



International Association of Geomorphologists

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MINUTES

of the IAG Extraordinary Council Meeting (online)

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

15:00 CET (GMT+1)

After careful deliberation of the IAG Executive Committee, taking into account the international situation imposed by the uncertainties associated to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine conflict, and in consideration of the incoming IAG Conferences, an online IAG Extraordinary Council was called.

The meeting was attended by 54 people, out of which 41 National Delegates representing Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, GeoNorth (Sweden, Denmark), Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America. The members of the IAG EC who attended the meeting were: Mauro Soldati (President), Francisco Gutiérrez (Vice-President), Sunil Kumar De (Vice-President), Mihai Micu (Secretary General), Emmanuel Reynard (Treasurer), Marta Della Seta (Co-opted Member), Takashi Oguchi (Co-opted Member), Allan James (Co-opted Member), Piotr Migon (Co-opted Member), Ghislain Zangmo Tefogom (Co-opted Member), Lucio Cunha (Special Portfolio Member), Katja Laute (Special Portfolio Member), Konstantinos Vouvalidis (Special Portfolio Member), Adel Sepehr (Special Portfolio Member). Due to institutional reasons, Susan Conway (Vice-President), Andrea Coronato (Co-opted Member) and Kosmas Pavlopoulos (Member) were not able to attend the meeting.

Following the President's welcome message, the agenda and the issues to be discussed were introduced, emphasizing the importance of the meeting for the final actions of the IAG towards the end of the present EC mandate.

Communications

The first point of the agenda comprised communications from the Secretariat. Six points were brought to the NSMs' attention:

1. IAG Geomorphology Week 2022: nine regional webinars gathered more than 1100 registered participants; 93 speakers from 53 different countries were invited to give a scientific presentation; 54 people attended multiple webinars; main attendance was of 2hrs15min; a series of side events organized by IAG WGs, NSMs etc. were also part of the programme. The third edition of this event was considered a success but the decision on whether to continue the initiative in the next years should be taken by the next Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee unanimously agreed to integrate the IAG Bylaws (Article 2. Principles of conduct) with the following statement on inclusion and diversity: *"The IAG, including the Executive Committee, its National Scientific Members, its Working Groups, conference organising committees should do its best to promote diversity and inclusion, when planning and delivering all activities and functions (e.g. responsibilities in the Executive Committee, selecting conveners for international conferences, webinars, nominations for awards). Particular attention should be given to equality of gender, race, cultural background, and underrepresented countries as invited speakers, chairs, or equivalent positions of importance and visibility during the various international events organized by the IAG. Events that receive auspices from the IAG shall be encouraged to follow these principles. Geomorphologists worldwide should have equal opportunities to*

participate in the progress of knowledge in geomorphology, and the IAG has a duty to promote these efforts" (<http://www.geomorph.org/constitution/>).

3. In response to the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict, the IAG signed the declaration of the IAPG (International Association for Promoting Geoethics) against war and authoritarianism for the affirmation of human freedom and dignity (<http://www.geomorph.org/2022/03/signature-of-the-iapg-declaration-against-war-and-authoritarianism-for-the-affirmation-of-human-freedom-and-dignity/>). Currently the IAG is working on its own statement regarding this issue, to be approved by the EC shortly.

4. The IAG was involved, as a relevant affiliated organization, in the IUGS Commission on Geoheritage initiative of recognizing IUGS Global Geoheritage Sites and was asked to submit 5 nominations for Global Geosites of geomorphological interest. An IAG Global Geosites Committee was established to this aim including relevant EC members and WG Chairs (Piotr Migon - coordinator, Paola Coratza, Emmanuel Reynard, Ghislain Zangmo Tefogoum, Zbigniew Zwolinski). The IAG nominations are the Granite landforms of Dartmoor (United Kingdom), Mackenzie Delta (Canada), Namib Sand Sea (Namibia), Vajont landslide (Italy) and the Rockglaciers of the Engadine (Switzerland). In consideration of this IUGS action, and its possible follow-up, an IAG initiative focusing on the establishment of the "Top 50 IAG Geomorphosites" (to be forwarded to IUGS for the next 100 Global Geosites before ICG2022 Coimbra) is under discussion; it might be developed based on proposals coming from IAG NSMs and WGs.

