



IHDP
International Human Dimensions Programme
on Global Environmental Change

UPDATE
June 1997

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INTRODUCTION:

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change has been undergoing major restructuring and strengthening during 1996 which will culminate in an indepth review of its future programme of work in 1997. The original Human Dimensions Programme (HDP) was initiated in 1990 by the International Social Science Council in order to complement research initiatives underway by natural scientists within the International Geosphere - Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) which were sponsored by the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU). The HDP was conceived as a comprehensive, interdisciplinary and international frame-work for research on social processes related to global environmental change. In February 1996, the Human Dimensions Programme (HDP) was significantly strengthened by the formal joining of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) as a full partner in sponsoring the programme.

At the same time, the name of the programme was changed to the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change in order to adequately reflect the growing international nature and scope of the programme. Today its objectives remain focused upon the development and integration of research on the human dimensions of global environmental change which are -- or will soon be -- high on the scientific and public policy agenda.

Following a major "core" grant from the German Ministry for Education, Science, Research and Technology in October 1996, the new IHDP established its secretariat in Bonn, Germany. The University of Bonn has also provided a grant of free office accommodations and equipment for the secretariat. An enlarged staff has been recruited, including a full time Executive Director, International Science Project Officer, and Administrative Assistant, as well as other part-time staff support. At the same time, the Scientific Committee has been reconstituted and a new Chairperson, Prof. Eckart Ehlers, Secretary General of the

International Geographical Union and Professor of Geography at the University of Bonn, has taken office.

The Scientific Committee of IHDP met in Bonn in May 1996 and in Paris in December 1996 and has established a series of guidelines and proposals for the future IHDP work programme. Taking into account the significant efforts by the HDP to review, analyse, and assess research priorities and to launch a number of specific projects during the period of its existence in Geneva from 1993 until August 1996, the new Scientific Committee was able to define a series of priority projects and activities upon which the IHDP will focus its immediate attention and resources. This includes the following **IHDP Programme Elements: IHDP Research Projects, IHDP Joint Activities, and IHDP Secretariat Support Services.**

I. IHDP RESEARCH PROJECTS:

a) Industrial Transformation (IT):

The subject of Industrial Transformation (IT) was identified as one of the HDPs early priority research topics and considerable progress has already been made in developing a framework for future research activities. The HDP Steering Committee in November 1995 requested Professor P. Vellinga, director of the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam to lead a small team to develop a Scoping Report drawing upon the various contributions of an earlier ad hoc working group on Industrial Transformation. Both a Dutch and an international HDP workshop were held in January 1996 to provide inputs in the development of a Scoping Report (SR) which was submitted to the IHDP in March 1996. The SR's goal was "to provide the elements and insights necessary to develop

an interdisciplinary research programme" focusing on the ultimate aim of understanding "the human drives and mechanisms that could enable a transformation of the industrial system towards sustainability, and in physical terms to decouple industrial activities from their environmental impacts."

Both a Dutch and an international workshop were scheduled for early 1997. The aim of the Dutch workshop is to discuss a national Inventory of Research and to formulate some key questions for the Dutch Scientific Community. The aim of the international workshop is to discuss and complement a recently completed document entitled: "An Inventory of Research" (IHDP-IT Document No. 3, February 1997) and to make progress towards the development of a draft Science Plan. The IHDP-IT project also has established a Web Site (<http://www.cca.vu.nl/ivm/hdp/hdp.htm>)

Further discussions will take place in connection with the Second Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community (Laxenburg, June 1997). The project activities in 1997 will be focused on the preparation and implementation of a draft Science Plan which will reflect the key research questions in the various regions of the world related to GEC and Industrial Transformation. The present ideas regarding the set up of the research agenda are as follows. Three related fields of research are to be considered:

a) **System-Analytical perspectives** such as the Environmental Kuznets Curve, International Mass Balance Research, Eco-restructuring and Developed - Developing country interactions.

b) **Industrial Ecology** including industrial networks, eco-efficiency,

Life Cycle Analysis, greening of the industry and organisational issues.

c) **Consumers**, including consumer choice issues and the role of consumers in decision making.

