



IGFA
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Update on IHDP Activities

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IHDP Developments

- ✓ Scientific Findings
- ✓ Strategic Planning Process
- ✓ Synergistic Activities
- ✓ Sponsorship Restructuring



Scientific Findings

- Lucc Synthesis

“... our understanding of the causes of land change has moved from simplistic representations of two or three driving forces to a much more profound understanding that involves situation-specific interactions among a large number of factors at different spatial as well as temporal scales.”

Lucc Synthesis Volume, pg. 69



Scientific Findings

- IDGEC Synthesis

“... institutions typically form elements of interactive clusters of driving forces that determine collective outcomes in social settings. For the most part, these clusters include biophysical forces ... as well as socioeconomic forces ...”

IDGEC Draft Synthesis Volume, Ch. 1



Scientific Findings

- Implications
 - Need to focus on complex and dynamic systems
 - Emphasis on phenomena like non-linear processes, tipping points and thresholds, rapid change events, emergent properties
 - The role of holistic vs. reductionist modes of analysis
 - Introducing social science findings into ESSP projects and global assessments



Strategic Planning

- Main findings of the External Review Committee
 - **“IHDP has been successful in developing an international research programme enhancing the involvement of the social sciences in global change issues ...”**
 - “IHDP is in an excellent position to ensure the expansion and strengthening of global scientific capacity,” but this role is not mentioned in the current Constitution or mission statement.
 - “The policy interface is a weakness of the IHDP that needs to be proactively corrected.”
 - **“IHDP should ... develop a Strategic Plan ...”**



Strategic Planning

- Quality Science
 - New approach designed to enhance synergy
- Capacity Building, Networking, and Communication
 - Systematic outreach to other science communities, sustainable development and policy communities, attentive public
 - Enhanced focus on regional and sub-regional capacity development
- Science-Policy Interface
 - Initiation of science-policy dialogues



Restructured Sponsorship

- Changing circumstances
 - Early this year BMBF announced a 25% cut in basic funding for IHDP in 2007
 - And the prospect of additional cuts of 25% each year in 2008 and 2009
- The need for restructuring
 - By itself, this would decimate IHDP
 - So, we have been exploring options for restructuring



Restructured Sponsorship

- The option we have come up with involves the addition of UNU as a 3rd sponsor, joining ICSU and ISSC
 - Relocation of the IHDP Secretariat to the new UN Campus in Bonn
- State of play
 - IHDP SC has approved this plan; the sponsors are in the process of acting on the proposal
 - This will lead, among other things, to a new MOU among the sponsors and an updated IHDP Constitution



Restructured Sponsorship

- Some advantages of the new arrangement
 - Internationalizing the staff
 - Increasing opportunities for interaction with members of the policy community
 - Enhancing administrative efficiency and opportunities for cost saving
 - Encouraging contributions from non-German sources



Synergistic Activities

- Joint projects with IGBP
 - GLP
 - New LOICZ
- Engagement with ESSP
 - 2006 Cs and Ds Meeting in Tutzing
 - Full engagement in Beijing OSC
- Coordinated meetings
 - 2007: Coordination of IHDP and IGBP SC Meetings



Our Vision for the Future

- **An IHDP with strong links both to the social sciences and to the ESSP community**
- **Operating under a Strategic Plan emphasizing quality science; capacity building, networking and communication, and the science/policy interface**
- **Supported by regular national contributions through the UN System**