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Fifth IAG Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 22 April 2025, 11:00-16:00 UTC (13:00-18:00 CEST)
(virtual meeting)

MINUTES

1. Welcome (Sunil Kumar De)

Sunil Kumar De welcomed all EC members to the EC meeting which was held in virtual format. The President thanked all EC members for their valuable efforts and work for the IAG. The President asked for a minute of silence in memory and honour of Past-President Professor Mario Panizza who sadly passed away on 12 January 2025.

2. Overview of presence and absence (Achim A. Beylich)

Achim A. Beylich informed about virtual presence and absence of EC members: Present: Sunil Kumar De, Andrea Coronato, Mihai Micu, Takashi Oguchi, Achim A. Beylich, Francisco Gutierrez, Katja Laute, Anita Bernatek-Jakiel, Narges Kariminejad, Efthimios Karymbalis, Ghislain Zangmo Tefogoum, Samuel McColl, Florin Tatui, Cengiz Yildirim; absent: Susan Conway, Karl Wegmann

3. RCG 2025 in Timisoara, Romania, 16-18 September 2025 (Mihai Micu)

Updated information on the RCG 2025 in Timisoara, Romania, 16-18 September 2025 was provided by Mihai Micu. The conference will include 21 confirmed thematic sessions. 315 abstracts have been accepted for oral or poster presentations. By today, 282 participants from 47 different countries (6 continents) have registered for the conference. The following field trips are organised: *Retezat Mountains: glacial and periglacial geomorphology* (Pre-Conf.); *Southern Transylvania: geomorphology, cultural landscape and geo-heritage* (Pre-Conf.); *Complex geomorphological landscape of South-West Romania: glacial and periglacial, karstic and tectonic geomorphology, denudational and volcanic landforms* (Post-Conf.). For the Intensive Course for Young Geomorphologists (before the RCG) 20 participants (11 female, 9 male) from 11 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia, North and South America have registered. All detailed information on the conference is available at the conference website under <https://rcg2025.geomorphology.ro/>. Early-bird registration will be open until 15 May 2025. The conference organisers will prepare letters of invitation for participants in need of visa applications. One IAG EC meeting (15 September 2025, 18:00 local time) and one IAG Council Meeting (during the conference) will be organised. For the IAG Council Meeting, both alternatives, hybrid and with physical presence, are being prospected. A notification for the nomination of National Delegates will be prepared accordingly.

4. ICG 2026 in Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-6 February 2026 (Samuel McColl)

Samuel McColl reported on updates regarding the organisation of the 11th ICG. The 11th IAG ICG will take place on 2-6 February 2026 in Christchurch, New Zealand. The conference website with all relevant and detailed information is available at <https://www.ICG2026.CO.NZ>. The preliminary conference programme includes 82 session proposals, 6 workshops, 3 pre-conference fieldtrips, 8 (possibly 9) mid-conference fieldtrips, 3 post-conference fieldtrips, and 7 plenary lectures. The confirmed conference venue is Te Pae (1500 max. Participants). The deadline for submission of abstracts is 31 May 2025. Registration opens on 2 May 2025. The 11th ICG will be particularly advertised during the EGU Geomorphology Division business meeting on 1 May 2025 in Vienna, Austria, and at the GSA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, USA; 19-22 October 2025.



The EC members are asked to continue their support in promoting the conference and in finding additional sponsors for the conference. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) 11th *International Conference on Geomorphology 2026 – Organisation and Financial Arrangements* is entered into by and between (i) The International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG), (ii) The Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group (ANZGG), and (iii) The Conferences & Events Limited (C&E). The IAG President has signed this MoU on behalf of the IAG.

5. Nomination procedures for different upcoming IAG Medals and Awards (Sunil Kumar De, Achim A. Beylich)

Sunil Kumar De informed about the nomination procedures for different upcoming IAG Medals and Awards: (i) Honorary Fellows (up to six), (ii) Brunsdan Medal, (iii) Tricart Award, and (iv) Early-Career Medal. The calls for nominations for the upcoming IAG Medals and Awards are launched in the beginning of May 2025.

6. Virtual EC Meeting for presenting nominations and selecting the recipients of the upcoming IAG Awards and Medals 2026 (Achim A. Beylich)

A virtual EC meeting for presenting received nominations for IAG Awards and Medals and for selecting the recipients of the upcoming IAG Awards and Medals 2026 will be organised by the Secretary-General in July 2025.

