



International Geographical Union COMMISSION ON LAND USE/COVER CHANGE



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COMMISSION REPORT 2019-2020

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Corresponding members

There are 184 corresponding members in the Land Use/Cover Changes IGU commission. We can find out the country origin for 76% of them.

Country	Number of corresponding members	Country	Number of corresponding members
Japan	20	Afganistan	1
Czechia	18	Australia	1
Italy	9	Bolgaria	1
Romania	9	Brazil	1
Slovakia	8	Canada	1
Austria	7	Ecuador	1
China	7	Finland	1
Germany	6	France	1
South Africa	5	Greece	1
Poland	3	Iran	1
Portugal	3	Israel	1
Slovenia	3	Jamaica	1
Taiwan	3	Mexico	1
Turkey	3	New Zeland	1
India	3	Spain	1
Indonesia	2	Sri Lanka	1
Ireland	2	Switzerland	1
Nigeria	2	Tailand	1
Russia	2	United Kingdom	1
the Netherlands	2	Zambia	1

B. MEETINGS

Last meetings

SLOVENIA, Koper/Capodistria, 24.–26. 9. 2019

From 24th to 26th of September, the IGU Thematic Conference titled Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes was held at the premises of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia. The Thematic Conference was organized by the Anton Melik Geographical Institute of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Primorska with cooperation of the Association of Slovenian Geographers. The initiative for the conference came from the Land Use and Land Cover Change Commission, with participation of additional four IGU Commissions: the Biogeography and Biodiversity Commission, the Local and Regional Development Commission, The Mediterranean Basin Commission and the Land Degradation and Desertification Commission. As a result of this cooperation between the five IGU Commissions, the conference topics were the following: Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscapes; Mediterranean Landscape: Transitions, Prospects and Challenges; The Challenges Regarding the Planning and Organization of the Cultural Landscape; Land Management Practices and Global Changes; Conservation of Biodiversity in Changing Environment; Heritage of Lost Landscapes: Identification, Reconstruction and Presentation; Past and Present Land Degradation in the Mediterranean and Other Environments; The Concepts and Tools in Landscape Transformation; Land Use Data Sources from 19th Century; and Functions of the Cultural Landscape in Local and Regional Development.

Cultural landscapes are multifunctional landscapes which reflect a complex correlation between natural, historical, political, and cultural factors. Traditional cultural landscapes are shaped by traditional land management practices. The loss of these management practices leads to ecosystem change, which successively is likely to lead to the loss of important biological or cultural values. The extent of integration between environmental (ecological) and socio-economic functions of the landscape depends on the patterns and intensities of land use. Traditional land use is disappearing due to the intensification of agricultural production on the one hand and the retreat of agriculture from unfavourable areas on the other hand. Sustainable development and the conservation of biological and landscape diversity depend on the continuation of human intervention. In this way the traditional and highly valued landscapes can be maintained whilst also assisting economic and social sustainable development. Unsuitable management practices could be the cause of increased soil erosion and natural disasters. Appropriate policies should be applied to decrease such negative impacts on cultural landscapes. The role of landscape parks, as areas with high conservation value and high development appeal, is also important. They can be promoted as specific development areas while contributing to the maintenance of the cultural landscapes and biodiversity. The study of the links between landscape features and regional development is relevant for the development of policies related to land use and regional development, such as agricultural policies, regional policies and spatial planning policies. Cultural interpretation and significance of landscape can be also of controversial and object of disputes under circumstances of conflicts and political struggles. Thus issues of fair perception and valorisation of cultural heritage can be of special significance for geographical studies. Due to the location of the conference part of the sessions were devoted to the Mediterranean cultural landscapes.

The conference, which represented this year's largest event of the International Geographic Union, was attended by over 70 participants from 23 countries and five continents. With the financial help of the Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification and the IGU seven young scientists from Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania, Japan, Algeria and India could join the conference and present their work.

The conference consisted of two parts: lectures held during the morning and thematic excursions held during the afternoon. At least one plenary lecture was scheduled each day; the remaining lectures were divided into parallel sections. The participants presented a total of 60 oral presentations and 6 poster presentations on the conference topics. The afternoon excursions were related with the central theme of the conference. The first excursion took place in the Sečovlje Saltpans, where the participants learned about the importance of salt production in the past and its current situation. The second excursion was dedicated to exploring the geographical features of the coastal hinterland, partly terraced cultivated landscapes with vineyards and olive groves, and preserved mixed culture or *cultura mista* where orchards and other cultures were on the same land plot. We ended the day with a visit to the Rodica Wine Cellar, where we learned about organic wine production. The last excursion was dedicated to exploring the Slovenian coastal towns.

