



# Bulletin

International association for landscape ecology

## NEW PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES TO THE IALE STATUTE-PROPOSAL FROM JULY 1991

A proposal for new statutes was presented in IALE bulletin Vol 9 no. 2 in July 1991. At the General Assembly of IALE in Ottawa, July 1991, it was decided, that revised Statutes, following the principles of the new proposal for statutes, should be improved in text and detail before the next General Assembly and put into force by the Executive Committee and the Council.

This procedure is now under realization. The main improvement has been on the work of the Nominating Committee for the Executive Committee and the influence of the members and the General Assembly on the election procedure: The Nominating Committee will select at least two persons for each position to be nominated for election, and the General Assembly can add further nominations among the proposed candidates.

The Statute-changes compared with the proposal from June 1991 are given on page 2.

The new Statutes are available by request from Secretary-General Almo Farina. They will also be enclosed the material for the Congress in Toulouse: Voting on the new Statutes will take place at the General Assembly, and require at least a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

## NOMINATION FOR THE IALE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The election procedure for the Executive Committee of IALE, that will take over from 1996 will be executed according to the new revised statutes (see page 2 in this Bulletin). According to these, the procedure will be as follows:

Nominations for are requested (distributed by post in March) and shall be made by two members in good standing and consented to by the signature of the nominee, and be in the hand of the Secretary-General before the 29th of June.

A Nominating Committee chaired by the Past-President will select at least two persons for each position to be nominated for election. A report from the Nominating Committee will be ready one of the first days of the Congress and be presented at the meeting of the Council Tuesday 29 August at 16 p.a.

The General Assembly can by simple majority decide to add nominations among the candidates. In case two eligible candidates are not nominated for any position by both the Nominating Committee and the General Assembly, election of the single nominee by acclamation must be approved by a simple majority of the General Assembly. Three scrutineers appointed by the General Assembly will distribute the ballots promptly to all IALE members in good standing at the time of the election.

## TRAVELLING GRANTS FOR TOULOUSE

The IALE Congress Currency Fund (ICCF) makes it possible to provide some travelling grants for people needing some financial help to attend the international congress in Toulouse in August.

Contact the ICCF Chair: Françoise Burel, Laboratoire ESNM, Université de Rennes 1, Campus de Beaulieu, 35042 Rennes cedex, France  
Tel: +33 99 28 61 45 Fax: +33 99 38 15 71

## UK-IALE MEETING 1995

The 4th annual UK-IALE meeting will be held on the 19-20th of September 1995 in Reading.

The theme will be: Landscape ecology - Theory and Application.

Contact: Dr. G.H. Griffiths, Dept. of Geography, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AB, UK.

Tel. 44-01734-318733, Fax 44-01734-755865.

PROPOSAL FROM JULY 1991	NEW PROPOSAL FOR CHANGES
<b>E THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b>	<b>E THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b> E6 The General Assembly appoint three scrutineers charged with conducting an election by secret ballot or fill all necessary positions on the Executive Committee. E7 Each General Assembly can decide by simple majority to add nominations to the nominations for election to the executive committee put forward to the Nominating Committee. These nominations from the General Assembly will be added to the election ballot together with the nominations put forward by the Nominating Committee.
<b>F THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b> F3 The Executive Committee shall be elected by the following procedure: a) A request for nominations shall be distributed to all members by The Secretary-General directly and/or by printing in the Bulletin in time for receipt at least two month before the next scheduled General Assembly. Any nominations shall be made two members in good standing and shall be consented to by the signature of the nominee. The Secretary-General shall deliver all valid nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee. b) The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the Past President, and failing that by someone designated by the Past President from outside the Executive Committee. The Chair shall appoint four additional members to the Nominating Committee. c) The Nominating Committee shall make a slate of two eligible and willing candidates for each position, to be filled by the election, from the nominations received with reference to: considerations of the Statutes of the Association, needs of each particular Office, the international and regional nature of IALE, and similar criteria likely to affect the vitality of IALE.	<b>F THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</b> F3 The Executive Committee shall be elected by the following procedure: a) A request for nominations shall be distributed to all members by The Secretary-General directly and/or by printing in the Bulletin in time for receipt at least four months before the next scheduled General Assembly. Any nominations shall be made by two members in good standing and shall be consented to by the signature of the nominee, and be in the hands of the Secretary-General 2 month before the General Assembly. The Secretary-General shall deliver all valid nominations to the Chair of the Nominating Committee immediately after this dead-line. b) The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the Past President, and failing that by someone designated by the Past President from outside the Executive Committee. The Chair shall appoint four additional members to the Nominating Committee, intended to provide regional representation. c) The Nominating Committee shall make a slate of at least two eligible candidates for each position, to be filled by the election, from the nominations received with reference to: considerations of the Statutes of the Association, needs of each particular Office, the international and regional nature of IALE, and similar criteria likely to affect the vitality of IALE, and with reference to Statute E7. In case two eligible candidates are not nominated for any position by both the Nominating Committee and the General Assembly, election of the single nominee by acclamation must be approved by a simple majority of the General Assembly.
<b>G THE COUNCIL</b>	<b>G THE COUNCIL</b> G3 The role of the Council is: d) To elect a replacement from among the current vice-presidents if the president shall resign or become unable to serve before the end of a term.

