



# Bulletin

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## International Association for Landscape Ecology

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### IALE MISSION STATEMENT

The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) aims to develop landscape ecology as the scientific basis for the analysis, planning and management of the landscapes of the world. IALE advances international co-operation and interdisciplinary synergism within the field, through scientific, scholarly, educational and communication activities.

#### **Landscape ecology: what is it?**

Landscape ecology is the study of spatial variation in landscapes at a variety of scales. It includes the biophysical and societal causes and consequences of landscape heterogeneity. Above all, it is broadly interdisciplinary.

The conceptual and theoretical core of landscape ecology has become distinct and recognised, effectively linking natural sciences with related human disciplines. Landscape ecology can be portrayed by several of its core themes:

- 1) the spatial pattern or structure of landscapes, ranging from wilderness to cities,
- 2) the relationship between pattern and process in landscapes,
- 3) the relationship of human activity to landscape pattern, process and change,
- 4) the effect of scale and disturbance on the landscape.

#### **Landscape ecology: science and action**

IALE encourages landscape ecologists to transcend boundaries and to work together building theory and developing knowledge of landscape pattern and process, developing integrative tools, making them applicable to real landscape situations and applying them in solving problems.

Throughout the world, landscapes are being altered more rapidly, more extensively, and more profoundly than at any point in human history. Comprehensive land use planning and sound land use policy are still the exception, but should become the rule. Members of IALE have a critical role to play.

Applying landscape ecology stimulates the integration of various disciplines. Therefore, landscape ecology should always look for opportunities for action. Landscape ecologists make assumptions and uncertainties explicit whenever relevant, point out the risks for the decision maker, and always strive to improve the applicability and accuracy of their tools.

#### **Landscape ecology: the vision**

In looking ahead, IALE envisions a future characterised by:

- 1) widespread recognition, within the scientific community, of the contributions made by landscape ecologists,
- 2) rigorous research and scholarship, resulting from active collaboration and interdisciplinary synergism among diverse fields encompassed by biophysical sciences, social sciences, humanities,
- 3) natural resource management, land planning and design, conservation, and land use policy widely, routinely, and creatively based on principles of landscape ecology.

#### **How does IALE achieve its aims?**

- 1) IALE provides an infrastructure as a world wide organisation of landscape ecologists, which serves as a discussion platform and stimulates interaction across the disciplines. IALE will create an infrastructure to make it easy for landscape ecologists to contact each other and to know about current developments in landscape ecology around the world.
- 2) IALE brings together expertise from different disciplines to advise in solving problems and to contribute to research programming.
- 3) IALE will use this mission statement and explanation as a measuring scale against which to judge its activities at the annual meeting of the executive committee.

*IALE Executive Committee, December 1997*

## Report from the IALE Executive Committee meeting, November 1997

The annual meeting of the Executive of IALE was held in Roskilde, Denmark in early November 1997. The Executive continues to develop, hopefully, a more effective administration for IALE and to improve the planning and coordination of activities related to landscape ecology, both internationally and regionally.

This edition of the *Bulletin* contains one of the outcomes of our deliberations - a draft Mission Statement and statement of objectives and goals for IALE. Other decisions at the meeting, which have some immediate implications for the membership were as follows:

1. IALE dues for 1998 will be \$20 U.S. for regular members (\$85 with a subscription to *Landscape Ecology*). \$10 for student members (\$60 with a subscription to *Landscape Ecology*).
2. While IALE will continue to welcome corresponding members, beginning with 1999 dues, no one will be assumed to be a corresponding member. Corresponding members will be identified when an individual applies to the Treasurer with an explanation of why currency exchange problems prevent regular membership. Also, beginning 1999, the non-affiliated member and region-only membership categories will be abolished.
3. All regional chapters and working group contacts have been asked to submit reports to the Secretary General by 1/1/98.
4. Closer working relationships will be developed between the publishers of *Landscape Ecology* and IALE (see *Bulletin*, 15(3/4), Aug. 1997)
5. Promotional materials for IALE will be produced - brochures, website etc.
6. There was seen to be a need for clarification and for a

distinction to be made between the various levels of meetings supported by IALE.

(i) The major international IALE congress is held once every 4 years - the next in 1999 in Snowmass, Colorado (see *Bulletin* 15 (5), Oct. 1997).

(ii) Super-regional meetings are to be encouraged, such as the 1998 European regional meeting in Preston, U.K. (*Bulletin* 15 (5), Oct. 1997) and the 1998 Asian and Pacific IALE-Conference meeting in Shenyang, China (*Bulletin* 15 (6), Dec. 1997) However, for the future, organizers of such super-regional meetings are encouraged to organize them at the mid-point between the major congresses; that is, in 2001 for the next such super regional meetings.

