

UK IGBP National Committee

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Minutes of the meeting of the UK International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme National Committee, 24 November 2009**Present:**

HB	Prof Heiko Baltzer, University of Leicester
CB	Dr Chris Baker, NERC
JD	Prof John Dearing, University of Southampton
AG	Anita Ghosh, University of Oxford (Secretary)
RH	Dr Roger Harris, Plymouth Marine Laboratory
JI	Mr John Ingram, University of Oxford (Chair)
PL	Prof Peter Liss, University of East Anglia
PM	Prof Paul Monks, University of Leicester
CR	Dr Carol Robinson, University of East Anglia
SS	Sybil Seitzinger, IGBP Secretariat
RG	Dr Roland von Glasow, University of East Anglia
MW	Dr Mathew Williams, University of Edinburgh (via telephone conference)
RC	Ruth Cooper, Royal Society

1. Welcome and Apologies

JI welcomed everyone to the Royal Society, in particular Sybil Seitzinger IGBP Executive Director and to Paul Monks and Carol Robinson who join the meeting for the first time. Apologies were received from:

Andrew Parker, Royal Society
Graham Leeks, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Prof Sandy Harrison, University of Bristol

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Review of Actions

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record and the Chair thanked Dawn Ashby for preparing them.

Action 1 from previous meeting: CB to investigate why MW's suggestions were not incorporated into the polar science final report.

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Action 2 from previous meeting: MW to contact Cynan Ellis-Evans regarding the UK IPY meeting.

ACTION 2: MW has contacted Cynan Ellis-Evans regarding the IPY meeting but has not received a reply. MW to follow up.

Action 3 from previous meeting: DA/AG to investigate the use of video conferencing for future meetings

A combination of Skype and telephone conferencing is a feasible method for committee members to join the meeting remotely.

Action 4 from previous meeting: CB to follow up on future funding for QUEST

ACTION 3: CB to follow up on future funding for QUEST and possibility of obtaining responsive mode funding from NERC.

Action 5 from previous meeting: JI to e-mail IGBP NC members seeking nominations for IGBP SC

Done, to be discussed later on agenda.

3) Tour de Table – update from members on their specialist IGBP elements

- 3.1 HB reported on Earth Observation activities. A briefing paper has been put to the European Commission regarding the activities of the GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security) programme for the period 2011-2013. The focus of work will include emergency response services, land monitoring services and will harmonize environmental information in Europe. It is anticipated that there will be €150m funding for the period.
- 3.2 RG reported on SOLAS activities, including the contribution of COST Action 735. The Summer School in Cargese (August 2009) went very well and as in previous years, was heavily oversubscribed. The Open Science Conference in Barcelona in November 2009 had gone well. The mid-term strategy was discussed including future foci of SOLAS. Several short term scientific missions (STSM) have been successfully completed - further information is available in the Spring 2009 edition of the SOLAS newsletter. A workshop "Ozone in the Marine Boundary Layer" was held in York, May 2009. An IGBP Fast Track Initiative on "Megacities and the coastal zone: air-sea interactions" has started with Tim Jickells and RG as co-chairs. A focused workshop is scheduled for April 2010.
- 3.3 CR reported on IMBER activities as detailed in Appendix 1 and included reference to the Joint IMBER/SOLAS Carbon Group, the IMBER/LOICZ Continental Margins Task Team, the Data Management Committee and the Capacity Building Working Group. 2009 and 2010 activities and meetings were outlined and are listed in Appendix 1.

The GLOBEC-IMBER Transition Task Team (TTT) was set up by SCOR and IGBP to examine how the second phase of the IMBER programme could accommodate i) new developments in marine ecosystem research and ii) incorporate GLOBEC projects that will run beyond the end of March 2010 when the GLOBEC programme ends. The TTT report has been approved by SCOR and IGBP.

