



REPORT OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES 2012-13

Submitted to the Secretary-General and Treasurer
International Geographical Union (IGU)
Prof. Dr. Michael E. Meadows

by

Prof. Dr. Udo Schickhoff
Chair, Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity

Supported by the steering committee of the
IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity

Officers:

Chair: Prof. Dr. Udo Schickhoff, University of Hamburg, Germany, schickhoff@geowiss.uni-hamburg.de
Vice-Chair: Prof. Dr. Kazuharu Mizuno, Kyoto University, Japan, mizuno@jambo.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp

Outline

This report consists of six sections:

1. Membership
2. Meetings
3. Networking
4. Publications
5. Archival contributions
6. Continuation

1. Membership

As steering committee members of the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity for the period 2012-2016, the following colleagues had been appointed:

- Prof. Dr. Udo Schickhoff (Chair), Department of Geography, University of Hamburg, Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg, Germany, Ph.: +49 428384911, Email: schickhoff@geowiss.uni-hamburg.de
- Prof. Dr. Kazuharu Mizuno (Vice-Chair), Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University, Japan, Ph.: +81-75-753-9191, Email: mizuno@jambo.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp
- Dr. Mark Blumler, Biological Sciences Department, SUNY Binghamton, Vestal Parkway East, PO Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902, USA, Ph.: (607)-777-6732, Email: mablum@binghamton.edu
- Dr. Reija Hietala, Department of Geography and Geology, University of Turku, FI-20014 Turku, Finland, Ph.: +358 2 333 5584, Email: reija.hietala@utu.fi
- Prof. Dr. Nagula Nagabhushanam, Department of Geography, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati - 517502, Andhra Pradesh, India, Ph.: +91-984-9076144, Email: nbngeo@yahoo.com
- Prof. Dr. Alvaro Gonzalez-Gervasio, Department of Geography, Universidad de la Republica, Av. 18 de Julio 1968, Montevideo, Uruguay, Ph.: (598) 2400 9201, Email: alvarog@chasque.apc.org
- Dr. Jennifer Hill, Department of Geography and Environmental Management, School of the Built and Natural Environment, University of the West of England, Frenchay Campus, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QY, UK, Ph.: +44 (0)117 328 3000, Email: jennifer.hill@uwe.ac.uk
- Prof. Dr. Andrew Millington, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Earth Sciences, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide 5001, South Australia, Ph.: +61 8 82012269, Adelaide, Australia, andrew.millington@flinders.edu.au
- Prof. Dr. David Taylor, Department of Geography, Museum Building, Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin, Ireland, Ph.: +353-(0)1 896 1581, Email: taylord@tcd.ie
- Dr. Alexander Wearing, Department of Geography, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand, Ph.: +64 3 479 8774, Email: aew@geography.otago.ac.nz
- Dr. José Alejandro Velázquez, Department of Geography, UNAM, Mexico, Ph.: + (55) 56232842, Email: alexmontes2000@yahoo.com

Current corresponding members of the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity are listed below, arranged by countries.

This membership list has currently 236 members, but does not include numerous delegates from respective host countries attending the annual meetings.

Argentina

Alessandro, M.B., Mendoza

Australia

Bekle, H., Perth; Kull, C.A., Clayton; Millington, A., Adelaide

Austria

Geitner, C., Innsbruck; Grabherr, G., Wien; Samimi, C., Wien

Brazil

Melo e Souza, R., Aracaju; Rezende da Silva, S., Sao Paulo; Tavares Rocha, Y., Sao Paulo

