



# Bulletin

---

## International Association for Landscape Ecology

---

### LOOKING BEHIND THE SCENE: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE IALE EXECUTIVE

by Marion Potschin<sup>1</sup>



Dear IALE members,

The IALE Executive Committee (EC) with its four new elected members (July 2003 in Darwin) started its work for the next four years at its first meeting, which took place in Wageningen on December 12, 2003. When new members join a Board there is always a new wave of enthusiasm. So we used the first EC meeting to rethink several established things (positions and responsibilities of EC members, processes, etc.). Beside the day-to-day routine, we see the main objectives in our EC work in the following areas and have outlined the activities to help achieve these objectives.

*As an international association, we want to keep in close contact with our Chapters. We want two-way communication, so that we hear what is going on in the Chapters but also that the Chapters shall benefit from a more international perspective provided by the international network*

- o The Council within IALE (the forum where the Chapters are represented) will become more active and will approach the Chapters (Jesper Brandt is the chair).
- o The EC invites the Chapters to send their comments on the EC work to the Secretary General, who will also get in contact with the individual Chapters, asking for ideas for the EC. A membership lists will be updated and reports from individual Chapter will be distributed via the *Bulletin*.
- o A series of short communication papers from the EC will be distributed through the *Bulletin* to inform members about activities and views (this present report is the first in a series).

*Make processes within IALE and the work of the EC more transparent for the individual Chapters and also for individual members*

- o The election of two new Vice Presidents of IALE is due at the European IALE Congress in April 2005. Therefore we will start the election process very soon through the *Bulletin* and homepage. Start thinking about possible persons you would like to see taking up the work at IALE International soon.
- o We will announce a call for hosting the next European IALE congress in 2009 and World Congress 2011 through the *Bulletin* at the beginning of next year.
- o The EC is in the process of creating a handbook on issues, protocols, and history related to IALE. The US-IALE Chapter has had an ongoing executive handbook for a decade which helps with continuity for incoming officers and interested members (<http://www.cof.orst.edu/org/usiale/excom.htm>). The Secretary General will report on the activities of the EC frequently through the *Bulletin*.

*IALE and its Public Relations*

- o We would like to see more publications by "IALE". The EC is in the process of developing a concept for a series of books on the "Status of Landscape Ecology in different continents", which will be published for the next World Congress. The EC members will get in contact with the Chapters soon and the call will also be announced through the *Bulletin*.
- o We encourage IALE members to publish short articles (ideas, comments) through the *Bulletin*. Not every good idea has the size or is developed sufficiently for a reviewed paper yet, but is worthwhile to share with the members and get some feedback. Maybe with the feedback it could develop into a journal article or the establishment of a working group.

---

<sup>1</sup> Address of author: PD Dr. Marion Potschin, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, Secretary General of IALE; [Marion.Potschin@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Marion.Potschin@Nottingham.ac.uk)

---

...continued from page 1 (IALE Executive)

- o The Bulletin Editor would like to encourage the submission of short biographies of people relevant to the Landscape Ecology community. Which person would you like to see portrayed in the *Bulletin* next? Please send ideas to the Bulletin Editor.
- o We created a flyer of IALE purposes, activities, and membership form. This can be downloaded with this *Bulletin*. It can also be downloaded from the IALE Homepage.
- o We designated the main responsibility of one Vice President to "Public Relations". The person appointed is yet to be decided.

***We encourage more work in working groups on an international level***

- o In the meantime a new international working group could be established. See report on ENULE (European Network on Urban Landscape Ecology) in the last *Bulletin* (1/2004).
- o The EC is aware of the extra work it takes to set up working groups. But do not hesitate to contact us for information on how to set one up, the benefits of it and a list of possible interested people. Remember, on the one hand we have the complete and up to date list of IALE- members, and on the other we are familiar with some/most of the work going on. So use this source of information.

