



Annual General Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of *ILTER*
International Long Term Ecological Research Network
Gobabeb Training and Research Centre (Namibia) 13-19 Agosto 2006

1st Meeting of Information Management Committee (IMC)

MINUTES

The first meeting of the Information Management Committee (IMC) of the International Long Term Ecological Research Network (ILTER) was held in Gobabeb (Namibia) on the 18th of August 2006.

PARTICIPANTS: Kristin Vanderbilt (University of New Mexico, U.S.A.), Michael Mirtl (Federal Environment Agency, Austria), Cristiana Cocciufa (National Forest Service, Italy), Avinash Chuntharpursat (South Africa Earth Observation Network, South Africa), Youngsun Kim (Kookmin University, Korea), Bernard Guedes (E. Mondlane University, Mozambique).

For membership and governance of Committees, please refer to the related presentation (<http://www.watsoninstitute.org/gobabeb/>), which was prepared by Holly Kaufman and Miranda Anderson and discussed during the ILTER Coordinating Committee (CC) Meeting, before parallel sessions of internal Committees started.

Following the Agenda of the day set by Holly and Miranda, the IMC first appointed its Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary:

Chair: Kristin Vanderbilt
Vice Chair: Avinash Chuntharpursat
Secretary: Cristiana Cocciufa

Kristin called the attention of participants on pages 20-21 of Strategic Plan and on Ling-Ling's Implementation Document and Operations Plan.

Michael pointed out that the most important thing at the moment is an overview of existing facilities and stressed the need for a cost-benefit solution starting from existing data collection. Then he raised a question whether or not the IMC should take decisions or simply report to the CC and make proposals. The IMC agreed on making recommendations to the CC, without taking any decision.

Kristin also stated that more than setting new sub-committees we need a full-time expert.

As far as the frequency of meetings is concerned, the ASM to be held in Eastern Colorado (U.S.A.) in September 2006 was considered by the IMC the occasion for one of the most important physical meeting of the group. Kristin, Michael and Avinash will attend. Michael will circulate his last paper about IM systems in use and state-of-the-art within the European network. Then there was a short round about who is going to attend from other countries: Bernard will ask for a IM specialist from Mozambique; Youngsun will ask for an expert about "fluxdata" from Korea as well; Michael will get a contact from Canada and will also ask Katarina Schleidt to participate as an expert about "onthology" within ALTER-Net Project; Michael will also ask Katarina to call someone from GBIF.

IMC considered the following expected outcomes of the meeting:

- an overview of existing methods for Information Management showing opportunities, threats and weaknesses;
- explanation of ontology to non-expert people.

Michael gave an explanation of ontology to IMC members.

Then IMC members agreed on preparing a first recommendation for the CC only after having explored actual opportunities and having gone through a complete overview.

There was a proposal for a physical meeting before ASM, but it was rejected because expensive and the IMC agreed on preferring conference calls.

Later, in plenary session, Kristin reported to the CC the outcomes of the IMC work.