



2013 Meeting Report Form

Re: UNESCO-IUGS Contract and IUGS Supplementary Contribution

Project Number and Title:

MEETING:

Date: 12-19 October 2013

Place: Tbilisi, Georgia

Itinerary:

12 October: Arrival and Registration (accommodation in Tbilisi).

13-14 October: Plenary Sessions (accommodation in Tbilisi).

15 October: Field Trip 1. Dmanisi Museum Reserve (accommodation in Tbilisi)..

16 October: Field Trip 2. Chiatura Paleolithic Sites (accommodation in Kutaisi: Tskaltubo Resort, ARGO Hotel).

17 October: Field Trip 3. Paliastomi Lake and Tsvermagala Black Sea Terrace (accommodation in Kutaisi: Tskaltubo Resort, ARGO Hotel).

18 October: Field Trip 4. Goderdzi Oligocene Petrified Forest, Vardzia Cave Town and Quaternary Samsari Volcanic Ridge (accommodation in Tbilisi).

19 October: Departure from Tbilisi to respective countries

Achievements of Meeting

The First Plenary Meeting and Field Trip was organized by Ilia State University and the Avalon Institute of Applied Science, Winnipeg, Canada, and hosted by Ilia State University. The Abstract Volume and the Field Trip Guide for this meeting were sent to the IGCP Secretariat by post. About 70 people from 14 countries participated in the meeting (Attachment 1),

The First Plenary Meeting and Field Trip enabled participants: (1) To discuss the actual status of our knowledge over a range of subjects, as well as scientific approaches to integrating environmental, anthropological, ethnological, and archaeological data in order to trace the history of ancient humans from the Caspian to Mediterranean during the duration of the Quaternary. (2) Introduced young scientists, especially from the Eastern countries, to new analytical techniques and state-of-the-art interpretation of data. (3) Encouraged east-west dialogue and integrated researchers from different countries into the international R&D community, as well as contributed to the preservation of cultural and religious heritage through the discussion of ancient cultures, civilizations, and their legends.

The two days of Technical Sessions were organized into four panels and five Oral/Poster sessions. Panel 1 was titled "STRATIGRAPHY AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTIONS" (Moderators: Nikolay Panin, Romania, and Andrei Chepalyga, Russia) and included 24 presentations with two key-note talks by Prof. Teller (Canada) and Prof. Okrostsvaridze with co-authors (Georgia). The presentations covered a wide range of topics including Quaternary geomorphology, geology, stratigraphy, paleogeography, volcanism, seismicity, and mineral resources of the Ponto-Caspian and Marmara region. Panel 2 was titled "RECENT ECOSYSTEMS" (Moderators: Nelly Sergeeva, Ukraine, and Valentina Yanko-Hombach, Ukraine, Canada) and included four presentations on recent fauna of the Black Sea. Panel 3 was titled "ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, AND ETHNOLOGY" (Moderators: Nikoloz Tushabramishvili, Georgia, and Olena Smyntyna, Ukraine) and included ten presentations. The

presentations covered a wide range of topics, such as Paleolithic of Georgia, new data on Oldowan migration to Europe via the northern Black Sea Corridor in the light of the latest discoveries in the northern Caucasus and Dniester Valley, the Aegean route: an alternative route for Neanderthals and Anatomically Modern Humans (AMHs) traveling from Asia to Europe and vice-versa. Panel 4 was entitled “MODELLING” (Moderators: Nikolay Esin and Alexander Kislov, Russia) and included four presentations, such as mathematical model of the Black Sea coast and shelf evolution during the Quaternary period, etc.

The POSTER session included 17 posters that were organized into five topics: GEODYNAMICS AND ACTIVE TECTONICS (Moderator: Hayrettin Koral, Turkey), RECENT ECOSYSTEMS (Moderators: Nelly Sergeeva, Ukraine, and Valentina Yanko-Hombach, Ukraine, Canada), SEA LEVEL CHANGES AND PALEOENVIRONMENTAL RECONSTRUCTIONS (Moderators: Nikolay Panin, Romania, and Andrei Chepalyga, Russia), and PALYNOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY (Moderators: Petra Mudie, Canada, and Valentina Yanko-Hombach, Ukraine, Canada), ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, and ETHNOLOGY (Moderators: Nikoloz Tushabramishvili, Georgia, and Olena Smyntyna, Ukraine). The Technical Sessions were followed by the Round Table that enabled the formation of 12 Working Groups for the Project and the selection of their coordinators. It also led to decisions about the future strategy in running the project. For more details see Conference Programme.

The four days of field trips (by bus) were led by prominent Georgian geologists and archaeologists and were focused on the Eopleistocene geological sequence of Tsvermaghala Mountain that represents a stratotype of the Gurian Chauda; it possesses a thickness exceeding 1000 m deposited prior to the Matuyama-Brunhes Reversal (i.e., 780 ka BP) as well as archaeological sites of Lower to Upper Paleolithic age that include Dmanisi, Mashavera Gorge, Tetrtskaro, Tsalka-Bedeni Plateau, Faravani Lake, Akhalkalaki, Diliska, Chiatura, Bondi Cave, Undo Cave, Djrchula Gorge, as well as the Neolithic site Samele Cave and Medieval-Roman site Vardzia Cave (Fig. 1).

