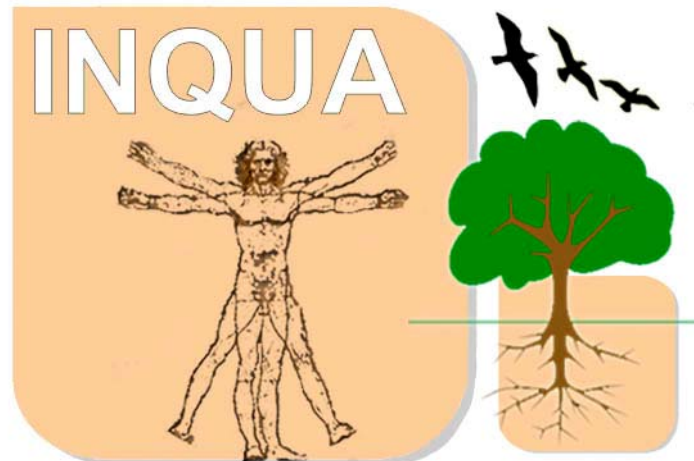


Report on the 2007-2011 Inter-Congress Period



Humans & Biosphere Commission

The HaB Commission fosters problem-oriented study of the effects that changes in Quaternary climates and palaeoenvironments have had on organisms at all levels of analysis, such as individuals, communities, or taxa. The commission promotes innovative cross-disciplinary research and communication, notably by helping to bring together specialists in all subfields of palaeoecology, archaeology, and palaeoanthropology, including experts in the study of cultural processes. The commission also promotes interchange among specialists from any and all nations of the world, and attempts to involve young scientists and those from developing countries.

Officers of the Commission, 2007-2011

President: Gary Haynes (USA) gahaynes@unr.edu

Vice-President (Palaeoecology): Nicki Whitehouse (U.K.) N.Whitehouse@qub.ac.uk

Vice-President (Human Evolution): Luis Borrero (Argentina) laborrero2003@yahoo.com

Secretary: David Taylor (Ireland) taylord@tcd.ie

Correspondents (formerly “members”) of the commission: The president originally received a list of email addresses for ~400 people attending the 2007 Cairns Congress who had expressed an interest in the commission’s remit. Announcements, newsletters, and informative emails were frequently sent to these addresses 2007-2011. By 2011, about 100 of the addresses were no longer valid.

Operation of the Commission in the 2007-2011 Inter-Congress Period

President: The president was the first contact point for people wishing to become involved in International Focus Groups within the commission. The president communicated with commission correspondents (IFG leaders and members) about their ongoing or planned projects, promptly answered queries (generally email) about the appropriateness of proposed grant applications, and actively helped rewrite and strengthen new grant proposals. The president sent emails throughout each year to make announcements. The president also updated news about the commission for the newsletter *Quaternary Perspectives* at least once a year, and sent messages to the interest-list email addresses distributing *Quaternary Perspectives*. The president prepared annual reports to the INQUA Executive Committee. Early each year the president attended an annual Executive Committee meeting with the other commission presidents, in which the annual reports were presented, all grant applications were evaluated, and INQUA business was discussed at length – this generally required intensive preparation in advance. Before each Congress, the commission president prepared a report on commission activities in the inter-Congress period, and also prepared a list of nominees for commission officers and correspondents, which the Executive Committee then either approved or edited, before presenting it to the International Council. In 2009, the commission underwent a name-change after the president raised this possibility with the Executive Committee; the new name differentiates the commission's roles from those of the other commissions. After the name-change, the president created and maintained a new commission website <http://www.unr.edu/anthropology/people/faculty/haynes/indexHABComCopy.htm> (the homepage is attached as Appendix 1 of this report) between 2009 and 2011, replacing the inactive PAHE website. The website provided announcements of meetings, a list of grants awarded through the commission, links to related websites, summaries of IFG activities and contact information for the IFG leaders, and deadline dates and instructions for submitting grant proposals to INQUA. In 2009, a series of emails was received by the president protesting the formal re-designation of the Plio-Pleistocene boundary. A petition was posted by protestors on the website of the PaleoAnthropology Society, seeking names of individuals who wished to join the protest. No follow-up has been received by the president from the protestors after the 2009 exchange. The president was drafted as a member of the 2011 Congress' Scientific Programme Committee, and solicited proposals for Congress sessions through a newsletter (attached as Appendix 2) and a series of emails to over 300 people who had expressed interest at the 2007 Cairns Congress. Numerous email exchanges ensued, involving many hours of correspondence, advice, and discussion spread over more than a year. Additional work involved evaluating the proposals and discussing possible mergers of separate sessions, contacting co-convenors about session mergers, answering many questions about the process, and finally voting on the final session list.

Vice-Presidents: One of the two HaB vice-presidents was concerned mainly with the palaeoecological sciences as part of the commission's remit, and the other was concerned with the 'human' aspects of Quaternary science (palaeoanthropology and archaeology). The vice-presidents were expected to be in regular contact with IFG's to ensure they were

progressing, interacting, or developing projects. Vice-presidents also reviewed grant proposals submitted through the commission, and offered comments about them to the president, who presented the comments to the INQUA Executive Committee at annual meetings.

