



**International Geographical Union  
COMMISSION ON LAND USE/COVER CHANGE**

***NEWSLETTER***

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Unfortunately, dr. Sergey Ganzei has been seriously ill since autumn 2010 and he is not capable to participate in IGU Lucc commission's activities right now. We hope he'll be healthy again as soon as possible and we wish him good health.

## IGU LUCC WEBSITE

All important information about IGU LUCC commission's activities you can find at IGU LUCC website – <http://www.luccprague.cz/>. There you can find up-to-date information about IGU LUCC commission activities, planned conferences and meetings, etc. E-mail address of IGU LUCC secretariat remains the same – [igu.landuse@gmail.com](mailto:igu.landuse@gmail.com).

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## NEWS

### **A member of IGU LUCC steering committee David Lopez-Carr Appointed Coordinating Lead Author for "Land" Chapter of the UNEP GEO-5**

“The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It was founded as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in June 1972 and has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya”. UNEP’s mission is “To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is a global, consultative, participatory process that builds capacity for conducting global environmental assessments and for reporting on the state and trends of the environment, future outlooks and policy options. GEO is also a product that informs environmental decision-making. It aims to facilitate the interaction between science and policy”.

Professor **David Lopez-Carr** has been appointed as a Coordinating Lead Author (CLO) at the first UNEP GEO-5 production meeting, held November 8-11 in Cairo. “The 25th session of the UNEP Governing Council... requested the Executive Director to undertake a comprehensive integrated global assessment, the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series, GEO-5. The GEO-5 process began with UNEP convening an Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder consultation on GEO-5 which agreed on the scope, objectives and process for GEO-5... The GEO-5 process began in 2010 and will culminate with the publishing of the assessment report and endorsement of its Summary for Policy Makers in 2012” (Ibid.).

David is the CLO for the “Land” section of Part 1 of the “Assessment of the State and Trends of the Global Environment” whose sub-chapters include (i) Drivers & Pressures of the Global Environment; (ii) Atmosphere; (iii) Land; (iv) Water; (v) Biodiversity; and (vi) Chemicals and Waste. Carol Hunsberger of Carleton University’s Geography Department is also a CLO for the section; lead and contributing authors include Magdi Abdelhamid (Egyptian National Research Centre), Shashi Kant (University of Toronto Department of Forestry), Jerry Melillo (Ecopsystems Center Director, Harvard University), T. Mitchell Aide (Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico), Asmeret Berhe (UC-Merced School of Natural Sciences), Tom Evans (Indiana University, Department of Geography and Director of the Center for the Study of Institutions, Population, and Environmental Change - CIPEC), and Tahia Devisscher (Stockholm Environment Institute). **Carlos Souza**, former UCSB geographer and current executive secretary of Brazil’s Instituto do Homem e Meio Ambiente da Amazônia is also a contributing author. The report will be launched as a statement on the state of the Earth’s environment from the UN member nations in preparation for the Rio +20 World Summit of Sustainable Development to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

Source: <http://www.geog.ucsb.edu>

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava  
Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague  
Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies, University of Warsaw

with IGU/LUCC Commission participation will organize

### **8. CZECH – POLISH - SLOVAKIAN SEMINAR:**

**Regions of Visegrad States in the mirror of the challenges of integrated Europe**  
(*Regióny krajín V4 tvárou v tvár novým výzvam integrovanej Európy*)

Seminar is organized in English especially for investigators from Europe interested in temporal processes in Europe (especially Middle Europe)

Term: **June 6.-10, 2011**

In: Bratislava and Kaštieľ Mojmírovce (Slovakia)

We supposed that minimally two meetings will be oriented on this event also on the landscape and land cover changes.

**NEW CHALLENGES FOR EUROPEAN REGIONS AND URBAN AREAS IN A  
GLOBALISED WORLD, 30TH AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2011**

ERSA 2011 - 51st European Congress of the Regional Science Association  
International , Barcelona, Spain

IGU LUCC commission will have special session during this conference, called  
**Session on post-socialism changes in land use and land cover in Eastern Europe**  
(supervisors Premysl Stych and Ivan Bicik, Charles University in Prague, Czech  
Republic)

More info on <http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/>

**THE 11TH ASIAN URBANIZATION CONFERENCE, DECEMBER 10TH TO  
DECEMBER 13TH, 2011**

**Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad, India**

Although there will be no special land-use section, the Asian Urbanization Conference seeks to address a wide variety of problems in the Asian urban milieu. Urbanization is process which is connected very firmly with land-use and land-cover, therefore topics on land-use are welcome.

**IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SANTIAGO, CHILE, NOVEMBER 14-18,  
2011**

The IGU LUCC commission will organize two or three half-day sessions during this conference. We suppose to organize some meetings oriented on the LUCC topics and we will prepare with organizers also business meeting for this commission. Although there is not exact information about programme, you can register at conference website. There is also possibility to participate on some field trips (pre-conference field trips in November 7-13, post-conference field trips in November 19-27.