The IHDP is also supporting the IT project team's efforts to convene a major IHDP-IT Open Global Conference on Industrial Transformation in early 1998. The objective of this critical meeting is to revise and adopt a draft Science Plan, to initiate specific research activities and to mobilise new financial and scientific resources for the implementation of the Science Plan. Particular emphasis will be given to facilitate the participation of a wide range of scientists (e.g. geographical, disciplinary and gender) to collaborate in these activities, particularly scientists from developing countries and young scientists.

b) Institutional Dimensions of Global Change (IDGC)

At the request of the HDP Steering Committee, Arild Underdal of the University of Oslo and Oran Young of Dartmouth College organised a planning meeting on the theme of the "Institutional Dimensions of Global Change" (IDGC) in January 1996 and prepared a preliminary Scoping Report (SR) for consideration of the IHDP Science Committee at its May 1996 meeting. The SR was also presented to a number of other conferences, including the 1996 Annual Meeting of the International Conference for the Study of Common Property (Berkeley). The SC approved the preliminary report, assigned high priority to this emerging project, and requested a full Scoping Report to be prepared by the end of 1996. This full Scoping Report went to the IHDP-SC at the beginning of December. The Scoping Report outlines a strategy that calls for a project designed to add to our

understanding of the roles humans play in the dynamics of large biophysical systems by (1) focusing on institutional issues raised by other IHDP/IGBP projects, including Land-Use and Land-Cover Change (LUCC), Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone (LOICZ), and Industrial Transformation (IHDP-IT); (2) directing attention to studies of the effectiveness and the robustness of institutions; and (3) emphasising the problems of scale, interplay, and fit as cutting edge concerns in research on institutions. This project will play a prominent role in the IHDP strategy to promote cross-cutting approaches to research on the human dimensions of global environmental change. The Scoping Report and possible approaches and steps towards the preparation of a full Science Plan were discussed at the International Studies Association meeting in Toronto in March 1997.

It is expected that further discussions will take place in connection with the Second Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community (Laxenburg, June 1997). The IDGC project team is preparing a major IHDP-IDGC Workshop on Institutional Dimensions of Global Change to be convened before the end of 1997. The objective of this critical meeting is to enable prominent scholars to review the Scoping Report and other documents with a view to preparing an operational agenda for international, collaborative research, i.e. a full science plan for future consideration by the IHDP-SC. The Workshop would also initiate the process of designing a practical strategy for implementing this plan. Particular emphasis will be given to facilitate the participation of a wide range of scientists (e.g. geographical, disciplinary and gender) to collaborate in these activities, particularly scientists from developing countries and young scientists.

c) Global Environmental Change and Human Security (GECHS)

This IHDP project represents a joint initiative by the IHDP, the Canadian Global Change Programme (under the auspices of their national committee on HDP) and the Netherlands HDP Committee. The project is being coordinated by a Project Planning Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Steve Lonergan (University of Victoria, Canada), Mr. Nico Schrijver (The Netherlands) and Prof. Gerd Junne (The Netherlands). The GECHS Project Planning Committee has already held several workshops and meetings which led to the submission of a Scoping Report on GECHS to the IHDP-SC in February 1996. The Scoping Report recommended that initial priority attention by IHDP-GECHS be given to the key research area of assessing the relationship amongst environmental degradation, population displacement and human security. In addition, a workshop on Environmental Security and Sustainable Development was held in April 1996 by the Netherlands HDP Committee, the Dutch National Research Programme on Climate Change and Global Air Pollution (NRP) and the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NOW) and the proceedings have been published. A workshop on GECHS was held in Toronto in March 1997 in connection with the International Studies Association annual meeting. The workshop discussed the content and structure of the proposed science plan and identified research activities for the future. The GECHS workshop was also used to develop a policy briefing document, which is expected to be published by the Canadian Global Change Programme, and was the focus of direct policy briefings for various Canadian federal government officials. In the fall of 1997, the project is

