



XXIV IGC Business Meeting Minutes – All Virtual Meeting

October 27 2021 from 2:15 to 3:45pm in Kenya

	Item
1.	Opening Comments - Dr Ray Smith thanked attendees at the IGC Business Meeting and acknowledged the tremendous efforts of the Kenyan National Organising committee in organising this congress. - The congress in Kenya has been jointly organised between IGC and IRC. Circumstances dictate that the next two will be IGC only in USA in 2023 and in Europe probably in 2027 celebrating the 100th anniversary.
2.	IGC Continuing Committee Members - Ray Smith thanked members of the Continuing Committee (CC) for their contributions since the last Congress in India in 2015. - We have suggested that the terms for current IGC CC members be extended until 2023 given that the IGC constitution requires members to be nominated from attendees at the Congress. This was not possible with the Virtual nature of this year's congress (see resolution 6 below). - There have been two changes necessitated by current CC members being unable to complete their term. - Dr.agr.Iveta Gutmane, Latvia completing the term of Dr. Alexander Adamovich, Latvia. - Dr. Christian Huyghe, France completing the term of Dr Jean-François Soussana, France. - Appendix A shows all current IGC Continuing Committee members
3.	Review and Approval of Minutes Motion: That the minutes from 2015 Congress are a true and accurate record - Moved: D Woodfield / P Ballerstedt CARRIED
4.	Review of Resolutions from XXIII IGC - Dr Smith read out the actions that had been taken by the Continuing Committee in response to the resolutions from IGC XXIII in India in 2015. - Appendix A lists the 2015 Resolutions and actions taken.
5.	Constitution Amendments No Constitutional amendments were received in the period required leading up to the XXIV IGC congress.
6.	IGC History - A comprehensive update of the IGC history has been written by Dr Vivien Allen and Dr Roger Wilkins as the primary authors and additional with input from Co-authors Dr. Garry Lacefield and Dr. Ray Smith. - This history is available via the IGC website under publications (pdf can be downloaded for free or hardcopy ordered for \$26.75 plus shipping).
7.	IGC Proceedings - The majority of proceedings papers presented at the last 5 IGCs are now available via a link on the IGC website to the site UKnowledge. (This project has been funded primarily by the University of Kentucky library system for which we are very grateful. Supplemental funding from the Forage and Grassland Foundation (private foundation started from the profits of the XIV IGC in Lexington, KY). - The Proceedings site has an internal search function or one can use any search engine

	to find papers by using author's name and keywords from one of their Proceedings papers. Once found papers can be read from the site or downloaded free. If this simple search does not work, then add International Grasslands to the search. A record of the number of downloads will also be provided for author's vitae. The International Grasslands Congress recently obtained copyright permission from Wageningen Academic Publishers for the XX IGC in Ireland (2005) to be included in the searchable database, previously this Proceedings could only be purchased as a hard copy or e-book. To reach the main site go to internationalgrasslands.org under click on publications or google International Grassland Proceedings.
8.	Announcement and Invitation to the XXV IGC Congress in Kentucky USA 14-19 May 2023 • An extensive video was played inviting all delegates to Kentucky in May 2023. The venue will be in Northern Kentucky and in the wider Cincinnati area. • The last time the IGC was held in USA was in 1981. The meeting will be organised and hosted by the American Forage and Grassland Council. • A call for papers has been developed and will be re-released following the conclusion of IGC XXIV. • First announcement is already on the IGC website. • The date for title/summary submissions is 1 June 2022. • The Organising committee are also asking for potential thematic sessions by 1 April 2022. • A series of proposed pre-congress and mid-congress tours were outlined. • Members at the business meeting reinforced the need for low-cost hotel packages to be available for delegates given that USA is a high-cost region for many people. • The Organizing Committee is raising funds specifically designated for delegate sponsorships. • Announcement of venue for XXV IGC in 2023 – USA. https://internationalgrasslands.org/igc-2023/
9.	100th IGC Congress 2027 • Dr Frank Ewert and Dr Jurgen Pickert proposed Leipzig as the venue for the 100th anniversary IGC in 2027. • They outlined the range of German organisations in the Grassland and Forage Community that have expressed their support for this event and two Government ministries in Saxony and Brandenburg regions. • Julius Kuehn Institute – Grassland Science focus - interested in supporting this congress • Thunen Institute • Venue proposed is very near the location of original 1927 International Grassland Congress. • Potential dates and pre- and post-Congress tours were discussed. • It will be important to ensure that we avoid conflicts with timing of the European Grassland Federation meetings. • Other groups can still propose other venues for this Congress and a full bid must be submitted to the IGC Continuing Committee before a final venue is confirmed. At present, the Leipzig bid is the only serious contender. Besides Leipzig, only convention bureaus have expressed interest, but none are connected with a grassland organization.
10.	Resolutions from IGC XXIV The IGC Resolutions Committee (Dr Derek Woodfield, Dr Fernando Ortega, Dr Ray Smith & Babo Fadlalla) presented the following resolutions to attendees. Resolution 1 – The members of the XXIV IGC congratulate the Kenyan Organizing Committee for their perseverance in putting together an excellent Congress in the face of