More information on <http://www.ugi2011.cl>

## IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, COLOGNE, GERMANY, AUGUST 26-30, 2012

The 32nd International Geographical Congress will be held in Cologne during 26 – 30 August 2012. There is already the opportunity to register at conference website. You will get regular information concerning the IGC 2012. IGU LUCC commission will organize sessions and business meeting (also oriented on the next activity of the Commission after 2012) as usually in the main days of IGU Congress. We started cooperation with Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems on the preparation preconference meeting organized in Czechia at the Faculty of Science and in the field. Excursion will show typical problems of the Czech rural transformation and landscape and land use changes and will present results of investigation of the Middle European geographers. More information about this preconference event you will obtain soon.

More information on <http://www.igc2012.org>

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### LAST MEETINGS

#### **PRAGUE 2010 - „Land Use and Land Cover Changes in a Globalised World” (June 28 – July 1, 2010, Prague, Czech Republic)**

Faculty of Science, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and Faculty of Science, J.E. Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, Czech Republic were main organizers of conference **Land Use and Land Cover Changes in a Globalised World** which was hold **in June 28th – July 1st 2010 in Prague**. The conference was focused on land use, landscape and countryside mainly in Europe.

#### Main Topics of the Conference

1. Land use transformations in a globalised world
2. Current landscape changes
3. Agricultural landscape in Central Europe during the period of transformation
4. Historical changes of land use and their driving forces
5. Regional differentiation of LUCC on various spatial levels
6. Impacts of agricultural and environment policies on land use
7. New functions of rural space
8. Suburbanisation and its impacts on rural landscape

Some 35 persons took part and realized 26 themes from eight topics above on this Conference in two days in Prague. Then the following excursion was organized to Northern Bohemia with cooperation of the Faculty of Science, UJEP University in Ústí nad Labem. Excursion gave a chance to see and discussed some problems of land use changes and development as in agricultural areas, as in open mines territory with huge recultivation. Some topics were prepared for publication in Acta Universitatis Carolinae – Geographica, some other in Atlas, Volume V (see below).

More information on [www.luccprague.cz](http://www.luccprague.cz)

### **IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, JULY 12-16, 2010**

The International Geographical Union (IGU) realized Regional Conference in Tel Aviv, Israel, July, 12-16, 2010. The IGU Commission on Land Use and Cover Changes realized three sessions on which were presented 14 papers from 10 countries. Also business meeting during the conference was realized on which participated also 4 members of the LUCC Commission. Some members of IGU/LUCC Commission also participated in preconference meeting and excursion realised by Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems, July, 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>. Also during two days seminar there were presented some topics concerned on LUCC problems.

More information on <http://www.igu2010.com/>

### **IGU COMMISSION SEMINAR ON LAND USE, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GUWAHATI, INDIA, DECEMBER 11-13, 2010**

The seminar was organized by Department of Geography, Cotton College in Guwahati, Assam, India, on 11- 13th December, 2010. Cotton College, established in 1901, has been rendering its service to the entire North East India for last 109 years and producing numerous luminaries, placed across the world today. As Dr. Muhfaza wrote in her paper for IGU E-Newsletter, 2011, # 23, January: "The Cotton College as an institution that pursues and promotes academic excellence and scholarship has achieved many milestones in 109 years, and the Geography Department on completion of its fiftieth year have the privilege to hold a IGU Commission Seminar on 'Land Use, Biodiversity and Climate Change'".

The main theme of seminar was Land use, Biodiversity and Climate Change with Sub Themes: Population and Land use, Changing Human values and impact on Environment, Biodiversity and the Himalayas, Man Animal Conflict, Land use Change



and Wetlands, Development Change and Human Health ,Urban Development and Land use Change, Land use and Climate Change,Integrated River Basin Development, Sustainable practices in the Globalize world and Geo-informatics in Land use and climate change.

After seminar some of participants visited Kaziranga National park, a World Heritage Site. The park hosts two-thirds of the world's Great One-horned Rhinoceroses. Kaziranga boasts the highest density of tigers among protected areas in the world and was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006. The park is home to large breeding populations of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer. Kaziranga is recognised as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International for conservation of avifaunal species.