***We would like to see more young scientists being actively involved in IALE***

- o IALE thinks of a young scientist as "5yrs since taking an advanced degree".
- o The first step was to include a "Young Scientist Symposium" at the European IALE Congress in Faro 2005. Come along yourself or encourage your young colleague to present your scientific ideas to the international landscape ecology community.
- o The President strongly encourages the regions to send a young person to the planning meeting for the 2007 World Congress. Send suggestions to the EC members. One representative will be invited through the EC.
- o We have been discussing the possibility of having a representative of "young landscape ecologists" on the Executive committee. IALE (UK) has been doing this within its Chapter for a long time, and the IALE (US) has two student representatives on their executive board.

***We want so see a stronger link between IALE and education/ training***

- o As successfully conducted at Darwin, a PhD-course will be linked to an international IALE congress

(see homepage for the European Congress 2005 (<http://www.apap.pt>) or contact the Secretary General).

- o We encourage similar courses alongside annual meetings of the IALE Chapters.
- o The homepage (<http://www.landscape-ecology.org>) has a link to higher education and courses. Here is an overview on education in general, but specific courses shall be given and co-ordinated in time matters. We will strive to keep this updated for courses of interest to landscape ecologists.
- o We dedicated the main responsibility of one Vice President to "Education". Margareta Ihse took on this responsibility.

So this is some of the current thinking of the EC, now what do you think? We are the members on the EC, but we are working for you!!! Therefore we would like to hear your opinion. Please send emails to the Secretary General, I will collect and present them at the next EC meeting, which will take place after the IALE (UK) annual meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Your sincerely, Marion Potschin, Secretary General

**MEETING REPORT OF IALE CHINA:  
The 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Landscape Ecology:  
Landscape Ecology in China: Challenges, Opportunities and Development; Dec. 12-15, 2003 Beijing**

*by Shen Zehao<sup>2</sup>*

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Landscape Ecology was organized and sponsored by the Department of Ecology at Peking University and the Landscape Ecology Committee, Chinese Society of Ecology. The presentations and discussions at the conference focused on three main topics: 1) landscape pattern and ecological processes; 2) land use and land cover; 3) landscape evaluation and construction. Two other concurred sessions were arranged on "Education of Landscape Ecology and the discipline development" and the "Translation rules of the terms of Landscape Ecology." There was an



Beijing continues to be one of the most economically vibrant and powerful cities in the world. Urban: dark charcoal gray area in the middle; Mountain Ranges: dark brown; Farmland around the city: green and tan; bodies of water: black. Free ETM+ scene from <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov>

affiliated forum for PhD students in Landscape Ecology. More than 30 papers and 153 abstracts were submitted to the Conference. About 260 people attended the Conference. They represented 53 institutes from both within and outside China, with academic, education, government or publishing background. Overall, there were 14 keynote presentations (parallel meeting), 80 presentations at seminars and some poster presentations.

The 14 keynote reports covered topics such as “frontier areas and key issues in Landscape Ecology” as well as methodological issues, discussions on the macro-scale problems of ecology and environment in China, the “mission” of Landscape Ecology in China and the direction of its development and finally the methodology of landscape ecological planning and development. The delegates identified the following important trends in the development of Landscape Ecology in China: 1) the necessity to synthesize research about the impact of the social and economic activities of mankind; 2) the importance of scale and scaling in the theory and methodology of Landscape Ecology, as well as its applications; 3) the usefulness of landscape modeling in comprehensive research, ecological prediction and ecosystem management.

Under the topic “landscape pattern and ecological processes” 26 reports were presented. They could be grouped as follows: 1) Synthetic research (4); 2) Indices, methods and scaling rules in Landscape Ecology (4); 3) Quantitative analysis and modeling of landscape pattern, process and function (18).

Under “land use and land cover” - an area of strategic importance for China’s Landscape Ecology -, there were 16 papers that dealt with 1) Theory and methods in Land Ecology; 2) Spatial pattern and dynamics of land use in watershed and its effects on landscape functions; 3) Influences of the process of city enlargement on the

regional land use pattern and the environment quality, as well as the countermeasures; 4) Ecological and environmental impact assessment in land use planning; 5) Ecological security assessment and strategies for the exploration of sensitive landscapes.

