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Biodiversity and fragmented forests.

Marc Deconchat, Sylvie Ladet, Gerard Balent

► **To cite this version:**

Marc Deconchat, Sylvie Ladet, Gerard Balent. Biodiversity and fragmented forests.. Conférence ALTER-net All Parties Conference, Feb 2007, Palma De Majorque, Spain. 1 p. hal-02815995

HAL Id: hal-02815995

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02815995v1>

Submitted on 6 Jun 2020

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A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network

| A "Network of Excellence" funded by the EU's 6th Framework Programme.



ALTER-Net All-Parties Conference

5th – 9th February 2007

Palma, Mallorca

PROGRAMME

Objectives

1. To bring all partners together, to re-communicate the shared vision and showcase some of the important work we are doing
2. To enable participants from all WPs to meet, exchange views and develop plans and common approaches for the final two years of ALTER-Net
3. To launch LTER-Europe
4. To present the benefits of the ALTER-Net approach in relation to a specific biodiversity issue and to produce a synthesis volume
5. To enable to Network Advisory Committee and other key stakeholders to experience the full range of ALTER-Net activities.

All Sessions are in the main hall (Luis de Molina) unless otherwise indicated. Please watch notice board and listen to announcements for any changes or additional meetings that may be arranged.

**Day 1: Monday 5th February - Registration plus Work Package and Preparatory Meetings
(see “Side event programme” for more details)**

10.00 – 18.00 **Arrival and registration**

09.00 – 10.00 WP I3 (LTER-Europe) Management group meeting - convener Michael Mirtl. (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

10.00 – 11.45 WP I3 (LTER-Europe) Core group meeting - convener Michael Mirtl. (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

10.30- 11.00 Tea/coffee

12.00 – 13.00 WP I3 (LTER-Europe) Plenary A - convener Michael Mirtl. (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 WP I3 (LTER-Europe) Plenary B convener Michael Mirtl. (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

14.00 – 16.00 [Joint WP R6/R4 workshop – using Cognitive mapping in landscape level management planning](#)
– Conveners: Flemming Skov, NERI and Eeva Furman, SYKE (*Room – Deputacion in the Pueblo Espanol*)

14.00 – 16.00 ALTER-Net Forest Programme (part 1) - Convener (Lars Lundin) – (*Room – Presidencia*)

14.00 – 16.00 Work package R2 (Biodiversity Assessment and Change) – planning meeting convened by Michael Bredemeier (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

14.00 – 16.00 WP I6 (Information Management Session - Everything you ever wanted to know about Ontologies and Data Networking, but were afraid to ask. Convener: Kathi Schleidt, UBA (*Room – Main Hall, Luis de Molina*)

- For everybody who would like to know more about the plans for a data and knowledge sharing network for LTER-Europe, this is THE chance to get a short painless overview of current and upcoming activities. The following topics will be covered:
 - LT(S)ER Data integration - what are the barriers and how will we overcome them?
 - Metadata - if I already have data, what do I need metadata for?
 - Merging Disparate Data - how is it possible to bring LTER and Socio-Economic Data together?
 - Getting down to the Data - see the prototype of the LTER-EU InfoBase and discover how this system will soon be serving actual site data in addition to metadata.

14.00 – 16.00 Master Class in using the ALTER-Net Web-site and Lynx (Convener: Andy Sier). Location to be announced (see the conference notice board).

15.15 – 15.45 Tea/coffee

16.00 – 18.00 WP I6 + I3 Session on LTER Infobase, (Convener Michael Mirtl and Kathi Schleidt) (*Room – Ramon Llull*)

16.00 – 18.00 **Network Management Group meeting** (planning meeting for for WP leaders and deputies) – Convener Terry Parr (*Room – Termas Romanas*)

18:00 **Close**

Day 2: Tuesday 6th February

08.30 – 09.30 Arrival and registration

Session 1. ALTER-Net: The Grand Challenge

An Overview of ALTER-Net: Inter-disciplinary Biodiversity Science for Policy

- 09.30 Networks of Excellence, the Grand Challenge: The DG Research perspective. Martin Sharman, EC DG Research
- 09.45 Information and research needs for Biodiversity and Nature Conservation - a perspective from DG Environment, Giuliana.Torta, EC, DG Environment, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Unit
- 10.00 Responding to the Grand Challenge: The ALTER-Net perspective - Terry Parr, CEH

Session 2. Research: How will ALTER-Net contribute to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe?

