

# **Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere: The International Lithosphere Program (ILP)**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

approved with modification by  
the IUGG Bureau on 12 November 2015  
and by the IUGS Bureau on 22 January 2016

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM**

1. The International Lithosphere Program (ILP), guided by the Scientific Committee on the Lithosphere (SCL), was established in 1980 as the Inter-union Commission on the Lithosphere (ICL) by the International Council for Science (ICSU), at the request of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG). The name was formally changed to the Scientific Committee on the Lithosphere in 1999. According to Decision 8.4 from the 2005 ICSU General Assembly, ICSU decided “to withdraw ICSU sponsorship from SCL/ILP and to recommend that responsibility would then shift to IUGG and IUGS.”
2. The International Lithosphere Program (ILP) seeks to elucidate the nature, dynamics, origin, and evolution of the lithosphere, with special attention to the continents and their margins. Believing these goals are best attained through international, interdisciplinary collaboration, the ILP establishes international, multidisciplinary projects and working groups to pursue specific research objectives. Projects and working groups address scientific topics in any of the four ILP themes: global change, contemporary dynamics and deep processes, continental lithosphere, and ocean lithosphere.
3. The target areas for ILP focus are aspects of the crust and deeper parts of the lithosphere and the interaction of crust/mantle (lithosphere) processes with surface processes and neotectonic activities, especially on the continents and their margins (e.g. lithospheric folding) in which both geophysics and geology are involved. The ILP seeks to avoid overlap with current research fields in IUGS Commissions, Task Groups, and Initiatives; IGCP and GARS projects; IUGS Affiliated bodies; IUGG Associations and IUGG Union Commissions; and other appropriate research groups. If plans for addressing such overlapping fields would develop, ILP should discuss these with both Unions beforehand. The Unions, in turn, are committed to involve ILP in their own programs and projects given an expression of interest to do so from ILP.
4. The ILP supports the active participation of scientists from developing countries. Although active participation of such scientists is not deemed a training activity, it is expected that their involvement will provide training opportunities for students and young scientists.
5. The ILP supports workshops and/or special symposia at regional, national, or international meetings through projects and coordinating committees or in conjunction with IUGS, IUGG, and other scientific bodies.
6. The ILP administers an award (a citation and travel grant), the Edward A. Flinn – Pembroke J. Hart Award, given to an outstanding young scientist for contributions in the solid earth sciences addressed by the ILP.
7. The ILP maintains a website and issues an Annual Report. The ILP also delivers administrative and financial reports to both IUGS and IUGG annually or as requested.
8. The ILP receives visibility from IUGG and IUGS in newsletters, websites, annual reports, and outreach materials and events. The ILP has access to the IUGS publishing house in the Geological Society of London, and is expected to join and participate in outreach and

other events initiated by IUGS and/or IUGG. Logos of both Unions must be visible in all ILP publications, their website, and other outreach activities.

## II. COMPOSITION OF THE PROGRAM

9. The ILP initiates projects and working groups selected through a competitive proposal process. Small grants may be awarded especially to support meeting and field travel for scientists from developing countries who are involved in the projects. ILP projects are expected to have an average life span of 5 years unless extraordinary success warrants continuation.
10. Working Groups may be created to accomplish specific objectives. The topic or problem around which a Working Group is organized must clearly require an interdisciplinary approach and significant participation by representatives of all branches of Earth science is highly desirable.
  - A Working Group shall consist of a limited number of scientists appointed by the Bureau (defined in Part III). Consideration is to be given to the appropriate geographical and gender distributions of the members. The Bureau will provide for an orderly rotation of the membership of the Working Groups.
  - The Chair of a Working Group shall be appointed by the Bureau for a term of 5 years and will report the progress on the topic to the Bureau annually or as requested.

## III. ADMINISTRATION

11. The ILP is positioned as a Joint Scientific Program of IUGG and IUGS. ILP may have its own National Members, on the condition that this would not negatively affect national membership to IUGS and IUGG.
12. The ILP is administered by a Bureau of five members. These include the President and the Secretary General, who are named by agreement between IUGG and IUGS; one member appointed by IUGG; one member appointed by IUGS; and one member appointed by National Members. At least one Bureau member will normally represent a developing country. The Past President may attend meetings with voice but without vote.
13. The normal term of office for all Bureau members shall be 4 years, denoted as one period. Vacancies during any term shall be filled by IUGG, IUGS, or jointly (as appropriate) in consultation with the ILP Bureau.
14. The President shall be appointed for one period and is eligible for re-appointment. The President shall chair the meetings of the Bureau and shall be their representative in external and internal affairs. The ILP President is welcome to attend regular Executive Committee meetings of IUGS and IUGG as an observer.
15. The Secretary General shall be appointed for one period, and may be re-appointed for consecutive periods up to a maximum of 3 periods in office. The Secretary General shall be responsible for all matters concerning the finances and administration of the Bureau; in particular, he/she shall conduct the correspondence, arrange for meetings of the Bureau, prepare agendas and meeting minutes, and issue reports.
16. Regular Bureau members may be reappointed once, but with the provision that no more than 3 of the 5 members may be in their second period of service.
17. The Bureau shall normally meet once each year in coordination with IUGG and IUGS. The meeting shall be announced no less than 4 months in advance. At such meetings, the Bureau shall approve the financial accounts submitted by the Secretary General, deliberate and adopt the budget for the forthcoming period of one year, initiate Working Groups and review their progress.

18. The decisions of the Bureau shall be taken during its meetings by a simple majority vote of the members then present. A quorum of 3 members must be present; the President has a casting vote.
19. Additional meetings of the Bureau may be convened as deemed necessary by the President or at the request of a majority of the Bureau members.

#### IV. FINANCES

20. The operational costs of the ILP Bureau shall be provided by the ILP budget. IUGG and IUGS will provide financial support to ILP, based on accepted work programs and their own budget capacity; ILP is committed to raising most of its budget by external fundraising.

#### V. AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

21. Amendments to the Terms of Reference may be proposed by the ILP Bureau and will be adopted when ratified by IUGS and IUGG.