5. In March 2022, the IAG President attended the 77th IUGS Executive Committee Meeting and the Meeting of the Governing Council of the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) IUGS Big Science Programme. The need for a larger IAG implication in the IUGS activities was acknowledged by IUGS executives, and various potential collaborations are prospected.

The following communication came from the IAG Treasurer, Emmanuel Reynard, who informed that NSMs will not be asked to pay the annual fee for 2022. A payment including 2021 will be considered for fee reductions in Coimbra. A decision regarding the NSMs which are exempted from fee, but have to provide annual reports, will be taken.

The next communication was focused on the progress in the organization of the ICG2022 Coimbra and was illustrated by the local organizers. Lucio Cunha and Luca Dimuccio emphasized their commitment in organizing an in person conference including a regular scientific programme despite the uncertainties related to the international situation. Up to date, 250 abstracts were received. Towards the end of March – beginning of April, the final logistic information will be released. This will include also details concerning the Training programme for Young Geomorphologists, Call for IAG grants, as well as various prizes and awards offered by IAG.

The Local Organizing Committee of the RCG 2022 Mashhad was represented by Adel Sepehr. During his communication, he outlined the considerations (Covid-19 spread, vaccination requirements and acceptance, Covid-19 certificates, potential financial implications of no-shows in the context of the pandemic, deadlines which may not be respected etc.) which lead to the conclusion that RCG2022 cannot be held as an in-presence conference. The IAG President, Mauro Soldati, described the two options to be considered by the Council members for voting: 1) postponement of RCG 2022 after ICG 2022 Coimbra, including its consideration as one of the RCGs to be organized during the 2022-2026 mandate; 2) cancelation of the conference. Unanimously, the present NSMs were in favour of the first option. A suitable proposal with a planned date should be sent by the Iranian Local Organizers to the IAG Secretariat by the end of March - beginning of April 2022.

Any other business

As directly linked to ICG 2022 Coimbra, the following information were provided to the NSMs:

1. Regulations/rules for ICG/RCG: according to the IAG Bylaws, Article 18. International and Regional Conferences on Geomorphology: "...proposals will be received by the Secretary-General at least three months in advance of the preceding International Conference...", so the deadline for submitting (at secretariat@geomorph.org) such bids is Monday, 15 June 2022. Guidelines how to prepare a bid to host a regional/international IAG Conference can be found here: <http://www.geomorph.org/iag-events/>
2. The new Early Career Medal, Honorary Fellows, Bruntsden Medal and Jean Tricart Award) will be delivered according to the IAG Bylaws Chapter V – FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS (<http://www.geomorph.org/constitution>). The purpose and policy of the recognitions are available here: <http://www.geomorph.org/membership/iag-awards/>
3. The NSMs nominations for Elected Members of the 2022-2026 IAG Executive Committee should be directed towards one (1) President, one (1) Secretary General, three (3) Vice-Presidents, one (1) Treasurer, one (1) Officer. The nomination procedure is available here: <http://www.geomorph.org/nomination-procedure-for-elected-members-of-the-iag-executive-committee/>. The deadline for submitting the nominations (at: secretariat@geomorph.org) is Monday, 15 June 2022.

The last topic was devoted to the presentation of Prof. Michael Krautblatter (Germany), who gave a communication about the formal establishment of the German Society for Geomorphology, outlining the complexity of the entire evolution process and acknowledging the support given (among other German education and research institutions) by the IAG.

Decisions

- Four new National Scientific Members were ratified after the formal approval of the Executive Committee: Bangladesh, Chile, Iraq, Philippines.
- RCG Mashhad will be postponed after September 2022 and the 2022-2026 IAG Executive Committee will be in charge of it.

IAG President



Prof. Mauro SOLDATI

IAG Secretary General



Dr. Mihai MICU

Date:
24 03 2022