



**International Geoscience Programme  
IGCP  
National Committee of the  
Federal Republic of Germany**

**Annual Report 2014**

# **INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP) National Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany**

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## **Annual Report 2014**

### **Report of the IGCP National Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany**

Dr. Königshof welcomed the participants to the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the IGCP National Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany. He conveyed the regrets of those participants for not being able to take part in this meeting. As in the past years this meeting is organized as a joint meeting of different National Committees, such as IUGS, IGCP and NKGK and took place on November 13 – 2014 in Frankfurt (Senckenberg Natural History Museum).

The main goal of this meeting is to foster better communication between the National Committees. The new construction works in a perfect way and insures a reliable and continuous flow of information.

One of the items of the new agenda concerned long-lasting cooperation with the German Commission for UNESCO (DUK) and Dr Möller gave a short report on UNESCO activities and the role and goals of the DUK. Also other reports were given by members of IUGS and NKGK. A short report were given on the state of the art of the National Geopark Activities.

The President of IUGS, Roland Oberhänsli, summarized recent developments of IGCP. Based on the fact that UNESCO has been facing one of the most severe financial crises in its history, a major re-organisation of UNESCO is underway. Unfortunately Earth Sciences was deemed as being of low priority and thus discussions on a re-focussing of the IGCP have taken place to ensure that the programme reflects the priorities of UNESCO. As a result of long-lasting discussions it was suggested to bring IGCP and Global Geopark activities together under a new International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme. This new IGCP would have two distinct and mostly separate activities – the geoscience research projects (i.e. the existing IGCP projects) and the UNESCO Global Geopark. They would each have separate decision-making bureaux but would be linked by a non-decision making

coordination unit that would explore possible synergies and areas of cooperation between both activities. In doing so IGCP would continue in the same way as it was over the last number of years but with the re-focussed priorities to be discussed in the near future. The idea of having a link between the geoscience projects and the Global Geoparks would help strengthen Earth Science in UNESCO.

Furthermore, it is planned to establish new statutes for the proposed IGCP. These statutes along with the final draft guidelines will be subject to debate in another meeting of a Working Group at UNESCO late 2014 / early 2015. In case agreement is reached they will go for discussion to the UNESCO Executive Board in April 2015 and possibly again to another meeting of the Executive Board to be held in September 2015 before UNESCO will finally be asked to endorse them in October / November 2015. Generally, the members of the German IGCP support the new development, but they stressed the fact that IGCP should act as a separate geoscience project.

Later, the head of the IGCP National Committee, Peter Königshof, summarized the IGCP related topics (more information on IUGG and IUGS related topics have been presented in the annual reports of IUGG and IUGS):

Germany is still very active and scientists at universities and/or research institutes participated in **13 IGCP projects** in 2014 (and a new proposal – see below):

- Generally, all projects established an international network which enables geoscientists from countries not being actively involved in IGCP projects in the past to become members of the projects.
- The projects cover a number of scientific disciplines and working areas. IGCP projects will facilitate the engagement of regions where stronger and more active participation is needed, such as Africa and Southeast Asia. Increasing engagement in these regions is also recommended by funding agencies, such as the German Science Foundation (DFG).
- Websites of the projects are dynamic and updated regularly and generally provide a highly-visible hub of information of different research disciplines.
- International visibility of projects is guaranteed due to the sufficient number of publications in ISI-listed journals and organizing international conferences and workshops. Increasing visibility is also achieved by publications in “Episodes”.
- Some projects have excellent links with the YES Network (Young Earth Scientists; such as the IGCP 596) and they receive newsletters and are involved in workshops and conferences.
- Some projects have established excellent public outreach projects, such as IGCP 596. In the frame of this project a 45-minute TV documentation is planned. The first short trailer for funding purposes is ready and will be distributed. Two versions can be found on youtube:

german version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHieuQCfKUc&feature=youtu.be>

englisch version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpRLx78U0ZM&feature=youtu.be>

In the frame of this project it is also planned to publish a book on the project. The book will contain more than 25 contributions from 17 countries. The book will be published multi-lingual which means that each contribution will be published in the national language as well as in English.