Canada

Sinclair, J., Winnipeg; Tews, J., Ottawa

Chile

Cabalar Fuentes, M., Santiago; Quintanilla, V., Santiago; Rojas, C., Concepcion

China

Ming, J., Zhangye; Ren, Z., Beijing; Zhang, X., Beijing

Ethiopia

Bekele, T., Shashemene; Desta, H., Addis Ababa; Woldu, Z., Addis Ababa

Finland

Hietala, R., Turku

Georgia

Gegechkori, A., Tbilisi

Germany

Albrecht, C., Giessen; Anhuf, D., Passau; Audorff, V., Bayreuth; Baranova, A., Hamburg; Becht, M., Eichstätt; Beierkuhnlein, C.; Bayreuth; Bittner, T., Bayreuth; Block, J., Erlangen; Block, M., Erlangen; Bobrowski, M., Hamburg; Böhling, N., Kirchheim u. Teck; Böhmer, H.J., Bonn; Borchardt, P., Hamburg; Bräuning, A., Erlangen; Bürzle, B., Hamburg; Chmielewski, F.M., Berlin; Cikovac, P., Köln; Deil, U., Freiburg; Dlugosz, A., Trier; Dotter, D., Regensburg; Dulamsuren, C., Göttingen; Ehlkes, L., Hamburg; Engwald, S., Frankfurt a.M.; Fartmann, T., Münster; Faude, U., Bonn; Feilhauer, H., Erlangen; Filz, K., Trier; Finch, O.D., Oldenburg; Fränzle, O., Kiel; Friedmann, A., Augsburg; Gawlik, J., Erlangen; Gebel, M., Dresden; Gebhardt, H., Karlsruhe; Glawion, R., Freiburg i.Br.; Gleich, A., Erlangen; Griessinger, J., Erlangen; Hahn, I., Münster; Harter, D., Bayreuth; Hochhut, E.S., Mainz; Hohnwald, S., Göttingen; Holler, S., Hamburg; Hölzel, N., Münster; Jaeschke, A., Bayreuth; Jedicke, E., Karlsruhe; Jentsch, A., Bayreuth; Jungkunst, H., Göttingen; Jurasinski, G., Rostock; Kappas, M., Göttingen; Karl, H.V., Göttingen; Kiehl, K., Freising; Kreft, H., Göttingen; Kreyling, J., Bayreuth; Krummel, T., Göttingen; Kuhlmann, M., Münster; Kuhn, E., Gackenbach; Küster, H., Hannover; Lange, J., Hamburg; Lembeck, R., Hamburg; le Mellec, A., Göttingen; Lingenhöhl, D., Erlangen; Link, M., Gießen; Löffler, J., Bonn; Loos, G.H., Oberhausen; Lötters, S., Trier; Löw, A., Hamburg; Mahecha, M., Jena; Menz, G., Bonn; Metzinger, D., Oldenburg; Meyn, A., Potsdam; Miehe, G., Marburg; Mühlner, S., Leipzig; Müller-Hohenstein, K., Bayreuth; Nagy, L., Bayreuth; Najmi, U., Greifswald; Neff, C., Karlsruhe; Nezadal, W., Erlangen; Nüsser, M., Heidelberg; Nutz, L., Karlsruhe; Pape, R., Bonn; Peters, M., München; Peters, T., Erlangen; Platten, H., Koblenz; Poschwitz, H., Frankfurt a.M.; Pott, R., Hannover; Reimer, F., Bonn; Reiss, M., Marburg; Reu, B., Leipzig; Richter, M., Erlangen; Rödder, D., Bonn; Rollenbeck, R., Mannheim; Runkel, U., Trier; Russow, F., Bensheim; Sattler, D., Leipzig; Scheid, A., Karlsruhe; Schickhoff, U., Hamburg; Schiller, H., Eitorf; Schlütz, F., Göttingen; Schmidlein, S., Karlsruhe; Schmitt, T., Bochum; Schmitt, E., Giessen; Schröder, H., Erlangen; Schröder, B., Mannheim; Schröder, B., Rostock; Schulz, E., Würzburg; Schulz, N., Erlangen; Schwab, N., Hamburg; Schwabe, B., Erlangen; Siewert, A., Hamburg; Steinbauer, M., Bayreuth; Steinecke, K., Bremen; Stenzel, S., Bonn; Strewe, R., Bad Zwischenahn; Sturm, H.J., Frankfurt a.M.; Szarzynski, J., Mannheim; Thannheiser, D., Hamburg; Treter, U., Erlangen; Vanselow, K.A., Erlangen; Vater, G., Berlin; Venzke, J.F., Bremen; Veste, M., Hamburg; Völkel, J., Regensburg; von Wehrden, H., Halle/Saale; Wagner, F., Bremen; Wallossek, C., Köln; Wehberg, J., Hamburg; Weiß, W., Erlangen; Weis, M., Freiburg; Wellstein, C., Bayreuth; Werner, W., Heidelberg; Werner, M., Mainz; Wesenberg, J., Leipzig; Wilmking, M., Greifswald; Wollesen, D., Bochum; Zemmrich, A., Greifswald

Great Britain

Hill, J., Bristol; Jones, B., Oxford; Syfert, M., Cambridge

India

Bhat, M.S., Srinagar; Chauhan, D., Jaipur; Chauhan, G.S., Bhopal; Das, S.A., Mysore; Eswarappa, B., Bangalore; Jayakumar, K.V., Kozhikode; Jeet, I., Jammu; Kala, C.P., Kosi-Katarmal; Kanth, T.A., Srinagar; Kumar, A., Delhi; Kumria, P., Delhi; Maithani, D.D., Srinagar (Garhwal); Mal, S., Delhi; Nagabhushanam, N., Tirupati; Nandeshwar, M.D., Kozhikode; Negi, V.S., Delhi; Pandey, U.N., Bilaspur; Panwar, M.S., Srinagar (Garhwal); Pathak, M., Bhurkura; Prasad, R., Jaipur; Rahman, M.; Gauhati; Sharma, P., Gauhati; Sharma, V.R., Delhi; Singh, M., Rohtak; Singh, P.K., Lucknow; Singh, R.B., Delhi; Tiwari, V.K., Bilaspur; Wodeyar, A.K., Bangalore