7. Proposal for a possible new IAG Morgan De Dapper Award (Achim A. Beylich)

A proposal for a possible new Morgan De Dapper Award had been submitted by Eric Fouache (France) and was presented and discussed during the EC meeting. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Creation of a Morgan De Dapper Award intended to include (i) Geoarchaeologica – Association for the promotion and development of research in geoarchaeology, (ii) L'Association Belge de Géomorphologues (Belgian Association of Geomorphologists), and (iii) the International Association of Geomorphologists (IAG). The proposed Award aimed at “rewarding a young Ph.D. selected by an international jury in recognition of an innovative thesis in the field of Geoarchaeology, a research area that was dear to Professor Morgan De Dapper, who was also deeply involved in the development of IAG throughout his career”. During the discussions several EC members expressed reservations or concerns related to a possible approval of the proposed MoU by the IAG EC. Reservations and concerns included (i) support of a side discipline rather than supporting geomorphology more broadly, (ii) further strengthening of the existing male dominance of IAG Awards and Medals, (iii) further strengthening of the existing European dominance of existing IAG Awards and Medals, (iv) IAG Awards and Medals should refer to scientists with truly outstanding achievements and community services with global impact. After careful discussion the EC decided that the submitted proposal shall not be approved.

8. Membership status of different IAG NSMs (Francisco Gutierrez, Achim A. Beylich, Mihai Micu)

The membership status of different IAG NSMs was discussed by the EC. After careful discussions, and after reviewing various statements and opinions of other organisations and associations, the IAG EC concluded that IAG as a global scientific association should refrain from considering all kinds of political conflicts related to countries that are IAG National Scientific Members. Francisco Gutierrez, Achim A. Beylich and Mihai Micu will prepare a written statement expressing IAG's viewpoints. It is considered to add a statement connected to this theme in the IAG bylaws.

9. Status of different proposed or planned MoUs (Mihai Micu, Achim A. Beylich, Takashi Oguchi)

The current status of different proposed or planned MoUs was presented.

- (i) IAG and ICL: Mihai Micu reported that the discussions on a MoU between IAG and the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) are still pending. Representatives of ICL will attend the RCG in Timisoara in September 2025 and further discussions (including an eventual signing of the MoU, if decided until that time) will take place.
- (ii) IAG and INQUA: Following the virtual meeting held on 12 April 2024 with representatives of INQUA and IAG (Sunil Kumar De, Achim A. Beylich, Takashi Oguchi), the prepared draft for a possible MoU between IAG and INQUA shall be further discussed. Achim A. Beylich will arrange for a continuation of the discussions.



(iii) IAG and AGU: Takashi Oguchi continues his discussions with representatives from AGU during the EGU 2025 General Assembly in Vienna, Austria. The process of creating a MoU between IAG and AGU shall then continued with an online meeting in May or June involving representatives from AGU and IAG (Takashi Oguchi, Sunil Kumar De, Achim A. Beylich).

10. IAG and International Science Council (ISC) (Sunil Kumar De)

Sunil Kumar De informed the EC that IAG, through its affiliation with IUGS, is a member of the International Science Council (ISC). IAG will not apply for any specific ISC membership category.

11. IAG and DDE (IUGS) (Sunil Kumar De, Takashi Oguchi, Achim A. Beylich)

Referring to recent developments and the temporary (one-year) suspension of all IUGS formal links and activities with the DDE programme, the existing collaboration between IAG and DDE was discussed. After careful discussions and review of various documents and expressed opinions, the IAG EC decided to continue its existing MoU and present collaboration with DDE without changes. The situation shall be newly reviewed and discussed in early 2026.

12. IAG and Geomorphica (Achim A. Beylich)

Following a request from representatives of the diamond open-access journal Geomorphica and referring to the existing MoU (2023-2025) between IAG and Geomorphica, the EC discussed about a possible continuation of the collaboration with Geomorphica and the financial IAG support for Geomorphica as specified in the existing MoU between IAG and Geomorphica. After reviewing the submitted Geomorphica annual reports and financial budget information it was decided by the EC that IAG will continue its cooperation and financial support without changes until 2026. In 2026, the newly elected IAG Executive Committee will be in place and will then in 2026 take a new decision on any possible further collaboration between IAG and Geomorphica.

13. New IAG affiliated journal with Elsevier (Achim A. Beylich)

Achim A. Beylich reported about the status of the proposed IAG affiliated gold open-access journal on *Human Impact on Earth Surface* (working title). The publisher Elsevier is interested to launch this new journal and further steps towards this journal launch are expected in the coming months. Achim A. Beylich will keep the EC updated about the process.

14. IAG co-sponsored or co-organized sessions and business meetings at EGU 2025 and GSA 2025 Annual Meeting (Achim A. Beylich, Sunil Kumar De)

Two IAG co-sponsored conference sessions on Planetary Geomorphology and Submarine Geomorphology are included in the Geomorphology programme of the EGU 2025 General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, 27 April – 2 May 2025. During the EGU Geomorphology Division business meeting on 1 May 2025, Takashi Oguchi, Anita Bernatek-Jakiel and Samuel McColl inform about relevant IAG activities, including the IAG Training Programme and the upcoming IAG Conferences in Romania (RCG 2025) and New Zealand (ICG 2026). During the GSA 2025 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, USA, 19-22 October 2025, IAG will co-organize and co-chair a topical session on Advances in Fluvial Processes and Sediment Transport in collaboration with the GSA Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division. Sunil Kumar De will attend the GSA 2025 Annual Meeting in San Antonio and during the GSA business meeting a revised version of the existing MoU between IAG and GSA shall be newly signed by the IAG President and representatives from GSA. Before the GSA 2025 Annual Meeting in October 2025, Achim A. Beylich will participate in the Annual GSA Associated Societies Spring business meeting organized by GSA as a virtual meeting on 7 May 2025.