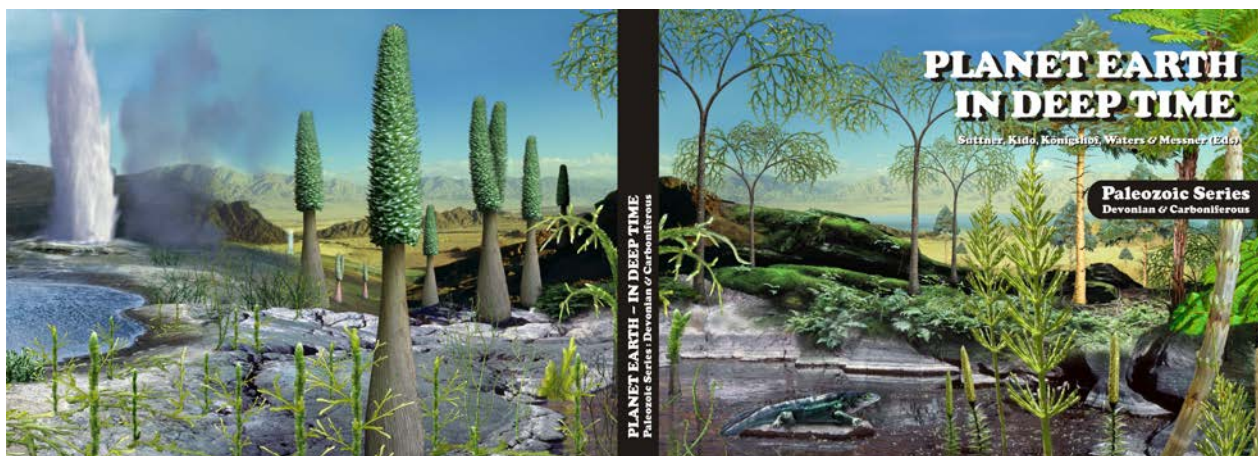


Fig. 1: the cover of the planned book – published in 2015

The following projects have been active in 2014 (some of them with OET status; with German participation/co-leader/leader):

#### **571 RADON, HEALTH AND NATURAL HAZARDS**

**Web site in process**

**Countries involved:** Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Indonesia/Sarawak, Iran, Israel, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan (of China), Turkey, United Kingdom

**Proposers:** Gavin K. Gillmore (United Kingdom), Robin G.M. Crockett (UK)

**Duration:** 2009-2013

**Project Leader:** **Gavin K. Gillmore:** [g.gillmore@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:g.gillmore@kingston.ac.uk)

#### **574 BENDING AND BENT OROGENS, AND CONTINENTAL RIBBONS**

<http://www.brynmawr.edu/geology/faculty/aweil/IGCP-574/>

**Countries involved:** Argentina, Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

**Proposers:** Stephen T. Johnston (Canada), Gabriel Gutierrez-Alonso (Spain), Arlo Weil (USA)

**Duration:** 2009-2013

**Project Leader:** **Stephen T. Johnston:** [stj@uvic.ca](mailto:stj@uvic.ca)

#### **575 PENNSYLVANIAN TERRESTRIAL HABITATS AND BIOTAS OF SOUTHEASTERN EURAMERICA**

<http://www.igcp575.org>

**Countries involved:** Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Turkey, Kingdom, USA

**Proposers:** Christopher J. Cleal (United Kingdom), Stanislas Opluštil (Czech Republic), Isabel van Waveren (The Netherlands), Mihai E. Popa (Romania), Barry A. Thomas (United Kingdom)

**Duration:** 2010-2014

**Project Leader:** **Christopher J. Cleal:** [chris.cleal@nmgw.ac.uk](mailto:chris.cleal@nmgw.ac.uk)

#### **580 APPLICATION OF MAGNETIC SUSCEPTIBILITY ON PALEOZOIC SEDIMENTARY ROCKS**

<http://www.ulg.ac.be/geolsed/MS>

**Countries involved:** Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Iraq, Kenya, Namibia, Poland, Tunisia, USA, Viet Nam