Secretary: The secretary of the commission was expected to record all transactions that took place between the commission officers and IFG members, keep a calendar (posted on a website) of relevant meetings and workshops, review grant proposals, and make sure that grant recipients were current in their reporting or financial accounting. The secretary ideally would have regularly updated a commission website that additionally provided public outreach and education about the commission's remit. However, heavy burdens of additional work assignments and sabbatical/research time away limited the Inter-Congress secretary in the ability to carry out all these duties.

The commission did not formally have an advisory council, which would have been made up of IFG members, although IFG members were called upon to evaluate grant proposals or represent INQUA at other conferences. Some IFGs underwent changes in leadership or activity levels, and the creation of a formal advisory council was not feasible, although its establishment is highly recommended for the future Inter-Congress period.

Activities of the Commission IFG's 2007-2011

HaB-sponsored funding from INQUA helped establish EAQUA (East Africa Quaternary Research Association) in Uganda during 2007, starting from a core of IFG members. In 2009 a second EAQUA meeting and workshop was held in Ethiopia, and the third meeting and workshop are to be held in Tanzania during 2011.

Another core of IFG researchers from West Africa established WAQUA (West African Quaternary Research Association) in Nigeria during 2009, and HaB sponsored another INQUA grant for a second meeting and workshop in Benin during 2010.

The following *International Focus Groups* were active in the 2007-2011 inter-Congress period:

1. Human colonization and paleoenvironmental contexts in subarctic and arctic Siberia and Beringia:

Purposes: To foster international and interdisciplinary research on the spread of modern human populations into northernmost Siberia and Beringia, north of about 52°N latitude, during the late Pleistocene, 40,000-10,000 years ago; to review the current state of knowledge of the archaeological and palaeoecological records of Siberia and Beringia; to identify major gaps in our knowledge of the Palaeolithic settlement of northern Asia and especially Siberia; to propose new research that will lead to recovery of a comprehensive Palaeolithic record as well as an understanding of the process of Palaeolithic settlement of the region.

Justification: Cross-disciplinary research is underfunded in Russia, and collaborative study of Western and Russian scientists working in the north is very limited. The study area is a critical crossroads in the peopling of the Americas, and findings from the region have more

than just local importance. This region was also one of the last habitats on earth to be successfully colonized by people, and it should provide important clues about modern human abilities to disperse into harsh environments; furthermore, because northern habitats will be strongly affected by global changes in the future, studies of human adaptability in the north will be invaluable for understanding how northern human communities could plan for sustainable resource use.

Dr. Ted Goebel (Texas A&M University) reported that the Beringia working group produced a series of 21 papers to be published in an edited volume entitled "From the Yenisei to the Yukon: Interpreting Lithic Assemblage Variability in Late Pleistocene/Early Holocene Beringia", edited by Ted Goebel and Dr. Ian Buvit. The volume is to be published by Texas A&M University Press. The concept of the volume was originally hatched at a workshop held at Texas A&M in 2006, co-sponsored by INQUA and NSF.

2. Hominin dispersals and palaeoenvironmental contexts in the Indian subcontinent:

Purposes: To pinpoint the environmental factors and temporal contexts of Plio-Pleistocene hominin dispersals in South Asia; to highlight the South Asian evidence for comparative purposes, enabling scientific communication between Indian and Western scientists from four continents and all specialists in Palaeolithic archaeology, physical anthropology, Quaternary geology, geochronology, geochemistry, vertebrate palaeontology, and palynology; to identify current deficiencies in knowledge, potential solutions, and new research avenues

Justification: This type of integrated research collaboration, which has not been done before, aims to facilitate dialogue between Indian and Western scientists and foster a platform for an increased exchange of ideas and working models to compare South Asia's evidence with other regions. For example, the group will seek to define the environmental factors that may have been responsible for the varied distribution of South Asian Paleolithic assemblages; the group will also seek to understand the discontinuous nature of the Paleolithic record and adaptive success in the subcontinent between ~2.0 Ma and 500 ka.

Dr. Parth R. Chauhan (Stone Age Institute) reports that the "International Workshop on Plio-Pleistocene Environments and Hominin Evolution in India" was held in Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh, India), in early December 2008, funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. Co-organizers were Parth Chauhan and Dr. Rajeev Patnaik (Panjab University, India). Twenty-five researchers from India, USA, France, Australia, and the UK participated through presentations and discussions as well as a one-day field visit to the sites of Hathnora and Bhimbetka. The presentations covered a range of topics such as Pleistocene palaeoenvironments, the potential impact of the Toba super-eruption, South Asian Paleolithic technologies and adaptations and prehistoric rock art in various parts of India, among others. Current debated issues and theoretical and methodological problems in Indian paleoanthropology were also addressed and potential solutions discussed. Currently, a proceedings volume is in progress and planned to be published in the near future.

Several new projects by Dr. Chauhan and collaborating workshop participants were planned in 2010-11. These Indian and international projects include i) Test-excavations at Paleolithic sites in the central Narmada Basin, ii) Renewed multidisciplinary investigations in the Thar Desert, iii) Renewed paleoanthropological research in Kashmir, and iv) Systematic surveys for the earliest dispersals in the Siwalik Hills of northern India. Following the workshop, and starting in January, 2009, intensive paleoanthropological surveys and geoarchaeological excavations have taken place in the central Narmada Basin. In collaboration with Dr. Vijay Sathe (Deccan College, India), this includes geoarchaeological and geochronological investigations at the 'Pebble-Tool' site of Durkadi Nala and surveys between Tawa and Sher Rivers, all funded by the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research and the Fulbright Foundation. Additional discoveries included new stratified Paleolithic occurrences and the possibly the most complete *Stegodon* specimen in the Indian subcontinent. Numerous samples for luminescence dating were collected from these occurrences and other important fluvial sections. Associated laboratory work is currently in progress at the Physical Research Laboratory under the guidance of Dr. Ashok Singhvi.

