

**Committee Report 2013 Annual Meeting
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

February 4, 2013

Committee Name: International Affairs Committee

2013 Committee Co-Chairs: Leslie Stewart-Phelps and Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

2014 Committee Co-Chairs: Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez and Layne Coppock

Committee Members:

Wade Anderson
Andres Cibils
Layne Coppock
Maria Fernandez-Gimenez
Urs Kreuter
Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez
Jim O'Rourke
Leslie Stewart-Phelps
John Taylor
Joe Wagner

BOD Representatives: Stephanie Larson and Leonard Jolley

I. Progress Report, 2012/2013:

1. At this Oklahoma City SRM meeting, the IAC is sponsoring a one-day symposium, "Women as Change Agents in the World's Rangelands", to be held all day Tuesday. It includes 12 speakers from around the world giving 13 presentations, panel discussions, and a synthesis session. This is the first symposium in SRM history dealing with gender issues at an annual meeting. Parts of the symposium may be filmed. Links to the film or slide presentations will be put on the USAID events page Agrilinks and on the IAC webpage. Funding for this symposium comes from SRM (including funds raised through silent auction sale of items from Mongolia and funds previously promised by the Oklahoma City organizing committee). Layne Coppock leveraged these funds to the extent that others contributed approximately \$10,300 in support for registrations and travel for non-SRM members to present at the symposium. In addition, Layne is working with USAID and Lori Hidingier on a special edition of *Rangelands* to capture and disseminate the learnings from the symposium. The intent is that the special issue of *Rangelands* will be provided as open access for a limited time for anybody. Layne will be requesting \$12,300 from USAID to pay for the open access capability to *Rangelands*.
2. The IAC awarded an International Travel Fellowship for \$1000 to Veronica Vasquez Garcia from Mexico.
3. The IAC has agreed that Jim O'Rourke will be the committee historian and will maintain and house all the known documents produced by the committee since its inception. Committee

members are helping to collect missing documents. Jim will pursue getting these documents scanned and saved electronically. They will then be put onto the IAC website. The IAC is concerned about preserving the “institutional knowledge” of the committee.

4. The IAC website has been expanded to include photographs from rangelands around the world. These photos will be changed over time, and other countries will be added. Also added to the webpage are current business, membership, and symposia links.
5. The IAC is working on its strategic plan and handbook. We will be ensuring these documents agree with the SRM strategic plan.
6. The IAC will revive its program that allows SRM members to volunteer to share their rooms with conference participants travelling from other countries in order to encourage international memberships and participation in the conference. The committee also decided to discontinue its Registration Award Program.
7. The IAC is working with developers of the Global Rangeland Online Knowledge System to identify international contacts to validate the polygons and review the interpretive information.
8. The IAC has developed a process for awarding memberships to applicants for the International Membership Donations Fund. However, until we know the amount in this fund, we cannot act. (See item 3 under “Funding Requested” and item 1 under “Policy” below.)

II. Planned Activities, 2013/2014

1. The IAC plans a full-day symposium for the 2014 meeting in Orlando. The topic for the symposium will be the ecology, management, and social issues of tropical and subtropical rangelands from around the world. The idea is to link this symposium to the unique conditions of Florida, where the next SRM meeting will take place. In addition, we will try to have one or more speakers from India to also provide a link to the upcoming International Rangeland Congress in 2015.
2. The IAC plans to advertise and award at least one International Travel Scholarship.
3. The IAC plans to complete its revision of its handbook and strategic plan.
4. The IAC plans to augment its website with additional rangeland photographs and links to rangeland information for other countries, sister rangeland societies, relevant publications, appropriate international agencies, and historical documents from the IAC.
5. The IAC plans to assist the developers of the Global Rangeland Online Knowledge System.

Action Items for BOD Consideration:

Funding Requested:

1. The IAC is requesting the \$4000 that has already been guaranteed for IAC use in 2013, culminating in the 2014 annual meeting.

Historical note: Urs Kreuter has worked with the international branch of Dow AgroSciences for years to support the International Travel Fellowships, international symposia, and resulting publications. The IAC used these dedicated funds for the purposes that Dow intended. We understand that the SRM board is now handling all the contacts with Dow and the resulting funding. The IAC requests that the SRM board maintain the international emphasis through the IAC for a portion of the Dow support in the future, given that the IAC can no longer approach Dow independently and has been very successful in the past in doing so.

2. We request that the SRM board allocate at least \$4000 annually for IAC use in funding the International Travel Fellowships, the symposia, and resulting publications regardless of the funding source.
3. We are requesting permission from the board to seek outside funding for our symposia. We understand that we need to check with the board before approaching any possible funding sources.
4. We need the balance that exists in the SRM funds that has been donated by SRM members for the International Membership Donations Fund. These funds are to be used for memberships for people from developing countries.

Policy:

For the second year in a row, we are asking the board to develop a method to do the following:

1. Track, on an annual basis, the receipts from the International Membership Donations Fund.
2. Notify the IAC chair annually as to the total amount currently available in said fund.

Requests from the board:

Action Update Call: The IAC members see the value of these calls. We would prefer to have no featured speakers. In addition, we would like a better agenda to be publicized ahead of time so that committees can target the best persons to attend. We would like to have interaction be encouraged perhaps with a round robin at the end after the stated agenda.

Committee Structure: IAC members feel that a voluntary, open, inclusive membership works best for us. We find it useful to have co-chairs so that there is always a “chairperson-in-training”, with the co-chairs selected by the IAC. We feel that it should be up to each committee to decide the best way to structure itself; a more formal arrangement may work better for other

committees. The IAC is generally concerned across all committees that there is no mechanism to capture institutional memory, especially as long-term members retire or leave the committees. The BOD may need to help encourage new, young members to join committees. The IAC is also concerned that important committee information needs to be permanently archived so that there is continuity within a committee. The SRM board may want to rethink where we archive our material (as has been done in the past at the Denver office, the University of Wyoming, the Utah State Archives, or within the committees themselves) for both the hard-copy and the electronic records.

Committee Meetings: The IAC feels it is useful to keep our committee meetings on Sundays at 1 pm so that members have confidence in their trip scheduling. However, we do not need a large room. We suggest that the organizing committee for the upcoming annual meeting add a question to their room requirements concerning how many people the committees expect at their meetings.