



International Association of Geomorphologists

Executive Committee 2022-2026

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IAG Council Meeting

Thursday, 14 September 2023, 14:00-16:30 (UTC+3),

IAG RCG 2023, Cappadocia, Türkiye

Minutes

1. Welcome address

The President welcomed all national delegates to the Council meeting which was held in a partly hybrid format (four IAG EC members participated virtually in the Council meeting). Before starting the Council meeting the President asked for a minute of silence in memory and honour of Mateo Gutiérrez who sadly passed away on 9 September 2023.

2. Overview of presence of national delegates

Achim A. Beylich informed about presence of national delegates. The Council meeting was attended by 15 national delegates and 11 IAG EC members representing the IAG NSMs of Argentina, Austria, Cameroon, France, GeoNorth, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Türkiye, and UK.

3. Report of the Treasurer

Achim A. Beylich presented the report of the Treasurer on behalf of Francisco Gutierrez. The new Executive Committee of the IAG was registered in the Spanish Registry of Associations (managed by the company Feliu and approved on 23 May 2023). Thanks to this administrative step, the IAG Treasurer was able to get access and start managing the IAG account at Bankinter. Bankinter provided new credentials and a VISA card for payments. In May 2023, the previous Treasurer Emmanuel Reynard sent to the new Treasurer a data base and a number of documents from the previous term. The evolution of the IAG account balance was summarized as follows: 2017-2021: apparent general increasing trend (2019 final transfers from the earlier account managed by Morgan De Dapper in Belgium), 2021-2022: ca. 30% drop due to the NSM fee exemption in 2022 (Covid pandemic), 2022-2023: significant recovery due to revenues from the ICG in Coimbra generously granted by the Portuguese Association of Geomorphologists.

The record of the transactions of the IAG account in 2022, together with the corresponding documentary evidence was sent to the company Feliu. The 2022 tax declaration, with 0 result (no need to pay), was presented to the Spanish Tax Agency.

The 2023 annual fees were requested to the IAG NSMs in June 2023.

4. Report on IAG NSMs

Updates on new members and possible new membership fees

Mihai Micu reported to the Council on NSM-related issues. With Egypt and Mongolia two new NSMs had recently been approved. During the EC meeting on 14 September 2023 the documentation of two newly established NSMs, the Association of Geomorphologists of Mali and Burkina (AGMB) and the Madagascar Association of Geomorphologists (AGMAD) had been evaluated and discussed, and both NSM proposals had been approved (fee exempted) by the EC. These decisions by the EC were ratified in the Council meeting.



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With these new approvals, the number of active IAG NSMs has increased to 59 individual countries and 4 regional associations.

In addition, ongoing discussions are held with Malaysia (the official documents are currently being sent and reviewed) and Afghanistan. For further development, a database with potential contacts is being constructed, currently comprising 61 persons from Algeria, Morocco, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Uruguay and Tunisia.

A longer discussion was held by the national delegates and EC members on the potential increase or revision of the NSM annual membership fees. Several possible ways to increase or revise the IAG NSMs membership fees were prospected, and it was decided by the Council to put forward this issue for further discussion in a virtual Council meeting early next year.

Information and updates on NSM-related activities and initiatives

Mihai Micu provided updated information on the initiatives “IAG Geomorphological Picture and Video of the Month and IAG Virtual Memory Book” and “IAG No Frontiers for Geomorphology World Tour”. The defined purpose of the first initiative (coordinators: Mihai Micu, Susan Conway, Piotr Migon, Katja Laute) is not only to better involve NSMs but also to serve for the improved visibility of geomorphology in the public, as it could provide valuable resources for people involved in research, education, civil society and other authorities. A work plan and timeline had been established and were presented to the IAG Council, together with an invitation to join this activity. In addition, a database with potential interviews had been compiled, including 23 persons (past Presidents and Honorary Fellows).

The initiative “IAG No Frontiers for Geomorphology World Tour” (promoters: Mihai Micu and Florin Tatui) shall strengthen the collaborative environment within the IAG. This envisaged field trip around the world, linking in autumn 2025 – spring 2026 preferably all IAG NSMs, shall focus on promoting the importance of geomorphic research and service to nature and society. After the envisaged active involvement of NSMs, a core organizing committee shall be formed and external support shall be prospected.

5. Report on Working Groups

Andrea Coronato provided updated information on IAG Working Groups. Since September 2022 there have been 16 Working Groups in action. 13 of them continue their work from the past period (2017-2022) and 3 newly started in September 2022.