An INQUA-funded workshop representing a new international project in the Siwalik Hills and associated actualistic studies was held in 2010 and the second half of the same workshop in 2011 will focus on implementing a related sub-project on taphonomy and actualistic studies on Indian ecosystems and early hominin scavenging opportunities.

3. Quantitative reconstructions of palaeoclimate, vegetation, landscapes, and ecology from biological terrestrial proxies (Nota Bene: This IFG should be incorporated into IFG number 9, Palaeoecology and the conservation of biodiversity):

Purposes: To quantify environmental reconstructions using various proxy data sets and variables obtained by different approaches, and statistically couple the different proxies; to improve on existing models and approaches, allowing us to more accurately reconstruct past environmental change with well defined error margins

Justification: Biota respond to multiple environmental parameters, but traditional transfer functions often reconstruct single parameters and overlook the complex ecological processes influencing an ecosystem. The study of multiple kinds of palaeoclimatic and palaeoecological proxy records -- fossil insects, macrobotanical remains, phytoliths, pollen, and related materials -- are faced with similar interpretive difficulties, such as a lack of quantification, scarcity of modern analogues, complications following from co-variability to several environmental parameters, and a lack of understanding of major limiting factors (e.g. temperature versus moisture).

Dr. Althea Davies (University of Stirling [Scotland]) organized a meeting in 2010, titled: "Use of long-term sources in upland ecology and management." Dr. Fraser Mitchell (Trinity College Dublin) organized a 2009, meeting (an annual symposium of the Irish Quaternary Association) on ancient DNA in animal and plant fossils, with direct relevance to conservation biology and biogeography. Dr. Jane Bunting (University of Hull) published new editions of the newsletter "Bridging the Gap," which can be requested from her via email at m.j.bunting@hull.ac.uk Each issue contains news, meeting announcements, and

suggestions for research that connects the fields of palaeoecology and neo-ecology, especially in regards to issues of environmental changes and the management of natural resources.

4. Late Quaternary faunal events in Eurasia:

Purposes: To examine and compare the nature and extent of faunal events in Europe and Asia; to link faunal, ecological, and archaeological knowledge, drawing together archaeologists, palaeontologists, palaeoanthropologists, climate specialists, palaeoecologists, and geologists.

Justification: Specialists in faunal studies may have very divergent objectives, such as understanding changing patterns of predation, or methodology, or taphonomy, and a host of other interrelated topics such as explaining extinctions and interpreting animal depictions in prehistoric art. A starting point for reconciling the differences in methods and goals would be an integrative and collaborative working group seeking common ground through the production of a detailed biostratigraphic and chronologic framework.

Dr. Jean-Philip Brugal (Directeur de Recherches CNRS) reported that the French National Committee (FNC) of INQUA has supported different scientific meetings over the last years, especially in the context of the Commission on 'Humans and the Biosphere.' These include an International Round-Table : Geoarchaeology and Taphonomy, organized by Carolina Mallol (UMR6636, CNRS), 2008, at the Maison Méditerranéenne des Sciences de l'Homme, Aix-en-Provence, initiated by the RTP (Réseau Thématique Pluridisciplinaire) en Taphonomie, CNRS-EDD (person responsible J.P.Brugal). The main goal of the meeting was to integrate sedimentary studies with taphonomic processes that commonly affect biogenic and anthropogenic remains within archaeological sites. Such processes can be viewed from different temporal, spatial and genetic perspectives. It was particularly interesting to see how geoarchaeology can contribute to the reconstruction and understanding of taphonomic processes in archaeological sites. The meeting got together 35 oral presentations, and it is planned to be in part published in an issue of *Quaternary International*. In 2009, the FNC supported les Journées de Paléocéanographie IMAGES-France, held 25-27 November 2009 (Université Bordeaux-Talence), to reinforce relationships with the community of palaeoceanographers. In 2010, The French National Committee of INQUA brought its label to the 5th International Conference on Mammoths and Their Relatives, in Le Puy-en-Velay (France). Around 200 scientists from all over the world attended the meeting and presented new and unpublished results on many topics such as evolution, the environment, associated fauna, absolute dating, ancient DNA, etc. Professor Yves Coppens (Collège de France) and Dr. Frédéric Lacombe (Musée Crozatier) are the chairmen of the Scientific Committee. The FNC supported the 16th International Cave Bear and Lion Symposium, organized by Dr. Alain Argant at Azé (Saône-et-Loire, France in 2010; the proceedings will be published in the French journal *Quaternaire*. Another symposium is also planned by Dr.Brugal for the 2011 Bern INQUA Congress, co-organized with Dr. Olivier Bignon (CNRS) and Jean-Christophe Castel (Museum Genève, Swiss); the theme is 'Environmental and cultural dynamics in Western and Central-Europe during the Upper Pleistocene.'