Ireland

Taylor, D., Dublin

Japan

Fujita, T., Kyoto; Kimoto, K., Hiroshima; Koarai, M., Tsukuba; Mizuno, K., Kyoto; Teshirogi, K., Tokyo

Kyrgyzstan

Kulikov, M., Bishkek; Laskov, G., Bishkek

Mexico

Patricia, P., Guadalajara; Velázquez, J.A., Mexico City

Mongolia

Damdinsuren, O., Khovd

Namibia

Bethune, S., Windhoek; Curtis, B., Windhoek; Joubert, D.F., Windhoek

New Zealand

Wearing, A., Dunedin

Nigeria

Aweto, A., Ibadan

Norway

Lundberg, A., Bergen; Vetaas, O., Bergen

Poland

Bokwa, A., Krakow; Dudek, A., Warsaw

Romania

Baltescu-Socol, O., Bucarest; Grigorescu, I., Bucarest; Romanescu, G., Iasi

Russia

Belonovskaya, E., Moscow; Dikareva, T.V., Moscow; Makhinov, A.N., Khabarovsk; Tishkov, A.A., Moscow

Spain

Infante Fabres, N.O., Barcelona; Lozano Valencia, P.J., San Sebastian

Switzerland

Beck, J., Basel; Brügger, R., Bern; Jeanneret, F., Bern; Nagel, P., Basel; von Fumetti, S., Basel; Vonlanthen, C., Bern; Wolf, S., Zürich

Thailand

Schmidt-Vogt, D., Bangkok

Tunisia

Ayache, F., Sousse; Mondher, C., Manouba

Ukraine

Gerasimenko, N., Kiev

Uruguay

Gonzalez-Gervasio, A., Montevideo

USA

Blumler, M., Binghamton; Hessing-Lewis, M., Corvallis

2. Meetings

2.1 Meetings 2012

IGU 32nd INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHY CONGRESS COLOGNE, GERMANY, 26th-30th August, 2012

The IGC Cologne, Germany, 26-30 August, was the major event in 2012 for the worldwide community of geographers as well as for the Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission. At the IGC, the Commission conducted a business meeting and two paper sessions. This IGC is considered an unprecedented success for the IGU. The numbers of delegates surpassed all expectations, as more than 2800 Geographers from more than 80 countries across the globe participated in this Congress at the University of Cologne in order to share their research ideas and network with each other. Especially encouraging for the IGU was the large number of younger registrants who had been attracted by the new approach of the organizing committee. The Congress stressed the importance of Geography as a discipline that uniquely straddles the social and natural sciences. The failure (until recently) of science to understand the fundamentally integrated nature of earth systems at a range of spatial scales – something that Geographers recognised long ago – has led

us to the brink of a global environmental crisis. This is a chance to use our talents – through research and teaching – and especially through the invigoration that our younger practitioners offer – to lead the way. The Congress proved it can be done. Congratulations to the organisers and good luck to the Chinese delegation who formally invited the delegates to the next one, to take place in Beijing in 2016. In the meantime, you can catch highlights of the magnificent opening ceremony and the wonderful keynotes by following the link to: <http://livestream.igc2012.org/>

Business meeting of the Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission at the 32nd International Geographical Congress (IGC) Cologne 2012, August 26-30

During the business meeting the Commissions' past and future activities were discussed, other topics included steering committee membership, networking, publications, and the newsletter. The meeting started with a review of the Commissions' meetings 2008-2012, major outcomes of these meetings were highlighted. Regarding the continuation of the Commissions' work, the following objectives have been defined for the period 2012-2016:

- To continue to explore and exploit the diversity of biogeography as a discipline within Geography, Biology and allied disciplines, thereby promoting biogeography teaching, research and scholarship
- To organise fora for presentation and discussion (i) within the IGU structures (IGU Regional Conference Kyoto 2013, etc.), (ii) by group meetings with national geographical bodies, and (iii) to promote biogeographical research and scholarship by geographers within other international organisations such as the International Biogeography Society (IBS), the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), and other ICSU/IUBS organisations
- Using our full members we will organise joint meetings with the biogeography groups in India, Poland, Japan, and Germany in the next four years
- Using our experiences of biogeography in developing countries, we will continue to hold joint meetings in those countries to further promote biogeography as an important discipline
- We will continue to publish proceedings of our meetings wherever possible

We continue to develop our newsletter as the main source of information, to be located on the Commission's new website containing information on its structure and activities, as well as on new publications and other relevant news in our field. In terms of networking, we also continue cooperation with other IGU Commissions as well as other international groups and scientific bodies.

During the business meeting a new Steering Committee, consisting of a Chair and a Vice-Chair as well as nine additional Steering Committee members had been elected providing for the management of the Commission.

