

Constitution of the Scientific Committee for the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme: A Study of Global Change (IGBP)

I. The Programme

1. The objective of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme: A Study of Global Change (IGBP) of The International Council for Science (ICSU) is to describe and understand:

- The interactive physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth System dynamics
- The unique environment that the Earth System provides for life
- The changes that are occurring in this system
- The manner in which all are influenced by human actions.

2. The IGBP studies the interactions between biological, chemical and physical processes, and human systems. IGBP collaborates with other programmes to develop and impart the understanding necessary to respond to global change.

II. The Scientific Committee

3. The responsibilities of the Scientific Committee for the IGBP are to develop and prioritise specific plans for the Programme, to guide its implementation and to publicise its results. The Committee, together with ICSU, should also seek to ensure that adequate use is made of the results of the Programme.

4. The Scientific Committee will promote the coordination of the national, regional and international activities that constitute the Programme.

5. The Scientific Committee will ensure liaison, and facilitate cooperation, with related programmes of members of the ICSU family and of other international organisations, both governmental and non-governmental.

6. The Executive Board of ICSU shall appoint up to 15 Members, including the Chair of the Scientific Committee, to serve in their personal capacity. Members shall be selected based on their standing in the international scientific community with due consideration to regional, gender and disciplinary balance.

7. The term for these appointments will normally be three years, renewable once. The term of SC Chair may be extended to maximum 6 years, but should not exceed 9 years of service on the SC (excluding years served as an *ex-officio* member).

8. The Officers of the SC-IGBP are: the Chair, the Past-Chair (*ex-officio*, and normally for a period of one year), up to three Vice-Chairs and the Treasurer. The SC shall select the Officers, with the exception of the Chair.

9. The Executive Board of ICSU shall also appoint the Executive Director for the IGBP for a term of 3 years, renewable.

10. In addition to the ICSU appointed members, the Chairs of the IGBP Scientific Steering Committees, the Joint Scientific Committee for the World Climate Research Programme, the Scientific Committee of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, and the Scientific Committee of DIVERSITAS, as well as a designated representative of ICSU shall be *ex-officio* members of the IGBP Scientific Committee.

11. The Scientific Committee shall meet at least once a year with the frequency determined by the Committee.

12. The Chair may invite observers to attend meetings of the Scientific Committee.

III. The Officers

13. The Officers (see paragraph 7) are responsible for conducting the affairs of the Scientific Committee between meetings.

14. The Chair, in consultation with the Officers, may make appointments to fill vacancies in offices; such appointment to extend to the time of the next meeting of the ICSU Executive Board.

15. In the event of a vacancy in the Chair, one of the Vice-Chairs, as decided on by the Officers, shall succeed to this office until the next meeting of the ICSU Executive Board.

16. The Officers shall normally meet once a year in addition to the annual Scientific Committee meeting.

17. The Chair shall be responsible for the implementation of the policy of the Scientific Committee, assisted by the Executive Director.

18. The Treasurer shall be responsible for administering the finances of the IGBP, and shall submit annual budgets and audited financial reports for approval by the Scientific Committee. These budgets and reports shall also be submitted to ICSU in accordance with its Rules of Procedure on Interdisciplinary Bodies.

19. Under the general direction of the Officers, the Executive Director will be responsible for the expeditious and orderly conduct of the activities of the Scientific Committee, and for the running of the Secretariat and appointments therein. The Executive Director shall prepare an annual report on the activities of the Scientific Committee, and shall prepare for the meetings of the Scientific Committee, the Officers and the Advisory Panel (see Section V).

IV Adhering Bodies

20. The adhering bodies to the Programme shall consist of:
- a. National IGBP or Global Change Committees;
 - b. ICSU International Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives that participate with the Programme;
 - c. Scientific capacity building and networking institutions dealing with global change, and wishing to participate in the Programme.

V The Advisory Panel

21. The Advisory Panel (AP) shall review and advise on the implementation of the programme, and make recommendations to the Scientific Committee.

22. It shall have, in particular, the following functions:
- a. To review the activities of the Programme since its previous meeting and to assess its results;
 - b. To give advice on the means to achieve the priorities of the Programme;
 - c. To provide a platform for cooperation between the participating Adhering Bodies, the Scientific Committee and other organisations invited to attend AP meetings.

23. The members of the Advisory Panel shall be composed of the Adhering Bodies to the Programme. In addition, representatives from other organisations will be invited to attend the Advisory Panel meetings, on the authority of the SC-IGBP Chair.

24. The Advisory Panel shall normally meet every four years at the IGBP Congress and will be presided over by the IGBP SC Chair. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the Scientific Committee or by at least one third of the National Committees; in either case at least four months notice shall be given.

25. The dates and place of an ordinary meeting of the Advisory Panel shall be communicated at least six months in advance. Items proposed for inclusion in the Agenda must be received by the Executive Director at least four months before the ordinary meeting of the AP. The agenda shall be communicated at least three months before the meeting.

VI. Finance

26. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between ICSU, the IGBP and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, all financial activities of the IGBP are exercised as part of the Academy's own activities and thus concluded under the legal authority of the Academy.

27. The funds of the Scientific Committee are obtained from the contributions of its National Committees, subventions, donations, contracts or revenues from sales or investments.
28. The National Committees shall pay annual contributions.
29. All Adherents will provide for the expenses of their representatives to meetings of the Advisory Panel.
30. In the event of the dissolution of the Scientific Committee, its assets, or any liabilities, shall be disbursed by decision of ICSU and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

VII. Amendments to Constitution

31. Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted by the Scientific Committee after approval by two-thirds of all members to the Executive Board of ICSU for ratification.

This constitution, with amendments, was ratified by the ICSU Executive Board in Paris, April 2005.