5. Human colonization and paleoenvironmental contexts in China, Mongolia, and

adjoining East Asia:

Purposes: To collate and compare archaeological, palaeoanthropological, and palaeoenvironmental evidence about the processes by which *Homo sapiens* colonized central/eastern Asia; to identify productive directions for future fieldwork, analyses, and international collaborative projects.

Justification: Asian Quaternary science is eminent but still emerging; international collaboration is a necessary step to ensure that there are shared goals and methods in the search for information about human dispersals in the late Quaternary.

Dr. Akira Ono (Tokyo Metropolitan University) organized a Tokyo symposium in 2009. The theme was “Dispersal of *Homo sapiens* to East Asia and the Japanese islands during OIS3.” The participants had three goals – to review current issues on the dispersal of *Homo sapiens* to East Asia; to discuss basic archaeological phenomena in the Initial Upper Palaeolithic stage of the first peopling of the Japanese islands during the middle of OIS3; and to distinguish geomorphological features of OIS3 at various locations in the Japanese islands. The proceedings will be published in an upcoming issue of *Quaternary International* entitled “Palaeoenvironmental changes and human dispersals in East Asia during MIS3 and MIS2.” Dr. Ono also organized a symposium “Palaeoenvironment of the Japanese Islands during MIS3 and the origin of modern human behavior”, at the Asama Jomon Museum, in 2010, Miyota Town, Nagano Prefecture. The symposium included (1) An invited lecture by Dr. Y. Kaifu on the human migration into the Japanese Islands from the Upper Paleolithic to the Yayoi Iron age, viewed from a Paleoanthropology perspective, and (2) Twelve presentations from various fields focusing on the theme.

Professor Gao Xing (Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology [Beijing]), reported that the First Asian Conference on Quaternary Research (ASQUA) together with the International Symposium on Paleoanthropology in Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Discovery of the First Skull of Peking Man was held in Beijing, 2009. Over 230 participants from over 20 countries attended the conference. The theme of the conference was ‘Human Evolution and Environment Changes’. Three sessions were organized:

- 1) Origin and evolution of humans;
- 2) Early human behaviors and cultures; and
- 3) Changes in geological environment and human activities in Asia.

An ASQUA business meeting was convened during the conference, and it was decided that the ASQUA conference would be held in Asian countries every four years during INQUA’s inter-Congress period. The Quaternary Association of the host country will decide the date, location city, and the theme. The next ASQUA will be in 2013, and Russia is suggested to be the host country. Further information will be provided by the Russian Association for Quaternary Research in due course.

Dr. Christopher Bae (University of Hawai’i at Manoa) reported that the journal *Quaternary International* in 2010 published the proceedings of a symposium he organized in 2008 at the Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology. The special issue is Volume 211, entitled “Hominin Morphological and Behavioral Variation in Eastern Asia and Australasia: Current Perspectives.”

6. Quaternary (formerly “Holocene”) palaeoenvironmental changes in Africa:

Purposes: To bring together experts within Africa and outside the continent for a new plan to sample, re-analyze, and interpret pollen, fungal spores, diatoms, geochemistry, archaeology, geomorphology, chronostratigraphy, and satellite imagery in order to produce records with more detail, clearer regional correlations, and higher reliability than has been done before; to produce spatial databases and maps showing the locations of known archaeological sites overlain with the current and fossil hydrological networks; to take the first steps towards explaining LSA human responses to changing climates in sub-Saharan Africa.

Justification: In many parts of Africa, very few palaeoclimate records have been recovered from archives such as sedimentary sequences. In addition, the African palaeoclimate record is complex due to the interplay of global climate forcing mechanisms (such as continental ice sheets) and regional/local climate forcing mechanisms such as circulation patterns.

Dr. Julius Lejju Bunny (Mbarara University of Science and Technology [Uganda]) reported that the second workshop of the East Africa Quaternary Research Association (EAQUA) was held in Addis Ababa, 2009, in conjunction with a project meeting organized by Dr. Mohammed Umer (Addis Ababa University), “Network for establishing a multi-proxy palaeo-botanical expertise in East Africa”. The theme of the EAQUA workshop was: “The East African Quaternary: Lessons from the past for the future.” A third EAQUA workshop will be held in Zanzibar, Tanzania in 2011. The workshop theme is “On- and off-shore: Eastern Africa during the last 100 ka.”

Dr. Izuchukwu Mike Akaegbobi (University of Ibadan [Nigeria]) reported that the inaugural international workshop on Quaternary palaeoclimatic changes in West Africa was held in Ibadan, Nigeria, 2009. The meeting’s central theme was “Palaeo-climatic/sea level changes and anthropogenic responses and adaptations during the Quaternary in the West African sub-region: Evidence from marine and terrestrial sources. Co-sponsors of the meeting were INQUA, P.A.S.T., and PAGES. The meeting enhanced networking interactions among regional and international Quaternary scientists, and promoted the emergence of the West African Quaternary Research Association (WAQUA). A second WAQUA meeting was held in Benin in 2010; the theme was “West African Quaternary Paleoenvironment/Sea Level Changes and Archeo-Palaeontology/Paleoclimate: Understanding the Past to Plan for the Future.”

