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Fourth IAG Executive Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 9 April 2024, 11:00-16:00 UTC
(virtual meeting)

MINUTES

1. Welcome (Sunil Kumar De)

Sunil Kumar De welcomed all EC members to the EC meeting which was held in virtual format. The President thanked all EC members for their valuable efforts and work for the IAG. The President asked for a minute of silence in memory and honour of Denys Brunsdén who sadly passed away on 25 January 2024.

2. Overview of presence and absence (Achim A. Beylich)

Achim A. Beylich informed about virtual presence and absence of EC members. Present: Sunil Kumar De, Andrea Coronato, Mihai Micu, Takashi Oguchi, Achim A. Beylich, Francisco Gutierrez, Katja Laute, Anita Bernatek-Jakiel, Susan Conway, Narges Kariminejad, Efthimios Karymbalis, Ghislain Zangmo Tefogoum, Samuel McColl, Florin Tatui; absent: Cengiz Yildirim.

3. ICG 2026 in New Zealand (Samuel McColl)

Samuel McColl reported on updates regarding the organisation of the 11th ICG 2026. The 11th ICG 2026 will take place on 2-6 February 2026 in Christchurch, New Zealand. The conference website is available at icg2026.org.nz. The conference venue agreement has not yet been signed by the University of Canterbury or the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group (possible underwriters) and a final decision regarding the conference venue needs to be taken before the end of this year. It will be evaluated if IAG is eligible to serve as a potential underwriter. The choice of the venue will also depend on the expected number of conference participants. The conference organisers are disseminating a call for expression of interest to participate in the conference through the conference website, various email lists and with the help of EC members. The conference organisers have also prepared a call for sponsorship for the conference which will be widely disseminated, also with help of IAG EC members.

4. RCG 2025 in Romania (Florin Tatui)

Updated information on the exact dates, planning and preparation of the RCG in Timisoara, Romania was provided by Florin Tatui: Pre-conference field trips (3): 13-15 September 2025; Young Geomorphologists Training Course: 13-15 September 2025 (2 ECTS credits from University of Bucharest); RCG 2025 – Conference: 16 – 18 September 2025; Post-conference field trip: 19 – 21 September 2025; Conference fee: TBD (by September 2024); YGs Training Course: 150 EUR (max. 24 participants; transportation: Bucharest-Sinaia, Sinaia local, Sinaia-Timişoara; accommodation: 2 nights, including breakfast; lunch; dinner); Pre-conference field trips fee: TBD (by September 2024); Post-conference field trip fee: TBD (by September 2024); EGU-sponsored Training Schools (max. 6000 EUR; deadline 17th June 2024); Website: Under construction (soon available).



5. Handling of the Brunsdan medals (Samuel McColl)

David Dunkerley had requested to find a new location for the IAG Brunsdan medals. During the EC meeting it was decided that David Dunkerley will be asked to send the existing Brunsdan medals from Australia to Samuel McColl (New Zealand) for safe-keeping until the 11th ICG in Christchurch in February 2026. After the ICG 2026 in Christchurch, the Brunsdan medals shall be brought to Spain for being safe-kept there.

6. Report on economy (Francisco Gutierrez)

The economic report was provided by Francisco Gutierrez. In April 2024, the record of the transactions of the IAG account carried out in 2023, together with the corresponding documentary evidence, were sent to the company Feliu for the 2023 tax declaration. The 2024 annual fee was requested to the IAG NSMs on 10 March 2024 (plus unpaid fees of previous years). The request will be sent again in summer. The annual fees have remained unrevised since 2009, and should preferably be increased with the approval of the NSMs (see also point 7).