15. Reports from EC Members (Francisco Gutierrez, Mihai Micu, Andrea Coronato, Anita Bernatek-Jakiel, Takashi Oguchi, Susan Conway, Katja Laute)

(i) Economy: Francisco Gutierrez presented the Treasurer's report. The report included details on the tax declarations made for the years 2023 and 2024, the 2025 annual fee requests sent to NSMs, still pending annual fees from several NSMs for 2023 and 2024, the transfer of grants, and the evolution of the IAG account balance. It was discussed in the EC that the NSM annual fees have remained unrevised since 2009 and should be increased with the approval of the NSMs.



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- (ii) National Scientific Members: Mihai Micu reported on progress made since the last EC meeting in April 2024. The report included details on new IAG NSMs (Gabon, Vietnam, Thailand), still pending discussions with potential new NSMs (Afghanistan), a database for prospection for new members, the conducted and planned interviews for the IAG Virtual Memory Book, and updated information on the conditions for the IAG Photo & Video Contest.
- (iii) Working Groups: Andrea Coronato reported on the status of and progress made by the 18 existing IAG Working Groups. The report included details on the status of the IGU Commission - IAG Working Group "Geomorphology and Society", on WG leaderships changes, on Working Group Annual Reports for 2024, on the various activities reported by Working Groups, and on planned future activities of Working Groups.
- (iv) Training Programme: Anita Bernatek-Jakiel presented the detailed report on the IAG Training Programme prepared by her and Efthimios Karymbalis. The report included details on provided IAG grants, IAG financial support for YGs' training activities, closed calls for grants with a decision – future events, closed calls for grants without decision – future events, the establishment of criteria for assessing grant applications, the IAG Alumni database, and the dissemination of IAG grant opportunities. The establishment of criteria for assessing grant applications is an important step forward.
- (v) Communication, Cooperation and Outreach: The report on Communication, Cooperation and Outreach presented by Takashi Oguchi included details on the International Geomorphology Week 2025, on the International Geodiversity Day Webinar 2024, and on the ongoing IAG cooperation with AGU, GSA, AAG and IGU. After discussions it was decided by the EC that IAG should continue with its important activities during the upcoming International Geomorphology Weeks, but that the format of online events organised by IAG during this week should be changed. It was suggested to organize IAG online events with defined thematic foci, particularly addressing selected "hot topics" in geomorphology.
- (vi) Website, Social Media and Geomorph-L: Takashi Oguchi presented (on behalf of Susan Conway) the report on website, social media and Geomorph-list prepared by Susan Conway. As reported by Susan Conway, the earlier performed update to run on "https" together with other updates (wordpress themes and widgets) have rendered parts of the website non-functional, i.e. some parts of the home page can no longer be edited. Currently, many parts of the website are missing and many parts are out of date. It was discussed by the EC if the current IAG website could still be saved by performing major updates, bringing back content that disappeared (was lost) during the mentioned updates and by making significant additions, or if a complete renewal of the IAG website would be needed. A complete renewal of the IAG website would require some defined payment made by IAG for a professional webpage creation. Currently, a large amount of important information is missing, including relevant information in most archives, information on IAG collaborations, on IAG membership, IAG Awards, IAG Award recipients in 2022, Presidential writings, IAG recognized scientific journals, content in the publishing section, on book publications by IAG members sharing royalties with IAG, on important paper publications, the moving "News" slides, new IAG logo on social media accounts, etc. Referring to the Social Media that are currently used by IAG, it was decided by the EC that IAG will move away from the platform X. A virtual meeting for discussing in detail the Website and Social Media issues will be organised in May/June.
- (vii) Highlights: Katja Laute reported on the publication of the IAG Highlights (18 issues of the IAG Highlights have been published since October 2020) and the creation of additional graphic materials for IAG. The EC members are kindly requested to become more active in sending contributions for the upcoming issues of the IAG Newsletter "IAG Highlights".



16. Any other business

With pleasure, IAG has received the information from Mauro Soldati that the General Assembly of the Italian Association of Physical Geography and Geomorphology (AIGeo), in its capacity as the Italian IAG NSM, decided to make a bid for the organization of the 12th ICG in Italy in 2030. The venue selected for the Conference is the city of Rimini. More information shall follow in due time.

IAG President

Sunil Kumar De

IAG Secretary-General

Achim A. Beylich

Date: 2 May 2025