7. The post-LGM Late Glacial: rapidly shifting palaeoenvironments and human responses:

Purposes: To examine Late Glacial palaeoenvironmental and archaeological data, especially from Dryas I and the Last Glacial Interstadial (i.e., post LGM stage 2); to bring together archaeologists, geneticists, geologists, palynologists, ice-core specialists, archaeozoologists, and others to compare regional and local variability in the records of palaeoenvironments and hunter-gatherer adaptations in Eurasia and Africa.

Justification: Northern Europe and Asia were colonized or re-colonized by humans after the LGM in a process that may have been gradual demographic expansion or an abrupt long-distance dispersal – in either case, the process is very poorly understood and modeled because paleoenvironmental variability was so great over time and space. The details about

(and motivations behind) human population expansions in Africa are also much too vaguely hypothesized.

Dr. Lawrence Straus (University of New Mexico), along with Dr. Ted Goebel (Texas A&M University), co-organized a double symposium for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, with the theme “Human responses to the Younger Dryas in the Northern Hemisphere: Old and New Worlds.” INQUA was an honorific sponsor. Papers are under review by T Goebel and L. Straus for publication in a future issue of *Quaternary International*. Another symposium is also planned by Dr. Straus for the 2011 Bern INQUA Congress, to be co-organized with Dr. Denise Leesch (Neuchâtel) and Prof. Thomas Terberger of Universität Greifswald (Germany), the theme being the Magdalenian adaptations to the Tardiglacial environments of Western and Central Europe, as a case study in Late Last Glacial human re-expansion and colonization during a time of broad, flexible social networks, variable subsistence, complex palaeoecology, and territorial variability. All countries where the Magdalenian and closely related cultural phenomena between 17-11,000 BP were found (from Portugal to Poland) will be represented in the colloquium, which the convenors plan to publish. This will be a major updating on the state of the art on this major late Upper Paleolithic cultural tradition, a real European network of social relations cross-cutting ecological boundaries.

8. The population genetics of extinct flora and fauna.

Purpose: A broad range of disciplines must be integrated to fulfill the promise of genetic analysis to provide a much clearer scientific view of major evolutionary events such as extinction and speciation that remain either ambiguous or deeply contentious despite decades of intense research.

Jessica Metcalf (University of Adelaide), Robert Guralnick (University of Colorado), and Alan Cooper (University of Adelaide) organized a catalysis meeting funded by the (U.S.) National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, 2010, entitled “Integrating datasets to investigate megafauna extinctions in the Late Quaternary” (short title: megafauna extinctions). The meeting brought together about 30 scientists from all over the world, representing the fields of radiometric dating, ancient DNA studies, stable isotopes studies, archaeological studies, taphonomy, bioinformatics approaches to synthesizing multiple types of datasets, and quantitative reconstructions of palaeoclimates, palaeovegetation, and models of species distributions. The combination of such a broad range of disciplines and bioinformatics power promises to provide a much clearer scientific view of a major evolutionary event, the asynchronous extinctions that removed large proportions of island and continental faunas. The extinctions remain deeply contentious despite decades of research.

9. *(Nota Bene: It is recommended that IFG no. 3 be incorporated into this IFG)*

Palaeoecology and the conservation of biodiversity;

Purpose: the current focus in much palaeoecological research is on reconstructions of palaeoclimates, but a new effort is being profitably directed towards planning for nature conservation and maintenance of biodiversity in the face of future global changes (which are predicted on the basis of past changes).

Grants Awarded Under Commission Sponsorship 2007-2011

Commission projects had themes that were geographically and temporally wide-ranging, but shared important characteristics: they were concerned with how animals and plants adapted to changing palaeoenvironments, and how humans or human ancestors adapted, dispersed, and settled in new habitats during challenging periods of climatic instability. All projects were multidisciplinary and involved younger researchers and workers from developing countries.

From 2007 to 2011, eleven INQUA grants were awarded to projects proposed through the HaB Commission. The amount awarded was \$14,700 and €32,150. The projects were:

0701: Understanding human – environment interrelationships in the Great Lakes region of central Africa during the late Quaternary (J. Lejju);

0702: Regional integration of palaeo-environmental reconstruction during the Late Pleistocene and Holocene: determining the role of climate change in patterns of human biogeography in Africa (P. Mapila);

0703: Plio-Pleistocene environments and hominid evolution in India (P. Chauhan);

0807: Palaeoenvironmental changes and human dispersals in North and East Asia during OIS3 and OIS2 (A. Ono);

0813: The integrated cultural-environmental view of long archeostratigraphic records: Intensive field-course to settle new approaches and progress on challenging issues (M.-A. Courty);

0901: Quaternary environments and hominid evolution in India (P. Chauhan);

0902: Chronology and environment of the earliest occupation of northern Europe (K. Macdonald);

0903: Network for establishing a multi-proxy palaeo-botanical expertise in East Africa (M. Umer);

0904: Palaeo-climatic/sea level changes and anthropogenic responses and adaptations during the Quaternary in the West African subregion: evidences from marine and terrestrial sources (M. Akaegbobi);

1002: A Working Group of European Quaternary Malacologists (S. Gulyas and T. Gaudenyi);

1003: On- and off-shore: Eastern Africa during the last 1000 years (A. Muzuka).

Preparations for the next Inter-Congress Period

The process of soliciting nominations for the inter-Congress commission officers involved three separate emailings to all current officers, members, associates, and people who had asked to be kept informed of Commission business. These emailings went to ~300 addresses.