The IALE BULLETIN is distributed 6 times a year to the members of IALE. IALE - International Association for Landscape ecology - was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists and planners and interdisciplinary scientific research. IALE Bulletin Editor : Jesper Brandt, Inst. Geography & International development studies, Roskilde University, P.O.Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark, Phone: +46 75 77 11 ext. 2463, Fax: +46 75 4240 E-mail: brandt@ruc.dk. Layout Erling Andersen. IALE executive committee: President Henri Decamps (France), Past-president Gray Merriam (Canada), Vice-presidents: Joan Iverson Nassauer (USA), Eduardo R. Fuentes (Chile), Paul F.M. Opdam (Netherlands), Vaclav Mejstrik (Czech Republic) General Secretary Almo Farina (Italy), Lunigiana Museum of Natural History, 54001 Aulla, Italy Phone: +187 40 02 52, Fax: +187 420727. Deputy General Secretary & Bulletin editor Jesper Brandt (Denmark), Treasurer: James F. Thorne (USA)The nature Conservancy, Pennsylvania Chapter, 1211 Chestnut Street, 12th floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-4122, Phone: 215-963-1400

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**LANDSCAPE ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH OF WETLANDS IN CHINA**

*By Wang Xianli, Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences*

China is one of the countries with the largest area of wetlands. They are of very different types and distributed widely. Many of them are important valuable waterfowls habitats. The natural wetlands include marsh, peat land, swampland, wet meadow, shallow lake, plateau salt lake, salty swamp and beach etc. all in all about 25 million ha in area, that is 2.6% of the total area; the artificial wetlands (including paddy fields, reservoirs and man-made pools) are 70 million ha in area. Wetlands in China mainly distributed in 9 regions: 1) Shanjing plain in northern China, 2) The salty swamps in Neimengo gobi, 3) fresh water lakes in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangzi and Yellow rivers, 4) beaches on the north of Yangzi river mouth, 5) the seashores and mangrove wetlands south of the Yangzi river 6) wet meadows in the Yunnan-Guizhou-Shichuan plateau, 7) large salty lakes in the desert area of Xinjiang, 8) high mountain lakes on the north of Tianshan mountains, 9) high mountain lakes and swamps on the Tibet Plateau.

The Chinese government has recognized the importance of wetlands both in environment and economy. And they have worked out a series of plans for the protection and sustainable utilization of wetlands also. Moreover, China has joined the Ramsar Convention in June, 1993. There have been 6 wetland conservations of China listed in the name list in the convention, they are the Zhalong in Heilongjiang province, the Xianghai in Jilin province, the Bird Island in Qinghai province, the Dongzhaigang in Hainan province, the Boyang Lake in Jiangxi province, and the East Dongting Lake in Hunan province.

There are more than 10 institutes which are involved in the research of wetlands with preponderance of complex subjects in the Chinese Academy of Sciences, such as Changchun Institute of Geography, Institute of Soil Science in Nanjing, Institute of Applied Ecology in Shenyang, Commission of Integrated survey of Natural Resources (CISNAR), etc. Preliminary works were focused on the peat lands and the utilization of peat before 1980's. In the 1980's, the Investigation of the Sea Shore in China was an important part of wetland research. But other aspects of wetland research were not valued then.

Nowadays, the highlights of wetland research are exploitation and conservation, sustainable development, and most important of all, the global changes, in China. Many works on global changes, especially the greenhouse gases monitoring, are very popular in China.

Prof. Wang Mingxing who works at the Institute of Atmosphere Physics has provided some data on the emission of methane from paddy fields, and other scientists are continuing working in this field, such as Prof. Cai Zhuchong in Nanjing Institute of Soil Sciences, Chen Guanxiong in Institute of Applied Ecology, etc. Works on monitoring the emission of greenhouse gases from natural wetlands are much more seldom, only Prof. Xiao Duning, who works at the Institute of Applied Ecology, is recently engaged in this work in reed field, and has obtained some valuable data already.

There were two important conferences held in 1994, first was "International Conference '94 on Wetland Environment and Peat land Utilization" on August 9-11, 1994 in Changchun: The Second was "Sustainable Utilization and Conservation of Wetlands in China" on Nov. 1994 in Yueyang. These two meetings show that the study of wetlands in China is valued.