an unprecedented pandemic that caused its delay until 2021 and ultimately resulted in a move to a virtual congress. The congress plenary sessions were informative and the volunteer oral and poster presentations provided an excellent overview of grasslands around the world. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 2 - We thank the sponsoring organizations for their financial and in-kind support of the XXIV IGC particularly given the global financial situation associated with Covid-19. Sponsorship is a critical component in minimising registration costs for delegates, therefore, we recommend that the IGC continuing committee appoint a sub-committee to assist the XXV IGC Local Organizing Committee in identifying the appropriate contacts for sponsorship. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 3 – That the XXV IGC Organizing committee make every reasonable effort to enable participants from as many countries as possible to attend by keeping costs low (including a range of accommodations), providing delegate sponsorship, and make every effort to promote the Congress Internationally. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 4 – That ten dollars USD per attendee earned during the XXV IGC Congress should be provided to the IGC Continuing Committee as start-up funds for the next congress and to support early career researchers attending the congress. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 5 – The Continuing committee should commission a study on the Global future of grasslands and present this at the 100th anniversary of the IGC in 2027. The study would involve all relevant stakeholders. *Carried: Yes from 87% of those voting*

Resolution 6 – That the term of the current IGC Continuing Committee members be extended until the next in-person IGC Congress 14-19 May 2023 in the USA since our constitution requires that “new members shall be nominated from the participating delegates in attendance at the Congress”. Consultations with past IGC CC Chairs provided the recommendation that new members should be nominated from those physically attending a Congress. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 7 – That the IGC fully support the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists initiative for 2026 including providing representatives to the IYRP Global and Regional Support Groups. *Carried: Unanimously*

Resolution 8 - That the incoming IGC Continuing Committee consider the need for updated Country Pasture Profiles and lobby FAO for resources to update and reinstate a full set of publicly available Country Pasture Profiles. If successful, IGC will:

- Identify potential authors to build on the previous work;
- Work with authors to develop suitable guidelines and specifications for this new series; and
- Put together a business case for the publication of the Country Pasture Profiles as an e-book (the prior electronic versions could apparently not be cited as a scholarly work).

Carried: Unanimously

All resolutions were approved by the attendees with voting occurring through the video-conferencing platform. Approximately 113 delegates attended the business meeting. Concurrently the IRC held their business meeting with 118 in attendance.

11.	Other business • None
12.	Meeting closed 3.48pm EAT

13. Appendix 1 – Current IGC Continuing Committee Members

Appointed in 2015

Region III [South America] Dr. Fernando Ortega, Chile

Region VI [East Asia] D.r Joung-Kyong Lee, South Korea

Region VII [Middle East] Dr. Hayatullah Esmati, Afghanistan

Region VIII [Mediterranean] Dr. Ates Serkan, Jordan

Region X [Northern Eurasia] Dr. Alexander Adamovich, Latvia – Term will be completed by Dr.agr.Iveta Gutmane, Latvia

Region XI [Africa] Dr. Babo Fadlala, Sudan

India Organizing Committee serves one term - Dr. P.K Ghosh, India

Appointed in 2013

Region I [Canada, USA] Dr. Ray Smith, USA – Chair CC

Region II [Central America] Dr. Fernando Ibarra Flores, Mexico

Region IV [South East Asia] Dr. P. K. Ghosh, India

Region V [Oceania] Dr. Derek Woodfield, New Zealand

Region IX [Europe] Dr. Jean-François Soussana, France – Term will be completed by Dr. Christian Huyghe, France