expected to hold a NATO Advanced Research Workshop in Budapest, Hungary on the topic of Environmental Change, Adaptation and Security. GECHS is also co-sponsoring with the Australian Human Dimensions Programme, a workshop scheduled for February 1998, on water and security in South East Asia. The project also supports a World Wide Web site (<http://geography.geog.uvic.ca/hdp/htmls/index.html>). It is expected that the GECHS project will also be discussed during the Second Open Meeting of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community (Laxenburg, 12-14 June 1997). Priority is being given to mobilising financial and scientific resources to support future GECHS activities, and particularly to help the GECHS project team to ensure the participation of a wide range of scientists (e.g. geographical, disciplinary and gender) to collaborate in these activities, particularly scientists from developing countries and young scientists.

d) Other IHDP Research Areas

In addition to the above three priority IHDP research projects, there are a number of research initiatives in various stages of development which have been supported by IHDP in the past, and remain of considerable relevance to the field of human dimension of global environmental change research. The IHDP was not in a position in 1996 to give full support to the many relevant social science initiatives in this field and the IHDP Secretariat and Scientific Committee will continue to monitor and assess possible future support for additional research projects. Special reference in this regard should be made, however, to two activities which have been linked in the past to the HDP process, the GOES-Global Omnibus Environmental Survey project (which is to hold a workshop in January 1997 with financial

support from IHDP) and the PAGEC-Perception and Assessment of Global Environmental Change project. Both of these previous HDP initiatives will be reviewed and reassessed by the IHDP-SC in 1997.

II. IHDP JOINT ACTIVITIES

a) LUCC

The Land Use and Cover Change (LUCC) is a major co-operative research project sponsored by both the IHDP and the IGBP. The general objectives of the LUCC project are: a) to obtain a better understanding of global land-use and land-cover driving forces; b) to investigate and document temporal and geographical dynamics of land-use and land-cover; c) to define the links between sustainability and various land uses; and d) to understand the inter-relationship between LUCC, biogeochemistry and climate. Over the coming decades, the global effects of land use and cover change may be as significant, or more so, than those associated with potential climate change. From inception, the planning and implementation of the LUCC project has actively engaged both the physical and social science communities. LUCC has three focus areas: Focus 1: Land-use dynamics - comparative case study analysis; Focus 2: Land-cover dynamics - empirical observations and diagnostic models; and Focus 3: Regional and global integrated models. These Focus areas are complemented by two "integrating activities": Data and classification and Scalar dynamics.

The LUCC project has established a Newsletter and a Web site (<http://www.icc.es/lucc>). In addition to having appointed Core Project Officers and established Offices for the three Focus areas, LUCC has launched a wide range of practical research initiatives and has convened a number of workshops and

meetings relevant to these areas. LUCC presently is focusing its attention on the preparation of a major strategic "Implementation Plan" at the forthcoming sessions of its Science Steering Committee scheduled for 1997. The IHDP will play an active role in support of the LUCC project, and particularly promote practical linkages between other IHDP research projects and the LUCC programme. The IHDP's focus on providing support to national human dimension (HD) committees and projects should facilitate linkages between these national HD activities and LUCC research priorities.

b) START

The Global Change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START) is jointly sponsored by IGBP, WCRP and IHDP. It is focused on global change issues in specific regional contexts and promotes interdisciplinary research at a regional level on the interactions of human and environmental systems affecting and being affected by global changes. Given the constraints upon human scientific expertise and technological infrastructure in some regions of the world, particularly in developing regions, the START programme also is designed to build the indigenous capacity of these regions to facilitate their participation in the various international global change scientific research agendas. START has established an extensive Regional Research Network comprised of regional secretariats, research centres and affiliated regional research sites.

