



LAND USE and LAND COVER CHANGE
BIOGEOGRAPHY and BIODIVERSITY
LOCAL and REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
LAND DEGRADATION and DESERTIFICATION

2019 Thematic Conference

TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Koper, Slovenia

September 24th to 26th 2019



TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes are multifunctional landscapes which reflect a complex correlation between natural, historical, political, and cultural factors. Traditional cultural landscapes are shaped by traditional land management practices. The loss of these management practices leads to ecosystem change, which successively is likely to lead to the loss of important biological or cultural values. The extent of integration between environmental (ecological) and socio-economic functions of the landscape depends on the patterns and intensities of land use. Land use is a basic human activity that shapes socio-economic development and modifies structures and processes in the environment. Traditional land use is disappearing due to the intensification of agricultural production on the one hand and the retreat of agriculture from unfavourable areas on the other hand. Sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity and landscape diversity depend on the continuation of human intervention. In this way the traditional and highly valued landscapes can be maintained whilst also assisting economic and social sustainable development. Unsuitable management practices could be the cause of increased soil erosion and natural disasters. Appropriate policies should be applied to decrease such negative impacts on cultural landscapes. The role of landscape parks, as areas with high conservation value and high development appeal, is also important. They can be promoted as specific development areas while contributing to the maintenance of the cultural landscapes and biodiversity. The study of the links between landscape features and regional development is relevant for the development of policies related to land use and regional development, such as agricultural policies, regional policies and spatial planning policies. Cultural interpretation and significance of landscape can be also of controversial and object of disputes under circumstances of conflicts and political struggles. They can turn out in 'urbicide' like it was in the Balkans or 'archeocide' like in Syria to cancel tracks of cultural elements as it happens in the Mediterranean Basin in recent years. Thus issues of fair perception and valorisation of cultural heritage can be of special significance for geographical studies. Due to the location of the conference part of the sessions will be devoted to the Mediterranean cultural landscapes.

