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INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION UNION GEOGRAPHIQUE INTERNATIONALE

e-Newsletter - October 2025



IGU Executive Committee Meeting (11-13 September 2025), Lublin, Poland

***From the
President's desk***



***Commissions &
National Committee***



***IGU and other
events***



IGU Publications



***Partner
Organisations***



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From the President's Desk



Dear Colleagues,

As I write these lines, COP 30 in Brazil has not yet begun, but representatives from more than 140 countries have already gathered at the invitation of the Brazilian president. Many Heads of State or government have sent representatives, however, whereas 150 of them were present in Paris in 2015, there are now fewer than 60 in Belém. We can be happy that 60 people are still travelling and meeting up, but we can also be concerned that so many are no longer making the trip. Why is that, what is happening? As geographers know, the world is complex, there are numerous social, cultural, political and economic interests to consider. Despite the researches that are made, science and scientists must take that into balance: the changes that need to be made, again at all levels, will require profound adjustments that will not be painless. And here, as we know, scales matter, geographers have an opportunity to ease tensions through international collaborations. Talking to many of you, I know that it is all together a personal, cultural, political, both above all, scientific concern.

This being said, the last meeting of the IGU Executive Committee was held in Lublin, Poland, in September and provided an opportunity to meet with Polish geographers gathered for their national congress, preceded by a forum for young geographers. More than 800 geographers discussed their work, highlighting the dynamism of the discipline. The agenda for the Executive Committee meeting included a wide range of items, covering both the organisational aspects of the IGU, thematic and regional conferences and congresses, as well as financial and structural issues. During this meeting, the IGU Honours Committee was renewed and is now chaired by Joos Droogleevers-Fortuijn, who was the 1st Vice-President of the IGU and recipient of the Lauréat d'Honneur Award. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between the International Geographical Union and the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) during this EC meeting. This MoA is the fourth signed by the IGU. One was signed with the International Geography Festival (FIG), another with the American Association of Geographers (AAG) and the third with the Latin American Council of Social Sciences. These MoAs strengthen IGU's partnerships and institutional support with regional or national associations promoting geography. Others may be signed in the coming months. Finally, the situation in Gaza was discussed and the IGU Executive Committee drafted a statement posted on the Union's website.

The latest IGU thematic conference, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 27 October to 1 November, on the theme "The diverse geographies of peace, environmental impacts, territorial conflicts and wars in today's world" was a great success: more than 250 geographers participated, including three IGU vice-presidents. Many IGU commissions organised sessions demonstrating the links between the theme and the variety of IGU commissions.

On another front, there was a second round of online meetings between the EC with representatives and the national committee representatives, as well as with and the chairs of the IGU commissions; they took place on 4 and 7 November: 26 national representatives and 31 commission chairs took part. The agenda was drawn up on the basis of requests from the national committees and commissions, supplemented by information from the EC. The following topics were brought to the attention of the EC and colleagues from the NCs and IGU commissions: disabilities, which is an issue that concerns us not only as teachers but also in terms of access to the field; AI and its educational and scientific implications; and strengthening communication between commissions.

Finally, an update was given on the next regional conference in Istanbul from 17 to 21 August 2026, whose theme is "Exploring the Earth, connecting worlds." Information on the venue, Istanbul University, and the schedule was provided, emphasising how much the finalisation of the program is a collaborative effort involving everyone: IGU committee chairs, session chairs and speakers, as the final program can only be established once everyone has done their part within the deadlines. The call for abstracts and posters is now open with a deadline of 9 January: get writing!

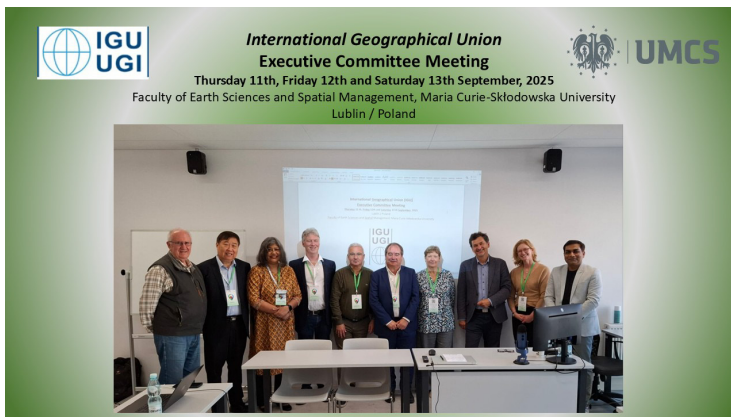
We look forward to seeing you all in Istanbul for this IGU regional conference!