Sessions of the Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission at the 32nd International Geographical Congress (IGC) Cologne 2012, August 26-30

The local organizing committee kindly allocated two time slots for paper sessions to the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity. A total of 7 papers could be accommodated in these technical sessions, spanning a wide variety of topics:

C08.03-01 Climate Change and Land Use Effects on Species, Communities and Ecosystems: Indian Subcontinent and the Himalayas

Chair: Udo Schickhoff, R.B. Singh

R.B. Singh (University of Delhi):

Anthropogenic Biomes: Regional Response to Global Climate Change Modeling

Th. Scholten (University of Tübingen), D. Wagner (Alfred Wegener Institute), M. Schloter (Helmholtz Zentrum München), P. Kühn, C. Dörfer (both: University of Tübingen), J. Ollivier (Helmholtz Zentrum München), S. Yang (Alfred Wegener Institute):

The Permafrost Transect - Effects of Climate Change and Land Use on Permafrost and Carbon Dynamics in Soils along a Climate Gradient across the Tibetan Plateau

Rama Prasad (University of Rajasthan):

Land Degradation and Changing Ecosystem in Central Aravalli Hilly Range: A Case Study of Tonk District, Rajasthan, India

Udo Schickhoff (University of Hamburg):

Himalayan forest-cover changes over the past two centuries: A review of spatial and temporal aspects

C08.03-02 Climate Change and Land Use Effects on Species, Communities and Ecosystems

Chair: R.B. Singh, Udo Schickhoff

Tishkov Arkady, Elena Belonovskaya (both: Russian Academy of Sciences):

The priority for the European mountain biodiversity conservation in Russia

Inder Jeet (University of Jammu):

Spatial-Temporal Variability of Apple Orchards in Response to Environmental Change in Himachal Pradesh (India)

Dharmender Chauhan (University of Rajasthan):

Distribution of aloe vera in semi-arid region (Khetri), Rajasthan

The above paper sessions attracted much interest among the attendees of IGC 2012 and yielded productive discussions, contributing to an overall stimulating and rewarding conference. The sessions of our Commission had been integrated into a remarkable program of plenary sessions, technical sessions, poster sessions, meetings and seminars, exhibitions, and field trips. Framing the scientific program by colourful inaugural and closing ceremonies, shows, and social events the local organizing committee did a great job in making IGC 2012 a successful, memorable and rewarding event.

2.2 Meetings 2013

IGU CONFERENCE ON GEOINFORMATICS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, ROHTAK, HARYANA, INDIA, 14th-16th March, 2013

The IGU Conference on Geoinformatics for Biodiversity and Climate Change in Rohtak, Haryana, India, was jointly organized by the Department of Geography, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, Haryana, the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, and the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land

Cover Change. This Conference highlighted various environmental problems associated with development under climate change.

The Commission is very grateful to Dr. R.B. Singh, Secretary General of the National Association of Geographers, India, and Vice-President of the IGU for the tasks he undertook co-organizing and advising this conference. The Commission also expresses sincere thanks to the local organizing committee including the Patron Prof. R.P. Hooda, Vice-Chancellor of Maharshi Dayanand University, the Convener Prof. M.I. Hassan, Head of Department of Geography, and the Organizing Secretary Dr. Mehtab Singh, Department of Geography.

Focal theme of the conference

This International Conference aimed to highlight the various environmental problems associated with development and changing climatic scenarios. The problem of climate change and ensuing transformations that are to manifest in various sectors of human life on the earth is an important area where the geoinformatics can play a vital role. Environmental perspectives and the scientific approaches including modern technologies are bringing spatial solutions to environmental and societal problems. Geoinformatics along with its accessories like Remote Sensing and GIS helps in assessing the results of various environmental problems both physical and social. This conference welcomed all geographers, scientists, hydrologists, academicians, researchers, technologists, environmentalists, engineers, planners, policy makers, social workers, research students and other interested professionals from geography and its allied fields to share their research experiences.

Focal theme

GEOINFORMATICS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Special session on

- Disaster Risk Reduction

Subthemes

- Biogeography and Land Information System
- Land Use Land Cover Change and Biodiversity
- Climate Change and Extremes
- Natural Resource Management
- Urban Health and Well-being
- Coastal Zone Management
- 'Population-Development-Environment' Interface
- Integration of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS for Geospatial Applications

The academic sessions consisted of invited/plenary talks and contributed paper presentations.

The above paper sessions attracted much interest among the attendees of the Rohtak Conference and yielded productive discussions, contributing to an overall stimulating and rewarding symposium. Around 500 delegates from India and abroad, including the USA, Russia, Japan, Australia, Iran and Ethiopia, had been taking part in the event.

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE KYOTO, JAPAN, 4th-9th August, 2013

The IGU Kyoto Regional Conference 2013 was hosted by the Japan National Committee for IGU on behalf of the entire geographic community in Japan and in cooperation with Japan Organization of Geographical Societies (JOGS) and IGU. The following invitation has been circulated:

The main theme of the conference was “Traditional Wisdom and Modern Knowledge for the Earth's Future”. The ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto is globally recognized in association with the Kyoto Protocol, which was concluded in December 1997 at the Kyoto International Conference Center, where the Conference was held. The Conference added a new page in the history of this memorable venue and succeeded in enhancing global understanding, especially in the light of the global environmental challenges the world now faces.

The Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami on March 11, 2011 and the unprecedented disaster that followed, including the nuclear disaster at Fukushima, have shaken not only Japan, but also the rest of the global community. The events have led an increasing number of people to reconsider their values, priorities, and ways of living. The Conference offered ample opportunities to learn, think, and exchange information and ideas on these crucial issues. It also provided an opportunity for networking.

The participants of the Conference also enjoyed visiting other parts of Japan and its vicinity by joining pre- or post-congress excursions. These were arranged by the Organizing Committee or IGU Commissions, with the support of a number of national/regional geographical societies.

Activities of the Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission at the Kyoto Regional Conference

At the Kyoto Regional Conference, the Commission conducted a business meeting as well as the following sessions within the technical session series:

CS03-1 Scientific mapping of climate change, water, forests and biodiversity

Chair(s): Udo Schickhoff (Univ. of Hamburg), Kazuharu Mizuno (Kyoto Univ.)

Kazuharu Mizuno, Tomohiro Fujita (Kyoto University)

Vegetation succession on Mt. Kenya in relation to glacial fluctuation and global warming

Virender Singh Negi (Shaheed Bhagat Singh (E) College, University of Delhi)

Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood in the Western Himalayas

Pawan Kumar Singh (National PG College, Lucknow University, Lucknow)

Distributional Patterns of Biographical Regions in Indian Subcontinent: A Spatial Analysis

Mohan Pathak (S.M.R.D.P.G. COLLEGE, BHURKURA, GHAZIPUR, U.P.)

Biodiversity of the Ganga River Flood Plains (India); An Ecological Perspectives

CS03-2 Biodiversity and forest conservation: policy implications and local

knowledge system

Chair(s): Koichi Kimoto (Hiroshima Jogakuin Univ.), R. B. Singh (Delhi Univ.)

Poonam Kumria, R.B. Singh, Koichi Kimoto (University of Delhi)
Exclusion or Empowerment: Participatory Deliberations on Forest Commons in Dehradun Valley, India

Mahfuza Rahman, Jayasree Borah, Pradip Sharma (Cotton College)
Forest Cover, Policies and Governance in Assam India

Ines Grigorescu, Monica Dumitrascu, Gheorghe Kucsicsa, Mihaela Nastase (Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy)
Assessing Invasive Terrestrial Plant Species in the Romanian protected areas.

Pradip Sharma, Mahfuza Rahman, Dhanjit Deka, Rubul Hazarika (Cotton College)

Livelihood Challenges of Fringe Communities of Dabaka and Jamuna-Maudanga Reserved Forests, Assam, India

CS03-3 Biodiversity conservation and livelihood security

Chair(s): Koichi Kimoto (Hiroshima Jogakuin Univ.), R. B. Singh (Delhi Univ.)

Kirill Ju. Bazarov (Pacific Institute of Geography FEB RAS)
Automatically interpretation of satellite Images which were made in different times (by example of transboundary territories).

Vishwa Raj Sharma (University of Delhi)

Land Use, Forests and Environmental Pollution in Agra Metropolitan City

Ajay Kumar, R.B. Singh, Koichi Kimoto (University of Delhi)

Local Knowledge and Forest Management in Changing Environment of Rajasthan Drylands in India: A Case of Sariska National Park

Koichi Kimoto, Das S Arun (Hiroshima Jogakuin University)

Process of Desertification a Challenging Resilience: Forest Management as Regional Governance in Southern India

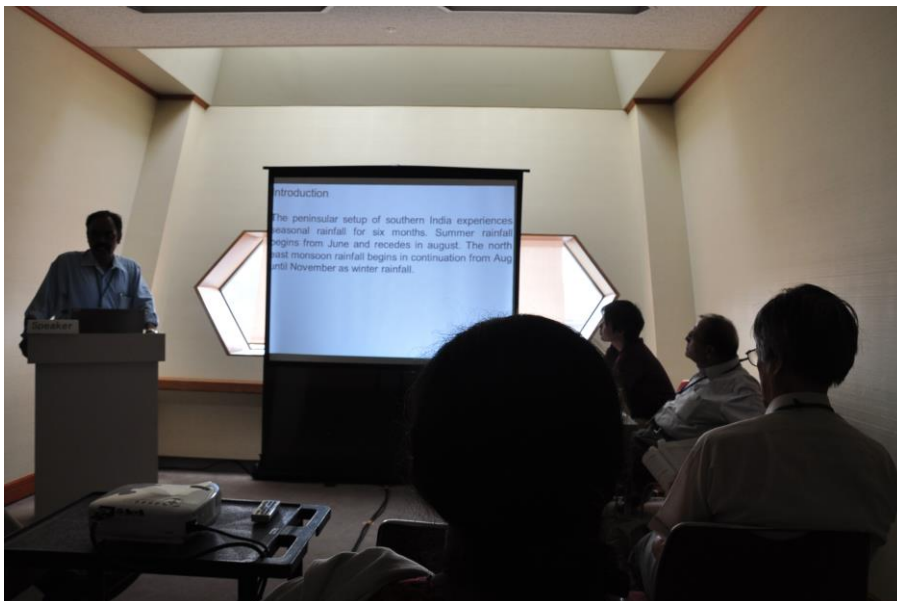


Fig. 1: Session CS03-3 Biodiversity conservation and livelihood security, paper by S. Arun Das.

