

SOCIETY FOR RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

Date: January 29, 2017

Committee Name: International Affairs Committee

Committee Chair(s):

Jay Angerer (2016-2017)

Committee Chair-Elect(s):

Jay Angerer (2017 -2018)

Devan McGranahan (2018-2019)

Committee members (Optional):

Andres Cibils

Layne Coppock

Edmundo Garcia Moya

Fidel Hernandez

Urs Kreuter

Ricardo Mata-Gonzalez

Devan McGranahan

Alicia Melzoza

Javier Naupari

Sarah Noelle

Jim O'Rourke

Poncho Ortega

Humberto Peretto

Ed Rhodes

John A. Taylor

Kari Veblen

BOD representative:

Committee Report

➤ **Progress Report – 2016 --Narrative/Bullet items:**

1. International Travel Fellowship (ITF) - The 2016/2017 ITF was awarded to Dr. Javier Naupari from National Agricultural University, La Molina in Lima Peru. Dr. Naupari received \$2,000 that was granted by the SRM Board in August 2016. Dr. Naupari was in attendance at the meeting.
2. Updates to the IAC pages on SRM website and updates to committee handbooks – the committee discussed progress in updating the IAC pages on the SRM website and archiving of information at the SRM archive at the University of Wyoming. The committee agreed that some of the older information and documents would be archived, however, the information on board minutes and committee reports would remain. The committee also discussed the need for updating the committee handbooks. It was agreed that committee members would review the current document and the committee chair would solicit comments for changes/additions via email in the coming months to update the document. The committee chair will work with the board representative, Eddie Alford, to ensure that the changes meet the requirements of the board.
3. The committee co-sponsored the workshop “Raising the Visibility of Rangelands Through an International Year Designation” with the Outreach, Communications, and Website committee. The IAC’s efforts were led by Jim O’Rourke. During the meeting, Jim provided an update on the workshop and also on the progress toward the designation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Current plans are for this to occur in 2020 in conjunction with the International Rangeland Congress and the International Grassland Congress slated to be held in Nairobi Kenya.

4. Activities and Actions to increase IAC membership – Actions taken in 2016 to increase IAC membership were discussed. This included a short survey that was sent out to international SRM members to gauge their interest in joining the IAC and to invite members to participate in the IAC committee meeting, either in person or via teleconference. The survey was sent out to 121 members with a response rate of about 12%. Of those that responded, approximately 75% were interested in participating in IAC activities. Many indicated that lack of funding to attend the annual meeting was an issue for participating in person. The committee discussed other actions that could be used to increase membership including sponsoring an award for best international research paper or poster for students and young professionals or having an IAC booth at the trade show.

➤ **Planned Activities 2017 -- Narrative/Bullet items:**

1. The IAC plans to develop a symposium for the 2018 Reno meetings tentatively titled “Rangelands and Risk: Tools and Technologies for Early Warning and Risk Management in an Uncertain Future”. A principle objective of the proposed symposium is to provide awareness of risk management programs that are being implemented across the world and the technologies and tools that are being developed by national agencies, universities, non-governmental organizations, and producer cooperatives to provide early warning and risk management solutions on rangelands. The committee would invite presenters from the US and abroad to participate in the symposium. The committee will also work toward developing the presentations into a special issue of Rangelands after the symposium. The committee would like to request funds from the Board (see below) to help defray travel costs for international participants.
2. The IAC plans to advertise and award at least one International Travel Fellowship for the 2018 SRM annual meeting.
3. The IAC plans to complete its revision of its handbook.
4. The IAC plans to complete the updates to the IAC webpage on the SRM website and to archive older documents on SRM’s University of Wyoming Archive.
5. The IAC will continue to develop and implement ideas for increasing membership in the IAC.

➤ **Items for BOD consideration (including any requested critical dates/deadlines)**

1. We would also like to request that the ITF become a permanent line item in the SRM budget in order to assure that the funding would be available each year to assist in the committee in soliciting for ITF candidates at an earlier date. This will allow the IAC to make the selection before abstracts are due and to aid awardees in travel planning, visas, and requests for permissions to travel from the recipient’s university or agency. Critical Date: June 1, 2018.
2. Status of funds that has been donated by SRM members for the International Membership Donations checkoff on renewals/registrations. These funds were slated to be used for memberships for people from developing countries; however, the IAC is not sure if there is a mechanism in place for this to happen. The IAC requests an update on the status of these funds, and suggest that if funds are available, that

these be used to pay for memberships of international students so they can receive SRM Student Membership rates to attend the annual meeting.

1. Committee Funding: *(Please state any funding needs and/or requests that the committee requires)*

A. Needs:

1. International Travel Fellowship (ITF)– The IAC would like to request \$2000 of funding to support the ITF for the 2018 meeting in Reno.

2. IAC symposium – The IAC would like to request \$5,000 to support the proposed symposium on Rangelands and Risk. These funds would be used to defray travel costs of international speakers invited to participate in the symposium. Although we will work to identify speakers who are already planning to attend the SRM meetings, there are individuals working in developing countries who may be invited to the symposium that do not have sufficient funds to attend.

B. Sources (Potential):

1. If funds are not available to support the proposed symposium, we request permission from the Board to solicit funding from other sources. These may include USAID, USDA Risk Management Agency, or some of the larger crop/rangeland insurance companies.

2. Other items for BOD consideration:

None at this time.

Committee Report Submission Procedure – Electronic copy required, hard copy optional:

Please submit your report to both **your BOD Representative and SRM staff**

Use appropriate BOD representative’s e-mail address below along with the SRM Executive Vice President evp@rangelands.org & Office Manager Service’s Manager VTrujillo@rangelands.org

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