Nathalie LEMARCHAND
IGU Présidente

Executive Committee (EC) meetings

The IGU Executive Committee (EC) meeting, chaired by President Nathalie Lemarchand, was held at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland. Key discussions included adoption of previous minutes, scheduling of upcoming EC meetings in Naples, Nepal, and Istanbul (2026), and review of the organization's stable financial status. The EC agreed to establish a permanent IGU head office and bank account in France. Members discussed the Palestine issue and decided to issue a solidarity statement, and also discussed the formation of an Advisory Board and approved GeoAI Task Force. The committee approved timelines for the 2026 EC elections and planned online meetings with national committees and commissions. Reports on new memberships (e.g., Uzbekistan, Chile and Nepal) were noted. The EC reviewed collaborations and MoUs with organizations such as AAG, IPGH, and AIGF. Discussions also covered mentorship for early-career researchers, social media revival, IGU publications, and the forthcoming IGU Regional Conference (Istanbul 2026) and IGC Melbourne 2028. IGU's active participation in ISC, CODATA, UN-GGIM, and other international initiatives was reaffirmed. The meeting concluded with thanks to the Lublin hosts and commitments to advance geography through global collaboration and sustainability.

AI assisted summary



IGU EC members attending EC meeting in the UMCS, Lublin



IGU President and Vice President in the Kongres Geografii Polskiej 2025 Panel



IGU President and EC members welcome by Prof. Radosław Dobrowolski, Rector of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin



IGU President Lemarchand presenting IGU Centennial Book to Rector, UMCS, Lublin during congress

MoU between IGU and PAIGH

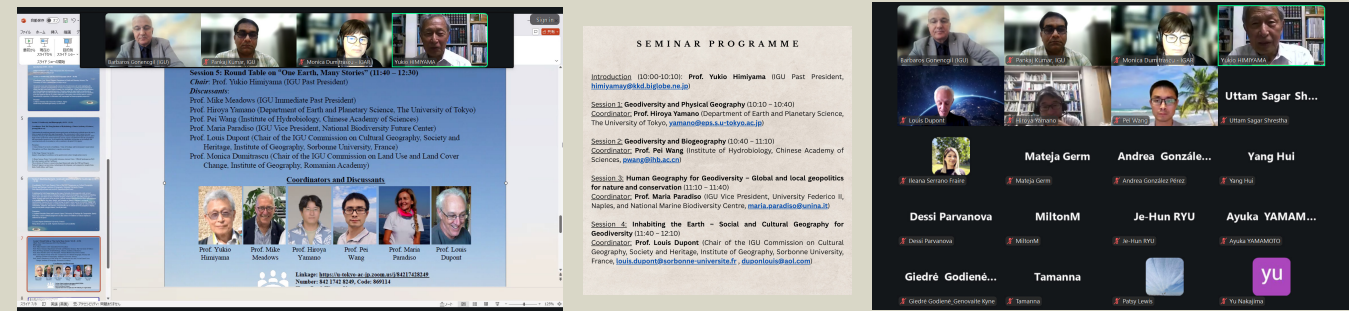
Within the framework of expanding the IGU's institutional relations with other geographical societies, a MoU between the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (IPGH) and International Geographical Union (IGU) was signed in an online event on 12th September, 2025, during the IGU Lublin Executive Committee meeting in the presence of IGU and IPGH office bearers. This institution, founded in Havana in 1929, is present in 21 countries in the Americas and is linked to the Conference of American States.