- 10.15 Biodiversity Research in ALTER-Net: The challenges, the conceptual framework and overarching research goals - Allan Watt, CEH

10.30- 11.00 Tea/coffee

Session 2 (continued): Biodiversity Research in ALTER-Net: (Chair: Allan Watt, CEH)

- 11.00 Socio-economic drivers of biodiversity change. Simron Singh, UBA
- 11.15 Biodiversity assessment and change. Michael Bredemeier, FERC
- 11.30 Impacts of the main natural and anthropogenic pressures on biodiversity. Lars Lundin, SLU & Stefan Klotz, UFZ
- 11.45 Biodiversity conservation options. Eeva Furman, SYKE
- 12.00 Public attitudes to biodiversity and its conservation. Anke Fischer, The Macaulay Institute
- 12.15 Forecasting change in biodiversity. Flemming Skov, NERI
- 12.30 Discussion

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

Session 3. Integration: Towards the use of common research infrastructures, methods and knowledge transfer

Chairperson: Terry Parr, CEH

14.05 **Long-term ecosystem and social research (LT(S)ER) networking for biodiversity science**,
Co-ordinated by Michael Mirtl, UBA

- ALTER-Net's strategy and achievements in preparing LTER-Europe, Michael Mirtl, UBA
- Examples for inter-disciplinary biodiversity research in long-term socio-ecological research (LTSER) platforms – Henk Siepel, ALTERRA
- Information management to support socio-ecological research – Katharina Schleidt, UBA

14.45 **Knowledge Transfer and communication to the media, public and policy**, Co-ordinated by
Jurgen Tack, INBO

- The International Press Centre Biodiversity Research: how to make optimal use of this tool, Andy Sier, CEH
- Biodiversity, public communication and science visitor centres, Rachel Murray, At-Bristol
- Development of the science/policy interface. Aysegul Cil & Ben Delbaere, ECNC

15.15 – 15.45 **Tea/coffee**

15:45 **Institutional Integration**, Co-ordinated by Karl Baadsvik, NINA

- Introduction, mobility and training in Alter-Net. Karl Baadsvik, NINA
- The ALTER- Net Summer School. Sabine Lütke-meier, PIK
- Towards common research agendas Allan Watt, CEH
- The future of ALTER-Net: Partner Memoranda of Understanding. Karl Baadsvik, NINA

16.15 **Discussion**

16.45 **Poster session**

18.00 **Close**

Day 3: Wednesday 7th February

Session 4. Emerging issues in biodiversity research and challenges for ALTER-Net (Part 1)

A series of research talks addressing specific inter-disciplinary research questions arising from ALTER-Net (Part 2 of the thematic session will take place on Friday morning)

9.00

Introduction

Impacts: Why does biodiversity matter? Stakeholder perspectives

- EC policy priorities: *Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 - and beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being* - Guy Duke, EC
- Stakeholder participation in biodiversity protection in South Eastern Europe - models and ideas Radoje Lausevic, REC
- Results from the ALTER-Net project *Site-specific biodiversity issues - a rhetoric analysis* - Riku Varjopuro, SYKE
- Biodiversity, local participation and gender - Hanne Svarstad, NINA

Responses: How effective are current policy and management responses and how do we develop more effective options?

- Aggregating biodiversity indicators for policy purposes: sense or nonsense? - Chris Klok, Alterra
- Indicators to monitor changes and conservation in Natura 2000 sites: A focus on drivers, pressures and states - Sandra Luque, CEMAGREF
- Indicators for sustainable territorial management: an application to evaluation of conservation policies and risk assessment in Mediterranean regions - Miguel Angel-Zavala, CSIC

10.30-11.00

Tea/coffee

- Costs and socio-economic effects of the implementation of Natura 2000 in the Netherlands - Aris Gaaff, ECNC
- Social monitoring in protected Areas. Fritz Reusswig, PIK
- Conditions for the biodiversity preservation in rural areas. Andrzej Kedziora, ICE-PAS

Drivers: What are the main social, economic and policy drivers affecting biodiversity?

- Integrating social and cultural factors into biodiversity-related research: the experiences of UNESCO's MAB in implementing ecohydrology and monitoring. Lisa Hiwasaki, UNESCO
- Human appropriation of net primary production (HANPP): towards an integrated framework for analyzing pressures on and drivers of biodiversity. Helmut Haberl, UBA
- Urban lifestyle and urban biodiversity. Lars Kjerulf Petersen, NERI
- Cultural relations with animals and perceptions of nature: future research. Ketil Skogen, NINA

12.30 – 13.30

Lunch

Afternoon:

Side events/meetings, Work package meetings, or free-time.

