



## HERITAGE STONE TASK GROUP

A Task Group  
of the  
International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)  
&  
Commission (C-10) - Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks of the  
International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG C-10)

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**To: IUGS Secretary-General**  
**From: Barry J. Cooper**  
**HSTG Secretary General**  
**Date: 8 November 2012**  
**Subject: 2012 REPORT AND 2013 GRANT REQUEST**  
**(Transmitted from HSTG to IUGS)**

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### **PREAMBLE**

HSTG is a Task Group established by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in 2011. It has earlier origins in 2008 as a project within Commission (C-10) - Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG C-10) that was recognised at its meeting during the 33<sup>rd</sup> International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway.

The specific objective of HSTG is :-

- to facilitate formal designation of natural stones that have achieved widespread recognition in human culture.
- to create the “Global Heritage Stone Resource” (GHSR) as a term for this designation.
- to promote the adoption and use of the GHSR designation by international and national authorities.

The following Report and IUGS Grant request responds to an email received from the IUGS Secretariat on 24 October 2012.

## **INTRODUCTION**

HSTG has had a successful formative year during 2012 as evidenced by approval of Terms of Reference by the IUGS Executive at its meeting in San Sebastian, Spain in February 2012 and presentations at the Global Stone Congress in Borba, Portugal (July 2012), the 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, Brisbane, Australia (August 2012) and the International Congress on Science and Technology for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (October 2012). Establishment of the inaugural HSTG Board of Management took place during a formal Business Meeting, held in Brisbane, on 9 August 2012.

## **CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND HSTG BOARD**

As of 1 November 2012, there are 160 HSTG Correspondents from 40 countries. This has increased from 117 from 33 countries since the issue of Circular 4 in June 2011.

Members of the HSTG Board for the period 2012-2016, as endorsed at the Brisbane business meeting on 9 August 2012 are:

PRESIDENT (Chair IAEG C-10)  
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MEMBER  
Brian Marker (United Kingdom)  
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The minutes of the inaugural HSTG business meeting meeting will be published in the next "Global Heritage Stone Circular".

## **PUBLICATIONS / COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBERS**

The Global Heritage Stone website at [www.globalheritagestone.org](http://www.globalheritagestone.org) provides immediate information for Task Group participants as well as general information for the public.

Major communication between HSTG correspondents is provided by the “Global Heritage Stone Circular” that has been issued at approximately 9-12 month intervals as follows:-

- Circular 1 (issued May 2009)
- Circular 2 (issued September 2010)
- Circular 3 (issued June 2011)
- Circular 4 (issued March 2012)

It is planned to issue “Global Heritage Stone Circular 5” before the end of 2012.

An explanation of the project was first published in March 2010 in *Episodes* as follows:

Cooper, B.J. Toward establishing a ‘Global Heritage Stone Resource’ designation. *Episodes* 33: 38-41.

An update report of recent developments coupled with a trial citation for Portland Stone in the United Kingdom is planned for submission to *Episodes* as soon as possible.

HSTG papers published as abstracts to conferences during 2011 and 2012 are as follows:

Cooper, B.J. & Marker, B. 2012. International designation of heritage dimension stones: the examples of Portland stone and Welsh slate from the United Kingdom. *Abstract #3029 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, Brisbane Australia, August 2012.*

Cooper, B.J., Marker, B. & Thomas, I. 2012. Towards international designation of a heritage dimension stone. *Proceedings of the Global Stone Congress 2012, Portugal, Alentejo (Borba) Wednesday 18 July – Estremoz, Teatro Bernardim Ribeiro / Bernardim Ribeiro Theatre PO30* 8 pages.

Marker, B. & B.J. Cooper 2011 Extraction and use of building and roofing stone – Some sustainability issues. *Geophysical Research Abstracts 13, EGU General Assembly 2011.*

Pereira, D., Batuille, J.M. & Cooper, B. 2012. The architectonic heritage: the best way of preserving it. *Abstracts ‘Technoheritage’ International Congress on Science and Technology for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage October, 2012, Santiago de Compostela, Spain.*

Pereira, D., Batuille, J.M. & Cooper, B. submitted. Documenting the architectonic heritage: the best way of preserving it. Submitted to *International Conference on Science and Technology for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage – Conference Proceedings Volume*

Pereira, D. & Cooper, B.J. 2011. Building stone as part of a World Heritage site: "Piedra Pajarilla" Granite and the city of Salamanca, Spain. *Geophysical Research Abstracts 13, EGU General Assembly 2011*. Extended paper submitted to *Geological Society Special Publications: StoneHB-460*.

Pereira, D. & Cooper, B.J. 2012. Using geology to conserve architectural stone heritage: the example of Salamanca, Spain. *Abstract #3030, 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, Brisbane Australia, August 2012*.

## **2012 MEETINGS**

Heritage Stone designation has been promoted at three international conferences during 2012 viz

- Global Heritage Stone Congress, Borba, Portugal (July 2012)  
([www.globalstone2012.com](http://www.globalstone2012.com))
- 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress, Brisbane Australia (August 2012)  
([www.34igc.org.au](http://www.34igc.org.au))
- International Congress on Science and Technology for the Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (October 2012)  
([www.technoheritage.es/Santiago.html](http://www.technoheritage.es/Santiago.html))

Oral presentations were given at all these meetings and the meetings also provided an excellent opportunity to enlist additional Task Group correspondents and for Board members to meet in informal discussions. Excellent field trips were held in Portugal as part of the Global Heritage Stone Congress. A formal inaugural HSTG business meeting was held in Brisbane.

## **FUTURE CONFERENCES**

The 2013 HSTG conference will be held as a session of European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, to be held in Vienna, Austria in April 2013. Details of the session are as follows:

NATURAL STONE RESEARCH AND HERITAGE STONE DESIGNATION  
EGU Conference Session ERE3.4  
Convener: Dolores Pereira  
Co-Conveners: Brian Marker, Sabina Kramar, Barry Cooper, Björn Schouenborg  
Link: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2013/session/12920>

The 2014 conference is envisaged as a session of the XII IAEG conference to be held in Turin, Italy in September 2014.

A 2015 conference has been suggested for North America but nothing definite has been arranged.

The 2016 conference will likely be linked with the 35<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress to be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

### **IUGS GRANT REQUEST**

For 2012, IUGS provided an initial funding of \$US2000.

Our grant in 2012 has been used to subsidise Barry Cooper and Lola Pereira to attend the Global Stone Congress in Borba Portugal in July 2012 and to promote HSTG.

**For 2013, HSTG applies to IUGS for \$US5000 seed funding for Task Group establishment. This will be primarily utilised to support contributors to attend EGU Conference Session ERE3.4: "Natural stone research and Heritage Stone designation" in Vienna in April 2013 and any publication resulting from this conference.**

**In addition, HSTG funding will seek to support other related activities including for example, expansion of correspondents, liaison with national/ local natural stone organisations, preparation of draft GHSR citations, maintenance of a GHSR register, website development and creation of an international dimension stone newsletter.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I am greatly indebted to members of the HSTG Board and the wider network of HSTG correspondents that have made establishment of HSTG possible. We have established the largest international grouping of dimension stone geologists and the first ever international geological (as opposed to technical/mechanical) standard associated with dimension stone. The first IUGS involvement in dimension stone has also been achieved.

Sincerely Yours

Barry J. Cooper

Secretary-General

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