- 3.4 RH reported on GLOBEC activities. At the end of 2009 the GLOBEC programme will come to an end after 10 years (all SCOR sponsored projects have a 10 year term).

The last Open Science Conference was held in Victoria, British Columbia, 22-26 June which had good attendance and was very successful. The last Scientific Steering Committee was held in November. Some topics covered:

- Reports on existing GLOBEC activities and plans for the future, post-GLOBEC.
- Ongoing GLOBEC Regional Programmes, ESSAS, CLIOTOP, ICED, BASIN will continue under IMBER – recommended by the GLOBEC/IMBER Transition Task Team in their report. Concerns that IMBER may not have the same level of funds to support these activities as GLOBEC had.
- Open Science Meeting proceedings being published in Special Issue of Progress in Oceanography.
- GLOBEC Synthesis book, “Marine Ecosystems and Global Change” is at the proof stage and will be published by Oxford University Press early in 2010.
- Liaising with Elsevier to produce a compendium of GLOBEC papers and research highlights is being planned.
- A Summary for Policy Makers is being written.

The GLOBEC International Project Office will formally close at the end of March 2010 and various housekeeping issues will be addressed prior to this including: the website, metadata, depository of hard copies of reports etc (to go to 3 international libraries) and long-term electronic storage.

GLOBEC has been a very successful IGBP project. RG thanked the sponsors, IGBP, SCOR and IOC for their support. RG also thanked USNSF and NERC for major funding of the IPO and to NERC who supported the UKGLOBEC “Marine Productivity” Programme which was the subject of an IGBP-NC meeting at the Royal Society.

JI as Chair congratulated RH on his work and the GLOBEC programme.

- 3.5 JI reported on GECAFS activities. The IPO has received the final tranche of funding from NERC to allow activities until the scheduled programme finish at the end of March 2011.

Work is currently focused on writing a synthesis book which is due to be published by Earthscan in September 2010. The book will be a synthesis of what has been learnt by GECAFS and others about global environmental change and food systems as well as information about how to undertake research of this nature.

GECAFS will deliver the scenarios aspect of the recently launched Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) programme. GECAFS has been closely involved in the development of the IHDP Earth Systems Governance programme which has food systems as one of its topics. The Core Project will be launched in December 09 and the Science Plan is available on the web.

- 3.6 JD reported on PAGES activities. In August the Young Scientists Meeting and Open Science Meeting were held in Oregon. The Science Plan and Implementation Strategy (SPIS) was published and adopted.

The SPIS divides PAGES research into 4 foci: F1 Climate Forcing; F2 Regional Climatic Dynamics; F3 Global Earth System Dynamics; F4 Human-Climate-

Ecosystem Interactions; with a number of cross-cutting themes. A proposal has been submitted for a F4 workshop on 'Regional Integration of Palaeoenvironmental Records' to be held in UK in late 2010.

Strong links have been maintained between PAGES and IMAGES, IPICS, CLIVAR and GLP. IHOPE (AIMES/PAGES-IHDP) activities have increased with the second workshop on modelling human-environment interactions held at NCEAS, UC at Santa Barbara in September.

Discussions about a vision for PAGES science has included an increased emphasis on the adaptation/vulnerability agenda. As a result, JD led the writing of a scoping paper to Chris Field, Chair WGII, about the potential role for long term human-environment interactions.

Chris Turney (Exeter) was nominated to the PAGES SSC from 2010.

- 3.7 PM reported on IGAC activities. IGAC will hold a conference in 2010. IGAC was part of the ICSU visioning process and looked at future directions for its area. International scientists met to look at collaboration in atmospheric composition. The challenge is how to achieve thematic priorities in an integrated approach whilst also underpinning research. A short note has been written that will be fed into the visioning process.

The Scientific Steering Group met recently and joined with WCRP programme Stratospheric Processes And their Role in Climate (SPARC). The IGBP ISE topics were discussed and ways in which IGAC and SPARC could work more closely together.