CONFERENCE VENUE

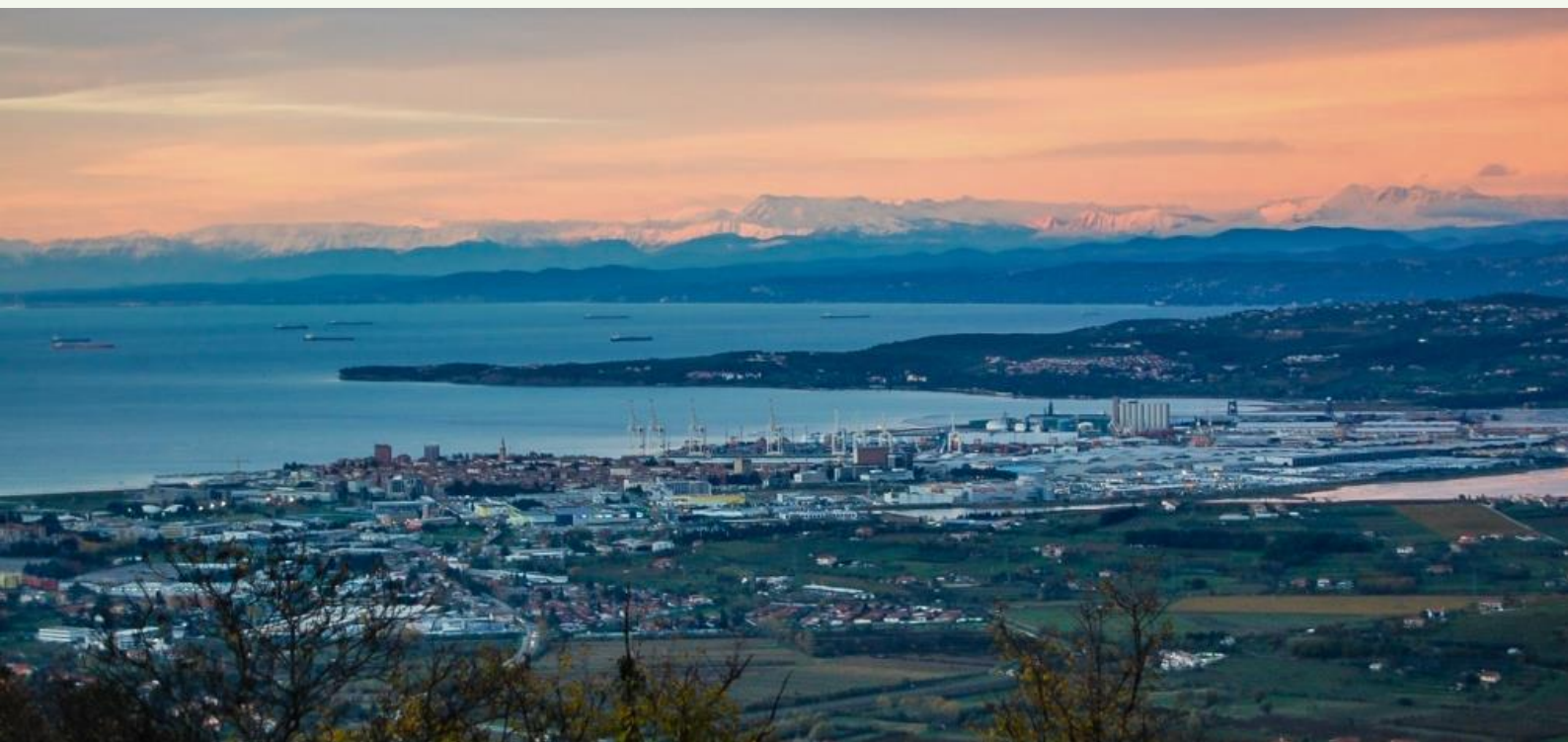
Koper, Slovenia

The conference will be held at the University of Primorska, Faculty of Humanities. The University is located in Koper's historical centre.



Koper is a city on the Adriatic coast with its history going back to Roman times. It has long been under Venetian rule, which can be observed on every step you make through old medieval part of the city. Once a city on the island, it is nowadays one of the most important Northern Adriatic ports.

Koper is 106 km from Slovenia's capital Ljubljana, 127 km from Ljubljana International airport, 66 km from Trieste airport (Italy) and 214 km from Venice Marco Polo Airport (Italy).



IMPORTANT DATES

15 th December 2018	Opening registration and abstract submission
1 st March 2019	Deadline for abstract submission
31 st March 2019	Notification of paper acceptance
25 th April 2019	Early bird registration closes
25 th August 2019	Registration closes
24 th September 2019	Conference

SCHEDULE

23 th September 2019	Arrival of participants and welcome drink
24 th – 26 th September 2019	Parallel sessions Half-day excursions
27 th September 2019	Departure of participants Post-conference excursion
28 th September 2019	Post-conference excursion

EXCURSIONS

The conference program includes three half-day excursions. For an extra charge, conference participants may also take part in a two-day post-conference excursion from 27th to 28th September 2019.

Post-conference excursion (optional):

1. Kočevje: abandoned cultural landscape due to German emigration during WWII
2. Bela krajina: cultural landscape in peripheral karst area



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Jerzy Bański, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, president of the IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development

Ivan Bičík, Charles University Prague, Czechia, past president of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change

Matej Gabrovec, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia, president of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change

Yukio Himiyama, Hokkaido University of Education, Japan, IGU president and past president of the IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change

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Gregor Kovačič, University of Primorska, Slovenia, vice dean of the Faculty of Humanities and head of the Geographical Department

Igor Lipovšek, National Education Institute Slovenia, Slovenia, president of the Association of Slovenian Geographers

Suraj Mal, University of Delhi, India, president of the IGU Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity

Maria Paradiso, University of Sannio, Italy, president of the IGU Commission on Mediterranean Basin

Drago Perko, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia, head of the Anton Melik Geographical Institute

Mimi Urbanc, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia, assistant director

Andrea Vacca, University of Cagliari, Italy, president of the IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification

Matija Zorn, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovenia, IGU Commission on Land Degradation and Desertification steering committee member

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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