Regarding future membership, it is highly recommended that the HaB Commission members and officers should confirm their commitment to actively work towards the goals of INQUA and the Commission. The Commission correspondents and officers should

include a distribution of African, Asian, and South American scientists in addition to the North American, European, and Australian.

Equally as important as the geographic equity is the need to have members and officers who will establish active IFG's and who will take the opportunity to be in regular contact to keep their activities coordinated and on track.

As an alternative method to the current process of establishing a membership list (through nominations and in-person attendance at Congress business meetings), it is here proposed that nominated potential IFG leaders be allowed to constitute their own group membership under the Commission's banner.

APPENDICES (attached, next pages)

APPENDIX 1: Replacement HaB website homepage, created 2009

APPENDIX 2: HaB Newsletter (call for session proposals, call for commission nominations, call for new IFG's), issued 2010

APPENDIX 1



INQUA
International Union for Quaternary Research

**Commission on Humans
and the Biosphere**

WELCOME!

Related Links

Activities

Announcements

Meetings



Welcome to this Website

Click the links to the left

This is the website for the INQUA Commission formerly known as Palaeoecology and Human Evolution (PAHE).

The commission's old name did not convey the breadth of the commission's activities or clearly distinguish the commission from INQUA's others. The old name suggested a split in purpose, while the new name tries to communicate the integrated nature of the themes of interest, including studies of vertebrates, botany and paleobotany, cultural processes, modern proxies and databases, geoarchaeology, and ecosystem dynamics in the past and present.

Objectives: The Commission's goal is to facilitate communication and interchange among specialists in palaeontology, palaeobotany, palaeoecology, archaeology, palaeoanthropology, and geology, in order to understand human responses to global and regional changes. An ancillary goal is to provide a unifying framework for the exchange of information between palaeoecologists and neo-ecologists working on issues of global change.

Organisation: Important changes affecting INQUA's organisation were introduced during the XVth INQUA Congress in Reno, Nevada, and reinforced by INQUA's International Council at the XVIIth Congress in Cairns, Australia. The Commissions initiate and nurture *International Focus Groups*, non-permanent collaborations designed to address scientific issues of wide international significance. The duration of IFGs depends on their track records at meeting key scientific needs. *Projects* are limited-scale activities focused on very specific aims and objectives and which contribute in strategic ways to the wider aims of one or more IFGs.

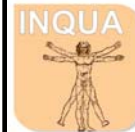
Projects: The Commission-sponsored projects of 2004-09 (listed below) incorporate themes that are geographically and temporally wide-ranging. They share important characteristics -- they are concerned with how animals and plants adapted to changing climates, and how humans or human ancestors adapted during sometimes challenging periods of climatic instability. All the projects are multidisciplinary and involve younger colleagues and scientists from developing countries.

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Awardee</u>	<u>Project Theme/Title</u>
0401	Deckers	Eastern Mediterranean/ Near Eastern geoarchaeology
0402	Dodson	Human dispersals in Australasia
0403	Lee-Thorp	Human biogeography in Pleistocene Africa
0404	Schreve	EuroMam 2004 excursion, UK
0504	Hicks	Pollen monitoring programme
0505	Cooper	Global megafaunal extinctions and biogeography
0506	Goebel	Human colonization of Arctic, Subarctic
Siberia/Beringia		
0601	Jillani	Palaeoenvironments during the first "Out of Africa"
0701	Lejju	African Great Lakes human-environment interactions
0702	Mapila	Integrating regional African climate change
0807	Ono	E. Asian OIS 3-2 human dispersals and
paleoenvironments		
0813	Courty	Integrating long archeostratigraphic records

(list continues as scroll-down -- not included in this Appendix)



XVIII INQUA Congress Information & HaBComm Update



Humans and the Biosphere
Commission

Call for Session Proposals (XVIII INQUA Congress)

The deadline is nearing! Sessions may be proposed for the INQUA Congress only until mid-April! A large number have already been submitted, but there is time left to suggest others. Please forward your suggestions by e-mail to Pete Coxon (pcoxon@tcd.ie) and put in the email subject line: *Bern 2011 suggested session*. The Congress will take place in Bern, Switzerland, 20-27 July, 2011. Go to the INQUA Congress website at <<http://www.inqua2011.ch/?a=sessions>> to see a list of proposed sessions, but keep in mind that this list is still considered to be "provisional." The session proposals will be assessed by the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC). The actual finalization of the list will take place in several steps. In April, 2010, the SPC will begin evaluating all proposed sessions. By the end of June, 2010, a more formal list of every proposed session and its convenors and confirmed participants is to be posted to replace the current

list. The SCP will firm up the list by combining ones that seem to overlap, or dividing others that would be better separated. Some may be recommended as poster sessions. After the new list is uploaded to the website, an invitation to contribute abstracts will be issued (on the website and/or through newsletters and email). The contributed abstracts will be sent to the session convenors, who will make the decisions about accepting or rejecting them. The abstracts will be sent to the convenors only after contributors register online. Applications for financial support submitted by students and scientists from low-GDP countries will be accepted to the end of September, 2010. By the end of October, 2010, convenors will have made their decisions about what papers/posters to accept, and financial support decisions will be made. By the end of February, 2011, early registration (at the lowest rate of 750 CHF [Swiss Francs]) and online registration for excursions will be



It's time to climb out and report your discoveries! Propose a session for the XVIII Congress in Bern, 2011.

terminated. Now is the time to start organizing to attend the XVIII INQUA Congress of 2011 in Bern, Switzerland.

