

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

US-IALE Expands Scope, Becomes IALE-North America

Media contact: Yolanda Wiersma (Communications Committee Chair) ywiersma@mun.ca, 709-864-7499

April 10, 2019 - At the 2019 annual meeting in Fort Collins, CO, members of the U.S. Regional Chapter of the International Association for Landscape Ecology (US-IALE) voted to expand the geographic scope of the Regional Chapter. Founded in 1986, the chapter originally encompassed only the United States. However, the mission to foster and promote landscape ecology research and link scientists, planners, and practitioners rapidly attracted membership from beyond U.S. borders. The vote to expand the geographic scope of the chapter to include all nations in North America and change the association's name to the International Association for Landscape Ecology-North America reflects and formalizes this long-time connection with our neighbors. Through approval of these revisions to the bylaws, IALE-North America seeks to reach underrepresented scientists, practitioners, and students across the entire continent, and to ultimately increase member diversity and knowledge exchange. The formal purpose of IALE-North America, from our new charter, is detailed below.

More about IALE-North America including upcoming meetings (next meeting will be in Toronto in 2020) and the benefits of membership can be found at www.ialena.org. Our new Twitter handle is @iale_na.

We hope you will join us!

The purpose of the Regional Chapter shall be to:

- 1. Foster landscape ecology research and practice across North America;*
- 2. Provide a link between persons concerned with landscape ecology in North America, the International Association for Landscape Ecology, and other regional chapters of IALE;*
- 3. Promote interdisciplinary research and communication among scientists, planners, and other professionals concerned with landscape ecology and colleagues in other countries under the aegis of the International Association for Landscape Ecology; and*
- 4. Promote diversity and inclusion and champion participation in landscape ecology among people of all races, religions, gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, and veteran status.*

The Regional Chapter is organized and operated solely for scientific and educational purposes.