Wetlands manifest many special characteristics because wetland is a kind of resources, and it is an ecosystem also, so the wetland researchers can study them from different points of view. But many studies can only interpret the microscope problems, for the overall view of the wetland, they can't have any explanations. So we need new methods to study the wetlands. Moreover, because the global changes are related to the wetlands, so the study of the affects of wetlands to the global changes from regional or even global scales is very important. Landscape Ecology is just the right discipline to solve this problem.

Nobody used Landscape Ecology to study wetlands in China before 1993. But since 1994, Professor Xiao Duning is undertaking a project named "Study on Estuaries Wetlands Landscape Structure and Ecological Processes in Northern China" funded by the National Natural Science Foundation, which is the first attempt of landscape ecology used in the study of wetlands. Up to now, this study has got some valuable data and several research papers have been published inland and abroad. Indices and graphs of landscape pattern, temporal and spatial scales, heterogeneity, disturbance, etc. of the estuary wetlands are computed and edited. They are planning to do some further works on monitoring the dynamic changes of hydrology, elements of soil, greenhouse gases emitted from artificial wetlands and natural wetlands, the seashore etc.: trying to combine the macroscope and microscope studies together in order to find a new way for the research of wetlands.

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**INSECTS IN THE LANDSCAPE**

During the next International Entomology Conference to be held in Firenze (Italy) in August 1996, there will be a symposium devoted to "Interchanges of insects between agricultural and surrounding landscapes".

The symposium is planned as a full day session, with around 15 talks of 30 minutes each, and possibility of presenting posters.

If you are interested in participating in such a meeting linking agricultural entomology and landscape ecology, crops and field margins, or need more information, please contact:

Yvon Robert, INRA Laboratoire de zoologie, BP 29, 35650 LE RHEU, FRANCE,

tel. +33 99 28 51 65. Fax +33 99 28 51 50. E-mail: yrobert@rennes.inra.fr

**UNESCO-Chair for Ecological Awareness and Sustainable Development in Banská Stiavnica (Slovakia)**

This chair has started its activity within the frame of the Faculty of Ecology at the Technical University Zvolen on 21st December, 1994. The town Banská Stiavnica is listed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list where the 'Mining Academy' as the first technical university in the world was established by Empress Maria-Theresia in 1763.

The Chair will develop educational, scientific and publication activities, initiate international courses for students and postgraduates as well as spreading of the ecological awareness in the public. I would like to stress, that the Chair is oriented not on ecology but on awareness on the role and relations of the nature, landscape, natural resources for the environment and the survival of mankind on the Earth. So, it is of interdisciplinary character between natural and social sciences.

In the year 1995 the Chair will concentrate on professional field courses on the human impact on the landscape, as well as on the first runs of the ecological-awareness-course called 'Ecological Minimum'.

An important task of the Chair will be also the creation of an international network within the UNESCO-Chairs/UNITWIN program. Therefore, we invite interested institutions of similar character to join us. As a starting institute we would appreciate very much any kind of professional and material support.

The address is: UNESCO-Chair for Ecological Awareness in Banská Stiavnica - TU Zvolen, Akademická 13, 969 00 Banská Stiavnica, Slovak Republic. Fax: +42 859 233816, phone: +42 859 21806, or +42 859 21 815.

Doc. RNDr. Ladislav Miklós, DrSc. Head of the Chair

**DIARY**

• Cologne, Germany 2-5 May 1995  
International Trade Fair and Congress for the Geosciences and Geotechnology. Contact: Geotechnica Congress Agency, P.O.Box 25 02 63, D-50518 Cologne.  
Phone: 02 21/921 825 25.  
Fax: 02 21/921 825 4

• Jerusalem, Israel 25-29 June 1995  
6th International Conference on Preservation of Our World in the Wake of Change. Contact: Yosef Steinberger, Dept. of life Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan 52900 Israel.  
Phone: (972-3) 5318571  
Fax: (972-3) 771088

• Beijing, China 11-15 August  
1995th International Conference on state of the art in ecological modelling. Contact: Dr.L.Kvang, Inst. of Zoology, 19 Zhongguancun Lu, 100080 Beijing  
Phone: 86-1-2555612  
Fax: 86-1-2565689

• Toulouse, France 27-31 August  
1995 IALE Congress 1995: The future of our landscapes. Contact: Henri Decamps, Centre d'Ecologie CNRS, 29 rue Jeanne Marvig, 31055 Toulouse Cédex, France.  
Fax: +33 62269999

• The Hague, The Netherlands 17-21 September 1995  
Habitat fragmentation & infrastructure. Contact: Congress office ASD, P.O.Box 40, 2600 AA Delft, the Netherlands. Tel: +31 15 120234, Fax: +31 15 120250

• Reading, UK 19-20 September 1995  
The 4th annual UK-IALE meeting will be held on the 19-20th of September 1995 in Reading. The theme will be: Landscape ecology - Theory and Application. Contact: Dr. G.H. Griffiths, Dept. of Geography, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AB, UK. Tel. 44-01734-318733  
Fax 44-01734-755865.