Call for Nominations of New Commission Officers for the Next Inter-Congress Period

Now is also the time to think about nominating colleagues and associates for HaBComm's next slate of officers (a President, up to two Vice-Presidents, and a Secretary) and members of an Advisory Council. The names of proposed officers and council members will be presented to

the INQUA Executive Committee for consideration and then submitted to the International Council at the Congress for final approval. The current President and Secretary (G. Haynes and D. Taylor) have held office for two consecutive inter-Congress terms, and are not eligible for another. Indi-

viduals nominated as commission officers must belong to Member organizations in good financial standing within INQUA. Only individuals who are participants in the commission's International Focus Groups may be selected for the commission's Advisory Council.

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A View of the Gelasian GSSP in Sicily (the New Base of the Quaternary) 4

Highlights:

- Proposals for Congress sessions are still being accepted (for a limited time)!
- The Commission seeks nominations of new officers.
- The Commission is asking for proposals for new International Focus Groups.
- Recent INQUA grants sponsored by HaBComm are announced inside.
- An Invitation is extended to design a Logo for the Commission.



Follow this link to reach the next INQUA Congress in Bern:

<<http://www.inqua2011.ch/>>

The Next (XVIII) INQUA Congress in Bern: 20-27 July, 2011

The Scientific Programme Committee

- Pete Coxon (Chair)
- Flavio Anselmetti
- Daniel Ariztegui
- Cecile Baeteman
- Judith Becze-Deak
- Gary Haynes
- Irka Hajdas
- Sandy Harrison
- Sysan Ivy-Ochs
- John Lowe
- Ebbe Nielsen
- Brad Pillans
- Jim Teller

A list of hotels in Bern is online at this URL:

<<http://www.inqua2011.ch/?a=hotels>>



The Commission's International Focus Groups are collaborative efforts to address scientific themes and specific issues of wide international significance.

Call for New International Focus Groups

The INQUA Bye-Laws state that that "Not less than six months before a Congress, any Commission may present to the Secretary General a proposal in writing for the establishment of one or more International Focus Groups for research into a specific problem or into the problems of specific areas that are the concern of the Commission."

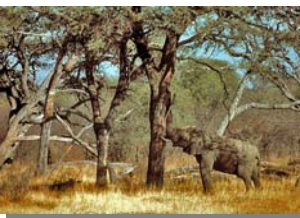
The Commission is now calling for such proposals. Each proposal must state the international need for such a group, and define its tasks and objectives. The number of people ("correspondents") necessary to accomplish the work must also be specified. The INQUA Executive Committee evaluates all proposals. At the next Congress, the International Council will be called upon to

ratify the Executive Committee's decisions to accept or reject.

Please submit your proposals to the Commission President, G. Haynes <gahaynes@unr.edu>

Proposals will be accepted until the end of December, 2010.

HaBComm's International Focus Groups— 2009-10



Focus!

Nine International Focus Groups are currently active within the commission: **1.** Human colonization and palaeoenvironmental contexts in subarctic and arctic Siberia and Beringia. Contacts: Ted Goebel <goebel@tamu.edu>, Stanislaus Laukhin; **2.** Hominin dispersals and palaeoenvironmental contexts in the Indian subcontinent. Contacts: Parth Chauhan <pchauhan@indiana.edu>, Sheila Mishra <sheila.mishra@gmail.com>; **3.** Quantitative reconstructions of palaeoclimate, vegetation, landscapes, and ecology from biological terrestrial proxies. Contacts: Nicki White-

house <N.Whitehouse@qub.ac.uk>, Pete Langdon <p.g.langdon@soton.ac.uk>; **4.** Palaeoecology and the conservation of biodiversity. Contact: Fraser Mitchell <fraser.mitchell@tcd.ie>; **5.** Late Quaternary faunal events in Eurasia. Contacts: Jean-Philip Brugal <brugal@mmsh.univ-aix.fr>, Maria Rita Palombo <mariarita.palombo@uniroma1.it>, Danielle Schreve <danielle.schreve@rhul.ac.uk>, Thijs van Kolfschoten <t.van.kolfschoten@arch.leidenuniv.nl>; **6.** Human colonization and palaeoenvironmental contexts in China, Mongolia, and adjoining East Asia. Contacts: Christopher Bae <cjbae@hawaii.edu>,

Gao Xing <gaoxing@ivpp.ac.cn>, Akira Ono <ono@bcomp.metro-u.ac.jp>; **7.** Holocene palaeoenvironmental changes in Africa. Contacts: David Taylor <taylor@tcd.ie>, Julius Lejju Bunny <lejju2002@yahoo.co.uk>; **8.** The post-LGM Late Glacial: Rapidly shifting palaeoenvironments and human responses. Contact: Lawrence Guy Straus <lstraus@unm.edu>; **9.** The population genetics of extinct flora and fauna. Contacts: Donatella Magri <Donatella.magri@uniroma1.it>, Alan Cooper <alan.cooper@adelaide.edu.au>.

