Report on the IAG/AIG supported LANDMAP Intensive Course on Landslide Mapping, Dessie 14 – 18 February 2011

Giandomenico Fubelli, Roma Tre University, Italy

The Landmap Intensive Course on Landslide Mapping for Young Geomorphologists was organized in the Dessie Graben (Wollo, Ethiopia) during the IAG/AIG Regional Conference on Geomorphology "Geomorphology for human adaptation to changing tropical environments", held in Addis Ababa on February 18-22, 2011.

A total of 13 young geomorphologists from Africa, Europe and Asia (6 of which with an IAG Grant) attended the course.

On February 14, 2011, on the way from Addis Ababa to Dessie, two stops have been held: the first at the 'Afar Window', a panoramic view point on top of the eastern margin of the northern Ethiopian plateau from which the Afar lowlands can be seen; the second in the southern sector of the Borkena marginal graben, where the ground effects of the 1961 earthquake can be observed.

From February 15 to 17, 2011, the training course in geomorphological survey, landslide mapping, air-photo interpretation and GIS porting has been carried out. It included three morning sessions on field work (geological and geomorphological mapping, discrimination between different types of landslide, predisposing factors assessment) and three afternoon indoor sessions (including aerial photo interpretation and mapping in GIS). The first day afternoon session included also a lecture on the nature and typology of mass movements with real-time films of several cases of landslide events.

The instructors were Giandomenico Fubelli (Department of Geological Sciences, Roma Tre University, Italy) and Jan Moeyersons (Geomorphology Division, Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium).



The participants on the crown of a rock slide in the southern part of the Dessie graben.



Mapping session in the afternoon