14.00 – 18.00 **ALTER-Net Advisory Committee - organised by Aysegul Cil, ECNC** (*Room – Termas Romanas*)

14:00 – 18:00 **Ad Hoc Working Groups:**

14.00 – 15.30 Overarching goal “LTER-Europe” Meeting: WP I3, I2, I6 and others: LTER-Socio-ecological regions; LTER site criteria; examples for LT(S)ER projects using LTER facilities (for further details see schedule “Goal LTER-Europe”) (*Main Hall – Luis de Molina*)

14.00 – 17.00 [Research Goal 3 Working Group: Towards a research framework on methods, tools and policies for the improvement and cost-effective management of biodiversity](#) – Convener: Mikael Hilden, SYKE (*Room – Deputacion in the Pueblo Espanol*)

14.00 – 16.00 ALTER-Net Forest Programme (part 1) - Convener (Lars Lundin) – (*Room – Presidencia*)

Poster Session No. 2:

15.30 – 17.00 Market place/Open space. ALTER-Net projects get a chance to meet the LTER site and network representatives to explore how they can help each other.

20.00 **Conference Dinner – Pueblo Espanol**

Day 4: Thursday 8th February

Session 5. Special Event: Towards a long-term ecosystem research network in Europe for biodiversity and ecosystem research and monitoring

The programme for this session is being developed by Michael Mirtl, UBA, and Terry Parr, CEH. More details will be available soon.

Objectives:

- a) To review progress with the development of the LTER-Europe Network
- b) To provide site, national and European scale examples of how long-term ecosystem research has been developed and how it might contribute to future research biodiversity protection, ecosystem management and the sustainable use of biodiversity
- c) To discuss next steps in the development of a formal LTER-Europe Network including Life Watch connections.

09.00 – 09.10 Introduction - Overview of programme and objectives of the day – Michael Mirtl, Terry Parr

Session 5.1: Changing Perspectives on LTER in Europe or “Why LTER in Europe is more important than ever”

09.10 – 09.30 **Summary of progress on LTER-Europe since 2002 – Michael Mirtl**

- A new strategy for LTER - ILTER as a global phenomenon
- From LTER to LTSER the introduction of the human dimension to LTER
- The rise of national networks in Europe

09.30 – 09.45 The International LTER Network Strategic Plan and its relevance to LTER-Europe – Patrick Bourgeron, University of Colorado (Chair of the ILTER Research Committee)

09.45 – 10.05 Towards LTSER: Scaling issues and the Human Dimension of LTER: towards LTSER – Thomas Dirnböck, UBA, and Simron Singh, UBA/IFF

10.05 – 10.30 **The implementation of LT(S)ER platforms: Why have they been established and how?**

- Romania – Evolution of LTER into LTSER in Romania – Angheluta Vadineanu, UNIBUC
- Austria – Design, implementation and governance of LTSER platforms – Michael Mirtl, UBA

10.30-11.00 **Tea/coffee**

Session 5.2: The development and use of LTER facilities and networks:

11.00 – 11.25 **Conceptual approaches and applications from established national networks. How are established networks developing and why?**

- UK – A National LTER Network in operation for research and policy – Terry Parr, CEH
- CEE/Slovakia – Joining existing regional groups into a united European network - Julius Oszlanyi, ILESAS

11.25 – 11.45 **The development of new national networks for LTER-Europe (case study examples). Why have they been established and how?**

- Italy – The challenge for LTER-Italy: how we managed the game and how we are going to pursue a long-term survival - Bruno Petriccione, CONECOFOR
- Finland – Strategic implementation of a national LTER-Network - Martin Forsius & Eeva Furman, SYKE (tbc)

11.45 – 12.45 **Market place: “Sites and networks meet the research community”**

- Testing the “Portal LTER-Europe”: a "market place" in which LTER sites and national networks display posters and information about their facilities in a way that enables the other delegates to explore the potential of the LTER sites and networks for their own research.

