

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION
IN SEMIARID MOUNTAIN AREAS, CATAMARCA, ARGENTINA,
MAY 5-10 2003**

CALL FOR PAPERS AND REGISTRATION

COMLAND (Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification) organizes in May 2003 a conference in the pre-cordillera mountain range of the southern Andes in the province of Catamarca, Argentina. The Conference is sponsored by the IGU Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change. The area is behind the common tourist places, including the "Puna" - a mountain arid area proposed as a World Heritage Reserve to UNESCO.

CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

Paper sessions will take place on Monday 5 and Tuesday 6, including an excursion to local sites. A four days field trip - from May 7 to May 10 - will follow. The excursion covers different climatic areas, with a sharp gradient from a subtropical forest to an extreme arid area. *The total cost will be around US\$300, including registration, hotels, excursion fees, most meals, proceedings and conference banquet.*

Conveners: Julio A. Costello (jacoste@huma.unca.edu.ar) and Moshe Inbar (inbar@geo.haifa.ac.il)

Participants interested in pre or post Symposium tourist excursions in Argentina (Iguazu Falls, Perito Moreno Glacier), or hotel arrangements in Buenos Aires please contact Monica: sifaviajes@fibertel.com.ar, Fax: (5411) 4312-9734

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Land degradation in drylands
- Mountain environments
- The role of high magnitude events
- Sustainable development and management policies
- Ecotourism in mountain regions
- Remote sensing and GIS of land degradation in drylands
- Water resources and water management
- Sand dunes expansion

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Arthur Conacher- *University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia*
- María Mercedes Díaz- *UNCa, Catamarca, Argentina*
- Moshe Inbar- *University of Haifa, Israel*
- José Lugo Hubp- *UNAM, México*
- José Luis Panigatti- *INTA, Buenos Aires, Argentina*
- María Sala- *Universidad de Barcelona, Spain*
- Luis Eduardo Segura- *UNCa, Catamarca, Argentina*

Offers of papers in English or Spanish with abstracts should be sent to Professor Moshe Inbar at inbar@geo.haifa.ac.il

Catamarca can be reached by air from Buenos Aires: there is a daily early flight at 6.30 a.m. Local arrangements in Argentina should be made through the recommended travel agency as above:

Monica: sifaviajes@fibertel.com.ar, Fax: (5411) 4312-9734

Payment and registration details will be provided in the next Circular.