2012

**COLOGNE, GERMANY: August, 2012**  
  
**COMLAND Sessions and Pre-Congress Field Trip**  
  
IGU Main Congress [Web site](http://www.igc2012.org/frontend/index.php)  
  
**COMLAND sponsored two themed sessions with the IGU Congress in Cologne, Germany**  
  
**Main Congress (themed paper sessions): August 26 - 30, 2012**  
  
**COMLAND Paper Sessions:**  
  
COMLAND is pleased to announce the call for abstracts for three distinct sessions at the 2012 International Geographical Union Congress in Cologne, Germany.   
  
1. Land Degradation and Desertification in the context of Global Environmental Change: Management, Vulnerability, and Policy  
  
2. Land Degradation and Geomorphology: Monitoring, Assessment, and Theory Development  
  
The format of presentation is a standard 20 minute talk. Participants should register in "**theme 24**" via the official [IGU Congress](https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php) web site. Online registration for the IGC 2012 will open on **2 November 2011**. Please send Paul Hudson (pfh@austin.utexas.edu), Secretary of COMLAND, a note and copy of your abstract to inform of your interest in participating in the official organized COMLAND sessions.  
  
**1. Land Degradation and Desertification in the context of Global Environmental Change: Management, Vulnerability, and Policy**  
  
Chair(s): Guðrún Gísladóttir (Univ. of Iceland) & Paul F. Hudson (Univ. of Texas at Austin)  
  
**Description**:  
Managing land degradation and desertification is a pressing issue in the context of global environmental change. Developing effective policy and management strategies requires knowledge of a comprehensive range of physical and social processes and how they may be modified and adjust to anticipated global environmental change scenarios, including different manifestations of climatic change or sea level rise. The goal of this session is to bring together researchers interested in the management of specific types of landscape environments to cope with different forms of global environmental change along the lines of several interrelated questions: How is management being approached and what are the lessons learned? What types of physical modifications (engineering and earth works) are undergoing to cope with land degradation and/or desertification? What are the obstacles to effective policy for managing land degradation and desertification? We welcome a comprehensive range of topics including academic and applied scientists from universities and government agencies who work at the interface of land degradation and desertification, including land use management, agricultural policy and food security, soil erosion, change, flooding, risk analysis, and river and coastal zone management. The presentations will be further organized into appropriate themes depending on the range of topics represented within submitted abstracts. Publication of papers will be sought in an appropriate peer reviewed academic journal. Please contact Paul Hudson (pfh@austin.utexas.edu) or Guðrún Gísladóttir (ggisla@hi.is) with questions.  
   
  
**2. Land Degradation and Geomorphology: Monitoring, Assessment, and Theory Development**  
  
Chair(s): Paul F. Hudson (Univ. of Texas at Austin) & Guðrún Gísladótti (Univ. of Iceland)  
  
**Description**:  
Geomorphology and land degradation science have a long and distinguished history of integrated scientific inquiry. Geomorphology, as a distinct scientific discipline, provides academic and applied scholars of land degradation with theoretical frameworks and methodological tools for understanding the origin, magnitude, and controls on land degradation and desertification. Geomorphologists increasingly play important roles in landscape restoration strategies, including conceptual and applied roles. This session seeks presentations that address the study of land degradation from all sectors of geomorphology, including hillslope (runoff and soil erosion), fluvial, coastal, and aeolian processes. We welcome contributions based on field, experimental, as well as theoretical modeling. Presentations will be further organized into appropriate themes depending on the range of topics within submitted abstracts. Publication of papers will be sought in an appropriate peer reviewed academic journal. Please contact Paul Hudson (pfh@austin.utexas.edu) or Guðrún Gísladóttir (ggisla@hi.is) with questions.