Glimpses of the online MoU signing side event in Lublin, Poland

Geodiversity Day 2025 celebration

6th October is the **International Geodiversity Day** proclaimed by **UNESCO** in 2021 for a worldwide. The IGU supports this new initiative strongly, and has established a Geodiversity Group in order to enhance awareness of this international day, to highlight the significance of geodiversity, and to explore geographical perspectives on geodiversity. The IGU Geodiversity Group, with the support of the IGU Executive Committee, organised the third IGU Seminar on Geodiversity from Geographical Perspectives, was held online at 10:00 – 12:40 GMT, 6th October 2025 (Monday). The theme for this year's Geodiversity Day announced as **“One Earth, Many Stories”**. IGU Past President, Prof. Yukio Himiyama coordinated the online event.

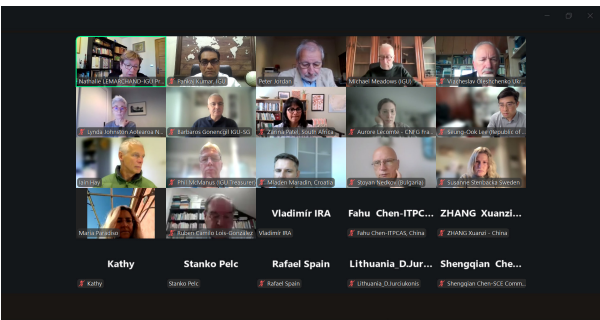


IGU Statement on Academic Freedom and Ethics (IGU-SAFE)
 IGU Statement on Academic Freedom and Ethics guidelines document is now on IGU website for access. [Click to Download](#)

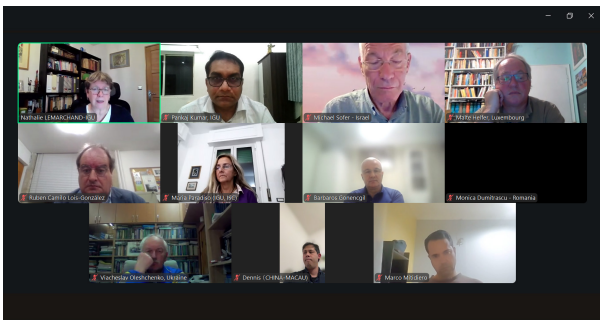
IGU EC meeting with National Committee

4th November, 2025 at 8.00 am (Paris Time) 1st meeting

The IGU Executive Committee meeting covered various administrative matters including elections, annual fee payments, and upcoming regional conferences, with updates on both the Istanbul International Regional Conference and a thematic conference in India. The committee discussed several ongoing initiatives including a survey on the state of geography worldwide, the Geo Night event aimed at promoting geography through media involvement, and various thematic conferences planned across different regions. The conversation ended with discussions about geopolitical conflicts, particularly regarding Palestine, and highlighted successful collaborations between the International Cartographic Association and the International Geographical Union.



1st meeting



2nd meeting

4th November, 2025 at 6.00 pm (Paris Time) 2nd meeting

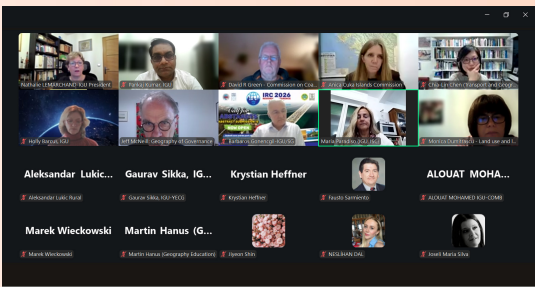
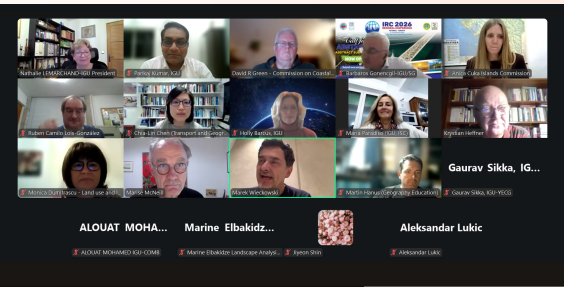
The meeting began with introductions and technical adjustments, followed by discussions about the upcoming IGU Executive Committee elections in 2026 and the importance of paying annual fees. Updates were provided on various initiatives including website improvements, social media presence, and funding support for student travel, along with details about an upcoming conference in Istanbul. The conversation ended with discussions about future scientific meetings and a new survey to better understand national committees and the broader geographical community, including plans for addressing international organization matters and potential new memberships.