The above paper sessions attracted much interest among the attendees of the Kyoto Regional Conference and yielded productive discussions, contributing to an overall stimulating and rewarding meeting. The sessions of our Commission had been integrated into a remarkable program of plenary sessions, technical sessions, poster sessions, meetings and seminars, exhibitions, and field trips. Framing the scientific program by colourful inaugural and closing ceremonies, shows, and social events the local organizing committee did a great job in making the Kyoto Conference a successful, memorable and rewarding event.

2.3 Meetings 2014

IGU CONFERENCE ON GEOHAZARDS, RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY AND MOUNTAIN RESPONSE TO GLOBAL CHANGE, SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR, INDIA, 4th-5th June, 2014

hosted by

Department of Geography and Regional Development
University of Kashmir, Srinagar-190006, Jammu & Kashmir, India
Mobile No. +91-9906577391 Fax: 0194-2425195
E-Mail: iguconferencesrinagar2014@gmail.com
Website: www.iguconferencesrinagar2014.com

Invitation

The Commission's annual meeting 2014 will be held within the framework of the IGU Conference on Geohazards, Resource Sustainability and Mountain Response to Global Change, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India, June 4-5, which is jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Kashmir, the IGU Commission on Mountain Response to Global Change, and the IGU Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission.

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the Srinagar meeting. It will also be an excellent opportunity to discover the beauty and variety of the environment and culture of Jammu & Kashmir.

The main theme of the conference is:

Geohazards, Resource Sustainability and Mountain Response to Global Change

We look forward to welcoming you to Srinagar in June 2014!

Conference Organization

Patron

Prof. Talat Ahmad

Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir

Convener

Prof. Tasawoor A. Kanth

UGC-SAP Coordinator, Department of Geography and Regional Development
University of Kashmir

Email: tasawoork@yahoo.co.in

Organizing Secretary

Prof. M. Sultan Bhat (Head)

Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Kashmir

Email: msbhatgeog@yahoo.com

Important Deadlines

Submission of Abstract: March 15, 2014

Intimation of Acceptance: April 15, 2014

Registration / Submission of Full Paper: April 30, 2014

Conference Dates: June, 4-5, 2014

Registration Fee

Registration fee for Indian Participants: Rs. 5000

Registration fee for International Participants: USD 250

Registration fee for Research Scholars (Indian): Rs. 2000

Registration fee for Delegates from outside Academic Institutions: Rs. 6000

Registration is compulsory for all participants. The registration fee will be remitted by Demand Draft drawn in favour of "IGU CONFERENCE SRINAGAR - 2014" payable at Srinagar. Registration fee along with complete application form must reach to Prof. M. Sultan Bhat, Organizing Secretary, Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, J & K, India latest by March 15, 2014.

The application form can be downloaded from the website of the University of Kashmir, Srinagar (www.kashmiruniversity.ac.in). Alternatively the payment may be made by Electronic Fund Transfer to IGU CONFERENCE SRINAGAR-2014, Account No. with J&K-Bank, University Branch, Srinagar by IFSC Code JKB. You may also pay directly into A/C No. in the name of IGU CONFERENCE SRINAGAR-2014 through cheque.

Foreign delegates please contact Organizing Secretary for more details regarding the payment.

Thrust Areas of the Conference

The over-exploitation of some of the important earth resources like land and water has led to a number of environment related problems world over. At the same time, the natural and anthropogenic activities have led to increase of geohazards around the globe, with the result that the sustainability of different earth resources is threatened. In this context, the relevance of geohazards and sustainability of earth resources for human survival has become a major international issue as scientific evidence builds on the global health implications of resource loss. This issue is closely linked with the issue of climate change and risks due to climate change are associated with fast degradation of mountain environment which are the main source of different resources like glaciers, water, forests, soil, medicinal plants, etc. Holistic natural resource based spatio-temporal planning, development and management is essential to save the degraded ecosystem for sustainable resource management. This International Conference aims to highlight the various environmental problems associated with development and changing climatic scenarios. The problem of climate change and ensuing transformations that are to manifest in various sectors of human life on the earth is an important area where the geo-spatial tools can play a vital role. Environmental perspectives and the scientific approaches including modern

technologies are bringing spatial solutions to environmental and societal problems. Different geo-spatial tools like Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS help in assessing the results of various environmental problems both physical and social. This conference welcomes all geographers, scientists, hydrologists, academicians, researchers, technologists, environmentalists, engineers, planners, policy makers, social workers, research students and other interested professionals from geography and its allied fields to share their research experiences.

