

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

### 1. Executive Summary

The year 2007 as regards the programmes and activities of the South African National Committee [SANC] for the International Geographical Union [IGU], has been a relatively quiet one, following the regional International Geographical Conference held in Brisbane, Australia in 2006. The main focus in 2007 has been in two areas:

- The participation of the South African geographers in IGU related activities, particularly relating to the activities of Executive Committee, Commissions and Task Forces.
- The re-composition of the South African National Committee for the IGU and the Council of the Society of South African Geographers [SSAG], as well as their endeavour to maintain and advance capacity building activities by focusing and encouraging participation along demographic and gender-related lines.

The year 2007 marked the first full-year of operation of the SANC [2006-2009]. The committee is constituted through the National Research Foundation [NRF] in collaboration with the Society of South African Geographers [SSAG].

Headings	Activities completed - January to December 2007		Activities planned - January to December 2008
<b>2. Background &amp; Composition of National Committee</b>	The members of the new National Committee of the IGU have been appointed by the NRF as well as elected through the SSAG. The President and members of the SSAG, as well as having been members of the geographical community, serve on the SANC. The Chairman and three other members were appointed by the NRF on the recommendation of the outgoing SANC.	Prof. LM Magi [Chairman], UniZul. Prof. B Maharaj, UKZN [Pres. SSAG] Prof. UJ Fairhurst, UP [NRF] Prof. G. Visser, UFS [SSAG] Prof. P Sumner, UP [SSAG] Ms Melanie Nicolau UNISA [SSAG] Ms P. Siyongwana NMMU [NRF] Ms V Tanga, Peninsula Tech. [NRF] Mr AS. Davids HSRC [SSAG] Dr JP Tsheola ULIMP [NRF] Dr Celin Patel WITS [NRF] Ms B. Molefe, Secretariat, SA-ICSU.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endeavour to nominate and get a South African geographer elected as Vice-President of the IGU.</li> <li>• Consolidate the appointment and election of a demographically representative SANC membership.</li> <li>• Support and encourage greater active participation of <i>SANC committee members in promoting IGU initiatives. And the capacity-building members in particular.</i></li> </ul>
<b>3. Participation by South Africans in Union activities</b>	South African geographers have continued to participate in IGU activities. Membership figures representing active involvement in IGU activities have somewhat declined. Notwithstanding, South Africa still retains its position among the top 10 countries, in terms of leadership participation in IGU sub-bodies, such as the Executive, Commissions and Task Forces.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SANC recommended Prof M. Meadows as Vice-President of the IGU.</li> <li>• Promote individual participation in the activities of the IGU (through a newly created membership category).</li> <li>• Getting more South African geography schools and institutions to affiliate or</li> </ul>

