



IGU COMMISSION ON LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION (COMLAND)

BUSINESS MEETING AT KRAKOW IGU CONFERENCE

KRAKOW POLAND

Tuesday 19 AUGUST 2014

17:00 - 18:00. Session C12.24. Room A6

MINUTES

1 Attendance

Paul Hudson (PH) (COMLAND Chair), Owen Graham (OG) (COMLAND Co-Secretary & webmaster), Takashi Oguchi (COMLAND Co-Secretary), Pawel Prokop (PP), Hiroshi Suwa, Ben Ofori-Amoah, Anne Bucala, Renata Dulias, Shuichi Oyama, Christian Schneider, Jiao Huang, Punyatoya Patra, Andrea Vacca.

2 Confirmation of Agenda (and any additional items)

Agenda confirmed with no additional agenda items.

3 COMLAND Scope and Objectives – reiterate IGU expectations (background)

PH outlined scope & objectives (as per COMLAND web site). Commissions have 4 yr term – last COMLAND renewal was 4 yrs at the Cologne Meeting in 2012.

4 Update on activities

4.1 Meetings in past year

Kyoto 2013, Krakow 2014, Paris IAG with COMLAND Co-sponsored session

4.2 New website (www.comland.org)

OG advised of new website and establishment / running costs paid personally commencing 30/9/2013. PH advised he will follow-up recompense of web costs for OG from IGU. (Late addition post meeting: comland.org website cost (1) domain registration US\$67.90 = AU\$75.24; (2) private listing of owner at US\$10/yr = AU\$22.16 for first 2 yrs; (3) weebly hosting charge US\$79.00 = AU\$87.53. There will be regular hosting and listing charges which are currently paid privately by OG.)

5 Publications

June 2014: J Env't Mgt – papers from IGU Santiago 2011 and Cologne 2012.

In Prep: ZFG – papers from IAG Paris. Expected in late 2014 or 2015.

PH and PP will explore opportunities for a publication from the current Krakow meeting.

6 Steering Committee

The meeting was advised that Xiaoping Yang and Silvio Rodrigues had left the Steering Committee because their terms had expired. The Meeting acknowledged their strong support of COMLAND and agreed that they should be formally thanked for their contribution to COMLAND over the years. OG to prepare correspondence.

6.1 New appointment – Dr Andrea Vacca

PH announced the unanimous agreement by the Steering Committee that Andrea Vacca be appointed to the Committee.

6.2 Proposed new appointment

Proposed (AV) and seconded (OG) that Pawel Prokop be nominated for appointment to the Steering Committee. Nomination proposal accepted by PP. OG to seek Steering Committee agreement.

7 Acknowledgement of former SC members (listing on web site and category title)

This was proposed that when Steering Committee Members leave the Committee, their CV information is retained on the COMLAND web site in a suitably named sub-section eg “Emeritus Members”. Proposal was agreed to. This is to facilitate advice back to the SC on issues such as operation of field trips and meetings etc.

8 Future Meetings and Field Trips

8.1 Tasmania, Australia (25-29 October 2014)

This field trip and COMLAND meeting is being organised by OG and is in association with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand.

8.2 Other proposals

To date there were no confirmed future field trips / meetings after the Tasmania Meeting. It was questioned whether a field trip / meeting was possible in the 2015 IGU Moscow Conference because there was no local COMLAND person to do the organising. Likewise, IGU (as opposed to dedicated COMLAND themed) field trips were considered questionable for attendees because of the prevalence of cancellations and no offered alternatives (especially as experienced in Santiago 2011).

Several attendees proposed field trips in their local areas possibly for 2016 and 2017. These included Slovenia, India and southern Africa. Other possibilities were discussed as based on an earlier offer by a former SC member and other direct approaches. The SC noted the need to develop proposals for events in 2015. (PH to maintain contact with trip proposers and develop options)

9 Proposal for COMLAND web site to list selected events of relevance

It was proposed that the COMLAND web site not necessarily be restricted to advising of formal COMLAND meetings (possibly in association with other organisations’ events). This could be to add a web link to the event of interest – so long as it was consistent with COMLAND aims and objectives. The Meeting agreed and considered it sufficient for the webmaster (OG) to use discretion in placement of such links. COMLAND members to advise OG if they wish to notify an event of interest.

10 Recognition

10.1 COMLAND Award – presentation to Prof Dr Hiroshi Suwa

A COMLAND Award was presented to Dr Hiroshi Suwa for achievements in 2013 regarding the field trip & meeting in the Kii Peninsula, Japan.

10.2 Discussion on Awards

As a result of the successful pre-Conference field trip that was organised by Dr Powel Prokop and conducted by Dr Prokop, Dr Renata Dulias (University of Silesia) and Dr Zofia Rackzowska (Polish Academy of Sciences), it was Proposed (PH) and Seconded (AV) that these people be given COMLAND Awards. The motion was accepted by the Meeting and the Co-Secretary (OG) to put the proposal to the Steering Committee for approval.

The COMLAND Distinguished Scholar Award (as nominated in 2013) for Dr Arthur Conacher (former SC Member) was signed by the Chair and Secretaries and will be presented or delivered to Arthur as soon as possible.

10.3 COMLAND Letters of support (field trip supporters and others)

It was agreed that Institutions and key people should receive letters of thanks for their role with the Field Trip (PP to supply names & emails to OG to write, PH sign & send).

11 Web site

11.1 SC Members to send updated bio info to Web master (OG)

The webmaster requested all SC members to send updated CV information for listing in the web site.

12 General Business

Comment: During the Meeting, PH offered to prepare a report on the Pre-Conference Field Trip.

Close

ACTION LIST:

ACTION No.	DESCRIPTION	BY WHOM	STATUS at (date)
8-2014 1	WEB FEES: Reimbursement of web fees privately incurred by OG	OG & PH	
8-2014 2	Publication of Krakow papers (PH and PP to explore opportunities)	PH & PP	
8-2014 3	Former SC members to be formally thanked (OG then PH)	OG & PH	
8-2014 4	Pawel Prokop's SC appointment: SC to be asked for agreement (PP to supply CV to OG, OG to SC)	PP, OG then SC	
8-2014 5	Augment website with former SC members' bio info – "Emeritus"	OG	
8-2015 6	FUTURE FIELD TRIPS: Maintain contact and develop concepts with field trip proposers	PH	
8-2014 7	Website to include ad hoc links to relevant meetings	Members to advise OG	
8-2014 8	COMLAND Awards to PP, RD & ZR: SC asked to consider	OG then SC	
8-2014 9	Arthur Conacher to receive signed Distinguished Scholar Award	OG	
8-2014 10	Letters of thanks to be prepared for key people in Krakow Field Trip (PP to send names & contact emails to OG the PP to sign & send).	PP, OG then PH	
8-2014 11	BIO UPDATES: Steering Committee Members to send updated bio information to webmaster	OG and SC	
8-2014 12	Prepare report on Pre-Conference field trip	PH	

Note: SC = Steering Committee
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