*Text: Elena Milanova with usage materials from paper of Dr. Muhfaza  
Photo: Yukio Himiyama*



**NEW APPROACHES IN LAND COVER/USE CHANGE RESEARCH:  
PRAGUE, DECEMBER 20 – 21, 2010**

In December 20-21 there was hold international seminar “New Approaches in Land Cover/use Change Research” in Prague, Faculty of Science. There were presented 12 topics for some 25 participants. Seminar was prepared by IGU/LUCC Commission and Project GEO Network for Capacity Building (GEO-Net-CaB). This event was successfully used also for preparing some deeper contacts and collaboration among Middle European specialists with NASA and American universities.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

Professor Y. Himiyama has initiated in 2001 preparing and publishing special edition oriented on the presentation of land use/ land cover changes: Land use/cover changes in selected regions in the world. In the last decennium were published four Volumes of this Atlas. It seems to be big interest over the world for this type of publication and therefore four Volumes were published in the new edition:

**HIMIYAMA, Y., I., MATHER, A., BIČÍK, MILANOVA, E. (eds.): Land Use / Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World, Volume I – IV, Combined edition, IGU-LUCC Research Reports, IGU-LUCC, Asahikawa, Japan.**

Our commission realized prolonging of this Activity. We prepared at Faculty of Science, Charles University following Volume of this Atlas.

**HIMIYAMA, Y., BIČÍK, I., FERANEC, J. (eds.): Land Use / Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World, Volume V. IGU-LUCC Research Reports, IGU-LUCC, Charles University in Prague.**

Preface:

Land Use / Cover Changes Commission of International Geographical Union (IGU-LUCC) has been re-established in 1996. Its first international meeting was held in the city of Brisbane, Australia, in 1997. One of the most active commission’s members

was Professor Yukio Himiyama from Japan, who was also the head of the commission. Thanks to his initiative and organizational skills he managed to publish the first volume of a land use atlas, called “Land Use / Cover Changes in Selected Regions in the World” (2001). The atlas introduced selected papers focusing on land use and cover changes in different countries. Volume II was published a year later and further two Volumes (III, IV) were issued in 2005. A lack of financial support and initiators hindered efforts to publish new volumes for some time. In 2010, an aggregate edition of atlases Vol. I–IV was published under Professor Himiyama’s supervision, because of a remarkable interest among land use researchers in such a book.

What is so specific about these atlases? Above all, they summarize land use and cover changes papers from different countries, studied with various methods. Thus, the atlases enable international contacts and publicity of research results as well as they show new and original methods and approaches in land use research. They also provide an essential possibility of publication in larger format; papers usually cannot be printed in such an extent in scientific journals. The atlases offer an equal extent of text and graphics, and there is also a possibility to publish full-colour maps and figures. Coloured maps facilitate better perception of various analysed land-use categories, their development and other features.

For this Volume V we have collected seven papers. All of them are focused on land use changes in former socialist countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russian Federation), and therefore provide a good opportunity to compare the impacts of the political and economic changes after 1990 on landscape, its structure, function and intensity of its anthropogenic use. The articles included are as follows:

Content of this big format Atlas, Volume V:

1. Ganzey, S., Ermoshin, V., Mishina, N.: Land cover/land use changes in Amur river basin in the 20th century (Russia, China, Mongolia) (p. 7 – 18)
2. Feranec, J., Ořahel, J., Nováček, J.: Slovakia’s land cover in 2006 and its change in 2000 – 2006 (p. 19 – 26)
3. Milanova, E., V., Kirilenko, A., P., Dronin, N., M.: Land use and cover change under agricultural development and climate change in Russia (p.27 – 32)
4. Kopecká, M., Nováček, J.: Natural forest fragmentation: An example from the Tatra region, Slovakia (p. 33 – 38)
5. Kabrda, J.: Structure of agricultural land use in the Czech Republic (p. 39 – 48)
6. Rašín, R., Chromý, P.: Land use and land cover development along the Czech-Austrian boundary (p.49 – 56)

7. Romportl, D., Chuman, T., Lipský, Z.: Landscape Heterogeneity Changes and Their Driving Forces in the Czech Republic After 1990 (p. 57 – 66)

*Ivan Bičík*

**Attention:** This atlas is possible to ask on the address of head of the IGU/LUCC commission Ivan Bičík: bicik@natur.cuni.cz after paying only post expenditure.

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## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF IGU LUCC COMMISSION**

### **BUSINESS MEETING during IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE, SANTIAGO, CHILE, NOVEMBER 14-18, 2011**

After this conference, IGU LUCC commission will start last year of its 4year period (2008-2012). Therefore several important questions will be discussed, e.g. who will lead this commission in the future (2012-2016), what will be objectives of IGU LUCC commission activities etc. If you want to participate on discussion about future of IGU LUCC commission, there will be great opportunity during commission's business meeting in Santiago. All your ideas and comments are very welcomed.

### **NEW VOLUMES OF “LAND USE / COVER CHANGES IN SELECTED REGIONS IN THE WORLD“ ATLASES**

We believe that it will be possible to continue publishing these atlases in the future too. The next atlas (Vol. VI) should be issued under the supervision of Professor Himiyama. Here, in Prague, we plan to prepare Volume VII, focused on Czechia. We seem to have a broad range of high-quality land use research outcomes and therefore we consider publishing a “national” atlas containing partly papers covering land use changes on the national level, and partly detailed studies focused on a regional / local research. During all „our“ conferences and meetings there will be also discussed a question on theme(s) of next Volume VIII.

*Ivan Bičík*