

COMMISSION ON LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION  
INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION



Annual Report: 2012 – 2013

Paul Hudson and Owen Graham

## A. Membership

### Chair

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## B. Meetings

### 2013 Meetings:

IGU Regional Congress, Kyoto, Japan

The COMLAND session entitled "Land Degradation in a Changing Environment" attracted thirteen diverse papers, including papers presented by COMLAND members. The main topics included: landslide magnitude, frequency, hazard and modelling in Japan and Taiwan; drainage basin development in the Arabian Peninsula; GIS analysis of land use in China; La Niña in South America; soil degradation in Morocco as well as in Patagonia; historic iron smelting as well as dry land water logging in India, and land use change in Sardinia. All were well received by an interested audience.

## COMLAND Field Trip by Prof. dr. Hiroshi Suwa: Kii Peninsula, Japan

Dr. Hiroshi Suwa led a multi day field trip to the Kii Peninsula (South of Osaka). Participants examined and studied land slide (mass movement) activity that had impacted villages, transport infrastructure and the natural environment (see photographs below, compliments of Dr. Takashi Oguchi). Research activities to predict and map mass movement were evaluated. Remedial construction and stabilisation measures in valleys and on hillsides were also inspected. Participants learnt of the human toll and societal dislocation directly from slides. Local culture was also highlighted and this helped participants' understanding of the complex local issues. Dr. Hiroshi was formally congratulated on a well organized and enjoyable field trip.



## COMLAND Award 2013

Following the Kyoto Regional Conference and COMLAND Field Trip to the Kii Peninsula, Prof. Dr. Hiroshi Suwa was nominated for a COMLAND Award. The Award was on the basis of a long history of scholarly research manifest by presentations at IGU COMLAND meetings, active and spirited past participation in field trips and most particularly for his role in organising and leading the scientifically and culturally comprehensive Kii Peninsula field trip focusing on land slides (mass movement).

## IAG Congress in Paris, France (August 2013)

COMLAND co-organized special sessions with the Human Impacts on Landscapes Working Group at the International Association of Geomorphology Congress in Paris, France. The human impact sessions extended over two days, and included over a hundred oral and poster presentations. The presentations were further subdivided into appropriate themes, including urban rivers and geomorphology, landscape change, and historic changes on geomorphic processes.

## Future Meetings 2014

The regional IGU Conference in Krakow: August 18 – 22, 2014

COMLAND Commission participation:

In addition to COMLAND paper sessions organized along the main theme of COMLAND, COMLAND will also sponsor a pre-congress field trip to the Western Carpathian. The field trip is organized by Dr. Pawel Prokop of the Polish Academy of Sciences. All information is available via the main web site for the Krakow meeting, as well as the COMLAND web site (<http://www.comland.org/>)

Tasmania, Australia: October 2014

In late October 2014, COMLAND will hold a joint Conference / Meeting with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) in Hobart, Australia. The meeting will be preceded by a five day field trip to study local environmental issues in Southern and Central Tasmania including Forestry sustainability and research, land degradation and conflicting land uses in the Central Highlands, degradation from historic mining and current day management and remediation in Queenstown and a study of the South West World Heritage Wilderness. Partnering organisations will include Forestry Tasmania, University of Tasmania, the mine operator and regulator in Queenstown and NRM South.

Future Meetings: 2015-2016

2015: Moscow Regional IGU

COMLAND will organize special sessions at the IGU Moscow Regional Congress. A sponsor has not yet been identified.

2016: Beijing IGU Congress

COMLAND will sponsor sessions for the Beijing Congress. Prof. dr. Xiaoping Yang (Chinese Academy Sciences) has tentatively agreed to sponsor a COMLAND workshop.

## C. Networking

Co-organized geomorphology sessions at the International Association of Geomorphology (IAG) in Paris, to include an edited special issue

## D. Publications

In Progress:

An edited and refereed special issue of Journal of Environmental Management from the COMLAND sessions at the Santiago Congress and Cologne Congress. The issue is forthcoming in 2014. (all papers have been peer reviewed, revised or rejected, and accepted manuscripts resubmitted)

An edited and refereed special issue of Zeitschrift fur Geomorphologie from the COMLAND

co-organized special sessions at the IAG Paris Congress in August 2014. (papers are now being submitted)

Future Projects: COMLAND anticipates further special issues as a result of special sessions organized at forthcoming IGU meetings in Krakow, Moscow, and Beijing.

#### **E. Archival Contributions**

COMLAND's new web site (in progress) archives older reports, list of awards, and information on conferences: <http://www.comland.org>