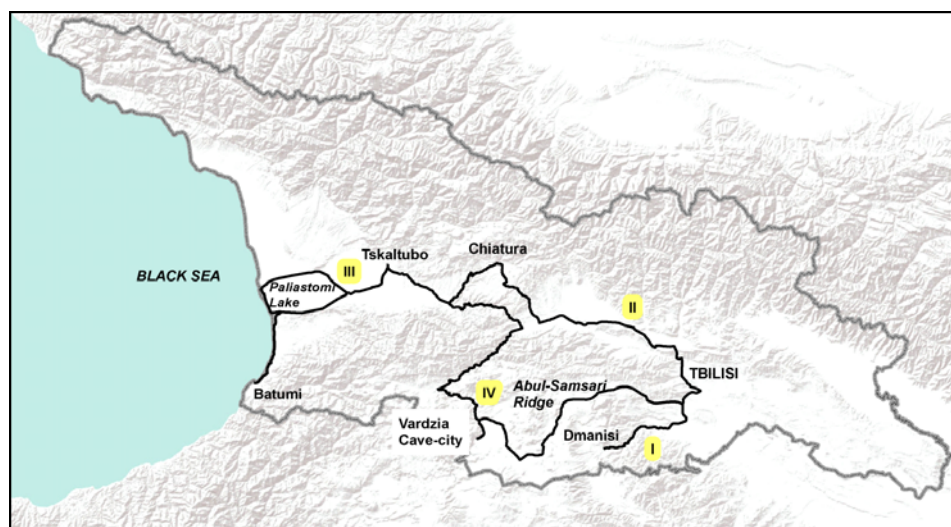


Figure 1. Map of the Field Trips of IGCP 610 in Georgia. I. Tbilisi-Dmanisi-Tbilisi; II. Tbilisi-Chiatura-Tskaltubo; III. Tskaltubo-Paliastomi Lake-Batumi-Tskaltubo; IV. Tskaltubo-Borjomi-Vardzia-Tbilisi.

Outcome of Meeting

1. The Proceedings of the Conference contain contributions from 151 scientists from two continents and nineteen countries; 66% of the contributors were from developing countries (Fig. 2).

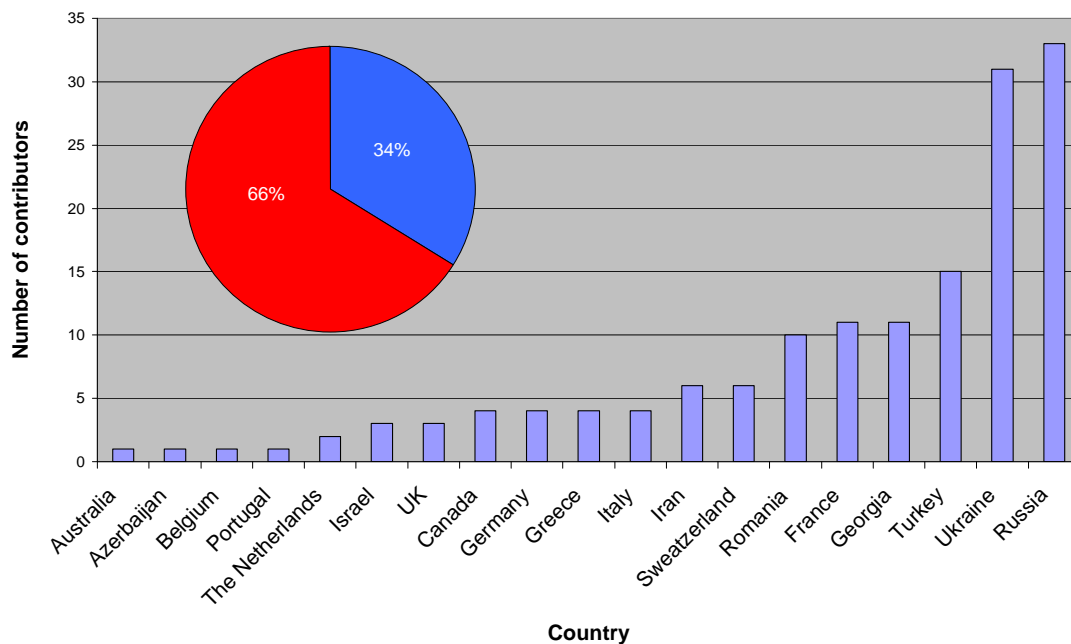


Figure 1. Number of countries and contributors to IGCP 610 First Plenary Conferences and Field Trips. The circle shows the percentage of scientists from developing (red) and developed (blue) countries, respectively.