IGU EC meeting with IGU Commission's Chair

7th November, 2025 at 8.00am (Paris Time) 1st meeting

The IGU Executive Committee meeting focused on two main initiatives: establishing a GeoAI Task Force and improving accessibility at IGU events, with discussions on ethical concerns and adding accessibility requirements to the IGU handbook. The meeting primarily covered details about the upcoming IGU Regional Conference in Istanbul, including abstract submissions, program planning, and logistics, with participants raising questions about various conference aspects. The session concluded with updates on IGU social media platforms, awards nominations, and the importance of submitting annual commission reports for funding eligibility.



7th November, 2025 at 6.00pm (Paris Time) 2nd meeting

The IGU Executive Committee meeting covered several key topics including the recognition of outstanding commissions, financial reporting and fund allocation for commissions, and discussions on disabilities in geography and artificial intelligence initiatives. The committee addressed challenges related to conference participation and inclusivity, exploring ways to support researchers from the Global South and discussing the importance of maintaining both face-to-face and virtual meetings. The conversation ended with discussions on improving communication among commissions through various platforms and updates on upcoming IGU events, including the Istanbul International Regional Conference and the IGU Awards process.



The International Geography Olympiad

Introduction to iGeo

The International Geography Olympiad (iGeo) is an annual competition for the best 16- to 19-year-old geography students from all over the world. Students chosen to represent their countries are the very best, chosen from thousands of students who participate enthusiastically in their own National Geography Olympiads. The iGeo consists of three parts: a written test, a multimedia test and substantial fieldwork requiring observation, leading to cartographic representation and geographical analysis. The program also includes poster presentations by teams, cultural exchanges, and time for students to get to know their fellow students and explore the host city.



The iGeo Experience

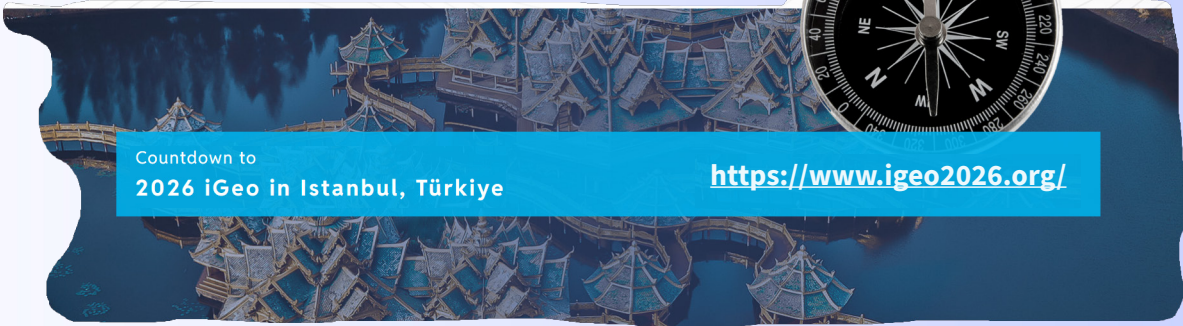
Students chosen to represent their countries are the very best, selected from thousands of students who participate enthusiastically in their own National Geography Olympiads. The Olympiad is held under the auspices of the International Geographical Union (IGU) and organized by the IGU Olympiad Commission. The competition consists of a **Written Response Test (WRT)**, a **Multimedia Test (MMT)** and a **Fieldwork Exercise (FWE)**. The program also includes team poster presentations, cultural exchanges, excursions and leisure time, where the participants can get to know their fellow students and to explore the host city.

Our History

The first iGeo was held in 1996 in The Hague, The Netherlands, with five participating countries. From these humble beginnings, the International Geography Olympiad has grown dramatically, with students from 50 countries, representing five continents, competing in iGeo 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.



ABOUT US



Countdown to
2026 iGeo in İstanbul, Türkiye

<https://www.igeo2026.org/>

Commissions and National Committees



On **Sunday, 27 July 2025**, Her Royal Highness **Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** graciously presided over the Opening Ceremony of the **21st International Geography Olympiad (iGeo 2025)**, held at the Auditorium of Chulalongkorn University. This international event is organized in honor of Her Royal Highness's 70th Birthday Anniversary.