7. Report on NSMs, including new activities related to NSMs (Mihai Micu)

A detailed report on the National Scientific Members (NSM) portfolio, including the various new activities related to NSMs, was provided by Mihai Micu. The report included information on new NSMs, NSM membership fees, ongoing interviews for the IAG Virtual Memory Book, the IAG Photo & Video Contest, and a planned IAG-NSM book volume with Elsevier. With the acceptance of Madagascar, Malaysia and Mali and Burkina Faso (October 2023), the IAG has presently 61 individual countries and four regional associations as NSMs. All NSMs were asked by email about their availability to either maintain the present IAG membership fee or consider the possibility to increase the annual fee with either 5 or 10%. Answers are expected by the end of May 2024. Among the various initiatives meant to encourage IAG-NSM interactions, the possibility to edit a book (co-edited by all elected EC members) on *Geomorphic services and the modern challenges of global change* is currently prospected. The book is envisaged as an outreach of our Association, showing to a wide range of stakeholders the importance of geomorphic expertise in providing strongly substantiated scientific services, in the mainstream of worldwide concerns. The editorial process is projected for a period of two years. NSMs will be approached individually, asking for the potential interest for such a book project.

8. Request from Gabon for IAG membership (Ghislain Zangmo Tefougoum)

The Gabonese Association of Geomorphologists (GAG) had submitted an application for being accepted as a new National Scientific Member of the IAG. After evaluation of the application, the EC decided that the Gabonese Association of Geomorphologists (GAG) will be accepted as the IAG National Scientific Member representing Gabon. According to the decision of the EC, there will be no annual membership fee to be paid until the year 2026. This fee exemption might be re-evaluated by the newly elected IAG Executive Committee in 2026.

9. Status of the NSM Russia (Francisco Gutierrez)

Due to the war between Russia and Ukraine starting in February 2022, IAG suspended institutional collaboration with the National Scientific Member from Russia in April 2022. The membership status of Russia was re-discussed by the EC, also in connection with the ongoing war in Israel. Following discussions and a formal internal voting, the EC has decided that the current status with a suspended institutional collaboration with the NSM from Russia shall continue.

10. Report on Working Groups, including a new Working Group proposal (Andrea Coronato)

A detailed report on IAG Working Groups, including the status of Working Group annual reports, Working Group activities and changes of Working Group Chairs was presented by Andrea Coronato. The official Working Group websites on the IAG website are being updated by Meven Philippe, based on information requested by Andrea Coronato from the Working Group Chairs. It



is the aim to homogenize all Working Group websites so that all sites display the same information: Chairs and Secretaries (names, countries, and e-mail addresses), objectives, activities, pictures, and the link to the approved reports. Additional information such as past chairs, members, steering committees, forthcoming events and activities, etc. will be presented with a drop-down link like "Additional information". The visual homogenization of the Working group websites will be performed by Meven Philippe. A new IAG Working Group proposal on Coastal Geoarchaeology was received and discussed during the EC meeting. The EC approved the proposal. The proposers are encouraged to build an international Steering Committee for the new Working Group composed of colleagues from a range of different countries. The decision of the EC will need to be ratified during the next IAG Council Meeting to be held in Timisoara, Romania in September 2025. However, the new Working Group is invited to start with activities from now on.