Their peer-reviewed entries were assembled into a 218-page volume that contains 60 articles (sent to IGCP office by post). For the Table of Contents see http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/pdf/Proceedings_2013.pdf.

2. The 14-page Field Trip Guide (http://www.avalon-institute.org/IGCP610/pdf/FieldTripGuide_2013.pdf) describing the Georgian Quaternary geology (the Caucasus) and geological and archaeological sites to be visited during the Field Trips.

3. Special Volume of *Quaternary International* that will collect selected articles presented at the meeting. It is planned for publication within the 2014 volume.

4. Broadcast of IGCP 610 by the First Georgian Channel as well as a few publications in periodicals for the mass media and social networks (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/180481035443572/>; http://vk.com/album115218532_181815723).

5. Preparation of a number of video films and photogalleries (devoted to the First Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of IGCP 610 (e.g., <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.241497582675250&type=1>).

Overall, the meeting provided an excellent forum for international discussion of different methods and interpretations used to analyze the history of a huge geographical area from the Caspian to Mediterranean during the full duration of the Quaternary, encouraged an exchange of data and publications, as well as encouraged future collaboration between physical and social scientists in North America, Europe, and countries bordering the region under study. The meeting brought together multidisciplinary scientists from all over the world, and in the process enhanced West-East scientific dialogue by providing a supportive background for collaboration regarding the correlation and integration of discoveries on the influence of climatically/tectonically induced sea-level changes and coastline migration on humanity.

Annex 1. List of participants of the First Plenary Meeting and Field Trip of IGCP 610 in Georgia, 12-19 October 2013.

No	Name/Surname	Date of birth	Country
1.	Alieva Leila		Azerbaijan
2.	Badyukova E.N.		Russia
3.	Basilia G.		Georgia
4.	Bolikhovskaya, N.S.		Russia
5.	Carozza, J.-M.		France
6.	Dvalidze N.		Georgia
7.	Elashvili M.		Georgia
8.	Erginal, A.		Turkey
9.	Ertek, T.A.		Turkey
10.	Esin, N.I.		Russia
11.	Ferentinos G.		Greece
12.	Feyzullayev A.		Azerbaijan
13.	Frumkin A.		Israel
14.	Gagnidze T.		Georgia
15.	Gallagher R.		UK
16.	Gkioni M.		Greece
17.	Janelidze, Z.		Georgia
18.	Javakhishvili Z.		Georgia
19.	Kakabadze M.		Georgia
20.	Kelterbaum, D		Germany
21.	Koral, K.		Turkey
22.	Lebanidze J.		Georgia
23.	Leroy, S.		UK
24.	Matygin, A.S.		Ukraine
25.	Meladze T.		Georgia
26.	Mikadze Kh.		Georgia
27.	Oaie, G.		Romania
28.	Okrostsvaridze A.		Georgia
29.	Ozturk,M.		Turkey
30.	Pinchuk T.		Russia
31.	Popradze N.		Georgia
32.	Seghedi, A.		Romania
33.	Sergeeva, N.		Ukraine
34.	Shatilova I.		Georgia
35.	Shluchter H.		Sweatzerland
36.	Smyrnova L.		Ukraine
37.	Svitoch A.		Russia
38.	Taviani M.		Italy
39.	Teller J.		Canada
40.	Tushabramishvili N.		Georgia
41.	Yanina T.		Russia
42.	Yanko-Hombach, V.		Canada Ukraine
43.	Zaitseva G.		Russia
44.	Bekauri G.	1994	Georgia
45.	Bidzinashvili G.	1984	Georgia

46.	Boichenko G.	1987	Georgia
47.	Esin N.I.	1988	Russia
48.	Evstigneev V.	1983	Russia
49.	Ghviniashvili T.	1988	Georgia
50.	Gogoladze S.	1993	Georgia
51.	Goncharenko A.	1981	Ukraine
52.	Gunia I.	1985	Georgia
53.	Ivardava M.	1995	Georgia
54.	Kebadze G.	1988	Georgia
55.	Khmaladze V.	1981	Georgia
56.	Khomchenko D.	1986	Russia
57.	Kirkivadze G.	1989	Georgia
58.	Kondarchuk T.	1992	Ukraine
59.	Laermanns H.	1985	Germany
60.	Lomidze G.	1989	Georgia
61.	Makshaev R.	1986	Russia
62.	Meladze T.	1989	Georgia
63.	Menabde A.	1985	Georgia
64.	Mikava D.	1983	Georgia
65.	Sokhadze G.	1985	Georgia
66.	Sukhishvili L.	1986	Georgia
67.	Tskitishvili N.	1988	Georgia
68.	Tyuleneva N.	1983	Ukraine
69.	Turdziladze L.	1990	Georgia

* In bold female participants; in red - students and young scientists.

Co-Leader
Co-Leader

Prof. Dr. Valentina YANKO-HOMBACH
Prof. Dr. Tamara YANINA

25/12/2013