PM stated that as of 2007 more people live in cities than rural areas so the impact of megacities being considered by IGAC and others is timely.

A major IGAC initiative is black carbon in the environment in polar regions. UNEP has simultaneously launched a black carbon initiative and work is being done to ensure no overlap.

- 3.8 MW reported on AIMES activities. It is the Earth System synthesis and integration project that integrates work from IGBP Core programmes. In July, a Young Scholars Network Workshop was held in France on Historical Ecology: Integrating Biophysical, Historical, and Ethnographic Evidence at the Landscape Scale.

A joint meeting was held with WCRP in September as part of an ongoing collaboration.

The AIMES Open Science Conference "Earth System Science: Climate, Global Change and People", will be held in Edinburgh in May 2010 and will be co-sponsored by QUEST. The broad themes to be addressed at the conference will be:

- Earth system modelling: from observations and process understanding to prediction and risk assessment.
- Dynamics of biogeochemical cycles and climate: transitions, instabilities and feedbacks.

- People and resources—perspectives on the relations among environment, ecosystems and human needs.

Work continues on the International Nitrogen Initiative. The Programme Officer for AIMES is moving on and it is anticipated that uncertainty with funding will be resolved and a replacement recruited.

Peter Cox and John Finnigan have joined the AIMES Scientific Steering Committee.

4) Chair's Report

- 4.1 It was noted that the UK IGBP Secretariat has moved from Plymouth Marine Laboratories to the University of Oxford with the website being maintained by AG. JI thanked RH and DA for all their work over recent years as Chair and Secretary respectively.
- 4.2 A proposal based on an interactive “globe” was submitted for the UK IGBP to contribute to the Royal Society exhibition in Summer 2010 but it was not accepted.
- 4.3 JI has worked with PL in his role as Chair of GERC regarding the European Alliance of Global Change Research Committees.
- 4.4 Matters relating to the i) IGBP Scientific Committee, ii) National Committees Communication Strategy, iii) UK bid to host the IGBP Conference in 2012 will be discussed later in the agenda.

ACTION 4: AG to liaise with IGBP Secretariat to ensure copies of the IGBP 2008 annual report are sent to committee members.

5) Report from the 2009 Atmospheric Chemistry meeting (Appendix 2)

- 5.1 A brief report collating the major findings discussed during the day, together with the identification of knowledge gaps and key recommendations for further work will be summarised in IGAC and SOLAS newsletters.

PM noted that it was worthwhile considering issues and outputs from this sort of meeting. The Tropics as a region are undergoing some of the greatest urbanization and largest environmental fluxes, therefore any changes in tropical regions will have a huge influence elsewhere.

6) Update from NERC (Appendix 3)

CB presented an update report of NERC activities including a brief overview of Phase I Theme Action Plan activities that have now started. Large scale programmes include Changing Water Cycle, Ocean Acidification and Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation.

NERC has recently adopted the “sandpit” approach to allocate smaller funding. Intense events of 4-5 days are held to provoke new ideas, initiatives, ways of thinking and at the end awards are made in principal subject to approval of final detail.

CB stressed that Impact Plans must be included in all research proposals to help illustrate to the Government that research has the potential to be economically useful.

Council has approved the continued funding of the Earth System Science Summer School plus continued funding of NERC PhD students to attend the SOLAS and ERCA International Summer Schools.

New SISB member appointments from November 2009 are: Professor Tim Benton, Biological Sciences, University of Leeds; Professor Gideon Henderson, Earth Sciences, University of Oxford; Professor Martin J Siebert, GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh; Professor Geraint Vaughan, Earth, Atmospheric & Environmental Sciences, University of Manchester.

NERC and BBSRC have made £750k available to kick-start research projects in the field of systematics and taxonomy. It has been found that a lot of people in this field are retiring and less new people coming through.

