

# Minutes for the Business Meeting

## XXIII International Grassland Congress in New Delhi, India

### November 24, 2015

## Opening

**IGC Chair** (Dr. David Miano Mwangi) **welcomed delegates to the business session** and thanked India for an excellent conference.

### **Acknowledged members of the IGC Continuing Committee:**

Dr. David Miano Mwangi (IGC chair) welcomed delegates to the business session. He acknowledged members of the IGC Continuing Committee who were in attendance:

Dr. David Kemp (host country, Australia), Dr Ray Smith (USA, Region 1), Dr Fernando Ibarra Flores (Mexico, Region 2), Dr P. K. Ghosh (India, Region 4), Dr Derek Woodfield, New Zealand, Region 5), Dr Claudio Porqueddu (Italy, Region 8), Dr Jean-François Soussana (France, Region 9), Dr Piotr Golinski (Poland, Region 10), and Dr David Miano Mwangi (Kenya, Region 11).

Regrets from Dr Rita de Cassia Ribeiro Carvalho (Brazil, Region 3), Dr Zhibiao Nan (China, Region 6); and Dr Hossein Barani (Iran, Region 7).

The Chair reported that Minutes of the XXII IGC business meetings are on the IGC website.

### **Updated Resolutions passed at the Sydney XXII IGC:** Dr. David Miano Mwangi

**Resolution 1** – The members of the XXII IGC congratulates the Australian Organising Committee for putting together an excellent congress. The program with its well thought-of plenary sessions was very much appreciated. Overall, this has been a very successful event.

**Resolution 2** – Considering the amount of information presented in the posters, poster papers and sessions should be revitalised by:

- organising poster sessions by topics more clearly;
- having a group of people to evaluate and report on the emerging areas and conclusions;
- encouraging greater participation of authors during the poster viewing sessions.

**Resolution 3** – The local IGC Organising Committee should be encouraged to source papers that demonstrate integration, farm systems and value chains to reflect actual farm behaviour, including the human dimension.

**Resolution 4** – The Organising Committee of the XXIII IGC should give strong consideration to incorporating a mid-congress tour into the congress program so that delegates may see some representative Indian grassland.

**Resolution 5** – That the plenary presentations of future conferences be recorded for wider distributions through the IGC website or simultaneous delivery.

**Resolution 6** – Resolve that the IGC continue to develop programming applicable to forage and grassland outreach and extension including involvement of industry representatives, primary producers, public extension and private consultants.

**Resolution 7** – Whereas uninterrupted services from temperate indigenous grassland, agrosilvo-pastoral, and agroforestry systems are critical for sustainable development of livestock production systems, and soil and water sustainability is the key driver of these systems, the XXII IGC resolved to call upon all sectors of society to collaborate in protecting these vital resources and ecosystems.

**Resolution 8** – That the IGC Continuing Committee forms a framework and guidelines for developing the congress program in order to ensure a balance of agro-ecosystems, country representation as well as gender and age demographics. This framework should

be used by the local Organizing Committee when developing and finalising the program.

**Resolution 9** – That the role of regional representatives on the IGC Continuing Committee be strengthened by developing networks for information sharing, collaboration and contributing to future IGC activities.

**Resolution 10** – That the IGC Continuing Committee establishes an advocacy strategy and capability with the mandate to keep grassland research a primary priority with governments, thereby making it easier for researchers to obtain funding.

**Resolution 11** – Resolve that IGC continue the Early Career Researchers (ERC) Forum and explore a variety of capacity building activities including a pre-conference ERC workshop, international exchange programs, and other networking opportunities.

**Resolution 12** – 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 XXII IGC recommend that, given a viable equal partnership between IRC and IGC, future IGC Continuing Committees make every endeavour to conduct joint activities with the IRC in order to maximise synergies in knowledge, practice, and resources.

**Resolution 13** – That in planning future conferences, IGC Continuing Committee has more stability in the dates that the conferences will be held. The International Herbage Seeds Group values its relationship with IGC and such stability will help in its forward planning.

**No constitutional amendments** were received prior to the 6 months preceding the IGC 2015 meeting, therefore there are no changes to the constitution.

**Dr. Garry Lacefield gave an update on *International Terminology for Grazing Lands and Grazing Animals*** Publication and thank the committee.

**Announcement of venue for the XXIV IGC 2019** - Dr. David Miano Mwangi  
Dr. Mwangi announced that Kenya is the venue for IGC 2019 and that we have invited the IRC to join us.

## **Close of Business Meeting**

**The Resolutions Committee** was composed of: Dr. Claudio Porqueddu (Italy), Dr Derek Woodfield (New Zealand), Dr David Miano Mwangi (Kenya) and Dr Ray Smith (USA). This committee was charged with bringing IGC resolutions to the final business session for discussion and approval. They tabled the resolutions they received:

**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 in-kind 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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**The Nominations Committee** was composed of the existing members of Continuing Committee that were present at this congress. This committee was charged with nominating first-term representatives to the Continuing Committee for the following regions:

Region III [South America] Fernando Ortega, Chile  
Region VI [East Asia] Dr 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  
Region XI [Africa] Dr. Babo Fadlala, Sudan  
India Organizing Committee Dr P.K Ghosh, India

**The Continuing Committee representatives who will complete their second term were Acknowledged (appoint 2013):**

Region I [Canada, USA] Dr Ray Smith, USA  
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

**Thank you to the India Organizing Committee**

**Other Business Items**

Request that we ask the FAO to update country profiles.

**Adjourned at 9:29**