2001

MEXICO

Mexico    May 7-14:

Organized in an excellent way by Dr. Jose Luis Palacio and colleagues, the COMLAND Mexico meeting was an unqualified success, with more than 60 participants from distant parts of the world, from Finland to Argentina. Forty-one papers were submitted in oral or poster presentations, and the meeting included a five days excursion from Mexico City to the Paricutin volcano in the state of Michoacan.  
  
Land degradation as a result of land use changes, is a major problem in the urbanized areas of the large City of Mexico, as well as in the deforested mountains and hills. The message was that change is occurring at a pace which demands immediate actions from local and government authorities, but that measures, which have been taken are not always supported by appropiate scientific research.  
  
For many of the participants it was their first encounter with Mexico, its spectacular volcanic landforms and the warm and friendly human environment (further information: http://www.igeograf.unam.mx).