(iii) Regional chapters are encouraged to set their own meeting schedules but should note that a good deal of confusion has arisen amongst our membership by regions/national chapters using the term "international" in the promotion of these meetings. National and regional meetings should not be promoted as such even though the international membership is invited to participate. The Executive agreed that all meetings, identified as IALE meetings should be consistent with the IALE Mission Statement in advertising and topical breadth. Also, super-regional meetings should be sanctioned by the IALE Executive.

Other initiatives, taken by the Executive will be reported, through the *Bulletin*, as appropriate.

Michael R. Moss  
Secretary General

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, John A. Wiens (USA), Fax: +1 970 491 0649, e-mail: jaws@lamar.colostate.edu; Past President, Henri Decamps (France); Vice-Presidents, Joan Iverson Nassauer (USA), Paul F.M. Opdam (The Netherlands), Almo Farina (Italy), Xiao Duning (China); Secretary General, Michael Moss, Faculty of Env. Science, Blackwood Hall, Trent Lane, University of Guelph, Ontario N1G 2W1, Canada, Tel: +1 519 824 4120, Fax: +1 519 763 4686, e-mail: mike@envsci.uoguelph.ca; Deputy Secretary General and Bulletin Editor, Jesper Brandt, Dept. of Geography and International Development Studies, Roskilde University, P.O. Box 260, DK-4000 Roskilde, Denmark, Tel: +45 46 74 24 63, Fax: +45 46 74 30 32, e-mail: brandt@geo.ruc.dk; Treasurer, Rob Jongman, WAU, Dept. of Physical Planning & Rural Development, Gen. Foulkesweg 13, NL-6703 Wageningen, The Netherlands, Tel: +31 317 483 713, Fax: +31 317 482 166, e-mail: robjongman@plano.rpv.wau.nl.

**Deadline Bulletin volume 16 no 2 is February 10, 1998**

## IALE SUPER REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE WORLD CONGRESS IN USA 1999.

### EUROPEAN IALE CONGRESS

#### KEY CONCEPTS IN LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

*A forum for European landscape ecologists to discuss the state of the art*

**Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, UK, 2 to 5 SEPTEMBER 1998**

Organized by UK Region of the International Association for Landscape Ecology

1. The opening presentation will address the issue of the differences between the European and American approach to landscape ecology as their geographic separation has led to individual development. This meeting provides an opportunity to discuss the similarities and contrasts between the schools of thought.

2. A central issue for landscape ecologists is how to provide a framework for European landscape description. Progress has been made on using statistical procedures to identify classes which can be used as a basis for describing the landscapes within them. The same framework can be used for the definition of biodiversity in order to produce an integrated picture at the European level.

3. Patterns in agricultural landscapes are changing throughout Europe and the first part of the presentation will describe an example from Sweden which demonstrates the principles of simplification which are taking place elsewhere. The second part of the presentation will describe the processes behind these changes and their implications for species.

4. Methodological procedures have been developed using GIS to define fragmentation at the landscape level and will be described in the first part of the presentation. The second part will describe how species respond to such fragmentation and the implications for landscape management.

5. The concept of corridors has been much discussed and is a key concept in landscape ecology. The first part of the presentation presents an update of this controversial issue. It is followed by a practical example of how these principles have been applied in practice in the Czech Republic.

6. Dispersal is such a key issue that although it was the subject of the UK IALE meeting in 1997, this presentation will summarise the current status of the subject in order to open up a full discussion in the Workshop.

7. Landscape restoration, whether of degraded agricultural or industrial land, is related to policy. This presentation covers the application of landscape ecological principles to land management. Across Europe key policy issues eg the reform of the CAP are likely to relate to the potential for enhancement of biodiversity and landscape ecologists need to be aware of the issues involved.

Further information available from the IALE (UK)  
General secretary:

Dr Peter Dennis

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Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB15 8QH, UK.

Tel. 01224 318611, Fax. 01224 311556, e-mail:  
mi360@mluri.sari.ac.uk

General information on IALE (UK) available on the internet:

<http://www.ulst.ac.uk/faculty/science/iale/ialeuk.htm>

### ASIA AND PACIFIC IALE CONFERENCE, OCT. 1998 IN CHINA.

As a preparation for the IALE World Congress in Colorado, USA 1999, another super-region conference has been organized in cooperation with the China region of IALE. The theme of the Asia and Pacific Region Conference will be Landscape Planning and Ecological Construction for sustainable development.

Date of the conference: 5-7, Oct. 1998 in Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenyang, 110015

International Ph.D student courses: 8-12, Oct. 1998 in Eco-environmental Research Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

Excursion: Three gorge areas of Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River.