Focal Theme

Geohazards, Resource Sustainability and Mountain Response to Global Change

Special Session on

Geohazards & Disaster Risk Reduction

Sub Themes

- Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Biogeography and Land Information System
- Land Use and Land Cover Change
- Global Climate Change and Extremes
- Disaster Management and Planning
- Environment and Health
- Sustainable Tourism Development
- 'Population-Development-Environment' Interface
- Integration of Remote Sensing, GIS and GPS for Geospatial Applications

The academic session will consist of invited/plenary talk and contributed paper presentations.

Call for Papers

There will be poster as well as oral presentations in the conference. Intending authors are requested to submit their original research contribution in the form of abstract (not exceeding 500 words) by email to the Organizing Secretary on or before March, 15, 2014. The abstract of the paper should be typed with double space Times New Roman (12 Font Size) with title of the paper, name of the author(s), affiliation, email address besides the content. Author(s) will be informed by email about the acceptance of their abstracts by March, 31, 2014. Thereafter, the contributors are requested to send their full papers and registration fee by April 20, 2014. Full paper in MS Word format should reach to the Organizing Secretary by e-mail attachment. Research scholars must send their abstract/full paper through H.o.D/Principal/Chairman. The accepted papers will be published as full text in the conference proceedings.

IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE KRAKOW, POLAND, 18th-22th August, 2014

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the 2014 IGU Regional Conference which will be held in Kraków, Poland, 18-22 August, 2014. It will also be an excellent opportunity to discover the beauty and variety of the environment and the culture of Central and Eastern Europe.

The main theme of the conference is **Changes, Challenges, Responsibility**. Modern geography faces significant challenges focusing on the recognition of and response to contemporary changes in the environment, society and economy. All this calls for our responsibility. The conference aims to create a forum at which these issues can be addressed. It is open to all geographers across the spectrum who specialize in all fields of the discipline. The conference is going to be an event contributing to efforts undertaken, for example, by ICSU/ISSC Future Earth, and aimed at defining pathways towards sustainability and responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change.

Kraków, the former capital of Poland, is the seat of the second oldest university in Central Europe, established in 1364. The Jagiellonian University is the seat of the first ever Chair of Geography in Poland, established in 1849.

We believe that the 2014 IGU Regional Conference will be an important and meaningful event, bringing together geographers from all over the world and contributing to a better understanding of the changes and challenges faced by the world and our discipline as well as the responsibility we all share.

The conference is organized under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski.

For further information see the website <http://www.igu2014.org/>

We look forward to welcoming you to Kraków in August 2014!

IGU Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission participation:

The Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission is actively planning the following sessions:

- 1) Climate Change and Dynamics of Mountain Ecosystems
- 2) Linking Biogeography and Society
- 3) Biogeographical Distributions, Gradients, Disturbances: The Indian Subcontinent in Focus

Important Dates:

15 October 2013 Deadline for the submission of the IGU Commission / Task Force sessions proposals

1 November 2013 Early registration starts

30 November 2013 Deadline for the submission of the Thematic sessions proposals

15 January 2014 Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters

25 February 2014 Notification of results of abstract reviews

10 March 2014 Publication of the provisional conference programme

2 April 2014 Deadline for early registration fee payment

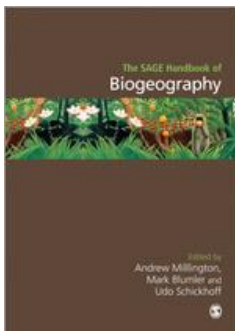
15 May 2014 Deadline for regular registration fee payment
18-22 August 2014 IGU Regional Conference in Kraków

3. Networking

In the 2012-13 period, the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity continued to cooperate with other IGU Commissions as well as with other international groups and scientific bodies. For instance, the Commission's annual meeting 2013 in Rohtak, Haryana, India (International Conference on Land Use Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Resource Management), was jointly organized by the Department of Geography, Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak, the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, and the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change. The forthcoming Commission's annual meeting 2014 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India, June 4-5, will be jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Kashmir, the IGU Commission on Mountain Response to Global Change, and the IGU Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission. Moreover, the organisation of these conferences and other previous meetings is facilitated by close institutional ties to other scientific bodies.

4. Publications

The long awaited 'The SAGE Handbook of Biogeography', edited by the former Chairman of our Commission, Prof. Andrew C. Millington (Adelaide), Steering Committee Member Prof. Mark A. Blumler (New York), and the current Chairman, Prof. Udo Schickhoff (Hamburg) was published in late 2011. This retrospective and prospective overview of the discipline of Biogeography is the final result of long-term Commission activities that can be traced back to Commission meetings in Armenia (2000) and New York City (2001) where the idea of this handbook was generated. The editors expect that it will be considered an important contribution to the field of Biogeography.