The competition was held **from 26 July to 1 August 2025 at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok**. On 27 July, Her Royal Highness graciously presided over the Opening Ceremony and delivered the opening address. During the ceremony, Steering Committee members, along with team leaders and students from each participating country, paraded to introduce their national teams before Her Royal Highness.

The competition concluded with the Closing Ceremony on 31 July, where medals were awarded to outstanding participants. In total, 91 medals were presented to 179 students from 47 countries, comprising **16 gold, 31 silver, and 44 bronze** medals. To further immerse participants in Thai culture, a Cultural Night was organized under the theme of a traditional Thai temple fair.



Results Gold Awards Silver Awards Bronze Awards Team Ranking by Score

Future iGeos:



2025
Bangkok, Thailand



2026
Istanbul, Türkiye



2027
Jelgava, Latvia



2028
Melbourne,
Australia

<https://geoolympiad.org/>

<https://www.igeo2026.org/>

How to get involved with IGU Commissions?



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS NOW OPEN!

SUBMIT NOW AND BE PART OF THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

9 JANUARY 2026

www.irc2026.org

IRC 2026
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
İSTANBUL - TÜRKİYE
17-21 AUGUST 2026
Exploring the Earth, Connecting Worlds

CALL FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS NOW OPEN

ABSTRACT PREPARATION:

Abstracts submitted must adhere to the following specifications:

- Abstracts are to be authored, co-authored and must be limited to 300 words under the headings of background/hypothesis, materials and methods, results, conclusions.
- Abstracts must be submitted in English.
- Abstract title should be typed in upper case. The title should define the topic and contain no abbreviations.
- Overly commercial abstracts will not be accepted.
- Tables are accepted as images.
- Submissions may have up to 10 authors and the presenting author needs to be selected in the system.

SUCCESSFUL AUTHORS

Notification of acceptance (new abstracts) will be sent on **27 February 2026**.

* Please note that submitting an abstract does not constitute registration for the congress.

Please direct any questions to the Scientific Secretariat: secretariat@irc2026.org.



Regards,
Prof. Dr. Barbaros Gönençgil
Head of Local Organizing Committee

The early bird registration deadline is 30 January 2026
(registration website: <https://www.irc2026.org>)

IGU Executive Committee Outreach Activities



IGU First Vice President Rubén C. Lois González, Vice President Bernardo Mançano Fernandes and Marek Więckowski attended IGU Thematic Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia, from October 27 to November 1, 2025

The President of the UGI Nathalie Lemarchand, Past President Michael Meadows, Vice President Bojie Fu and Holly Barcus participated in The International Workshop on Geography and Sustainability 2025, held at Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, China, in October 2025

IGU Immediate Past President attended the World Science and Technology Development Forum 2025 in Beijing, China; 23rd International Exchange of Professionals, Shanghai; CIPSH International academy in Paris on Chinese Cumtures and Global Humanities in October 2025

IGU Vice President Anindita Datta attended MAUSI Net (Menopause Artivism in UK Sweden and India) in UK in October 2025 and 6th Asian Conference on Geography, New Delhi in November 2025

IGU Vice President Philip McManus attended IGU Commission on Dynamic Economic Spaces conference in Poznan, Poland during September 16-18, 2025

IGU Assistant Secretary General attended ISOSC 2025, in Suzhou, China; the International Mountain Conference in Innsbruck, Vienna in September 2025; International Data Week 2025 and ISC-CODATA General Assembly in Brisbane, Australia in October 2025 and 6th Asian Conference on Geography, New Delhi in November 2025

How to get involved with IGU Commissions?

