

# 2002 Progress Report

## Southern Hemisphere Permafrost and Periglacial Environments

The primary objective of the Southern Hemisphere WG is to facilitate information exchange between permafrost and periglacial researchers within the southern hemisphere, as well as with their counterparts in the northern hemisphere. It has done so through the following activities.

### 1. Main activities

#### - *Southern Hemisphere Review*

Members of the WG compiled a set of regional reviews including all areas of present and past permafrost and periglacial conditions in the southern hemisphere. The reviews were presented at the XVth INQUA Congress in Durban, 1999 and were subsequently published in the *South African Journal of Science*, 2002, volume 98, issues 1 and 2.

#### - *INQUA Post-Conference Excursion*

As part of the XVth INQUA Congress a post-conference excursion was held in the Lesotho highlands debating the southern African Quaternary periglacial record.

#### - *Southern Hemisphere Bibliography*

To further improve access to southern hemisphere permafrost studies a bibliography is under compilation for final release at the 8<sup>th</sup> ICOP, Zürich, 2003.

#### - *WG website*

A WG website has been developed. It provides a first information access point to SH permafrost studies for the specialist and non-specialists alike. The site offers the review papers, INQUA excursion fieldguide and provisional bibliography for downloading. The site address is: [www.natgeog.geo.uu.se/shwg/](http://www.natgeog.geo.uu.se/shwg/).

#### - *Collaboration with RiSCC/SCAR*

Much effort concentrated on establishing and maintaining a working relationship with RiSCC/SCAR. Jan Boelhouwers represented IPA to RiSCC at meetings in South Africa (2000) and Amsterdam (2001). Mauro Guglielmin participated in Amsterdam (2001) and Hobart (2002). The RiSCC membership has welcomed the contact with IPA and looks forward to permafrost science projects to be submitted through national programmes to establish active collaboration on the ground.

At the SCAR XXVII meeting in Shanghai Wayne Pollard represented IPA at the newly formulated Life Sciences and Geosciences Standing Scientific Groups. As an outcome a Permafrost Action Group has been established within the GSSG coordinated by W.Pollard and R.Powell (see [www.scar-ggi.org.au/actiongroups/permafrost/index.htm](http://www.scar-ggi.org.au/actiongroups/permafrost/index.htm) for details). The SHWG and PAG have proposed to hold a joint Antarctic permafrost workshop at the next ICOP in Zürich and will participate in the Antarctic Earth Sciences Symposium in Potsdam, September 2003.

Financial support from the IPA was received to compile and publish the bibliography and establish the website. Both activities also received support from Uppsala University and University of Northern British Columbia. IPA also supported attendance of Jan Boelhouwers to the South African RiSCC workshop, 2000.

## **2. Meetings organized and attended**

*INQUA Congress, Durban, 1999*

- WG business meeting and workshop
- Poster session
- Post-conference excursion to Lesotho Highlands

*RiSCC workshop, Kruger Park, South Africa, 2000*

- Presentation by Jan Boelhouwers on behalf of IPA

*IAG Conference, Tokyo, 2001*

- WG business meeting

*RiSCC workshop, Amsterdam, 2001*

- Presentation by Jan Boelhouwers, Kevin Hall and Mauro Guglielmin on behalf of IPA

## **3. Coordination/liaison with other international organizations**

This has largely focused on the RiSCC/SCAR contact as described above.

## **4. Publications**

- *Southern Hemisphere Reviews*

This includes 7 regional reviews plus an introduction, published in the South African Journal of Science (2002).

- *Southern Hemisphere Bibliography*

This contains over 1000 references pertaining to SH permafrost and periglacial studies.

- *WG website: [www.natgeog.geo.uu.se/shwg/](http://www.natgeog.geo.uu.se/shwg/)*

See information above under 1.

## **5. Active members**

*Co-chairs:*

Jan Boelhouwers (Uppsala, Sweden)

Kevin Hall (UNBC, Canada)

*Members:*

Paul Augustinus (Auckland, New Zealand)

Jim Bockheim (Wisconsin-Madison, USA)

Eric Colhoun (Newcastle, Australia)

Mauro Guglielmin (Rome, Italy)

Ian Meiklejohn (Pretoria, South Africa)

Jim Peterson (Monash, Australia)

Dario Trombotto (CRICYT, Argentina)

## **6. GGD/CAPS CD contribution**

- The review papers and the bibliography will be submitted for inclusion on the second GGD/CAPS CD.

## **7. 8<sup>th</sup> ICOP activities**

- An Antarctic permafrost session is planned at the 8<sup>th</sup> ICOP.
- A workshop on Antarctic permafrost science has been proposed.

## **8. Future plans**

The Southern hemisphere WG will consider to have fulfilled its aims by 2003 and is not recommended to be continued in its present form. The Antarctic workshop in Zürich could form the basis for a new Antarctic Permafrost WG. This could, amongst other objectives, provide continuation in collaboration with RiSCC/SCAR.

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