The IHDP works directly with START to promote practical linkages between IHDP projects and activities and the various regional research initiatives established and supported by START, especially those undertaken in collaboration with the APN (Asia-Pacific Network), ENRICH (European Network) and IAI (Inter-American Institute). START

provides a useful mechanism to assist IHDP to integrate a human dimension within priority regional research initiatives and to implement IHDP's own objective of promoting the active participation of social scientists in global environmental change research activities, particularly scientists from developing countries and young scientists.

III. IHDP SECRETARIAT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

a) National Human Dimension Programmes, Committees, and Projects

One of the most urgent priorities for the IHDP Secretariat is to establish direct and regular contacts with the many national human dimension committees, programmes, projects and activities which already exist in many countries. The IHDP has scheduled informal meetings with representatives of national committees and activities in Asia and the Pacific and in Europe and North America early in 1997. During these meetings, representatives from over 25 countries are expected to provide information on their human dimension activities and aspirations and identified areas in which IHDP might provide assistance in future. There appears to be a significant need for IHDP to facilitate an improved exchange of information on research activities, results and methodologies among the scientists working in the various countries. The IHDP is ready to assist scientists in a number of countries to establish and/or strengthen national committees or project teams working on human dimension issues and to promote greater synergy among these national and regional research efforts.

The IHDP Secretariat is presently preparing an inventory of national human dimension committees, programmes and projects teams working on global

environmental change. In future, it is expected that the IHDP will give increasing priority to the strengthening of the capacity of such national efforts and the dissemination or "internationalisation" of their research results and approaches. At the same time, it is expected that it will also be possible to create "research project teams" bringing together activities from several different national committees and programmes. The IHDP sees the creation of a strong network of national committees as providing an essential framework which will significantly enhance IHDP's capacity to support international research efforts in this field.

b) IHDP NEWSLETTER

An essential tool necessary to IHDP's networking activities is the development of an IHDP Newsletter. The Secretariat is presently preparing the first issue which will be available in June 1997. The objective is to provide information concerning the work of the IHDP's research projects, joint activities and national committees to a wide range of social scientists and others interested in the human dimension of global environmental change. The Newsletter will be published two to three times a year and will provide up-to-date information on people, new research initiatives, publications and meetings in this field. In addition to being available in a printed format, the Newsletter will also be available via e-mail and on the IHDP Web Site.

c) IHDP WEB SITE

Another essential tool in IHDP's information exchange and networking strategy is the introduction of an IHDP Web Site (<http://www.uni-bonn.de/ihdp>). The goal of the IHDP Web Site is to facilitate the interrelationships between the IHDP sponsors, projects, joint activities and national committees via a central and

convenient web site which brings them together. The IHDP Web Site will also enable scientists to quickly link up with many of the most important research and information centres involved in human dimension of global environmental change research. It also will provide a mechanism which should facilitate the exchange of information and generate collaboration among the various national human dimension committees and regional research initiatives.

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d) Mobilization of Research Funds

The IHDP will provide support to its various projects, joint activities and national committees with a view to promoting a more coordinated and efficient approach to the mobilization of research funds for the future. Improvements in information exchange and the development of more collaborative, interdisciplinary initiatives among researchers within the social science community and amongst both social and natural scientists are essential if the substantial research resources necessary are to be mobilised. The IHDP provides a mechanism which should generate research initiatives which effectively integrate relevant human dimensions within global environmental change research. At the same time, such research may also provide new insights to assist decision makers and the public to better understand the complex policy issues related to global environmental change. The IHDP Secretariat and the Scientific Committee of the IHDP have an important role to play in helping to ensure that donor agencies may be confident that proposals submitted within the IHDP framework reflect a coordinated, focused and scientifically sound approach to the setting of research priorities and the identification of practical research activities at the national, regional and global levels.

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