14. Appendix 2 – Response and Actions to Resolutions from XXIII IGC India

Resolution 1 – The members of the XXIII IGC congratulate the Indian Organizing Committee for putting together an excellent congress and we also thank the sponsoring organizations for their financial and inkind support. The congress plenary sessions were informative and the volunteer oral and poster presentations provided an excellent overview of grasslands around the world. The Organizing Committee is especially commended for publishing “Grassland: A Global Resource Perspective”. This will be a foundation text on the world’s grassland resources for many years to come. Carried: Unanimously **Thank-you again Dr Ghosh for this very successful meeting**

Resolution 2 – The XXIV IGC Organizing committee make every reasonable effort to enable as many countries as possible to attend by keeping costs low (including a range of accommodations) and make every effort to promote the Congress Internationally. Carried: Unanimously **This was an important factor in setting the low registration fee for Kenya when it was in-person and setting a low virtual Congress fee.**

Resolution 3 – Since sponsorship is a key component of keeping registration costs at a reasonable level, the IGC continuing committee should appoint a sub-committee to assist the local Organizing Committee in identifying the appropriate contacts for sponsorship.

Carried: Unanimously **We did not do a good job with this but neither did the IRC Continuing Committee. Jim O'Rourke, the IRC Secretary, obtained the majority of the sponsorship.**

Resolution 4 – The IGC continuing committee should appoint a sub-committee to assist the local Organizing Committee in assigning papers to the appropriate themes. Carried: Unanimously **We assisted with this and thanks to all those committee members who were active reviewers.**

Resolution 5 – Ten dollars USD per attendee earned during the congress (starting IGC XXIV) should be provided to the IGC Continuing Committee to be startup funds for the next congress and to support early career researchers attending the congress. Carried: Unanimously **This will be collected from Kenya. Ten dollars USD for IGC and ten dollars for IRC for every delegate. We did not use these funds for early career researchers since Jim sponsorship dollars were all designated for delegate sponsors and these funds were not all used.**

Resolution 6 – The Organizing Committee of the XXIV IGC should give strong consideration to incorporating a mid-congress grassland tour into the congress program and to design some of the pre- and post-congress tours to highlight African grassland agriculture.

Carried: Unanimously **Extensive tours were planned for Kenya and we already have good pre and mid-Congress tours options planned for IGC 2023.**

Resolution 7 – Continue the Early Career Researchers Forum that was started in Australia and insure that early career researchers are included as keynote speakers. Carried: Unanimously **An early career research forum will not happen in Kenya, but one is planned for IGC 2023. We should commit to early career researchers for keynote speakers. An effort was made in this regard for Kenya.**

Resolution 8 – Given the demonstrated benefits of the joint IGC-IRC 2008 meeting in China and considering the worldwide decreasing number of researchers as well as funds available for research in grassland and rangeland, the members of the XXIII IGC recommend that future IGC Continuing Committees make every endeavor to conduct joint activities with the IRC in order to maximize synergies in knowledge, practice, and resources. Carried: Unanimously **As you know, Kenya 2021 is a joint Congress. We have a very good working relationship with IRC and look forward to continued joint meetings in the future. We have been very supportive of the International Year of Rangeland and Pastoralists Initiative spearheaded by IRC. Looking forward, IGC has a Congress in the USA in 2023 and IRC has a Congress in Australia in 2025. Since 2027 is the 100th Anniversary of IGC it is not planned to be a joint Congress.**

Resolution 9 – The Continuing committee should commission a study on the Global future of grasslands and present this at the XXIV IGC. The study would involve all relevant stakeholders. Carried: Unanimously **This is a resolution that has not been followed up on, but may be one to consider going forward, especially with our 100th Anniversary approaching. IRC commissioned a similar study. Here is the link <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/case-benign-neglect-knowledge-gaps-about-sustainability-pastoralism-and-rangelands>**

Resolution 10 – In order to move the IGC Conference Proceedings to a higher scientific level, the Continuing Committee should pursue having the proceedings approved by Thompson Reuters to be listed in the Conference Proceedings Citation Index and be designated with an ISBN number. Carried: Unanimously **I have been advised by our librarian that ISBN numbers are only for books and not Proceedings, but we have made great progress on our initiative to have all IGC Proceedings online and completely searchable. This project is in collaboration with the University of Kentucky library. A simple google search with appropriate keywords will now find individual Proceedings papers from the last 4-5 Congresses. We have just obtained permission from the publisher of IGC 2005 in Ireland to make these papers available for free on this website. Previously, only the hard copy or ebook of the Proceedings could be purchased. Authors can also obtain data on the number of downloads for their papers. We are planning to go back to 1927. We may limit the papers from the first two Congresses since we likely want to translate these from their original language of German.**