Millington, A.C., Blumler, M.A., Schickhoff, U. (eds.) (2011): The SAGE Handbook of Biogeography. SAGE Publ. Ltd, London. 624 pp.

The SAGE Handbook of Biogeography is a manual for scoping the past, present and future of biogeography that enable readers to consider, where relevant, how similar biogeographical issues are tackled by researchers in different 'schools'. In line with the concept of all SAGE Handbooks, this is a retrospective and prospective overview of biogeography that will:

- consider the main areas of biogeography researched by geographers

- detail a global perspective by incorporating the work of different schools of biogeographers
- explore the divergent evolution of biogeography as a discipline and consider how this diversity can be harnessed
- examine the interdisciplinary debates that biogeographers are, and are not, contributing to within geography and within the biological sciences.

Aimed at an international audience of research students, academics, researchers and practitioners in biogeography, the text will attract interest from environmental scientists, ecologists and biologists and geographers alike.

Other publications:

Papers presented during Commissions 2011 annual meeting, the 3rd International Geography Congress in Kozhikode, Kerala, India, 06-08 May 2011, had been classified thematically into various sections and published in 2013 in a comprehensive proceedings volume. The volume contains numerous papers grouped into the following sections:

- Natural hazards/disasters and environmental challenges
- Impact of deforestation on hydrological processes
- Impact of anthropogenic activities and climatic changes on biodiversity
- Geomorphology and natural resource management
- Geoinformatics: technology - society interface
- Impact of population explosion and urbanisation on land use and cover change
- Environmental pollution and quality of life (water, land, air)
- Geopolitical economy of development and globalisation
- Tourism-impacts, implications and alternatives
- Recent challenges for ethnic communities, refugees and war victims
- Spatial infrastructure, alternative planning and management perspectives

The bibliographic reference is as follows:

NANDESHWAR, M.D., JAYAKUMAR, K.V., GOPINATH, G. & AMBILI, G.K. (eds.)(2013): Sustainable Natural Resources Management Under Changing Climatic Scenarios. Proceedings of the Third International Geography Congress. Allied Publ., Delhi.

In the report period 2012-13 the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity produced comprehensive newsletters each year (about 40 pp. each) which have been distributed to the IGU community through the respective channels.

A new website of the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity has been constructed and is now accessible under <http://www.geowiss.uni-hamburg.de/i-geogr/biogeographie/igu/index.html>.

5. Archival contributions

All newsletters and relevant materials of the Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity had been sent upon release to the IGU Secretary General and Treasurer, Prof. Mike Meadows, during the report period 2012-2013.

6. Continuation

The IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity does want to continue its successful work during the period 2012-2016. The Commission did not feel the need to change its name since the current name is short, most appropriate, and of pronounced recognition value.

One of the prime objectives of the Commission's work is to promote biogeographical teaching, research and scholarship and to contribute to the development of biogeography as an important discipline. The Commission meetings address various aspects of spatial, ecological and historical biogeography, and emphasize the societal relevance of biogeography. The themes of Commission meetings are rather integrative themes, encompassing nature and culture, encompassing both ecological and socio-economic aspects of biogeography, indicating a distinct enthusiasm for interdisciplinary topics such as land use and land cover change, people, resources and sustainable development, political ecology or livelihood enhancement of local people. The Commission is an active advocate of the unity of geography, and fully endorses efforts into a holistic view of emerging research problems - at the same time a distinguishing mark of research programmes that are currently conducted by leading Commission members.

A special focus of the Commission's work is promoting Biogeography in developing countries where it often is a thriving discipline. Recently, numerous studies on patterns of biodiversity, implications of global climate change, remote sensing of ecosystem properties, conservation biogeography, and other biogeographical aspects have been published by scientists from developing countries. The Commission seeks to support this development by conducting annual meetings preferably in developing countries and, in general, by contributing to establish modern Biogeography in various parts of the globe as a discipline with important applications to critical problems of global change.

Objectives for 2012-2016

1. To continue to explore and exploit the diversity of biogeography as a discipline within Geography, Biology and allied disciplines, thereby promoting biogeographical teaching, research and scholarship
2. To organise fora for presentation and discussion (i) within the IGU structures (Regional Conference Krakow 2014, Moscow 2016, IGC Beijing 2016), (ii) by group meetings with national geographical bodies, and (iii) to promote biogeographical research and scholarship by geographers within other international organisations such as the International Biogeography Society (IBS), the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS), and other ICSU/IUBS organisations
3. Using our full members we will organise joint meetings with the biogeography groups in India, Japan, USA, and Germany in the next years
4. Using our experiences of biogeography in developing countries, we will continue to hold joint meetings in those countries to further promote biogeography as an important discipline
5. We will continue to publish proceedings of our meetings wherever possible

6. We continue to develop our newsletter as the main source of information, to be located on the Commission's new website containing information on its structure and activities, as well as on new publications and other relevant news in our field.