For further information

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## Diary

**1998**

19-23 January

Short course Environmental Modelling with GIS and Remote Sensing. ITC Enschede, The Netherlands. Contact: J. Looijen, ITC, P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA, Enschede, The Netherlands. Tel: +31 (0) 53 487 4265; Fax: +31 (0) 53 4874 399; E-mail: Looijen@itc.nl

19-22 February

1998 Prairie conservation and endangered species conference. Saskatoon Inn Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. "Re-growing the land - re-growing ourselves". The connection between prairie ecosystem and species conservation and the economic, social and ethical forces of our society. Contact: Peter Jonker, tel.: +1 306-966-5552, Fax: +1 306-966-5567, e-mail: pcaes.conference@usask.ca, homepage: <http://www.extension.usask.ca/conferences/pcaes.html>

24-28 February

The Green backbone of Central and Eastern Europe, Cracow, Poland. Organized by ECNC, IUCN and the Polish Institute for Nature Conservation. Contact ECNC, PO Box 1352, 5004 BJ Tilburg, The Netherlands, Tel.: +31-134663240, Fax: +31-13-4663250, E-mail: ecnc@ecnc.nl

17-21 March

Thirteenth Annual US-IALE's annual symposium at Michigan State University. The theme is "Applications of Landscape Ecology in Natural Resource Management". Contact Dr. James A. LaGro, Jr. Department of Landscape Architecture, 1450 Linden Drive, 25B Agriculture Hall, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706-1522. See <http://www.fw.msu.edu/iale98>

6-10 June

The 6th Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, Luhacovice, Czech Republic: Managing high nature Conservation value farmland: "policies, processes and practices". Contact Dr. Davy McCracken, Environmental Sciences Department, Scottish Agricultural Collage, Auchincruive, Ayr KA6 SHW, United Kingdom, Fax: +44 (01)1292 525 333

7-12 June

International excursion, organized by IALEs GIS Contact Group, Fin-IALE, will be held in Northern Karelia, Eastern Finland. Contact Dr Osmo Kontturi, Fin-IALE, P.O.B. 124, Fin.28101 PORI, Finland, Tel./fax.: +358-2-6377514, NMT+358-49-572012, GSM mobile: +358-50-5950127, e-mail: osmo.kontturi@pp.kolombus.fi

25-30 August

Second International Conference on Restoration Ecology in the 21st century, Groningen, The Netherlands. Contact

Restoration Ecology Symposium Secretariat, Laboratory of Plant Ecology, University of Groningen, P.O.Box 14, 9750 AA Haren, The Netherlands, Fax: +31 50 3632273, E-mail: RE.symposium@biol.rug.nl or at Internet (<http://www.biol.rug.nl/ploec/restecol>)

2-6 September

European IALE Congress, Lancashire, UK. Contact the IALE (UK) General secretary: Dr. Peter Dennis, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen, AB 15 8QH, UK. Tel.: 01224 318611, Fax.: 01224 311556, e-mail: mi360@mluri.sari.ac.uk

6-13 September

Czech IALE Conference on "Present and Historical Nature-Culture Interactions in Landscapes". Contact Czech IALE (Regional) Conference Faculty of Sciences, Charles University, Benátská 2, 128 01 Praha 2, Czech Republic, Fax: +420-2-21953125, +420-2-24914803, E-mail: ele98@prfdec.natur.cuni.cz, home page: <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/confer.htm>

7-11 September

The permanent European conference for the study of the rural landscape. 18th session in Røros and Trondheim, Norway, 1998. Contact lecturer Gunhild Setten, Department of Geography, University of Trondheim, N-7055 Dragvoll, Norway. Fax: +47-73591878, E-mail: Gunhild.Setten@sv.ntnu.no, home page: <http://www.sv.ntnu.no/geo/>

Oct. 5-7

Asia and Pacific Region IALE Conference will be held in Institute of Applied Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shenyang, 110015. Contact Prof. Xiao Duning, Inst. of Applied Ecology, Academia Sinica, Shenyang, 110015, Fax: 86-024-3843313 E-mail: lndscp@iae.syb.ac.cn,

Oct. 8-12

International Ph.D student courses will be held in Eco-environmental Research Center, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing. Contact Prof. Xiao Duning, Inst. of Applied Ecology, Academia Sinica, Shenyang, 110015, Fax: 86-024-3843313 E-mail: lndscp@iae.syb.ac.cn,

**1999**

July 29-August 3

1999 IALE World Congress will be held in Snowmass Village, Colorado. Contact IALE President John A. Wiens, Fax: +1 970 491 0649, e-mail: jaws@lamar.colostate.edu