**Proposers:** Anne-Christine da Silva (Belgium), Michael T. Whalen (USA), Jindrich Hladil (Czech Republic), Daizhao Chen (China), Simo Spassov (Belgium), Frederic Boulvain (Belgium), Xavier Devleeschouwer (Belgium)

**Duration:** 2009-2013 (OET 2014)

**Project Leader: Anne-Christine da Silva:** [ac.dasilva@ulg.ac.be](mailto:ac.dasilva@ulg.ac.be)

### **585 E-MARSHAL: EARTH'S CONTINENTAL MARGINS: ASSESSING THE GEOHAZARD FROM SUBMARINE LANDSLIDES**

<http://www.igcp585.org>

**Countries involved:** Brazil, Canada, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Norway, People's Republic of China, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, USA

**Proposers:** Roger Urgeles (Spain), David Mosher (Canada), Jason Chaytor (USA), Michael Strasser (Germany)

**Duration:** 2010-2014

**Project Leader: Robert Urgeles:** [urgeles@icm.csic.es](mailto:urgeles@icm.csic.es)

### **587 ENTITY, FACIES AND TIME - THE EDIACARAN (VENDIAN) PUZZLE**

<http://www.geosci.monash.edu.au/precsite>

**Countries involved:** Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Namibia, Netherlands, People's Republic of China, Poland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, South Africa, Taiwan (Republic of China), United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA

**Proposers:** Patricia Vickers-Rich (Australia), Mikhail Fedonkin (Russian Federation), Jim Gehling (Australia), Guy Narbonne (Canada)

**Duration:** 2010-2014

**Project Leader: Patricia Vickers-Rich:** [pat.rich@monash.edu](mailto:pat.rich@monash.edu)

### **588 PREPARING FOR COSTAL CHANGE**

<http://www.coastal-change.org>

**Countries involved:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Viet Nam

**Proposers:** Adam D. Switzer (Singapore), Craig Sloss (Australia), Benjamin Horton (USA), Yongqiang Zong (China)

**Duration:** 2010-2014

**Project Leader: Adam D. Switzer:** [aswitzer@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:aswitzer@ntu.edu.sg)

### **591 THE EARLY TO MIDDLE PALAEOZOIC REVOLUTION**

**Web site in process**

**Countries involved:** Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, People's Republic of China, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

**Proposers:** Bradley D. Cramer (USA), Živilė Žigaitė (Lithuania), Thijs R.A. Vanderbrouke (France), Kathleen Histon (Italy), Renbin Zhan (China), Guillermo L. Albanesi (Argentina), Michael J. Melchin (Canada), Mikael Calner (Sweden)

**Duration:** 2011-2015

**Project Leader: Bradley D. Cramer:** [cramerbd@gmail.com](mailto:cramerbd@gmail.com)

### **594 IMPACT OF MINING ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN AFRICA**

<http://www.geology.cz/igcp594>

**Countries involved:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Viet Nam

**Proposers:** Bohdan Kríbek (Czech Republic), Ewa Cukrowska (South Africa), Benjamin Mapani (Namibia), Imasiku Nyambe (Zambia)

**Duration:** 2011-2014

**Project Leader: Bohdan Kríbek:** [bohdan.kribek@geology.cz](mailto:bohdan.kribek@geology.cz)

### **596 CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY PATTERNS IN THE MID-PALEOZOIC**

<http://www.senckenberg.de/IGCP-596>

**Countries involved:** Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Italy, Iran, Japan, Mongolia, People's Republic of China, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Myanmar, United Kingdom, USA, Viet Nam

**Proposers:** Peter Königshof (Germany), Thomas J. Suttner (Austria), Iliana A. Boncheva (Bulgaria), Nadezhda G. Izokh (Russian Federation), Phuong Ta Hoa (Viet Nam), Thasinee Charoentitirat (Thailand), Johny A. Waters (USA), Wolfgang Kiessling (Germany), Erika Kido (Austria)

**Duration:** 2011-2015

**Project Leader: Peter Königshof:** [peter.koenigshof@senckenberg.de](mailto:peter.koenigshof@senckenberg.de)

### **597 AMALGAMATION AND BREAKUP PANGÆA: THE TYPE EXAMPLE OF THE SUPERCONTINENT CYCLE**

[http://www.wix.com/declan\\_15/test#!](http://www.wix.com/declan_15/test#!)