11. Report on IAG Training Programme (Anita Bernatek-Jakiel, Efthimios Karymbalis)

A detailed report on the IAG Training Programme and related activities was presented by Anita Bernatek-Jakiel and Efthimios Karymbalis, including information on IAG grants, IAG financial support for YG's training activities, open calls for grants, IAG Alumni, and the dissemination of IAG grant opportunities. Since the establishment of the 2022-2026 EC, the IAG has assigned 33 grants favouring the participation of YGs from 13 countries to both recurrent and occasional scientific events on geomorphology. The reports of all grant holders are available on the IAG website. In addition, IAG provided financial support for the Intensive Training Programme for the YGs, 35th Indian Institute of Geomorphologists Conference (IGI), New Delhi, India, 25-27 November 2023, and for the YGs Training Programme within the activities of the SAAG2023, Biennial Conference of the Southern African Association of Geomorphologists (SAAG), Hogsback, Eastern Cape, South Africa, 28-30 September 2023. Recent calls have been open until 15 April 2024 for the IAG DENUCHANGE Working Group Workshop in Rome, Italy, 23-26 September 2024, and for the 1st Workshop of the IAG Urban Geomorphology Working Group, Krakow, Poland, 3-6 September 2024. The IAG Alumni database was updated. It includes now the record of all the YGs granted since the beginning of the IAG Training Programme (2002-2024) and is available at the IAG website. All calls for IAG grants are advertised through the IAG website and social media. The dissemination of IAG grant opportunities has been further enhanced through email communications to the NSMs' and YGs' representatives, and through sending the grant calls via Geomorph-List and Gilbert Club-List.

12. IAG Highlights (Katja Laute)

Katja Laute provided information on the latest issues of the IAG Highlights, and all EC members were invited to actively send suitable contributions for the forthcoming issues of the Highlights.

13. IAG Website, Social Media and Geomorph-L (Susan Conway)

Susan Conway reported on the IAG website, social media and Geomorph-List. The EC members are asked to send necessary updates for the IAG website to Meven Philippe who is paid for being the webmaster. Geomorph-List was recently transferred from Chris Houser to Susan Conway (UWINDSOR to CNRS listserv) and is now also moderated by Noe Le Becq. Geomorph-list has currently 2919 subscribers, with 26-49 messages being sent per month.

14. Report on Communication, Cooperation and Outreach (Takashi Oguchi)

A detailed report on the Communication, Cooperation and Outreach portfolio was presented by Takashi Oguchi, including information on the International Geomorphology Week (IGW) 2024, and on cooperation with GSA, INQUA, IUGS, IGU, AGU and Geomorphica. Ten regional webinars (Northern Europe, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe, Africa, North America, Central and South America, East and Southeast Asia, South and West Asia and Oceania) were organised during the IGW 2024. The success of the North American webinar owed much to the



three GSA colleagues Karen Gran, Jen Pierce and Mark Sweeney. In addition to the regional IAG webinars there were four more events during the IGW 2024, including the 4th Women in Geomorphology Workshop organised by the Hellenic Committee for Geomorphology and Environment of the Geological Society of Greece. The 37th International Geological Congress of IUGS will be held in Busan, South Korea, 25-31 August 2024. It includes an IAG co-sponsored session on *Landslides and climate changes*. The Second IUGS 100 Geological Heritage Sites will be announced at this congress. Last year, the relevant IAG group had nominated seven sites: Dartmoor, Mackenzie Delta, Gran Sabana, Hornsund, Mer de Glace, Vatnajökull, and Yosemite. The 35th International Geographical Congress of the IGU will be held in Dublin, Ireland, 24-30 August 2024. Takashi Oguchi will attend the congress and will evaluate the situation regarding the IGU-IAG Commission/Working Group on Geomorphology and Society, which represents the MoU between IAG and IGU signed in 2016. In addition, information on other IGU activities related to IAG (Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification, Commission on Hazard and Risk) will be collected. IAG supports the diamond open-access journal on geomorphology, *Geomorphica*, with a financial amount of 700 Euros annually until 2025. Anita Bernatek-Jakiel and Achim A. Beylich met *Geomorphica* representatives during the EGU General Assembly in Vienna, Austria, and discussed about the progress of *Geomorphica* activities and the communication between *Geomorphica* and IAG.

15. Request for IAG sponsorship for East Eurasia International Workshop, October 2024, Matsue, Japan (Achim A. Beylich)

Following a request from the organisers of the East Eurasia International Workshop to be held in October 2024 in Matsue, Japan, the EC decided that IAG will provide auspices for this event. The offered IAG auspices do not include any financial support from IAG.