The process has begun of IGFA refocusing its activities to centre on being better able to identify opportunities for collaborative research efforts in the global change field. The 'Belmont group' (named after location of meeting) has been set up and it was proposed that it should act as the Steering Committee of the wider IGFA coalition.

A Macronutrients proposal is being considered by Council this week and if successful it is envisaged that this will be a £9.5m project.

7) Update from Royal Society (Appendix 4)

An update report from Andrew Parker was tabled in his absence.

- 7.1 RC welcomed SS to the Royal Society. RC stated that the Royal Society is part of the Inter Academy Panel and will be hosting the next General Assembly in 2010. There will be 2 day conference on biodiversity – chaired by Georgina Mace on 13 & 14 Jan 2010.

ACTION 5: Members to contact Ruth Cooper asap if would like to attend the Biodiversity conference in January 2010.

- 7.2 RC reported that The Royal Society ICSU Business and Delegate Grants schemes have been disbanded. In the next financial year, these funds will be devolved to UK committees that have involvement with the ICSU family body providing they have expressed a need for the funding. Priority will be given to supporting attendance at General Assemblies or Congresses (GA's) of ICSU international bodies.

The remainder of the money will be divided equally amongst all UK learned societies, committees or groups who inform the Society that they will be sending UK delegates to overseas business meetings in the next financial year. JI as Chair to collate funding requests and submit to the Society.

ACTION 6: Committee members to inform JI by 4 January 10 of any overseas business meetings, Congresses or General Assemblies of their ICSU family body that they need to attend in 2010/11 financial year.

[PMN: This particular source of funding from The Royal Society relates to Business Meetings. The Society has other funding schemes that can meet the cost of attending Scientific Meetings. There is just this one request for funding information for the 2010/11 financial year so it is imperative that if you think you might attend a Business

Meeting, you submit an estimate of the cost and indicate what your role at the meeting(s) will involve.]

7.3 RC thanked JI for coordinating the UK bid to host the IGBP Conference in 2012.

8) UK representation on IGBP SC

8.1 JI reported that the UK submitted two suggestions for representation on the IGBP SC. Neither suggestion was successful at that time but names should continue to be put forward as and when opportunities arise. ICSU has appointed Prof. Jean Paultikof (Director, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Australia) and Prof. Raymond Bradley (Director, Climate System Research Center, Morrill Science Center, USA).

8.2 SS stated that the current IGBP Chair's term will end in two years time and IGBP National Committees will soon be asked for nominations. It is hoped that the Chair can be identified in time to attend the March 2010 Science Committee meeting and to take up the post in January 2012. The initial term will be for three years with the possibility of renewal for another three years.

9) Update on Alliance of European Global Change Research Committees

9.1 The Royal Society has signed up to the Alliance which now allows the UK to formally be a member. A meeting of the Alliance is due to take place in Madrid in December 09 which PL will attend as the UK principal representative and JI will also attend as an Observer for COST ESSEM. Two main topics are global change issues specific to European countries and the ICSU visioning process.

10) Royal Society Summer Exhibition update

10.1 It was reported that the UK IGBP bid was unsuccessful.

11) ICSU visioning process

11.1 SS reported that ICSU was charged by the General Assembly to look at global change research programmes within ICSU and to advise on future direction. ICSU reviewed IGBP, WCRP, ESSP and a decision was taken to take forward a visioning process which is currently ongoing. In October 09 and following an Open Forum, five grand challenges were drawn up of environmental questions that should be addressed. It is anticipated that comments on the challenges will be requested in February 2010.

11.2 The implication of the challenges on the structure of the ICSU GEC programmes (and ESSP) has yet to be decided. A brief discussion was held on this issue and concern was expressed at the number of organisations involved and the remits being too broad. It was recognised that there is a need for better coordination with research agendas and the hope was expressed that any restructuring would not disrupt the international science that is being carried out.

ACTION 7: Committee members to copy RC in on any input to the ICSU visioning process.

