

# **Recent Development and Future Perspective of the International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER)**

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## **Abstract**

The International Long Term Ecological Research (ILTER) Network was launched in 1993 to meet a growing need for communication and collaboration among long term ecological researchers. The network has 38 member networks now and is a network of networks. The ILTER is unique in many attributes and can fill an unoccupied niche in the science communities. Major activities and achievements during the past 4 years are given here. These included the enactment of Bylaws, completion of a 2006-2016 strategic plan, development of information management system, adoption of information technologies for LTER, and conduction of longer term and broader spatial, multi-disciplinary ecological researches. The strategic plan aimed to secure funds, stabilize and legalize the organization, and advance science. This plan prescribed 3 strategies for ILTER to carry out in order to achieve its goals. These were organizational and fundraising strategies, science and program strategies, and communication, education, and public awareness strategies. Major international collaborative research projects have been many. Examples, such as Lake Metabolism Research, Coral Reef Biology (CR-LTER), and Agricultural LTER, are summarized. An Information Management Committee (IMC) was organized to coordinate information management and development of ILTER's cyberinfrastructure (CI). Wireless sensor networks were researched and also implemented in many ILTER sites. Future development of the ILTER will focus on a five-year operation plan that provides more specific objectives and action items for the network's upcoming years.