The Work Plan for the period 2011-2015 was prepared within the framework of tactile cartography and mainly for the benefit of visually handicapped persons. The tasks taken on included: Rebuilding and updating the contact database, exchanging and distributing information about producing cartographic, graphic and text materials, and studying the potential value of maps and graphics. Links to other ICA commissions was also included, with the aim of sharing experiences, developing complementary relationships, adapting and strengthening geocartographic knowledge in its various forms of multisensory expression.

The commission has the very substantial support of the Tactile Tactile Cartography Centre (CECAT) of the Metropolitan Technological University of Chile (UTEM), which is linked mainly to Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America through the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH), a technical organization attached to the OAS.

At the “26th International Cartographic Conference”, Msc. Waldirene Ribeiro, Vice-chair of the Commission, led the various tasks that had been prepared, together with the Commission Chair, during the first half of 2013. This included the submission: “School Tactile Cartography in Brazil: the challenge of training teachers” and the poster: “Global Warming Teaching through Maps and Diagrams Touch”, jointly authored with Alejandra Coll.

The Commission Chair and Vice-Chair will participate in the 27th International Cartographic Conference of the ICA with the poster titled: “Experience with tactile maps: towards a standardization of tactile symbols.”

This Commission is supporting the initiative “International Map Year” (IMY) by providing a new chapter to add to the book “The World of Maps”, which is the main text that the ICA is publishing in the framework of the IMY. The chapter now being drafted will be a short text about tactile cartography.

For ICC 2013, the Commissions contributed to setting up the sessions, reviewing the paper submissions and presenting the activities of the Commission to the Plenary Session.

In 2013, with the approval of the ICA authorities, the web site of the commission was set up at http://visualabilities.wix.com/icahome. The information in the various fields has been developed in accordance with the activities of the Commission.

The “Educational Resources Center for Visually Handicapped Persons” was set up on the basis of the agreement signed between the Education Ministries of Spain and Chile, the Spanish "ONCE" Foundation for Latin America (FOAL), and the Organization of Iberian-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI). These entities have enabled the Center to be implemented by donating state-of-the-art tactile equipment. Form this year the Chilean Education Ministry has assigned projects to the CECAT concerning “Creation of study texts in Braille, Macrotyle and Audio-texts, together with cartographic and tactile teaching materials for visually handicapped school pupils, to be distributed freely throughout the country”.

Researchers from universities and institutions involved in visual handicap from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru, from 2014 onwards have been working on the project "Proposal for standardizing tactile symbology for Latin America: application in cartography for tourism”, led by the CECAT-UTEM of Chile and financed by the PAIGH-OAS. The international work team with skills in the areas of cartography, design, geography, special-needs education and tourism, among other specializations, gathered at the CEBE center in Cusco, Peru.

During the four years of the work of this Commission, annual meetings have been held with the Commission Chair (Alejandra Coll), Vice-Chair (Waldirene Ribeiro), Technical Secretary (Edwin Hunt), and two contributors to the core group (Teresa Barrientos and Jennifer Pinto) all present, so that the Commission can sustain its network and monitor progress in the tasks that it has committed itself to for each year.

At the “26th International Cartographic Conference”, Msc. Waldirene Ribeiro, Vice-chair of the Commission, led the various tasks that had been prepared, together with the Commission Chair, during the first half of 2013. This included the submission: “School Tactile Cartography in Brazil: the challenge of training teachers” and the poster: “Global Warming Teaching through Maps and Diagrams Touch”, jointly authored with Alejandra Coll.

The Commission Chair and Vice-Chair will participate in the 27th International Cartographic Conference of the ICA with the poster titled: “Experience with tactile maps: towards a standardization of tactile symbols.”

This Commission is supporting the initiative “International Map Year” (IMY) by providing a new chapter to add to the book “The World of Maps”, which is the main text that the ICA is publishing in the framework of the IMY. The chapter now being drafted will be a short text about tactile cartography.