

COMLAND MEETING AND FIELD TRIP IN SARDINIA, ITALY – 2012:

First Circular and Call for Papers

LAND DEGRADATION IN MEDITERRANEAN ENVIRONMENTS: CAUSES, PROCESSES AND MANAGEMENT

Dates: October 13-19, 2012

Lead Organizer:

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Description

Land degradation has long been a fundamental issue within Mediterranean environments. Sardinia provides ample opportunities to examine different types of land degradation and associated management strategies, and will be the focus of this COMLAND field meeting. We solicit papers from a range of subfields related to the topic of land degradation or land management within Mediterranean environments. Papers are welcome which address the topic using any methodological approach, including historical and process based studies. Papers will be further divided according to thematic and/or methodological approaches based on the range of abstract submissions.

Format and Schedule

The meeting begins with a greeting and overview Saturday evening (Oct. 13) in Cagliari. A full day of paper sessions scheduled for Sunday (Oct. 14). The field trip will depart Monday (Oct. 15) for southern and central Sardinia and returns to Cagliari Friday (Oct. 19). A detailed schedule is included below.

Information on registration costs and accommodations will be included in the second circular.

Cooperating Organisations

International: IGU - COMLAND

Regional/Local: University of Cagliari, LAORE Sardegna, AGRIS Sardegna, IGEA SpA



Figure 1. Field Trip locations in Sardinia, Italy. The paper sessions will be held in Cagliari.

Schedule:

The five day field trip covers a range of land degradation types and locations within southern and central Sardinia (Figure 1), beginning Monday (Oct. 15) and ends Friday evening (Oc. 19) in Cagliari. The field trip itinerary is as follows:

Day 1 (Monday, Oct. 15): Land degradation and mining: heavy metal contamination problems in an abandoned mining area (Figure 2). The Iglesias district, in south-western Sardinia, is world famous, because for centuries it has been an important mining area for Pb and Zn. Most of the lead-zinc ores are hosted in Cambrian carbonate formations. We will visit the Santa Barbara cave and the Porto Flavia site.

Day 2 (Tuesday Oct. 16): Land degradation and environmental impacts of intensive agriculture since the 1930s within a relict dune field. Field site is near the village of Arborea.

Day 3 (Wednesday Oct. 17): Land degradation problems in relation to varying soil types and lithology within central Sardinia. Water management and irrigation problems on vertisols formed from Miocene marls, land uses and degradation problems on soils formed from Miocene marine sediments (Figure 3) and on soils formed from Paleozoic metamorphic rocks. We will also visit the megalithic village of Barumini.

Day 4 and 5 (Thursday and Friday, Oct. 18-19): Management of land degradation in relation to vineyards and overgrazing in the Ogliastra region (central-eastern Sardinia). The vineyards of Jerzu are mainly located on Quaternary slope deposits covering Paleozoic metamorphic rocks (Figure 4). Overgrazing is mostly affecting soils formed on Paleozoic metamorphic and granitic lithology (Figure 5).



Figure 2. Abandoned mine in Iglesias district.



Figure 3. Landscape on Miocene marine sediments in central Sardinia.



Figure 4. Vineyards at Jerzu.



Figure 5. Overgrazing in central-eastern Sardinia (Monte Gennargentu area)