12.45 – 14.00 **Lunch**

Session 5.3: Related Initiatives in Europe

- 14.00 Building a site network for topically focused science: IP ALARM and beyond? – Bill Kunin, Koos Biejsmeier, Volker Harmon
- 14.10 Biosphere reserves networking in Europe: EuroMAB as knowledge sites for sharing sustainable development practices. Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO, MAB.
- 14.20 MARBEF and Biomare – long-term research approaches in marine ecosystems. Hermann Hommel, MARBEF
- 14.30 Remote sensing for biodiversity and links to LTER (Peter Vogt, JRC, Ispra)
- 14.40 Life Watch - An FP7 Infrastructure for Biodiversity Data and Observatories. Wouter Los (University of Amsterdam, LifeWatch Co-ordinator)
- 14.50 Discussion

Session 5.4: Towards a European LTER Network

- 15:00 Introduction by chairperson: Towards the technical design and implementation of LTER-facilities and the LT(S)ER-Europe Network - Michael Mirtl, UBA
- 15.05 – 15.20 Achieving a good representation of European environments: “LTER Socio-ecological regions” - Marc Metzger, ALTERRA
- 15.25 – 15.35 Towards Harmonisation of Measurements and Observations in LT(S)ER sites - (tbc)
- 15.35 – 15.50 Information management strategy and tools for LT(S)ER-Europe. Kathi Schleidt & Minu Ayromlou, UBA
- 15.50 – 16.00 Explanation of interactive and group work during the following break

16.00-16.30 **Tea/coffee & fun at pin boards**

Session 5.5: What needs to be done? The priorities for LTER-Europe

16.30 – 17.30 Design and technical issues for LTER Europe

1. Does LTER-Europe need a strategic plan? What should it cover?
 - a. Data sharing agreements?
 - b. A common research agenda?
 - c. Common approaches to observations?
 - d. Common efforts in establishing an effective data management?
2. What formal governance structure and management does LTER-Europe need and how can they be secured beyond the runtime of ALTER-Net?
3. Communication, WEB presentation, corporate design and public relations
4. Importance of FP7 Life Watch infrastructure for the development of LTER-Europe?
5. What is the role of ALTER-Net act in relation to the development of LTER-Europe?
6. Resulting working priorities for the “Goal LTER” in ALTER-Net 2007/2008

17:30 Conclusions and next steps

Ad Hoc Working Groups:

17.30-18.30 WP R3 Planning Meeting (Pressures on Biodiversity) – Convener: Stefan Klotz, UFZ (*Room – Termas Romanas*)

Day 5: Friday 9th February

Session 6: Emerging issues in biodiversity research and challenges for ALTER-Net (Part 2).

A series of research talks addressing specific inter-disciplinary research questions

09.00 **Introduction**

States: How do we measure the state of biodiversity for research and policy?

- Habitat recording for LTER sites. Geert de Blust, INBO
- Monitoring the structure and biodiversity of forest ecosystems: derived variables as dynamical index. Roberto Canullo, CONECOFOR
- Biodiversity changes in lakes derived both from sediment analyses and in-lake limnological monitoring: Case studies in selected Spanish lakes. Mario Morellon Marteles, CSIC
- Assessing biodiversity trends in European lakes. Iain Gunn, CEH

Pressures: What are the main pressures affecting biodiversity?

- Biodiversity and environmental services in European multifunctional forest landscapes. Lars Lundin, SLU
- Biodiversity in fragmented forests. Gerard Balent, Sylvie Ladet, Marc Deconchat (CNRS)
- The use of meta-analysis to analyse the impact of drivers and pressures on biodiversity. Laurent Berges, CEMAGREF

10.30-11.00 **Tea/coffee**

- Using the LT(S)ER network to assess the link between biodiversity and the Common Agricultural Policy. Jacques Baudry, CNRS
- Land abandonment and vegetation change in open landscapes: assessing biodiversity impacts and options for mitigation - Bernard Prevosto, CEMAGREF
- Biological invasions. Torsten Vor, FERC

Predicting the effects of pressures

- Meta-data requirements for (meta-)analysis of combined data sets - Bert van der Werf, Alterra
- Towards a mechanistic understanding of species' responses to climate change - Justin Travis, CEH
- Predicting management and nitrogen pollution effects on European plant diversity: a comparison of three model chains - Ed Rowe, CEH

12.00-12:30 **Concluding discussion**

12.30 **Conference close**

12.30 – 13.30 **Lunch. Afternoon optional for working groups**

14.00 – 16.00 WP I3 (LTER-Europe) Plenary: Work plan until next WP I3 meeting (June 2007); division of tasks; main conclusions from conference.