The 16 presentations that fall within the category of “landscape evaluation and landscape development” focused on the applications of Landscape Ecology for the evaluation and management of resources and environment, the planning for the development of regions, cities and tourist sites, the design of ecologically sound projects such as the protection of earth and water, non-point pollution control, the landscape design of urban areas and scenic spots, etc. New concepts and theories such as ecosystem health, ecosystem service assessment, ecologically secure landscapes, and natural reserve design were presented in the case study section. They showed the wide range of applications of Landscape Ecology in the above mentioned areas.

To prevent terminological confusion and misunderstanding within the Chinese Landscape Ecology community, experts from China and other regions chose 100 most frequently used terms in Landscape Ecology, and discussed their exact meanings and the corresponding terms in Chinese.

In the seminar on “Landscape Ecology: education and development of the discipline”, the delegates reached a consensus on future educational profiles of Chinese Landscape Ecology. Since education and research in Landscape Ecology is mainly conducted by academics in the fields of geography and environmental sciences, more emphasis should be given to the teaching of basic theories in biology and up-front training of experimental designs.

In the last 20 yrs Chinese Landscape Ecology has progressed considerably and the field is progressing rapidly. It was possible to keep in pace with the international frontier of the

The IALE Bulletin is distributed six times a year to the members of the IALE. The IALE - International Association for LandscapeEcology- 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](mailto:bob.bunce@wur.nl); **Secretary General:** Marion Potschin 2003-2007, School of Geography, University of Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, [Marion.Potschin@unibas.ch](mailto:Marion.Potschin@unibas.ch) or [Marion.Potschin@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Rob.Jongman@wur.nl) or [rob.jongman@planet.nl](mailto: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](mailto:rhobbs@essun1.murdoch.edu.au); **Vice Presidents:** Françoise Burel 1997-2005, Lab. Evolution, Université de Rennes 1, Campus de Beaulieu, 35042 Rennes Cedex, France, [francoise.burel@univ-rennes1.fr](mailto:francoise.burel@univ-rennes1.fr); Margareta Ihse 1997-2005, Department of Physical Geography, Unit of Ecological Geography, Stockholm University, SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden, [ihse@natgeo.su.se](mailto:ihse@natgeo.su.se); Louis R. Iverson 2003-2007, USDA Forest Service, 359 Main Rd., Delaware, OH, 43015, USA, [liverson@fs.fed.us](mailto:liverson@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](mailto:nobu@hiroshima-u.ac.jp); **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](mailto:felix.kienast@wsl.ch); **Chairman of Council:** Jesper Brandt 1995-2007, Roskilde University, P.O. Box 260, DK 4000 Roskilde, Denmark, [brandt@ruc.dk](mailto:brandt@ruc.dk)

IALE on the Internet: IALE International: [www.landscape-ecology.org](http://www.landscape-ecology.org)

...continued from page 3 (Chinese meeting)

discipline. We enjoy a widespread application of the basic ideas and methods of Landscape Ecology. Today the field is an integral part of ecosystem management and environmental conservation, and is increasingly applied in regional planning and city development.

Finally the delegates generated a list of recommendations to further Landscape Ecology in China. It is suggested to stimulate basic research (life sciences), emphasize experimental approaches, encourage multi- and transdisciplinary research and further innovation in theoretical and methodological studies. In the field of applied landscape research we propose to develop planning tools for governmental agencies that would foster regional participation. Concerning education and training it was stated that young and talented scientists should be supported in special training classes to ensure growth of the field of landscape ecology.