After the conference, a two-day post-conference excursion took place (27th and 28th of September). The first day was dedicated to Kočevje region where we had opportunity to see an abandoned cultural landscape due to German emigration during WWII. The second day was dedicated to Bela Krajina, a cultural landscape in peripheral karst area. With this we concluded an one-week thematic conference and post-conference excursion organized in the frame of the International Geographical Union.

Selected papers from the Thematic Conference was published in the special issue under the frame of the Open Geosciences Journal (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/geo>).

Forthcoming meetings

TURKEY, Istanbul, August 2021

The LUCC commission is going to organize 4 sections in frame of IGU 34th Geographical congress which will held on Istanbul from 16th till 20st August 2021. Information is available on <https://www.igc2020.org/en/default.asp> and <https://www.igc2020.org/en/LAND-USE-AND-LAND-COVER-CHANGE.html>

The sections are titled as follows:

1. Change in land systems and its implications on ecosystem and environment in high Asia;
2. Driving forces of land-use changes;
3. Land cover/land use and its change data-valuable source of information about landscape dynamics
4. Long-term land-use and land-cover changes



C. NETWORKING

The LUCC commission collaborated with the commissions on Local and Regional Development, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Mediterranean Basin and Land Degradation and Desertification.

Collaboration with IGU Commissions:

- Commission on Local and Regional Development
- Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity
- Commission on Mediterranean Basin
- Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification

Other institutions:

- Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy
- Anton Melik Geographical Institute, Slovenia
- Charles University, Prague, Czechia
- Institute of Geography, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- Hokkaido University of Education
- National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy, and Geography, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Journal - Open Geoscience
- Journal - Romanian Journal of Geography
- India Geographical Society

Website of the commission's: <http://lucc.zrc-sazu.si/> updating and addition of new material.

D. PUBLICATIONS

The majority of LUCC Atlases have been published on-line. They are available on LUCC Commission website (<http://lucc.zrc-sazu.si/>)

- In 2019 was published IGU LUCC - Volume XIV

Editors: KUPKOVÁ Lucie, BIČÍK Ivan, CHROMÝ Pavel | Charles University, Prague, Czechia

Contents:

I. Disappeared Landscapes of Czechia (Kupková, L., Lipský, Z., Šifta, M., et al.)

Chapter 1 Disappeared Landscapes of Czechia: Introduction and Evaluation Methods

Chapter 2 Boletice: How Rural Landscape in the Borderland was changed into Military Training Area

Chapter 3 Kačina: Traces of Aristocratic-style Man-made Landscape

Chapter 4 Krkonoše: Disappeared Landscape of Mountain Farming

Chapter 5 Kutnohorský: Mining Landscapes of the Past

Chapter 6 Podbořansko: Peripheral Landscapes with Intensive Hop Farming

Chapter 7 Rosicko-Oslavansko: Former Mining and Industrial Landscapes

Chapter 8 Střední Povltaví: Disappeared Landscape of Deep Vltava Valley

Chapter 9 Suburban Landscape in the Hinterland of Prague: Disappeared Landscape of Intensive Agriculture

II. International Contributions

Illarionova, O., Klimanova, O. - Green Infrastructure and Land Cover Transformation in Latin American Cities

Kopecká, M., Szatmári, D. - Agricultural Landscape Changes based on LPIS Data in the Pezinok and Senec Districts, Slovakia

- In 2020 was published the Special Issue of IGU Thematic Conference, Koper – 2019 in Open Geosciences, 12 (1)

Edited by: Daniela Ribeiro, Matej Gabrovec, Primož Gašperič, Matjaž Geršič, Miha Koderman

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Articles published:

Spreizer, A. J., & Kolega, N. (2020). Canal of St. Bartholomew in Seča/Sezza: Social construction of the seascape, *Open Geosciences*, 12(1), 1224-1236. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/geo-2020-0023>

Gomiršek, T. (2020). Cultural landscape of the Gorica Hills in the nineteenth century: Franciscan land cadastre reports as the source for clarification of the classification of cultivable land types, *Open Geosciences*, 12(1), 1392-1405. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/geo-2020-0191>

Naumov, A., Akimova, V., Sidorova, D., & Topnikov, M. (2020). Agriculture and land use in the North of Russia: Case study of Karelia and Yakutia, *Open Geosciences*, 12(1), 1497-1511. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/geo-2020-0210>

Gekić, H., & Bidžan-Gekić, A. (2020). Traditional agricultural landscapes in Uskopaljska valley (Bosnia and Herzegovina), *Open Geosciences*, 12(1), 1573-1588. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/geo-2020-0024>

Ribeiro, D., Visković, N. R., & Čarni, A. (2020). Landscape dynamics at borderlands: analysing land use changes from Southern Slovenia, *Open Geosciences*, 12(1), 1725-1735. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/geo-2020-0212>