**Countries involved:** Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, People's Republic of China, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan (of China), Turkey, United Kingdom, USA

**Proposers:** J. Brendan Murphy (Canada), J. Duncan Keppie (Mexico), Cecilio Quesada (Spain), Bill Collins (Australia)

**Duration:** 2011-2015

**Project Leader: J. Brendan Murphy:** [bmurphy@stfx.ca](mailto:bmurphy@stfx.ca)

### **598 ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN KARST SYSTEMS**

<http://igcpkarst.com>

**Countries involved:** Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cuba, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Tasmania, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, Venezuela, Viet Nam

**Proposers:** Zhang Cheng (China), Augusto Auler (Brazil), Jiang Yongjun (China), Martin Knez (Slovenia), Bartolome Andreo-Navarro (Spain), Yuan Daoxian (China), Chris Groves (USA)

**Duration:** 2011-2014

**Project Leader: Zhang Cheng:** [chzhang@karst.ac.cn](mailto:chzhang@karst.ac.cn)

### **624 ONE GEOLOGY**

<http://onegeology.org>

**Countries involved:** Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, BurkinaFaso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African

Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kosovo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Republic of Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

**Proposers:** Kankeu Boniface (Cameroon), Reinhard O. Greiling (Germany), Jürgen Runge (Germany)

**Project Leader:** Gareth Jenkins: [gjenkins@bgs.ac.uk](mailto:gjenkins@bgs.ac.uk)

A new project proposal on *Significance of modern and ancient submarine slope landslides* was proposed. One proposer was S. Krastel from the University of Kiel, Germany. The German National Committee of IGCP strongly support this proposal.

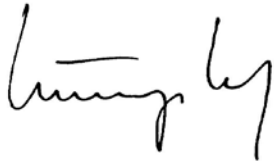
P. Königshof gave a short overview on the IGCP projects above and presented one example in more detail. Furthermore, the critical financial situation was discussed. Structural changes and a further concentration in the program have been pursued, but real positive changes in management, operations and staffing at all administrative and substance levels have obviously not been accomplished. Some suggestions have been discussed already (see above) but should be again on the agenda of the IGCP Scientific Board meeting in February 2015.

- We should try to rebuild IGCP in its outstanding global geo-political (and ethical) position. We should reflect and trust in its unique selling position (NGO and UN cooperation) by strengthening projects of N-S- knowledge transfer and capacity development, by enhancing interdisciplinary cooperation in the field of ecological, hydrological and geological sciences, by reaching out to the public at large and by creating synergies (when and where-ever possible) with existing international programs (such as ILP, IODP-ICDP, IUGS' Resourcing Future Generations, GGI or ICSU).
- Thus, we should critically review present themes (cooperation with other UNESCO Programs, number of projects etc.) to answer the question if all of them are necessary.
- A better information network between UNESCO's scientific programs (e.g., IHP, MAB and IGCP) and UNESCO itself is necessary to reduce shortcomings in the scientific community. We should strengthen synergies and forcing new co-operation (e.g., case studies) in order to prevent fragmentation and duplication.
- Furthermore, it seems necessary to establish a central platform of scientific data; many of the early IGCP documents are rapidly disappearing.

- IGCP should increase the transparency in review and reporting, accelerating and streamlining the management procedures which also means reducing bureaucracy.
- Finally, IGCP secretariat needs more manpower to accelerate formal proceedings (e.g., money transfer; sending reports).

Finally, on behalf of the IGCP we thank for the long-lasting financial support by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFG and German Academic Exchange Service, particularly the financial support by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the film team is acknowledged. Without this support it wouldn't be possible to initiate new projects and new collaborations, particularly in countries not being involved in IGCP projects in the past.

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Königshof', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Peter Königshof