A new WG proposal (DELTAS) was received on 11 September 2023. This new WG was proposed by Prof. Guilherme Fernandez (Brazil), Prof. Subhamita Chaudhuri (India) and Prof. Sayantan Das (India). The defined aims of this WG are (i) to form an international network of delta scientists to collaborate, exchange ideas and develop new methodologies related to delta geomorphology, (ii) to organise online international meetings, virtual training, and field courses on delta geomorphology every year, (iii) to collaborate with other IAG working groups like IAG GEOMHAZ, Advancing Theory and Modeling of River Systems, and Urban Geomorphology.

The proposed new WG had been approved by the IAG EC on 14 September 2023 and this decision was ratified in the Council meeting.

All IAG WGs have been following the request to report on their activities, most of them using the recently developed Google Form doc, others using word documents but following the four requested items in the form.

6. Communication, Cooperation and Outreach, including International Geodiversity Day 2023, International Geomorphology Week 2024, possible MoU with INQUA, and collaboration with Geomorphica, IUGS, AGU and GSA

Takashi Oguchi reported to the Council on various communication, cooperation and outreach activities. (i) International Geodiversity Day 2023: As decided during the EC meeting in April 2023, a webinar celebrating the International Geodiversity Day 2023 will be organized on 16 October 2023. The theme of the IAG International Geodiversity Webinar 2023 will be on



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Geomorphological Diversity of the IUGS Geological Heritage Sites.

Invited speakers will be Piotr Migon (Poland), Paola Coratza (Italy) and Andrew Goudie (UK), and the webinar will be convened by Zbigniew Zwolinski (Poland), Ghislain Zangmo Tefogoum (Cameroon) and Takashi Oguchi (Japan). (ii) International Geomorphology Week 2024: As decided during the EC meeting in April 2023, IAG will organize again a number of webinars during the International Geomorphology Week in March 2024 (including also again the Women in Geomorphology webinar). Possible issues for discussion in October-November will be how to attract participants in the post-COVID environment, the division of regions, and the languages to be used. (iii) Collaboration with Geomorphica: The diamond open-access journal on geomorphology, Geomorphica, was launched in April 2023. It was earlier decided to provide financial support of 700 Euros annually for this journal until 2025. (iv) Possible MoU with INQUA: During the INQUA Conference in Rome in July 2023, Takashi Oguchi communicated with the newly elected INQUA President, Laura Sadori (Italy), to restart communication for a possible MoU between IAG and INQUA. Laura Sadori suggested communication between the Secretary Generals of IAG and INQUA to start the discussion, and Achim A. Beylich will soon be in contact with the Secretary General of INQUA. (v) Cooperation with IUGS: Three geomorphological sites were included in the First IUGS 100 Geological Heritage Sites after nominations by our IAG colleagues. In 2022, two more geomorphological sites were nominated (Dartmoor, nominated by Piotr Migon, and Mackenzie Delta, nominated by Zbigniew Zwolinski). Recently, five sites more have been nominated. (vi) Collaborations with other international bodies: The new interactions with AGU and GSA in late 2022 and early 2023 were summarized in the minutes of the EC meeting in April 2023. Further steps will be taken to develop these collaborations further.

7. IAG Highlights

Katja Laute informed the Council about the latest issues of the IAG Highlights and invited all national delegates and NSMs to send contributions for the forthcoming issues.

8. IAG Training Programme

Efthimios Karymbalis and Anita Bernatek-Jakiel reported to the Council about activities of the IAG Training Programme.

New definition of "IAG Young Geomorphologists": The existing definition of YGs had been discussed during the IAG EC meeting in April 2023 and it was decided that it should be slightly revised. The EC decided to formulate the definition of "Young Geomorphologists" in the following way: Young Geomorphologists are defined as "existing Bachelor, Master or PhD students and scientists who have received their highest degree, i.e., BSc, MSc, or PhD, within the past seven years. Provided parental leave fell into that period, up to one year of parental leave time may be added per child, where appropriate."

