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1995 Proposed Program of Work for LTER

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PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK FOR LTER NETWORK OFFICE IN 1995-96

GENERAL

Represent LTER Network interests in national programs and forums including, when appropriate, with:

Congress (committees, members and staff);
White House offices; National Science Foundation and National Science Board; other federal agencies including National Biological Survey, Forest Service, Geological Survey, National Park Service

Expectations: 24 trips by 1-2 LTER Network Staff

Represent LTER Network interests and capabilities in relevant international forums including UNESCO MAB, IGBP program components, and UNEP.

Expectations: 12 trips by 1-2 LTER Network Staff

COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA MANAGEMENT

Operate (maintain, update and upgrade) LTER information server

Maintain communication server and related hardware

Maintain integrity of electronic mailing addresses and related data bases

System trouble-shooting and security

Software upgrade identification and installation

Servicing processing needs of electronic publication activity

Special purpose programming (e.g., statistical databases)

Maintain on-line LTER personnel directory

(Current total of 780 individuals, 90% with email addresses)

Provide networking for LMER scientific personnel

Provide networking for Long Term Studies Section of ESA

Provide networking for Canopy Research Group

Conceptualize, implement and maintain international connectivity with other Lter networks and for other research sites and individuals

Develop metadata standards (with Data Management Committee)

Expand data catalog to include all long-term data sets that are available at the sites

Develop prototype methods to link data abstracts with actual data

Develop and publish revised guidelines for Minimum Standard Installation

Complete conceptualization and implement prototype "dream suite"

Maintain and expand bibliographic database (including available abstracts)

REMOTELY-SENSED DATA AND TECHNOLOGIES

- Conduct LTER-wide scoping workshop on research collaboration and needs in remotely-sensed imagery
- Acquisition of remotely-sensed imagery including quality control
 - Acquire additional AVHRR coverage of sites--schedule to be determined by workshop
- Provide archiving and on-line availability of remotely sensed images
- Coordinate collaborative research activities between NASA and LTER
- Coordinate sun photometer measurement program at LTER sites
- Assume supervision of network-GPS equipment
 - [See related research activities below]
- Organize meeting with Center for Molecular Biology (Dr. Hood) on application of molecular techniques in ecological research

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

- Edit, produce and distribute 2 newsletters (circulation of 1700)
- Edit, produce and distribute 6 bulletins (circulation of 1000)
- Update, publish and distribute annual LTER personnel directory
- Revise and publish "blue book" on LTER sites (1995)
- Edit and publish LTER publications
 - Annually about 4 in LTER numbered series
 - E.g., climatic analysis of the LTER system
 - Annually about 6 in LTER occasional report series
 - E.g., proceedings of annual data managers meeting
- Assist in development, editing, and publication of LTER 2000 research document
- Develop and implement Mosaic home page for LTER Network
- Publish proceedings of annual Data Managers meeting
- Provide staff support to LTER Publications Committee in developing and implementing policies and regular publications
- Expand photographic coverage (low-level aerial obliques and ground) of LTER sites and activities
- Produce and provide to LTER sites cd-stored images of LTER sites, programs, network activities, and accomplishments
- Respond to requests from National Science Foundation, other agencies and institutions, and press for informational materials on LTER Network
- Provide LTER display materials for various technical conferences and meetings
- Initiate development of semi-technical book on LTER research programs and sites incorporating extensive photography (Franklin

SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOPS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Organize and conduct small workshop between LTER scientists and Center for Molecular Biology (Hood center) on application of molecular technologies to ecological problems
- Complete cross-site landscape analysis of the LTER network and publish results (VandeCastle-Magnuson collaboration)
- Conduct analysis of spatial scaling of thematic mapper imagery (VandeCastle-Hamilton-Magnuson collaboration)
- Comparison of regional landscape analysis between ECN (United Kingdom) and LTER networks (VandeCastle-Heal collaboration)
- Comparison of selected long-term data sets between ECN (United Kingdom) and LTER network (including lake plankton data sets and supplementing, but not duplicating, work proposed by Magnuson (VandeCastle-Heal collaboration)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Develop and implement "connectivity road show" kit; acquire new systems in both 1995 and 1996 with view to annual upgrade, leaving preceding system at a new node in the global network
- Organize and conduct international workshops in connection with annual meetings of ILTER Steering Committee
 - Data management in 1995 meeting in Hungary
 - Networking in Latin America at 1996 meeting
- Provide advice and assistance in data management and research program to LTER-like networks in other countries
 - China (annually)
 - Taiwan (1995)
- Train technical staff from other countries in communication technology and systems
 - Estimate 8 trainees in 1995, 12 in 1996, each for two to four week periods at network office.
 - Already scheduled:
 - Taiwan (two) in 1995
 - Eastern Europe (two) in 1995
- Participate in program and provide electronic demonstration at International Conference on Biosphere Reserves (Sevilla, Spain in March 1995)
- Provide technical advice and assistance to sites in Panama (STRI) and Costa Rica (La Selva) in establishment of latin american node for ILTER network
- Create ILTER Mosaic home page linked to server (below) at network office
- Establish ILTER information server at network office
- Initiate global linkages amongst networks by establishing common personnel database with ECN (UK) and CERN (China)

- Initiate creation of on-line international directory of LTER networks, sites, and scientists
- Develop contacts with networks, sites, and individuals with emphasis on major geographic areas (Latin America, Africa) and incipient groups (e.g., Australia, New Zealand, northern Europe)
- Survey of international activities in acquisition and analysis of remotely-sensed imagery (VandeCastle)

MEETINGS

- Organize, facilitate and fund All-Scientist meeting (650 participants) (1996 only)
- Organize, facilitate and fund two LTER CC meetings annually (30-70 participants)
- Organize, facilitate and fund four LTER Executive Committee meetings annually (15 participants)
- Organize, facilitate and fund annual Data Managers meeting (25 participants) [Second annual meeting has been requested by data managers due to scale of business. Also, proposed to open Data Managers Committee to participation by data managers from selected non-LTER sites, such as STRI and LaSelva]
- Organize, facilitate and fund any separate meetings of Publications, Technology, and Graduate Student committees (approximately 25 participants each)
- Organize, facilitate and fund annual meeting of International LTER Steering Group (foreign country, fund about half of 30 participants). [Meetings in foreign countries involve 2-3X the work load of a domestic meeting for the network office staff]
- Organize, facilitate and fund international workshop in conjunction with ILTER meeting
 - 1995--Hungary, Data Management
 - 1996--Panama/Costa Rica, LTER Networking in Latin America

NETWORKING WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PROGRAMS

- Begin developing major linkages, including formal cooperative agreement, with Ecological Synthesis Center
- Continue development of network-of-network activities

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Negotiate (annually) cooperative agreement between NSF and University of Washington, maintain regular contact with NSF program personnel, and provide necessary documents and other responses, including annual report

Personnel recruitment

Executive Director (1995)

Other positions (estimate of 4-6 in 1995, 2-4 annually
after that time)

Identify and contract for appropriate network office space

Provide fiscal and budget control and accounting

Monitor encumbrances, expenditures and budget balance

Reconcile monthly budget activity and status reports

Report participant support costs to UW General Acctg.
for recovery of indirect costs

Carry out general network office operations

Reception of enquiries and visitors and routine correspondence

Respond to general information requests

Function as interface between LTER Network program, National Science Foundation
and Univ. Washington with regards to policies and procedures

Develop and implement regular training programs for LTER Network personnel