

Glasgow IGU Congress

We now have a preliminary program from the organisers of the Glasgow IGU Congress. COMLAND has been allocated the following slots:

Monday 16 August 2004

Land Degradation. COMLAND symposium. Convener Arthur Conacher. From 11.50 to 18.20 (with a break for lunch). It follows the Opening Ceremony at 9.30-11.00 and the Plenary Lecture by Peter Haggett at 11.00-11.45.

Tuesday 17 August 2004

Challenges to Land Management in Cool, Temperate Environments. COMLAND symposium organised by Donald Davidson (d.a.davidson@stir.ac.uk). 7.30-16.50 (with lunch break), followed by a business meeting of COMLAND members.

Wednesday 18 August 2004

Joint symposium between COMLAND and the WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION, on Integrated Catchment Management: Theory and Practice. Conveners Tony Jones (Chair, Water Sustainability Commission: jaj@aber.ac.uk) and Arthur Conacher. 9.00-16.50 (with lunch break).

It would be good to have an excellent turnout by COMLAND members, not least because Glasgow is where the IGU Executive will decide whether our Commission is to continue and, if so, under what name, with what objectives and with whom as the Chair. Naturally we are optimistic about continuation: ours is one of the most active of all the IGU Commissions.

Action

You need to start work NOW on your Abstracts. The organisers want these delivered to them by ourselves (the above-named convenors of the sessions) by the end of January 2004, so ideally we would like your Abstracts by the New Year.

Details on setting out the Abstract will be forwarded as soon as I have the information from the Congress organisers.

Post-Congress Excursion

Title: Land management and conservation issues in the Scottish Highlands

Leader: Prof D A Davidson, School of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Stirling, Scotland. d.a.davidson@stir.ac.uk

Objectives

The aim of this 4 day excursion is to examine a range of land management and conservation issues in the Grampian and Cairngorm areas of Scotland. Topics to be examined include soils and land use, management of native pinewoods, highland estate management, recreational impacts in a sub-alpine environment and flood management.

Travel

This will be by minibus and the numbers will be restricted with priority given to participants in the COMLAND symposium.

Day 1: 21 August 2004 (to be confirmed)

Depart Glasgow. Travel - Stirling, Perth, Fettercairn, Cairn O'Mount road to Deeside. Overnight in Ballater. The route is selected to offer the opportunity to examine soils, vegetation and land use in a transect from Strathmore, over the Highland boundary fault to Feughside and then Deeside.

Day 2

Travel in the afternoon to Speyside via upper Donside and Tomintoul (highest town in Scotland), stay in Aviemore (2 nights). The morning will be spent in Glen Tanar examining nature conservation issues, especially native pinewoods. Issues of highland estate management, recreation and public access will also be discussed.

Day 3

Full day in the Cairngorm - Loch Morlich area. This is an area of outstanding highland scenery and issues of nature conservation and recreational impact will be examined. A visit to the Cairngorm plateau will be made using the funicular railway (weather permitting!).

Day 4

Travel south via Speyside and Tayside, returning to Glasgow by 5pm. Field visits will be made at various localities in the Tay valley where river management is a major issue. Recent geomorphological research in this area has revealed an intricate pattern of river channel change. The various approaches to minimising down-valley flooding will be discussed.

Tourist attractions

Royal Deeside and Speyside. A visit to a distillery is planned.

Cost per participant

Stg£335 (approx US\$550 at 2/9/03)

Covers all travel, accommodation and meal costs for 4 days, 3 nights

For further information on the Congress refer to their website:

<http://www.meetingmakers.co.uk/IGC-UK2004>