16. IAG co-organized technical sessions at GSA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, USA (Achim A. Beylich)

IAG proposed two technical sessions for the GSA Annual Meeting (GSA Connects 2024) to be held on 22-25 September 2024 in Anaheim, USA: Session T51. *Earth Surface Processes in Tectonically Active and Unstable Regions*, and session T52. *Impact of Contemporary Climate Change and Human Activities on Geomorphological Hazards*. Both sessions have been accepted. Abstract submission has opened and the deadline for submission of abstracts is 18 June 2024. It was decided that IAG will provide partial financial support, if required, for the elected EC members that convene these IAG co-organised sessions and will attend the conference in Anaheim (USA) in person. A revised version of the existing MoU between IAG and GSA shall be signed during the GSA Annual Meeting in Anaheim in September 2024.

17. Co-opted EC Member from North-America (Achim A. Beylich)

Possible approaches for finding a new co-opted EC member from North America were discussed by the EC. It was decided that our colleagues from the GSA Quaternary Geology & Geomorphology Division will be asked by the IAG Secretary-General if they can kindly provide suggestions for potential candidates for this important role.

18. IAG co-sponsored sessions and GM Division business meeting at EGU 2024 in Vienna, Austria (Achim A. Beylich)

The scientific program of the 2024 EGU General Assembly (14-19 April 2024) includes three scientific sessions co-sponsored by IAG: GM6.5 *Drivers and rates of denudation across spatiotemporal scales*, GM7.1 *Planetary geomorphology*, GM9.6 *Submarine geomorphology and seafloor seismic geomorphology*. IAG was represented during the EGU GM Division business meeting on 18 April 2024 by its Secretary-General. Achim A. Beylich presented information on IAG and IAG activities during the business meeting, including information on the forthcoming IAG conferences in Romania (2025) and New Zealand (2026). Achim A. Beylich also explored possible sponsorship opportunities for the 11th ICG in Christchurch, New Zealand, during the Assembly.



19. IAG affiliation with International Science Council (ISC) (Sunil Kumar De)

IAG submitted in 2023 a proposal to the International Science Council (ISC), asking for Full Membership (Category 1, defined as scientific unions, associations and similar bodies, being international scientific organizations devoted to the practice and promotion of specific scientific disciplines or areas) of the IAG in ISC. A virtual meeting with representatives of the ISC was held on 19 September 2023. ISC has responded to the submitted proposal in April 2024. The IAG EC is currently in the process of discussing different possible ISC membership options.

20. MoU with INQUA (Achim A. Beylich)

A draft version for a possible MoU between IAG and INQUA was prepared and sent to the representatives of INQUA. The draft has been discussed in a Zoom meeting with INQUA representatives on 12 April 2024. The INQUA representatives have confirmed their interest in signing a new MoU between IAG and INQUA and they confirmed that they will soon send their comments on the MoU draft prepared by IAG.

21. MoU with ICL (Mihai Micu)

The International Consortium on Landslides (ICL) is positive to evaluate IAG's proposed MoU between IAG and ICL (sent in December 2023) and they are open to co-organise scientific events with the IAG. The first opportunities for joint activities (including the formal signing of the MoU) can be the 6th Regional Symposium on Landslides in Belgrade, Serbia, in May 2024 or the IAG RCG in Timisoara, Romania, in September 2025.

22. Journal launch with Elsevier (Achim A. Beylich)

The planned Elsevier gold open-access journal affiliated with IAG will have a focus *Human Impact on the Earth Surface*. The proposal for this possible new gold open-access journal is currently prepared by Achim A. Beylich in close communication with Elsevier.

23. Any other business

The call related to the IAG photo and video competition published on the IAG website will be slightly modified by adding a sentence on the eligibility criteria. Eligible for participation in this contest are colleagues that have either the citizenship or the current work affiliation in a country which is an active IAG National Scientific Member.

IAG President
Sunil Kumar De

IAG Secretary-General
Achim A. Beylich

Date: 6 May 2024