

**Committee Report 2014 Annual Meeting  
Orlando, FL**

**February 9, 2014**

**Committee Name:** International Affairs Committee

**2013-2014 Committee Chairman:** Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

**2014-2015 Committee Chairman:** Layne Coppock

**2015-2016 Committee Chairman:** TBD

**Committee Members Attending:**

Layne Coppock

Maria Fernandez-Gimenez

Jim O'Rourke

Mohamed Sawalbah

John A. Taylor

Urs Kreuter

Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

Joe Wagner

Alan Iwaasa

Edmundo Garcia Moya

Walter Schacht

Mounir Louhoichi

Lou Hagener

Piedad Mayagoitia

**BOD Representative:** Leonard Jolley

**I. Progress Report, 2013/2014:**

1. The IAC awarded an International Travel Fellowship for \$1000 to Dr. Kevin Kirkman from the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa. The \$1,000 came from the Orlando Planning Committee. Dr. Kevin Kirkman attended our annual meeting.
2. In December of 2013 a special issue of Rangelands was published on the topic of Women as change Agents in the World's Rangelands. This special issue of Rangelands included papers from presentations of the 2013 symposium of the same title that was sponsored by the IAC. The symposium as well as the edition of the Rangelands' special issue was coordinated by Dr. Layne Coppock. This is the first symposium in SRM history dealing with gender issues at an annual meeting. Distribution of the special issue included several thousand SRM subscribers and 150 complementary hard copies for other interested persons. Another 600 people had online access to an electronic version for one month, from January 7 to February 7. This was also the first time that Allen Press ventured into a form of "open access" with SRM as evidenced by the online access exercise.

3. At this Orlando SRM meeting, the IAC is not sponsoring a symposium. The symposium planned for this event, which was related to tropical rangelands of the world, was cancelled because of lack of funding. The planning committee for the tropical rangelands committee solicited financial support to Dow Agrosiences but it was not granted.
4. Jim O'Rourke has continued maintaining all the known documents produced by the committee since its inception. Jim continues 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.
5. Jim O'Rourke provided information about the new venue for the IRC in 2016. The IRC retracted its support to India for the organization of the congress because of lack of timely preparation. The new guest will be Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada. The IRC will take place on July 17-22, 2016.

## **II. Planned Activities, 2014/2015**

1. The IAC agreed to organize a symposium for the 2015 SRM Sacramento meeting. The tentative topic of the symposium is "Wildlands, Rangelands and Energy Development: Considerations for Ecosystem Management." One of the purposes of this symposium is to promote the 2016 International Rangeland Congress (IRC) that will take place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada (see below for the venue change). The idea is to invite speakers from North America (Canada, USA, and Mexico) that have a high probability of funding their travel to Sacramento. This will improve the odds of success if external funding is hard to locate. However, funding will be solicited from Dow Agrosiences, the traditional source of funding for the IAC, as well as from energy development companies or agencies that are involved in the interface between rangeland/wildland management and energy development. Any external funding requests should be coordinated with the SRM leadership to avoid duplication of efforts and confusing donors. A short symposium proposal would need to be submitted by early May to the Sacramento Organizing Committee. Examples of prior proposals will be sent out soon to the provisional organizers of the symposium, Urs Kreuter and Alan Iwaasa.
2. The IAC is considering the organization of a symposium for the 2016 SRM meeting in Corpus Christi, TX. The possibility exists to organize a symposium on mining and energy development on rangelands of northern Mexico because of the suggestion of some members that this is becoming an issue of high importance. This topic is still subject to change and consideration by the IAC during the 2015 Sacramento meeting.
3. The IAC plans to advertise and award at least one International Travel Scholarship for the 2015 SRM annual meeting.
4. The IAC plans to continue the revision of its handbook and strategic plan.

**Action Items for BOD Consideration:**

**Funding Requested:**

1. We do not know the balance that exists in the SRM funds from donations by SRM members to the International Membership Donations Fund. We are asking the board to develop a method to track, on an annual basis, the receipts from the International Membership Donations Fund and to notify the IAC chair annually as to the total amount currently available in said fund.