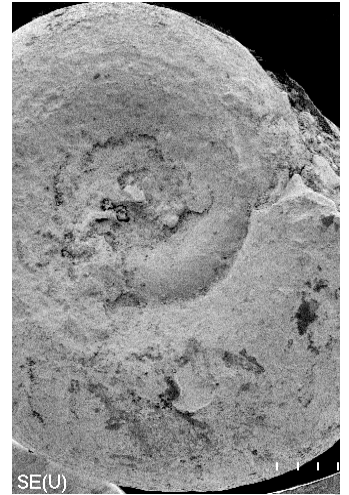


Recent INQUA Awards to HaBComm-Sponsored Projects

In March, the INQUA Executive Committee approved funding for two new HaBComm projects and renewed funding for another one. Existing Project number 0904 was renewed for €5000, awarded to Dr. M. Akaegbobi (University of Ibadan) for a 2nd West African workshop (and WAQUA meeting) "West African Quaternary Palaeoenvironment/Sea Level Changes and Archaeology/Palaeontology/Palaeoclimate: Understand-

ing the Past to Plan the Future," scheduled to be held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in 2010. Project number 1003 is a new award of €5000, granted to Dr. A. Muzuka (University of Dar es Salaam) to help support a workshop (and EAQUA meeting), "On and Off-Shore: Eastern Africa During the Last 1,000 Years," to be held 8 to 13 February, 2011, in Zanzibar. (The Executive Committee recommended extending the workshop's

scope to 10,000 years). The second new Project is 1002; a €2000 award was granted to Dr. S. Gulyas (University of Szeged) for a meeting and follow-up, "Molluscs and the Quaternary Environment of Central Europe," scheduled in Szeged, Hungary, from 15 to 18 August 2010. Projects sponsored by HaBComm are collaborative, international, and inclusive (see the statement below).



African gastropod shell (family Planorbidae) dated 100 ka.

INQUA aims to create an inclusive community of Quaternary scientists, and we strive to ensure gender, cultural and geographical balance in our projects, focus groups, activities and committees. We welcome and would like to encourage the active participation of women, early-career scientists, and scientists from developing countries, particularly in the leadership of projects and other INQUA activities.

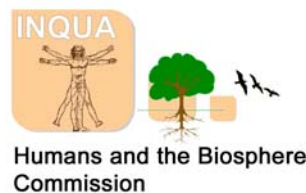
Since 2004, when the commission was reconfigured, a total of 19 INQUA projects have been awarded funds under the sponsorship of HaBComm. — amounting to US\$47,200 (2004-7) and €32,150 (2008-10)

In Addition to New Officers, HaBComm Needs a Logo and a New Website Design (and New Home)!

We're on the web!
<<http://www.unr.edu/anthropology/people/faculty/haynes/indexHABComCopy.htm>>

But when this website was put together in 2009, it was meant to be only a temporary replacement for the old website associated with the Commission's former name (Palaeoecology and Human Evolution). It was hastily constructed as an extension of the current President's own webpages. Now, with the upcoming 2011 Congress in Bern, Switzerland, and the need to

select new officers for the Commission, it would be a great step in the renewal and reconfiguring of the Commission to create a new Website design and a new Logo.



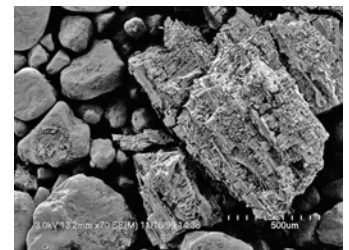
The Logo above is another temporary construction, meant to inspire better designs that can

symbolically represent the Commission's activities and goals.

Can you come up with something better?

Give it a try — you may win the admiration of your peers, and the logo could become the permanent icon of the Commission on Humans and the Biosphere!

Come to the Congress in Bern with fresh ideas and help energize the new Commission.



SEM photomicrograph of sand grains and charcoal fragments dated around 2 ka, from deep within a relict dune in Africa's Kalahari Sands.



**International Union for
Quaternary Research**

Officers of INQUA:

President: Professor Allan R. Chivas
(Australia)
Secretary General: Professor Peter Coxon
(Ireland)
Treasurer: Dr Marie-France Loutre
(Belgium)
Vice President: Professor Allan Ashworth
(USA)
Vice President: Professor Margaret Avery
(South Africa)
Vice President: Professor John Lowe
(United Kingdom)
Vice President: Professor Koji Okumura
(Japan)
Past President: Professor John J. Clague
(Canada)

**Don't miss "The View
From the Mountains" in
Bern, 20-27 July, 2011!**

Officers of the Commission (Humans and the Biosphere),

2007-2011:

President: Gary Haynes (USA) gahaynes@unr.edu

Vice-Pres.: Nicki Whitehouse (U.K.) N.Whitehouse@qub.ac.uk

Vice-Pres.: Luis Borrero (Argentina) laborrero2003@yahoo.com

Secretary: David Taylor (Ireland) taylor@tcd.ie

The Commission's central goal is to promote and facilitate communication and interchange among specialists in palaeontology, palaeobotany, palaeoecology, archaeology, palaeoanthropology, and geology and the earth sciences, in order to understand human responses to global and regional changes of the past, present, and future. An ancillary goal is to provide a unifying framework for the exchange of information between palaeoecologists and neo-ecologists working on issues of global change.



Monte San Nicola section near Gela in Sicily: the yellow oval indicates the Gelasian GSSP (Global Stratotype Section and Point), the base of the Pleistocene and Quaternary. Photograph by Koji Okumura, 3/2010.