Headings	Activities completed - January to December 2007		Activities planned - January to December 2008
3.1. Size of local community	Geography is offered as a discipline in schools and about 13 tertiary institutions. The Society of South African Geographers has about 750 members and issues of <i>The South African Geographical Journal</i> are distributed twice annually to its members and affiliates.		<p>subscribe to the IGU Website towards promoting awareness and participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try and encourage more participation and linkages among South African, African, Western and Eastern geographers</li> </ul>
3.2 South Africans serving on Unions or its subsidiary bodies	<p>EC1 IGU Executive Committee  C03 Biogeography &amp; Biodiversity  C04 Climatology  C05 Coastal Systems  C08 Diversity in Mountain Systems  C11 Gender &amp; Geography  C12 Geographical Education  C13 Geog. Information Science  C14 Geog. &amp; Public Policy.  C16 Geog. Tourism, Leisure &amp; G-Change  C17 Geomorph Challenges for 21<sup>st</sup> Century  C18 Global Change/ Human Mobility  C19 Hazards and Risks  C20 Health and Environment  C23 Land Degradation &amp; Desertification.  C24 Land Use &amp; Land Cover Change  C26 Local Development  C27 Marginalitn, Globalistn &amp; R Response  C29 Modelling Geographical Systems  C30 Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow  C31 Population and Vulnerability  C32 Sustainability of Rural Systems  C33 Water Sustainability  C34 World Political Map</p> <p>TF02 Megacities Task force  TF03 Olympiad Task Force  TF06 GeoParks Task Force</p>	<p>Vice-President: Prof LM Magi  Prof. Helen Watson [UKZN]  Prof. Lawrence Dube [UZ]  Prof. G. Garland [UKZN]  Prof H. Beckerdahl [UKZN]  Prof. S Musyoki [Venda]  Mr. W. Mngoma [KZN]  Prof P van Helden [UP]  Prof. B Maharaj [UKZN]  Dr A.T. Nzama [UZ]  Prof. H. Beckerdahl [UKZN]  Prof. B. Maharaj [UKZN]  Dr A Holloway [UCT]  Dr. Cathy Oelofse [UKZN]  Prof. M. Meadows [UCT]  <b>Open for Take-up.</b>  Prof. B. Maharaj [UKZN]  Prof. E. Nel [NMMU] [Comm-Chair]  Prof H L Zietsman [US]  Prof. A Horn [Pretoria]  Dr M Ramutsindela [UCT]  Prof. E. Makhanya [Durban]  Prof. K. Rowntree  Prof. J. Christopher [UPE]</p> <p>Prof. A Horn [Pretoria]  Mr Kevin Winter [UCT]  Prof. L.M. Magi [UZ]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage more participation in Commission and Task Force activities. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Applied Geography [C01]</li> <li>(b) Arid lands, Human &amp; Environ [C04]</li> <li>(c) Environ. Evolution [C10]</li> <li>(d) Landscape Analysis [C25]</li> <li>(e) Marine Geography [C28]</li> <li>(f) Commissions on Islands</li> <li>(g) Geoparks [T01]</li> <li>(h) Vulnerability [T04]</li> <li>(i) Indigenous Knowledge</li> </ol> </li> <li>• As Vice-President Prof LM Magi is responsible for the following Commissions and T-Forces: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Geog. Tourism and Leisure [C16]</li> <li>(b) Hazards and Risks [C19]</li> <li>(c) Marginalization, Globalization, R. Response [C27]</li> <li>(d) Monitoring Cities of Tomorrow [30]</li> <li>(e) Indigenous Knowledge &amp; PR [C35]</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Greater participation of SA geographers in the IGU related IYPE programmes</li> </ul>
3.3 Attendance of International Congresses, Workshops and Conferences.	During 2007 there was no IGU Conference scheduled. The IGU Commissions and Task Forces meetings that were held include the following:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance of various IGU Executive Committee meetings: In Moscow, Russia 3-9 May 2008. Tunis, Tunisia 6-11 August, 2008.</li> </ul>

<b>Headings</b>	<b>Activities completed - January to December 2007</b>	<b>Activities planned - January to December 2008</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of conferences attended</li> <li>• Number of South African delegates</li> <li>• Number of papers presented</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IGU Executive Committee meeting was successfully attended by Prof. L.M. Magi in Tokyo, Japan from 4 to 9 April 2007.</li> <li>• The GeoPark Task Force Conference was held Zhongzhou and Beijing, China from 10-15 October 2007. The conference was attended by Dr A.T. Nzama [UZ] and Prof L.M. Magi [UZ]. [A SEPARATE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NRF]</li> </ul> <p>South African delegates attended IGU related conference, workshops and meetings of Commissions and Task Forces in various parts of the world. [Land and Environ. Commission – Cairns [INQUA]; Climatology – [September] Carthage, Tunisia; Mountain Systems Comm.- [May] Srinagar, India; Indigenous Peoples’ Knowledges and Rights – [October] Taiwan; Geog. and Public Policy Commission – Slovakia; Political Geography – [August] Macau, China, [September] Lublin, Poland; Geog. of Tourism Commission – San Francisco, USA [April] and Zhongshan University, Guangzhou, China [July], Marginalization and Globalization Commission – [August] Hokkaido, Japan; GeoParks TF –[October] Zhongzhou, China; Megacities TF - Köln/Cologne; Commission on Local Development [July] Beijing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No specific number of papers, posters and reports are reported to have been presented by South Africans at these Commissions and Task Forces meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South African Geographers to prepare for the attendance of the IGU Congress to be held in Tunis, Tunisia: 12-15 August 2008.</li> <li>• Commissions and Task Forces are planning IGU-IGC related meetings in Tunis and countries around the Mediterranean Sea [August 9-12, 2008].</li> <li>• South African geographers will be encouraged to present papers and posters at the 2008 Tunis IGC [August 12-15, 2008].</li> </ul>
<p>3.3 Capacity Building with regard to Membership of National Committee and involvement of young scientists in International Meetings.</p>	<p>National Committee capacity building activities include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the female representation on the Committee from three [3] to Five [5] members. These are Prof. UJ Fairhurst, UP; Ms Melanie Nicolau UNISA; Ms P. Siyongwana NMMU; Ms V Tanga, Peninsula Technikon and Dr Celin Patel WITS.</li> <li>• The inclusion of Dr JP Tsheola [ULIMP], the former 2004 Capacity Building Delegate to the IGC, as a full member of the S.A National Committee.</li> <li>• The SANC in collaboration with the Society of South African Geographers have agreed to use the proceeds (R300 000) from the IGU Durban Regional Conference to support young geographers to attend the Tunis Congress in 2008.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued support of young geographers as capacity building candidates, in IGU related activities.</li> </ul>

