

**BULLETIN**

**OF THE**

**INTERNATIONAL**

**ASSOCIATION**

**FOR**

**LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY**

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## SECTION I: GENERAL IALE INFORMATION

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### EDITORIAL

A brand new Bulletin for a brand new International Association for Landscape Ecology. Yet another scientific periodical on the pile of 'important' papers and periodicals? We hope not.

This Bulletin is intended to inform the reader, whether geographer, biologist, regional planner, landscape architect, geologist or whatever, so that he or she can find a way more easily through the complex world of information on landscape and landscape ecology (for an explanation of this latter term see page 3 ).

To achieve this, the Bulletin has several sections. The General section contains information relevant to all 'landscape ecologists' in all countries. The Bulletin Feature focusses on the scientific developments in one country or region and aims to provide current information in a concise form. The Regional Section is to be prepared by each IALE region separately and should contain relevant information for that country or group of countries.

The first issue is, of necessity, incomplete. Until the IALE gets under way, sections II and III cannot be presented. However, we hope to incorporate a Feature in the next issue.

We would welcome readers' comments on the contents and presentation of the Bulletin. Without your feedback we will not know whether the Bulletin is indeed succeeding in making relevant information on landscape ecology accessible to those interested and involved in this field.

The Founding Committee.

#### THE FORMAT OF THE BULLETIN

The IALE aims to be a communication channel between landscape ecologists all over the world. Three lines of communication are easily available:

- diaries of conferences, meetings, workshops, etc.
- information about current research
- reviews of publications.

The Bulletin is meant to use these communication channels as well as possible. We have chosen the following format:

- I A Section on general international information on IALE matters. A diary of congresses, of course, but also news from the international secretariat, letters to the editor, reports from special working groups, etc.
- II The Bulletin Feature. To be compiled by a different regional IALE secretariat each time. It should contain information about current research items of special interest to all IALE members. Its actual composition should be the responsibility of each region, but particular attention should be paid to:
  - methodological problems in landscape ecology;
  - contributions to the paradigm of landscape ecology;
  - research projects to be started in the near future.
- III A Section on Regional Information. This section contains information that is mainly relevant for a specific region: national diaries; announcements from the regional secretariat; regional workshops and reports, etc.
- IV A section on recently published scientific literature relevant to landscape ecologists. We envisage three different entries:
  - simple reference lists
  - extended and short reviews
  - information about field data (e.g. information on data banks).

Sections I, II and IV of the Bulletin will be compiled at the international secretariat. Each regional secretariat will compile its own section III. The international secretariat will send originals of sections I, II and IV to all regional secretariats; these will be attached to the appropriate section III and then duplicated. Each regional secretariat will be responsible for mailing the Bulletin to its members. Members living in countries that do not yet belong to a region will receive the Bulletin from the international secretariat.

#### WHAT IS LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY?

Because the term 'landscape ecology' is not a common one in most parts of the world it seems important to give some explanation in this first Bulletin. For this purpose we have approached a number of persons in different countries asking them to send us a short definition or description of the term 'landscape ecology'. We intend to compose a correct definition on the basis of the information we receive.

#### FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

(To be written after the actual establishment of IALE during the Symposium in Bratislava (CSSR) in October 1982.)

#### RESULTS OF THE IALE INQUIRY

In 1981 a questionnaire was sent to 40 contact persons in different countries in order to gather information the Founding Committee needed to carry on with the preparations for the establishment of the IALE. 24 reactions to the questionnaire were received. The text of the questionnaire is given below. Each question is followed by a conclusion summarized from the answers received.

- 1 The present organizational set up and infrastructure concerning landscape ecology differs from country to country.
- 1a Which organizations, societies, research institutes, private companies etc. relevant in this context exist in your country?

The information received about this shows that in most countries the institutes and organizations tend to be mono-disciplinary (e.g. biological, geographical). In several

countries a number of private companies are engaged in research in the field of landscape ecology. The term 'landscape ecology' as such, however, is only used in a very few countries.

- 1b How many people do you roughly estimate to become a member of an international organization for landscape ecology?

This question appeared difficult to answer. Several contact persons mentioned that the number of members would depend largely on fees and services. We conclude from the given estimates that the total potential membership at the beginning could be between 1000 and 1500.

- 2 As name the Founding Committee proposed: International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE). Other proposals were: International Association for Land Ecology (IALE) and International Association for Landscape Ecology and Management (IALEM).

- 2a Which name do you prefer?

The name INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY (IALE) was preferred. A few contact persons would have preferred the word 'management' incorporated in this name. With regard to the word 'land' instead of 'landscape' there was only one positive reaction. Two contact persons expressed difficulties with the term 'landscape ecology' as such. Several reactions stressed the need for a good definition of the term 'landscape ecology'.

- 3 The aims of the international organization are:

1. To further communication between scientists as well as planners working in the broad field of landscape ecology.
2. To advance scientific research on landscape ecology on an integrated and interdisciplinary basis.
3. To promote application of knowledge on landscape ecology and to further interaction between scientists and planners.
4. To promote a balanced interaction between man and his environment.

- 3a Are these broadly formulated aims in your opinion correct and sufficient for an IALE as an organization in which interdisciplinary contact and communication are important?

