

30th Congress of the International Geographical Union Glasgow, Scotland, 15 – 20 August, 2004

As part of this international conference, the IGU's Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification (COMLAND) is holding a symposium and associated field trip on the topic:

Challenges to land management in cool temperate environments

The aim of this symposium is to provide an overview of environmental issues associated with cool temperate regions*. For such regions, review or research papers are invited under the following 5 broad sub-themes:

Sub-theme 1 Climatic issues

Examples of topics: Changing patterns of rainfall and temperature, the incidence of extreme events including floods, weather and risk to economic activity

Sub theme 2 Agricultural issues

Examples of topics: evaluation of agri-environment schemes, agriculture and biodiversity, effect of land management on carbon sequestration

Sub theme 3 Upland issues

Examples of topics: sensitivity and protection of upland habitats, changes in soil carbon storage, the protection of species and the sustainability of rural communities

Sub theme 4 Urban issues

Examples of topics: changing patterns of biodiversity within urban areas, effects of urbanization on hydrology, soils and nutrient cycles, environmental planning of urban areas

Sub theme 5 Contamination issues

Examples of topics: land contamination in old industrial areas, risk assessment and remediation strategies, redevelopment of brownfield sites

Potential speakers are encouraged to contact one of the following:

Professor Donald A Davidson, Department of Environmental Science, University of Stirling, STIRLING FK9 4LA, UK; d.a.davidson@stir.ac.uk

Dr Arthur Conacher, Department of Geography, University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia; ajconach@geog.uwa.edu.au

* These are interpreted to be areas with humid continental and marine west coast climates as illustrated by types Da, Db and Cb in 'The Times Atlas of the World'. These areas include much of northwestern and central Europe, the prairie belt of Canada extending through to the east coast, the Johannesburg region of South Africa, the Snowy Mountains of Australia and all of New Zealand.

COMLAND Post Conference Field Trip, Glasgow IGU, 2004

The aim is to examine in the field a range of issues related to the management of cool temperate upland environments. A range of sites will be visited in the Grampian mountains, Deeside, Speyside and Tayside.

Draft Outline

Day 1

Transect from a lowland to a highland environment; issues of moorland management, soils and land use (Strathmore to Feughside)

Day 2

Integrated land use management in an upland estate (agriculture, forestry, deer stalking, native pinewoods) (Deeside)

Day 3

Cairngorm skiing centre; discussion of the new funicular railway and all the associated environmental issues; human impact on a sub-alpine environment (Speyside); (possibility of a visit to Inverness and Loch Ness)

Day 4

River Tay - issues of river channel change, flood management
Return to Glasgow by late afternoon.

Leader: Prof. D A Davidson, Department of Environmental Science University of Stirling, STIRLING FK9 4LA, UK; d.a.davidson@stir.ac.uk.

Contributions will be made by a range of local staff.