Headings	Activities completed - January to December 2007	Activities planned - January to December 2008
3.4 Organisation of Union related Conferences in South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2007 a successful Seventh Biennial International Conference of the Society of South African [SSAG] was held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, from 8 to 11 July, 2007 , Port Elizabeth.</li> <li>The South African Students Geography Conference was held at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, from 8-10 September 2007, Port Elizabeth. At such conferences the young and budding geographers get an opportunity to present papers and posters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is no South African Geographical Conference in 2008, in view of the Tunis 2008 International Geographical Congress [IGC].</li> </ul>
3.5 Contribution by members to documents and publications	<p><b>IGU Related Publications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No South African geographer has been reported as having contributed to such a publication.</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To produce SANC's 2008 national report to the IGU General Assembly to be held in Tunis August 2008.</li> </ul>
3.6 Report back on recommendations made during the in depth review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The South African National Committee of the IGU has successfully improved its demographic character of membership and involvement of females and young geographers in activities of the SANC. For example, see Items 2 and 3.3 above].</li> <li></li> </ul>	
<b>4. Value to the Community and Benefit to South Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SANC has encouraged geographers to participate in some of the following IGU related global programmes: IPY and IYPE, WCRP, IGBP, IGCP, IHDP, OCEANS, DIVERSITAS, FOOD SECURITY, HABITAT and MEGACITIES.</li> <li>South African geographers continue to play important role in the activities of the South African Qualifications Authority [SAQA]</li> <li>The SSAG's publication of <i>The South African Geographical Journal</i>, the annual newsletter and the regularly updated <i>Guide to Geography Departments in Southern African Universities</i>, all of which are available in electronic format continue to serve the wider national and international geographic community.</li> <li>The SANC in collaboration with the SSAG [<a href="http://www.ssag.co.za">www.ssag.co.za</a>] run a website that is linked to the IGU website [<a href="#">Contact: Prof M. Meadows</a>].</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting up mechanisms for regular updating of the SANC-SSAG website and its affiliate or subscribe to the IGU Website.</li> </ul>

Headings	Activities completed - January to December 2007	Activities planned - January to December 2008
<b>5. Public Society Interfaces and Outreach Programmes – self initiated or facilitated by ICSU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ICSU Workshop for Chairpersons of National Committees was not held in 2007.</li> <li>• The South African National Committee for the International Year of Planet Earth [IYPE] was established. [Prof. L.M. Magi is member].</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the ICSU Workshop for Chairpersons of National Committees.</li> <li>• An additional representative to be elected.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Research Highlights/ New Initiatives in South Africa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No IGU-SANC related research initiative has been reported.</li> <li>• Commission &amp; Individual based initiatives include the following               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Geopark Task Force                      * Education Commission</li> <li>* Megacities Task Force                      * Olympiad Task Force:</li> <li>* Public Policy Commission              * Tourism &amp; Leisure Commission</li> <li>* Marginalization &amp; Globalization Commission.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All of the IGU Commissions with SA members have ongoing research agendas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage local geographers to participate more actively in the IGU Commissions and Task Forces research initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>7. Science Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern continues about the future of geography as an independent discipline. Many geographers have actively participated in the preparation for the Further Education and Training (FET) curriculum.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To stimulate for the provision of short courses: Geography in Education and Skills Development.</li> </ul>
<b>8. Financial assistance received by South Africans direct from ICSU bodies during 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. LM. Magi as Vice-President of the IGU received financial assistance from the NRF to attend the IGU Executive Committee meetings in Tokyo, Japan [2-10 April 2007] and Beijing, China [10-15 October 2007].</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affiliation to the IGU [\$1350] equals [R9450-00]</li> <li>• Prepare the SANC Report to the General Assembly [R35 000-00]</li> <li>• Three SANC members to attend the IGU General Assembly [R60 000-00]</li> <li>• SA Geographers to attend the IGU Congress in Tunis [R75 000-00].</li> <li><b>TOTAL = R179450-00</b></li> </ul>

## 9. CONCLUSION

The National Committee would like to express its appreciation and thanks to the ICSU National Board of South Africa for all support received through the NRF. This support has assisted the IGU National Committee in meeting its goal of improving the participation of South African geographers in international geographical activities.

Prepared by LM Magi