<sup>2</sup> Address of author: Dr. Shen Zehao, Secretary of the 4th LE conference in China, Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology, College of Environmental Sciences, [shzh@urban.pku.edu.cn](mailto:shzh@urban.pku.edu.cn)



## INTERNATIONAL PHD COURSE

### “Landscape Ecology: Its Methods and their Application”

Linked to the European IALE Congress 2005 in Faro, Portugal; [www.apep.pt](http://www.apep.pt)

Contact: [Marion.Potschin@Nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Marion.Potschin@Nottingham.ac.uk)

Detailed information: [ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/phd\\_faro.doc](ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/phd_faro.doc)

#### Aims:

- o to explore the global aspects of Landscape Ecology
- o to make contact with more established scholars
- o to further the professional background
- o to train young scientists in formal and informal rules of scientific communication through attendance at an international scientific meeting.
- o to focus on the tools and methods of Landscape Ecology, with theoretical considerations applied to Mediterranean Landscapes.

**Themes:** Landscape Ecology and its Nature, Cultural Landscapes, Introduction to the Algarve Landscape, Research design and hypothesis testing in Landscape Ecology, The use of GIS and Scenarios in applied Landscape Ecology, Understanding Pattern and Processes, Transdisciplinary approaches in landscape ecology

**Field Trip:** Portuguese Landscapes in Transition

**Instructors:** Marion Potschin, Roy Haines-Young, Marc Antrop, Francisco Moreira, Richard Aspinnall, Jesper Brandt, Rosário Oliveira, Jacinta Fernandes, Teresa Pinto Correia

## LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY: WHAT IS IT?

Thanks to an effort of various members of the IALE Executive you are able to download an informative flier about IALE. It can be used at meetings, as a hand-out at seminars, etc. Please note that the flier can be downloaded in two different formats:

- **US-letter:** <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/flierUS.pdf>
- **DIN-A4:** <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/flierA4.pdf>

## MEMBERSHIP FORMS

A new membership form is available for download. Please note that the brochure can be downloaded in two different formats:

- **US-letter:** <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/membUS.pdf>
- **DIN-A4:** <ftp://ftp.wsl.ch/pub/kienast/iale/membA4.pdf>

## MEETINGS

March 29- April 2, 2005



**Landscape Ecology in the Mediterranean. Inside and outside approaches,** Faro, Portugal

This is the call for papers for the European IALE Congress 2005 in Faro/Portugal. Deadline for abstracts was May 31, 2004. If you have any problems with the deadline do not hesitate to contact the congress organiser at [euro2005@apep.pt](mailto:euro2005@apep.pt). The following symposia will be offered:

- *Mediterranean coastal habitats under pressure*; João Alveirinho Dias (coordinator), Rui Santos
- *Theoretical Approaches to European Landscape Ecology*; Uta Steinhardt (coordinator), Almo Farina
- *Disturbance, Biodiversity and Function in Mediterranean-type Ecosystems: Theory and Evidence*; Anke Jentsch (coordinator), Carl Beierkuhnlein
- *Land degradation and desertification*; Maria José Roxo (coordinator), Nuno Cortez
- *The Landscape Ecology of Mediterranean Mountains*; Jose García Ruiz (coordinator), David Nogués Bravo, Paloma Benlloch, Juan Fernández, C.López Alados
- *Changes in land use, biodiversity and cultural landscape character*; Jacques Baudry (coordinator), Richard Aspinnall, Almo Farina. Breuste Juergen, Burghard Meyer, Francisco Moreira
- *Conservation of Mediterranean Landscapes*; Linda Olsvig-Whittaker (coordinator), Didi Kaplan, Zev Naveh
- *Landscape values, perceptions and aesthetics*; Graça Saraiya (coordinator)
- *Local management, policies and stakeholder involvement*; Teresa Pinto-Correia (coordinator)
- *Young Landscape Ecologists Symposium*; Jaques de Smidt (coordinator), Bob Bunce
- *Landscape Ecological Monitoring with special reference to the Mediterranean*; Bob Bunce (coordinator), Rob Jongman

More information: <http://www.apep.pt/>