

In October we had a celebration at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences – the home of IGBP’s Secretariat – to acknowledge our longstanding relationship with Sweden. Many Swedish scientists played a formative role in IGBP’s early years and continue to make important contributions to global-change research. Sweden has been a stable and generous funder of our activities. The celebration provided an opportunity to recognise the contributions of individuals and institutions in Sweden, and to reminisce on the accomplishments of the past decades.



While it is the explicit focus of the Global Carbon Project, carbon is the subject of study, directly or indirectly, of all of our core projects. Some projects explore it in terms of ecosystems, sources and sinks, some in terms of models and past processes, and others in terms of air pollution. When synthesised, this information provides a comprehensive picture of the carbon cycle and its anthropogenic modification.

We would also like to acknowledge our close collaboration with two of the global-change programmes. The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), which closed in June this year, co-sponsored two of our core projects and encouraged and empowered social scientists to address environmental change. DIVERSITAS, which will formally close at the end of this year, has consistently drawn attention to biodiversity and ecosystem services. Many core projects of both programmes are expected to transition to Future Earth, thus ensuring that the vibrant research in these areas will continue unhindered. We will continue to work closely with those communities as we plan our own transition.

Speaking about synthesis, we continue to work on our landmark synthesis that is

expected to be complete by the end of next year. We now have first drafts of papers on the Anthropocene that will form part of a special issue. We also have first drafts of a series of papers that take stock of the achievements and outlook of our core projects. Finally, a commentary on risk is about to be submitted for publication and a paper on Earth-system science is in the making. All of this and more will be presented at IGBP’s landmark synthesis event at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) conference in December 2015.

In September this year, the Global Carbon Project released its annual carbon budget in advance of the climate summit in New York. As always, the budget was well received with several articles in high-profile journals and media across the world. In this issue of the magazine we look at not only the carbon budget but also other dimensions of carbon: the greening of Australia, peak greenhouse-gas emissions in China and the mitigation of black carbon.

The event will celebrate IGBP’s contributions to science, policy and capacity via several transdisciplinary sessions, a young scientists’ event, a reception and other activities. Members of our core projects and national committees, past and present, are expected to attend in full force. We are working closely with AGU to make this event a success. We welcome everyone from the IGBP and global-change communities and hope many of you will be able to attend.

In the next and final issue of this magazine we will take a retrospective look at IGBP’s scientific and other accomplishments over the years and look ahead to the changing landscape of global-change research and policy. Stay tuned! ■

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