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## Structure and operating guidelines for the International Committee

The International Long-Term Ecological Research network (ILTER) was founded in 1993 during an All Scientist Meeting at Estes Park Colorado. Initially the chair of the U.S. LTER served as the chair of the ILTER (Jerry Franklin followed by Jim Gosz). After ten years of growth and development the international network had matured and expanded to the point that it made sense to decouple leadership of the U.S. and ILTER networks. The current International Committee of the U.S. LTER Network was established in September 2003 with responsibility for coordinating U.S. involvement in the ILTER network.

### *Vision and Mission*

#### *Vision:*

As part of the ILTER, the sites and activities of the network are well-known to U.S. LTER researchers, who recognize the opportunity that ILTER provides to broaden the scope and generality of U.S. LTER research. Pathways for engagement with international colleagues are clearly communicated to the U.S. LTER Network at all levels.

#### *Mission:*

- **To facilitate the development and maintenance of long-term projects and collaborations between U.S. LTER scientists and ILTER colleagues.**
- **To facilitate and coordinate the involvement of U.S. LTER scientists in strengthening and developing strong regional networks such as the Americas, East Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Europe.**
- **To facilitate cooperation between the ILTER and other global science programs, e.g., Future Earth, IPBES, PECS, Resilience Alliance.**
- **To raise awareness of data repositories available among the network of U.S. LTER scientists, ILTER colleagues, and information managers to facilitate sharing data and information management infrastructures.**

## **Composition and governance of the International Committee of the U.S. LTER**

### **Membership –**

Members of the International Committee will serve staggered three-year terms, renewable once. Membership of the committee should reflect connections with U.S. LTER sites and involve people with international experience. The committee shall have approximately fifteen members, and the two co-chairs.

New members will be solicited via an email to the all-LTER email list annually. Interested persons will submit a statement of interest to the co-chairs, who will select in collaboration with current committee members new members based upon site representation and ILTER regional connections. After a three-year term, former members can re-apply to be on the committee for a second term.

Membership composition shall to the extent possible broadly represent sites/biomes of the U.S. LTER Network and the scientific interests and diverse backgrounds of U.S. LTER participants. At least one member should have a background in data science.

### **Leadership –**

Co-chairs will be elected from the committee to serve staggered four-year terms. The co-chairs should represent different U.S. LTER sites and have experience with different geographic regions of the ILTER network. Given the broad diversity of member networks more varied experiences in the leadership team will ensure greater connections and experience across the ILTER network.

The senior co-Chair provides institutional memory and overall oversight of the IC activities. The first year, the new co-chair serves as incoming with senior co-Chair presiding. The second and third years, both senior and incoming chair co-preside. At the end of the third year, a new incoming co-chair is recruited. The fourth year, the senior co-chair serves in *ex officio* capacity with former incoming serving as senior co-chair in their third year and new incoming serving their second year, co-presiding (Figure 1).

|                     | <b>Y1</b>  | <b>Y2</b>  | <b>Y3</b>  | <b>Y4</b>         | <b>Y5</b>         | <b>Y6</b>         |
|---------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Individual 1</b> | vice chair | chair      | chair      | <i>ex officio</i> |                   |                   |
| <b>Individual 2</b> |            | vice chair | chair      | chair             | <i>ex officio</i> |                   |
| <b>Individual 3</b> |            |            | vice chair | chair             | chair             | <i>ex officio</i> |
| <b>Individual 4</b> |            |            |            | vice chair        | chair             | chair             |

Figure 1.

### **Committee Responsibilities -**

In order to fulfill its mission, the following tasks will be undertaken by the committee:

- Strive to meet in person annually
- Hold conference calls at least every other month
- Co-chairs will participate in the annual ILTER meeting and represent the U.S. at the Coordinating Committee (CC) of the International LTER
- Provide regular updates on international opportunities for U.S. LTER scientists and students
- Solicit funding to support the work of the committee
- Develop mechanisms to enhance and strengthen linkages among scientists and networks
- Lead/support ad hoc initiatives as interests and opportunities arise, including facilitating participation by individuals who are not formally affiliated with the U.S. International Committee (e.g., New and Regional Initiatives, International LTER Student Exchange, Regional Americas, Science-policy Exchange)

### **Role of the Network Office in support of the committee –**

Assistance from the U.S. LTER Network office is needed in order to accomplish some of the objectives of the U.S. LTER International Committee. These include coordinating ILTER participation in U.S. LTER All Scientist Meetings, communicating research and travel opportunities, and related activities.

### **Use of U.S. International Committee Funds**

When funding is available to support ILTER, these funds will be used for the following priorities:

- Payment of U.S. dues to ILTER
- Supporting travel of both co-chairs to the annual ILTER meeting
- Supporting travel to attend the annual ILTER meeting of U.S. LTER committee members who serve in a leadership role on the ILTER Executive Board or the U.S. International LTER Committee.
- Supporting travel of committee members to workshops or symposia organized by the U.S. International committee for the purpose of developing research relationships with ILTER scientists.