12) IGBP Integration, Synthesis and Exploration (ISE) update

12.1 SS stated that ISE aims to integrate information across the IGBP core projects and to engage with the broader community e.g. economists, policy makers.

To date almost all the IGBP Core Projects have submitted preliminary draft implementation plans (3-5 year lifespans). It is anticipated that the products from these plans will include high profile peer reviewed literature, policy briefs, media releases/promotion, disseminating knowledge to stakeholders and the wider community.

Following an IGBP Officers Meeting, three of the most developed plans have been identified for initial funding. Another three will be identified for initial funding at the March 2010 meeting.

An ISE website has been set up and access will be on a rolling basis. It will firstly be made available to integration leaders followed by all core projects and then the wider community. It is anticipated that each plan will have a special session at the IGBP 2012 Conference in order to present results.

13) Draft IGBP National Committees' Communications Strategy (Appendix 5)

- 13.1 The draft strategy outlines how the role of the national committees can be promoted at the national level. SS complimented the organisation of the UK IGBP committee and stated feedback from its members would be appreciated.

ACTION 8: Committee members to send comments on the draft IGBP National Committees' Communications Strategy to JI/AG for collating and forwarding to SS. [PMN: JI requested this input by 11 December]

14) 2012 IGBP Conference (Appendix 6)

- 14.1 JI spoke briefly about the UK bid to host the 2012 IGBP Conference. Key aspects of the bid included the event to take place in November 2012 at the ExCel centre in London with the Elsevier Science Conference Organizing Unit delivering (in close liaison with JI as Chair) and financially underwriting the conference.

SS stated that the IGBP Secretariat had received 6 strong proposals to host the conference. It is anticipated that a short list will be selected in December 09 with additional information being requested and a final decision made in the New Year.

15) IGBP NC initiatives

- a. Ongoing initiatives: IPY; GEC and Agriculture
- b. New initiatives

- 15.1 MW reported that there was no update on IPY activities (see Action Point 2 above).
- 15.2 JI provided an update on the GEC and Agriculture initiative: A brainstorming meeting will be held on 25 February 2009 at The Royal Society. The aim is to identify a number of clearly defined topics (e.g. issues/bottlenecks that are currently holding up progress) that the international GEC/agriculture community could address and deliver high quality science output.
- 15.3 PL stated that GERC is still looking for new initiatives to fund and that there are several proposals coming through including a nutrient cycling one. Martin Seigert has submitted a proposal to hold UK Town Meeting for Antarctic research with the aim to get the UK Antarctic community working in a more coherent way. Tim O'Riordan has submitted a proposal for global tipping points.

ACTION 9: Proposals for new IGBP NC initiatives to be submitted to PL.

ACTION 10: MW to talk with Martin Siegert about how the recently-held Arctic initiative could help design an Antarctic initiative.

16) Membership issues

16.1 Sandy Harrison of Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Processes Study (iLEAPS) has accepted a new appointment in Australia and consequently has resigned from the Committee. SH has been requested to suggest a successor to JI.

ACTION 11: JI to liaise with SH to identify iLEAPS successor for the Committee.

16.2 It was noted that it would be helpful for members to notify the Chair if they are planning to resign from the Committee within the next year in order to allow adequate time to find a successor.

17) AOB

None.

List of Actions

ACTION 1: CB to investigate why MW's suggestions were not incorporated into the polar science final report.

ACTION 2: MW has contacted Cynan Ellis-Evans regarding the IPY meeting but has not received a reply. MW to follow up.

ACTION 3: CB to follow up on future funding for QUEST and possibility of obtaining responsive mode funding from NERC.

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ACTION 6: Committee members to inform JI by 4 January 2010 of any overseas business meetings, Congresses or General Assemblies of their ICSU family body that they need to attend in 2010/11 financial year.

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Confirmed: _____

John Ingram, UK IGBP Chair

Date: 2 June 2010