

**Report to the 34th General Assembly
FIG Working Week 2011 in Marrakech, Morocco**

FIG Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development

End of Term Report 2007–2010

1. General

As this term draws to a close it is a pleasure to hand over a Commission that in this four year term has increased its profile and positively engaged with members, despite a slow start in year one. It is thanks to the hard work and commitment of a small body of active members for which I greatly thank them but also many thanks for the support given each and every year by FIG member associations and land professionals who share their best practice, ideas and ways and means to break new ground with presentations at the Commission technical session held in the FIG working weeks.

In my previous term of office I handed over the Commission with a significant geographic diversity. My vision then and has remained in the present term to continue to communicate both strategic issues for our members as well as ensuring that cutting edge technical issues are communicated effectively.

There will be more and more demands on us as professionals but gatherings such as our working weeks demonstrate that we are already rising to the challenge. Not only do we in commission 8, continue to drive complex projects forward, we are often in the pivotal role and striving to create a partnership we solve problems between environmental, social and technical issues. Promoting our profession to the next generation is key.

Commission 8 deliberations over the past four years has identified new demands that will be placed on land professionals, we have acknowledged our strategic duty to fulfil:

- A balance between individual freedom and community responsibility,
- Manage the tension between legal rules and local practice,
- Facilitate the logistics of control over land use and development.

Over viewing the past four years we can see notable drivers in our work in a range of forums, set in context of the big global challenges, Commission 8 has specifically addressed:

- Urbanisation: the push factors in spatial planning, preparedness and disaster management and informal settlements.
- Coastlines: the pull factors of ability to adapt, resilience and climatic effects on societies living along coastlines.
- Environment: Managing resilience has emerged in our commission deliberations specifically relating to resources, access rights and energy technologies.

2. Achievements – Highlights

We have made great strides, contributing to raising the profile of surveyors and the Commission by actively contributing to:

- Increased participation and active yearly contribution to international donor agency forums including UN Habitat, FAO and the World Bank.
- Providing the keynote paper at the FIG Regional Working Week in Costa Rica 2007.
- Promotion of the Informal Settlements WG into the FIG Sub-Saharan Africa Task Force.
- Innovative key themes driven through Commission technical activity including coastal areas and Energy versus Environment.
- Continuing engagement with FIG member associations.
- Development of, and input into FIG publications including No's 42, 43, 51, 53 and 55.

3. Working Groups

Through the commission 8 working groups we have underpinned the theme to 'Build the Land Professional's capacity'. Two working groups have collaborated internationally to build and deliver tangible outputs by publishing in the FIG series:

- "The Road Towards More Sustainable Places: Informal settlements", Number 42:
- "Spatial Planning in Coastal Regions: Facing the impact of Climate Change" Number 55.

During the deliberations of the working groups the salient issues identified includes:

Informal Settlements

Working from WG8.2 members' professional experience, drawing from papers delivered at technical sessions we have identified that land professionals have a key role to play at the local level as well as the policy level. Mindful of the speed at which the informal settlements have grown the partnership agenda needs to begin to consider the slum interest deficit. It is the people living in these slums that are often providing the labour to the formal cities. Acknowledging the work achieved in Sub-Saharan Africa, the General Assembly (2009) voted that this working group be promoted to the level of a Task force specifically focusing on the needs of the Sub Saharan Africa Member Associations, to run over the period 2009 to 2014.

Urban Coasts

This topic has received much attention over the past four years, beginning with a commission lead role at the FIG Regional Working Week (Costa Rica) with the chair giving a keynote presentation (see full text November 2007 Article of the Month www.fig.net).

WG8.4 focussed on the impact of climate change on coastal regions as it relates to administration and adaptation within the coastal zone. This group has given clear signals that this highly pressurised area (both climatic and commercial pressures) will require a focus on defining boundaries and territories, planning for disaster, the political framework and the commercial population pressures.

The WG complements the special seminar designed and organised by Commission 8, on ‘Small Island Developing States’ (SIDS), held in Sydney 2010 at the FIG Conference’s Congress. Representatives from 23 Pacific islands, Tobago, Trinidad as well as Zanzibar attended to discuss capacity building for land professionals on SIDS. Sponsored by AusAid, FAO, NZAid, and the Commonwealth Secretariat a productive meeting was held resulting in action steps outlined in FIG Publication No.53: “Sydney Agenda for Action, Small Island Developing States and the Millennium Development Goals: Building the Capacity”.