Most countries agreed about the aims as formulated above. The Founding Committee, however, has incorporated several amendments suggested by contact persons, into the text that is now

proposed in the draft Rules.

- 4 As activities for the IALE the following are proposed:
1. Organization of international meetings for efficient exchange of knowledge and experience on landscape ecology.
  2. To publish or by other means distribute knowledge in the field of landscape ecology.
  3. To establish interdisciplinary working groups for special topics in the field of landscape ecology.
  4. To edit and distribute a bulletin.
  5. To carry out joint (research) projects in order to exchange specialized knowledge and experience.

- 4a Are the activities named above in your opinion correct and sufficient?

The majority of contact persons expressed the opinion that the list of activities as formulated above can be used for the time being. Some amendments were suggested here also, which we have taken into account when preparing the new text of the draft Rules.

- 5 Structure and membership: At the conference a proposal for a structure with different regions was discussed. A region is formed by a group of countries that are geographically related. Another possibility is sections formed by only one or just a few countries. There was no agreement about individual or collective membership and form of government. One possibility for the government of the association is: a council chosen by the general assembly and consisting of a general council, an executive council, president and secretary-general.

- 5a Which form of government for IALE is preferred in your country?

The answers concerning the form of government tended to favour a general assembly, a conventional governing council (appointed or elected; representing regions and disciplines) and an executive committee to do the work. A suggestion was that the initial structure should be reappraised after the first few years. Based on these answers the Founding Committee has made a proposal for the form of government, which is given in the draft Rules.

- 5b Which form of membership is preferred in your country?

The main opinion concerning form of membership was that the IALE should be a private non-governmental organization with individual as well as institutional (i.e. collective) membership.

- 5c What is your opinion about a structure with Regions within the IALE?

The opinions concerning regions differ so widely that we think this question should be left open for the time being. It seems good, however, to keep the structure as simple and as practical as possible. Regions within IALE could be established when and where the need arises. The creation of a region (either consisting of a group of countries or just one country) could be practical if there is much regional activity or if financial and administrative matters (e.g. distribution of the Bulletin) can be handled better on regional basis.

- 5d Could secretarial work for a region be carried out in your country?

We received positive answers from the following countries: Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, German Democratic Republic, India, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States of America. We are therefore confident that there is enough potential support for this.

- 6 With regard to affiliation of the IALE to an international organization UNESCO; INTECOL and ICSU were mentioned.

- 6a What is the opinion about this matter in your country?

The question about affiliation if the IALE is still difficult to answer. There were several suggestions naming INTECOL, ICU or ICSU. Other reactions were that no 'umbrella' in the form of an affiliation is needed for the time being.

UNESCO is a governmental organization and does not have affiliates. It might, however, assist in the support of the IALE. We think that the point of a possible affiliation needs no immediate answer and can be reconsidered after the establishment of the IALE.

The results of this inquiry have been used to draft the Rules for the IALE which are distributed with this first Bulletin.

INTERNATIONAL DIARY

(To be written after the actual establishment of IALE during the Symposium in Bratislava (CSSR) in October 1982.)

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**SECTION II: BULLETIN FEATURE**

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PROPOSED CONTENTS OF FEATURES

The feature sections are meant to inform IALE members about activities in the various regions. We expect to have some ten regions in due time. This would mean that each region would be responsible for a Bulletin feature once every 2½ years: a reasonable period to cover for news.

This section should not exceed 20 pages A4 double spaced. Though that is not much space, we must keep in mind that IALE members will be particularly interested in condensed information, preferably in the form of well formulated abstracts plus addresses and references to relevant literature. This kind of information gives an overview of developments in the region.

Next to this, emphasis should be laid on the following aspects:

1. Methodological problems in research on landscape ecology. Particular attention should be paid to problems of integration of different monodisciplinary activities.
2. Contributions to the paradigm of the 'discipline' of landscape ecology. Landscape ecology is not a pure science in the sense of biology or geology but tries to integrate monodisciplinary contributions into a higher level of abstraction.
3. A review of research to be started in the near future, with addresses of project leaders, etc.

We hope that these Features will enable IALE members to arrange their international contacts in the most efficient way.

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### SECTION III: REGIONAL NEWS

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#### PROPOSED CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

This section of the Bulletin will be prepared by each regional secretariat separately. Nevertheless, we would like to suggest some guidelines for it:

1. Regional diary: Meetings, symposia, workshops etc. that are mainly interesting at regional or national levels.
2. Regional problems: Landscape ecology may be faced with different problems in different regions. Therefore these specific problems should mainly be dealt with in the regional section.
3. Literature: Publications and other written information that are only relevant at regional or national levels can be reviewed or mentioned here.

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### SECTION IV: LITERATURE ON LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

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#### PROPOSED CONTENTS OF THIS SECTION

This section should contain information about recently published literature relevant to landscape ecologists. We propose the following form for this section:

1. A relatively simple reference list (names/titles/year of publication/source), split up according to languages (English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, other).
2. Reviews of publications of general interest.
3. Special attention may be paid to data banks and information systems. (We will need the help of a specialist in this field to evaluate the necessity and usefulness of such information in this Bulletin.)

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