IGU Springer Book Series

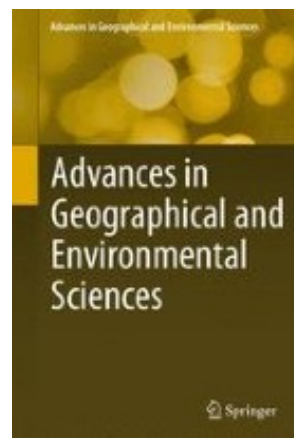
Book series

Advances in Geographical and Environmental Sciences

Series Editor

Yukio Himiyama, Subhash Anand

Call for Book Proposal



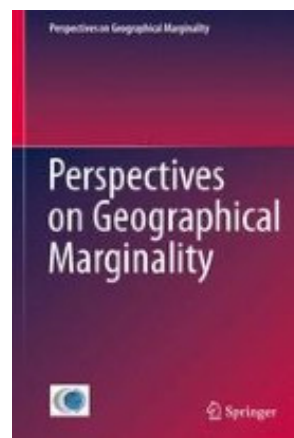
Book series

Perspectives on Geographical Marginality

Series Editor

Walter Leimgruber, Etienne Nel, Stanko Pelc

Call for Book Proposal



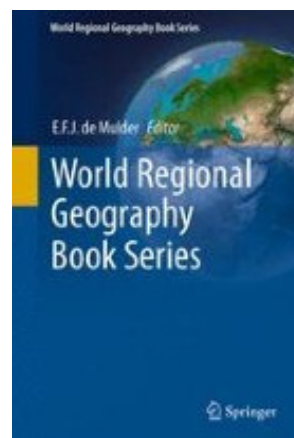
Book series

World Regional Geography Book Series

Series Editor

Eduardo F.J. De Mulder

Call for Book Proposal



IGU Elgar Book Series

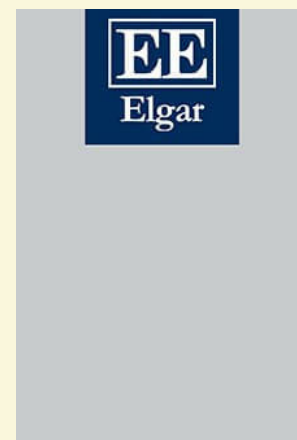
Book series

The International Geographical Union Series on Contemporary Geographies

Series Editor

Iain Hay, Flinders University, Australia and Holly R. Barcus,
Geography Department, Macalester College, US

[Call for Book Proposal](#)



IGU JOURNAL DATABASE

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY REVISED AND UPDATED IGU JOURNAL DATABASE

The International Geographical Union (IGU) is pleased to unveil its newly revised and updated world-wide listing of geographical and geography-related journals. Its aim is to provide a definitive listing of all journals published by geographical organizations, ranging from departments to national organizations, together with a more tentative listing of journals that can be regarded as “**geographically related**”.

This latter set are defined by four criteria: whether the journal explicitly encourages contributions from geographers; whether the editor or members of the editorial board are geographers; whether the journal routinely publishes articles written by geographers; and whether the journal is cited by other geographical journals.

The database includes **1122 journals**.

[Click here to access Updated Journal Database](#)

Visit partner organisations website for latest information and news

International Science Council (ISC)

International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH)

Committee on Data (CODATA) International Science Council (ISC)

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG)

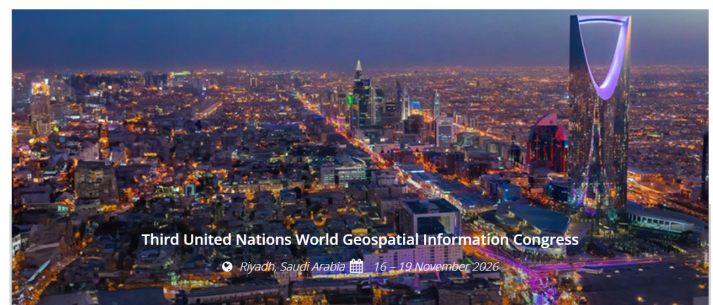
Standing Committee for Gender Equality in Science (SCGES)

ISC GeoUnions

UNESCO International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development (IYBSSD)

The World Data System (WDS)

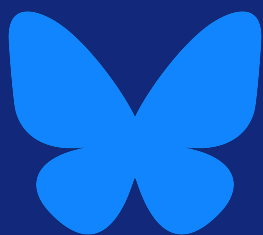
United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)



**International Data Week 2027,
Cape Town, South Africa
20-23 September 2027**



Join IGU Social Media



International Geographical Union

e-Newsletter, October 2025



Share updates and diffuse e-Newsletter to global geography communities and in your wider academic networks. For any query and information sharing write to below email:

pkumar@geography.du.ac.in

