challenges etc. This issue can be addresses by such activities as joint projects (research, capacity development, educational), conferences and other meetings (both organised in Belarus or elsewhere with Belarusian participation), involvement of Belarusian experts to international panels and assessments, joint publications, and cherishing any other institutional and people-to-people contacts and forms of academic and non-academic mobility.

We expect that IALE will help us in addressing these two challenges. Possible forms of support may include partner search (and keeping in mind that Belarusian partners can be a helpful addition to any project application), considering Belarus as a meeting venue, support to mobility of young researchers, guest research and/or lecturing by internationally recognised experts. Any other ideas are welcome as well!

With the support from IALE we were able to organise a noticeable and memorable kick-off event on May 27-30, 2019:

To give the participants a better feeling of the Belarusian landscape, we had a conference dinner and an excursion in a museum of wooden architecture:

On May 30 this experience was completed with a field trip in Central and Western Belarus:
Reorganized & Merged IALE Outreach & Policy Working Group (OPWG)

Mission:
Landscape ecologists investigate the interaction between human activities and the environment at many scales, from local to global. Landscape ecology thus offers critical and relevant framework for efforts aimed at achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local, national and regional levels. Hence it is imperative for the landscape ecology community to engage with other scientific communities as well as actors in defining, planning and implementing policy and resource management strategies from municipalities, regional and national agencies to international bodies like the United Nations. Many of the most critical issues in this period of the Anthropocene include land use change and urbanization, air and water pollution, agriculture, invasive species, biodiversity, and climate change.

While most policymakers, practitioners, and resource managers have little awareness of how insights from landscape ecology can improve policy development and implementation, most landscape ecology researchers are typically not trained to provide appropriate guidance to policymakers and practitioners in a format that is easily understood and germane to their pressing needs. Hence, the landscape ecology community need an effective forum and mechanism to engage with policy makers and other societal actors on commonalities in achieving SDGs.

Goals:
The goals OPWG are to:
- identify opportunities where the field of LE can inform policy related to pressing issues;
- support landscape ecologists interested in translating their research results into policy;
- engage with policy makers to identify key information needs that landscape ecologists can investigate;
- encourage landscape ecologists to identify gaps between knowledge and existing policy;
- support training for landscape ecologists to work in policy-related fields;
- prepare reports and white papers in collaboration with other professional societies.

Activities (2020 – 2021):
The focus and activities of OPWG for 2019 – 2020 will include:
- Webinar series on to improve the “Knowledge Base” and understanding of intersections between Landscape Ecology and policy related and resource management issues.
- Promote special issue publications on cross-disciplinary approaches to addressing human-environmental interactions and their impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services provision, and SDGs,
- Coordinate with other Working groups to streamline collaborative initiatives with organizations such as ESP, IPBES, Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AES), Conservation Social Science and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). The goal is to leverage landscape perspectives in the work of these organizations and vice-versa and enhance collective understanding of human-environment and socio-economic dimensions of addressing Sustainable Development Goals.

Membership:
All colleagues interested in contributing to our working group are welcome to contact us, via the Working Group Lead, Henry N. N. Bulley - hbulley@bmcc.cuny.edu or Co-Lead, Audrey Mayer - almayer@mtu.edu. We are especially seeking members who are involved in policy making and as such welcome planners, elected officials, and other practitioners to join our group.

Please find the current members list on www.landscape-ecology.org
The IALE Bulletin is distributed several times a year to the members of IALE. IALE - the International Association for Landscape Ecology was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research.

IALE Executive Committee:
President: Robert Scheller (2019-2023), North Carolina State University, Campus Box 7106, Raleigh, NC 27695-7106 USA, rschell@ncsu.edu; Secretary General: Peilei Fan (2019-2023), Michigan State University, 201M Human Ecology Building, 552 West Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI 48824, USA, fanpeile@msu.edu; Treasurer: Irene Petrossillo (2019-2023), University of Salento, 73100 Lecce, Italy, irene.petrossillo@unisalento.it; Communication Officer and Deputy Secretary General: Bastian Steinhoff-Knopp (2019-2023), Leibniz University Hannover, Schneiderberg 50, 30167 Hannover, Germany, steinhoff-knopp@phygeo.uni-hannover.de; Past President: Christine Fürst (2019-2023), Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Von-Seckendorff-Platz 4, 06120 Halle (Saale), Germany, christine.fuerst@geo.uni-halle.de; Vice Presidents and their role in the Executive Committee: Dolors Armenteras (2019-2023; Latin America); National University of Colombia, Av. Carrera 30 # 45-03, Edif. 476 - Facultad de Ciencias, Bogotá D.C., Colombia, darmenterasp@unal.edu.co; Henry Bulley (2019-2023; Africa; Tasks: Outreach and communication), City University of New York, 199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007, USA, hnbulley1@gmail.com; Benjamin Burkhard (2015-2019; Europe), Leibniz University Hannover, Schneiderberg 50, 30167 Hannover, Germany, burkhard@phygeo.uni-hannover.de; Liding Chen (2013-2021; Asia; Tasks: Monitoring and reporting on regional & international IALE events for organizing EC & Chapter meetings), Chinese Academy of Sciences, 18 Shuangqiang Road, Haidian District, Beijing, 100085, China, liding@rcees.ac.cn; Sima Fakheran Esfahani (2017-2021; Near East; Tasks: IALE Chapter networking, female landscape ecologists network, education), Isfahan University of Technology, Faculty of Natural Resources, Isfahan, 84156-83111, Iran, fakheran@cc.iut.ac.ir; Cristian Echeverria (2017-2021; Latin and South America; Tasks: Networking in Latin American countries, students and young researchers network), Universidad de Concepcion, Victoria 631, Barrio Universitario Concepción, Chile, cristian.echeverria@udec.cl; Chair of the Council: Danilo Boscolo, Universidade de São Paulo, Av. Bandeirantes, 3900 - CEP 14040-901 - Bairro Monte Alegre - Ribeirão Preto - SP - Brasil, danilo.boscolo@usp.br.

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

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PLEASE: Send your contributions to the Bulletin Editor Bastian Steinhoff-Knopp: steinhoff-knopp@phygeo.uni-hannover.de

IALE Diversity and Inclusion Committee

The newly-formed IALE Diversity and Inclusion Committee is seeking members. We aim to have a varied group of eager members working together on these important issues. If you’d like to join the committee, please email me, the Committee Chair, a brief statement (a short paragraph, no more than 5 sentences) about why you’d like to be involved, any related experience, and ideas you have for the committee.

The other current members of the committee are: Jen Costanza (Chair), Dolors Armenteras, and Sima Fakheran.

The focus of this committee will be determined by its members. As such, our first task will be to write a formal mandate for the committee. Some ideas for other initial goals include writing a diversity and inclusion policy for IALE, writing a code of conduct, and working with other IALE committees and leadership to ensure diversity and inclusion across the organization.

Please also email me with any questions.

Jen Costanza
jkcostan@ncsu.edu
Chair, IALE Diversity and Inclusion Committee