

Geomorphology and global environmental change

Christine Embleton-Hamann*

Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria

Olav Slaymaker

Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

A major statement on the state of our understanding of landscape scale geomorphology in relation to global environmental change is being prepared. A book will be published by Cambridge University Press in 2009 to inform the delegates to the 7th International Conference on Geomorphology in Melbourne, Australia and as a complement to the 4th IPCC Assessment (2007). The concept behind the book is that there is an unfilled niche in the climate change literature, namely the nature of landscape scale change in the face of anticipated climate change. The book will cover both zonal and azonal landscapes.

The first meeting of this IAG Working Group was held, through the good offices of Tom Spencer, at Magdalene College, Cambridge from September 19–22, 2006. A protected Web site for the use of Working Group members has been established in the Institut für Geographie und Regionalforschung

at the University of Vienna and a professional cartographer has been engaged in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia.

The chapter topics are as follows: Landscape scale change: the unfilled niche; Ice sheets and ice caps; Mountain environments; Lakes and their basins; Freshwater wetlands; Rivers; Sedimentary coasts; Sandy coasts and dunes; Coral reefs; Tropical rainforest; Savannas; Deserts; Mediterranean lands; Mid-latitude forest; Tundra and periglacial taiga; and Bridging the gap between science and policy.

The second meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the Austrian Commission on Geomorphology at the University Centre in Obergurgl, Austria, September 1–6, 2007 under the leadership of Christine Embleton-Hamann. Lead authors will be presenting their preliminary findings at that meeting.

The present paper reviews the progress of each of the chapters to date and their distinctive emphases.

* e-mail: christine.embleton-hamann@univie.ac.at