IAG Grants: Since the establishment of the 2022-2026 EC the IAG has assigned 19 grants favouring the participation of YGs from 9 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Poland, Norway) to the following recurrent or occasional scientific events on Geomorphology: the 2023 Regional Conference on Geomorphology, Cappadocia, Türkiye, 12-14 September 2023 (10 grants), the 14th SINAGEO – the National Symposium of Geomorphology in Brazil, Corumbá, Brazil, 24-30 August 2023 (2 grants), the Permafrost Young Researchers Network (PYRN) Workshop at the 6th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2023), Puigcerda, Spain, 18-22 June 2023 (2 grants), the European Meeting of Young Geomorphologists, Chamonix-Mont-Blanc, France, 9-11 June 2023 (1 grant), the 3rd IAG DENUCHANGE Working Group Workshop, Haifa, Israel, 13-16 March 2023 (2 grants), the BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop, Windsor, UK, 5-8 December 2022 (2 grants). In addition, IAG financial support for the following YGs' training activities was provided: Intensive Training Programme for the YGs, 35th Indian Institute of Geomorphologists Conference (IGI), New Delhi, India, 25-27 November 2023 (700 Euros), YGs Training Programme within the activities of the SAAG2023, biennial Conference



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of the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG), Hogsback, Eastern Cape, South Africa, 28-30 September 2023 (700 Euros).

YGs groups: The official YG Group of Croatia was established in 2022.

The IAG Alumni database was updated. It includes now the record of all the YGs granted since the beginning of the IAG Training Programme (2002-2023). All grant holders since 2002 with information on their country of residence and attended event are available at

<http://www.geomorph.org/alumni-list/>.

The dissemination of IAG grant opportunities has been enhanced through email communications to the NSMs, spreading the grant calls via IAG website, Geomorph-list and Gilbert Club, and publishing the IAG YGs' Alumni List.

During the EC meeting on 14 September, it had been proposed to develop specific criteria for the assessment of grant applications. It was stated that IAG should make the assessment criteria public and clearly defined so that the assessments could become more transparent and objective. A number of selected criteria was presented and discussed. The decision on the final criteria will be made by the EC after further discussions.

Following a request of the BSG and discussions within the EC on 14 September, it was decided by the EC that IAG will provide 3 grants of 300 Euros for PhD students from Europe (outside the UK) for attending the Windsor Workshop, 4-7 December 2023.

Referring to a proposal from the Italian Young Geomorphologists Coordinators (AlGeo), organising the Young Geomorphologists Days (IYGD) 2024 in Venice (around February and March 2024), it was discussed and decided within the EC on 14 September that IAG will, in addition to the auspices that was already decided on earlier, provide three grants for YGs attending this event. The 3 grants shall be composed of one grant of 300 Euros (for YGs from Europe outside Italy) and 2 grants of 450 Euros (for YGs outside Europe) provided for applicants from countries without active YG groups.

9. Information regarding the IAG affiliation with International Science Council (ISC)

Achim A. Beylich informed the Council about a proposal submitted to the International Science Council (ISC), asking for Full Membership (Category 1, defined as scientific unions, associations and similar bodies, being international scientific organizations devoted to the practice and promotion of specific scientific disciplines or areas) of the IAG in ISC. The proposal was prepared by Mihai Micu, Katja Laute and Susan Conway and had been sent to the EC for commenting. A virtual meeting with representatives of the ISC is held on 19 September 2023.

10. Information on the upcoming Regional Conference on Geomorphology (RCG) 2025 in Romania, including the introduction of the EC Special Portfolio Member being in charge with the RCG 2025

Mihai Micu and Florin Tatui informed the Council about progress regarding the RCG 2025 in Romania. The conference will take place in Timisoara in September 2025. The conference website with further details will soon be available. Florin Tatui (Faculty of Geography, University of Bucharest), President of the Romanian Association of Geomorphologists (RAG), was introduced as the EC Special Portfolio Member being in charge with the RCG 2025.

11. Information on the ICG in Christchurch, New Zealand, 9-13 February 2026

Achim A. Beylich presented on behalf of Samuel McColl updated information on the 11th ICG in Christchurch, New Zealand. The confirmed conference dates are 9-13 February 2026 and the conference website is available at icg2026.org.nz.

12. Any other business

Sunil Kumar De informed the Council about a planned publication led by Piotr Migon in the journal Earth Surface Processes and Landforms (ESPL). Following discussions between Piotr Migon and Stuart Lane (Editor-in-Chief of ESPL) the publication will give an overview of the roots and history of the IAG.



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Sunil Kumar De informed the Council about two advertised positions for the Deep-time Digital Earth (DDE) Secretariat. Both positions will be located in the DDE Big Science Program Secretariat in Kunshan City, Suzhou, China. Further information can be found at www.deep-time.org.

IAG President
Sunil Kumar De

IAG Secretary-General
Achim A. Beylich

Date: 13 October 2023