4. Co-operation

Building on from the achievements of the previous term and this term, the Commission has truly advanced in key areas:

Communicating with Members

Innovating into new channels for this Commission, a Commission 8 regional meeting was held in Ghana February 2010 in tandem with the Ghana Institute of Surveyors. This seminar progresses the working group activities but also contributed to the up and coming Africa Task Force: its theme Planning for Infrastructure focused on partnership with Traditional Leaders.

In addition, brokering liaison between members and disseminating key material was achieved through the avenues of newsletters, use of the Commission website, and annual meetings at working weeks and congress.

Cross-working with Commissions

Commission 8 has successfully co-operated with other Commissions by working with Commissions 3, 4, 7 and 9. This year, a dialogue has been held to continue this invaluable cross-commission working into the upcoming term (2011-14) as well as planning for new areas of co-operation particularly with Commissions 9 and 2.

Connectivity with Sister Organisations

Underlining the importance of working with our sister organisations, we have:

- Attended and presented at CASLE’s Regional African Conference held in Accra, Ghana,
- Shared platforms with the Ghanaian Institute of Surveyors,
- Shared platforms with Institute of Surveyors of Kenya.

Commission 8 continues to foster and hold strong relationships with other land professional groups including the International Centre for Research on Environmental Issues (www.icrie.org)

Collaboration with UN

Commission 8 has engaged with a range of UN organisations including:

- Period 2006-10. Chair and members have continuously and actively engaged each year with GLTN Secretariat and working with the LTPAS section on gender sensitive tool

development in a range of platforms and processes, including e-forums, Grassroots and land professional training; and

- April 2009. Chair Elect Mr W Nabutola participated in a UN Rights Workshop, an ingenious approach to gaining empirical evidence to look at problems through case studies and to achieve solutions.
- March 2009. Chair invited to and delivered a paper at the World Bank/FIG Conference presenting one of the Commission's key themes Coastal Communities.
- December 2009. Chair was invited to review and provide technical assistance to the UN Habitat GLTN pilots led by the sister partner Huairou Commission grassroots organisation. The pilots were testing a gender land tool evaluation instrument in three countries (Ghana, Brazil and Nepal). The outcome was debated at the World Urban forum held in Rio Brazil March 2010.
- January 2010. Mr K Tenadu (Ghana) and Dr D Dumashie (UK) invited and attended the FAO Consultation Meeting for the private sector on the draft voluntary guidelines for the responsible governance of land and natural resources.

5. Lessons learned

Commission 8, Spatial planning and development has a broad remit spanning People, Planning and Politics of land use. The aim is to see you and your involvement continued and to create a platform for members to deliver and engage in the most focused and effective way. To achieve this, the commission is mindful of lessons learnt, divided into:

Expectations from Commission delegates

Our challenge is to best use the time resource of commission members noting that:

- New ways of working both in our working groups and technical sessions is a priority. It is clear that as a small Commission we must guard against overloading few individuals with all the workload of administering the working groups.
- Discussion with commission members concluded that working groups need not have a life of four years if rigorous and sustainable outputs could be developed in less time. It was recognised that this is probably a minimum of two years (i.e. spanning two working weeks).
- Flash presentations in joint sessions in Sydney proved highly successful and have the benefit of providing even more opportunities for country delegates to present as well as learn and disseminate good practice and ground breaking ideas in our professional activities.

Emerging Topics

Apart from the core technical expertise in spatial planning and economic development there are other areas where the international community of the commission can make a real difference. Building on the success of the term the areas of real interest include the topics of energy and the environment as well as coastal adaptations allied to climatic influences.

Engaging with Members

To continue and build upon the contribution of our members as well as the global audience, the momentum must be maintained to share information and practice through the provision of policy advice, summary case studies, suggestions of best practice and identifying information gaps requiring further research

Above all, to encourage the continued involvement of the younger generation is a priority and shared platforms with the FIG Young Surveyors Network will be actively sought.

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