



International Association of Geomorphologists

IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology

“Geoheritage and Geodiversity”

Cappadocia, Türkiye, 12–14 September 2023

IAG Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists

“High Resolution Mapping and Cosmogenic Dating of Fluvial Landforms”

Cappadocia, Türkiye, 15–16 September 2023

Report

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Attending the Regional Conference on Geomorphology (RCG) held at Nevşehir in Türkiye as an IAG Grant Holder was a valuable and pleasant experience. Before starting my report, I would like to congratulate the Organizing Committee of the RCG and the IAG for the successful event organized at the Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University. I am also grateful for the selection committee and the IAG training officers for their efforts and the time spent to make the grant selection.

The main part of the conference, from the 12th to the 14th September, was an excellent opportunity to get in contact with research from experienced scientists and my young geomorphologists colleagues. From the keynotes, I highlight the comprehensive and compelling research presented by Dr. Warren Eastwood on lake cores as archives of a landscape erosional history. Another highlight from the keynotes were the guidelines for the publication process of scientific research provided by the editor-in-chief of the Geomorphology journal, Dr. Achim Beylich. Overall, the presentations in the parallel sessions and poster session displayed high quality and instigating research topics. The presentations during the Geomorphological Hazards and Risk Management session and the Karst Geomorphology were a highlight for me. The first one because it provided several examples regarding my research focus on diverse parts of the world, the ones from India being particularly interesting. The latter due to the instigating characteristics of karst landforms, brilliantly explored by the speakers.



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Another aspect of this conference was the possibility to meet again colleagues and friends that participated in the International Conference on Geomorphology in 2022 and also the opportunity to meet new colleagues from all over the world, who I am looking forward to meet again in the next conferences. Last but not least, the location chosen for the event is a highlight by itself (Figure 1). The landforms of Kapadokya are extremely different from everything I have had the possibility to see. The geomorphology of those landscapes is so spectacular that sometimes landforms seem almost oneiric.

The second part of this reports is dedicated to the IAG Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists. Both the lectures and the field activities were valuable experiences and I strongly recommend the participation of young geomorphologists. The lecture by Prof. Dr Mehmet Akif Sarikaya on terrestrial cosmogenic nuclides was simultaneously a comprehensive and didactic opportunity to get in contact with a topic I am not familiarized with (Figure 2). The second part of the theoretical lessons, presented by Dr. Aydogan Aycioglu, was also a valuable opportunity to consolidate and update my knowledge on satellite and Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAV), with interesting applications examples on Turkish landscapes (Figure 2). My only remark was the impossibility to perform a hands-on workshop with Google Earth Engine, which certainly would have been a valuable addition to the theoretical part of the Intensive Course.

The field activities were carried out in the 17th September, along with the activities of the post-conference field trip #2. The explanations both on how to collect samples for the dating of surfaces with cosmogenic nuclides and on how to perform a UAV field survey were very constructive. As in the case of Kapadokya as whole, the landscapes dominated by Mount Aladağlar were also spectacular, also thanks to the accurate observations on the landscape geological and geomorphological history made by Dr. Akif Sarikaya and Dr. Cengiz Yıldırım.

Altogether, the main conference and the Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists were valuable and unforgettable experiences. The high-quality presentations and the friendly environment during all the activities creates the wonderful atmosphere that characterizes the IAG conferences. Once more, would like to express my gratitude to the IAG and their training officers for the opportunity and I will certainly encourage all young geomorphologists to apply for the IAG grants.

Teşekkürler!

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Figure 1: One of the group photos with colleagues and friends from the IAG conferences (top). In the middle and the bottom, a glimpse of the spectacular landscapes of Türkiye (middle and bottom)



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Figure 2: A group photo of the Young Geomorphologists attending the intensive course (top photo) and the cover slide of the lecture by Dr. Aydoğan Aycioğlu (bottom photo)



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Figure 3: Field activities of the Intensive Course. The landscape of Mount Aladağlar (top) and the explanation by Dr Akif Sarikaya, on the collection of samples for cosmogenic nuclides analysis (bottom)