

UK IGBP National Committee

Draft Minutes of the meeting of the UK International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme National Committee, 7 December 2010

6 Carlton House Terrace
London SW1Y 5AG
tel +44 (0) 20 7839 5561
fax +44 (0) 20 7930 2170
www.royalsoc.ac.uk

Present:

RC Ruth Cooper, Royal Society
JD John Dearing, University of Southampton (via skype)
RG Roland von Glasow, University of East Anglia
JI John Ingram, Oxford University (Chair)
GL Graham Leeks, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
CR Carol Robinson, University of East Anglia
AG Anita Ghosh, Oxford University (Secretary)
PM Paul Monks, University of Leicester
SR Sonny Rathod, NERC
PP Paul Palmer (via skype)

1. Welcome and Apologies

JI welcomed everyone to the Royal Society and in particular SR and PP. Apologies were received from:
Mathew Williams
Heiko Baltzer

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Review of Actions

The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record.

Action 1 from previous meeting: JI to write to PP to welcome him to the Committee as iLEAPS representative.

JI contacted PP.

Action 2 from previous meeting: CR to draft a letter to be sent from the Royal Society on behalf of the National IGBP Committee to key French agencies encouraging their further financial support of the IMBER IPO. CR to check draft with JI and RC to sign. Following a series of meetings, French funders have agreed to continue funding the IMBER IPO. At a recent IMBER Executive Meeting, it was confirmed that finances are now secure for the next three years (to 2014).

Action 3 from previous meeting: JI to circulate again the call for nominations for IGBP SC Chair from IGBP Secretariat.

Update will be provided in Agenda Item 4 of this meeting.

Action 4 from previous meeting: All to send nominations for IGBP SC Chair to IGBP Secretariat.

Update will be provided in Agenda Item 4 of this meeting.

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

GL (LOICZ): A Storm Surges meeting was held in Sept 2010 where management and research were covered and it was agreed that there was a need for more cohesion in decision tools and communication. Outputs are still in preparation. No representative from CEH at the meeting.

ACTION 1: GL to contact Kevin Horsburgh, Head of the National Tidal and Sea Level Facility, as follow up from the Storm Surges meeting (Sept 2010).

The LOICZ Open Science Conference (OSC) 2011 is to be held in China. The OSC is to be arranged around the overarching topic of ‘Coastal vulnerability and sustainability to support adaptation to Global Change’.

The most recent LOICZ Research & Studies Series report (nos 36) has been published entitled ‘Analyzing Coastal and Marine Changes: Offshore Wind Farming as a Case Study’.

CR (IMBER): A detailed update is attached. Some key points that were noted included:

- A new IMBER-LOICZ Continental Margins working group has been set up.
- In August 2010, 70 young scientists from 26 countries attended the IMBER Summer School in Brest – ‘ClimECO2 - Oceans, Marine Ecosystems, and Society facing Climate Change - A multidisciplinary approach’.
- The second IMBER science meeting IMBIZO II was held at the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research in Crete 11-14 October (~130 participants from 26 countries)
- An IMBER China Regional Project Office (RPO) will be opened and final stage interviews for the Deputy Executive Officer post are due to take place.
- CR confirmed that the IMBER IPO has received further funding to 2014.

It was suggested that there is a need as a National Committee to start lobbying for IPO funding and clarity is needed from IGBP for future direction. The process for funding IPOs takes time and so 2013 requirements need to start being considered soon.

RvG (SOLAS): An update of SOLAS activities is attached. Some key points were noted:

- Funding for the project office is only secured for 1-2 years and future funding will depend in part on who the new Chair is and where they are located. It may be possible for German funding to be extended.
- The SOLAS Mid term strategy includes six topics (see attached)
- The SOLAS integrator position (NERC funded) has been filled but by whom is currently unknown.
- A good succession of workshops were held in Istanbul for COST 735: ‘To develop tools for assessing global air-sea fluxes of climate and air pollution relevant gases’

JI stated that there is a need to continue to encourage colleagues to put in for COST actions e.g. under the COST domain ‘Earth System Science and Environmental Management (ESSEM)’.

PM (IGAC): The iCACGP/IGAC conference, 'Challenging the Future' involving ~370 participants was successfully held on 12-16 July 2010, Halifax, Canada. A Steering Group meeting took place and the next SC will be in Puerto Rico.

IGAC continues to develop well with a number of strong projects including 3-4 megacities projects as well as 'Atmospheric Chemistry & Climate' – a joint project with WCRP-SPARC; and 'ACPC: Aerosols, Clouds, Precipitation & Climate' – a joint project with iLEAPS and GEWEX. The IGBP Air Pollution and Climate initiative run by Paul Monks and Cathy Doyle takes a cross-cutting perspective and brings in a range of stakeholders including scientists and policy makers.

It was recognized that the 2012 conference provides an opportunity to present report findings from projects.

PP (iLEAPS): The Steering Committee is focusing on:

- updating science plan - reviewing what needs iLEAPS continued focus and what has been taken up by others or is now a major project;
- gearing up for iLEAPS newsletter with articles due end Jan, to be published March;
- the 3rd iLEAPS Science Conference, 18-23 September 2011, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany

Work is being done to reach out to the AIMES team re hidden drivers and impacts. It is recognized that there needs to be greater links with IGAC and iLEAPS as there is a lot of overlap in interests between the two projects and with it the potential for collaboration.

JD (PAGES): The IPO is now financially secure for the next 5 years by the US NSF and Swiss NSF equivalent. PAGES is minor element within iHOPE that is essentially run by AIMES and linked to IHDP. Need substantive funding for iHOPE office. Some funding has been put forward by the Stockholm Resilience Centre to fund the work of 2 researchers for a few years but there is not a long term secure base for iHOPE.

Reports from a variety of PAGES meetings relating to the four different focus areas (Climate Forcings; Regional Climate Dynamics; Global Earth-System Dynamics; Human-Climate-Ecosystem Interactions) that have taken place in 2010 are available from the PAGES website (<http://www.pages-igbp.org>). There will be an OSC meeting in 2013 with the location of this to be shortlisted in December 2010.

JI (GECAFS): The IPO will close after 10 years on 31 March 2011. The Synthesis volume entitled *Food Security and Global Environmental Change* has just been published by Earthscan. GECAFS is featured in the latest UNESCO/SCOPE/UNEP policy brief – No. 12.

A final GECAFS SAC meeting was held in Tucson in October 2010, on the back of the GLP conference. The ESSP SC have asked GECAFS to write a position paper on how the GEC community should handle the food security issue and fill the gap when GECAFS closes. It was suggested that this should be sent to Steven Wilson and also Andrew Watkinson, LWEC. JI is due to discuss further at the GERC meeting.

4. Chair's Report

a. European Alliance of Global Change Committees (EA)

JI reported that Wolfram Mauser has stepped down as Chair and has been replaced by Nelson Lourenço from Portugal. EA will convene a set of workshops to draft proposals for European-level research. National funds and mechanisms would pay for research but EA would convene scoping and planning meetings which could have European funding or coordinated national funding.

Topics would be major drivers relevant to Europe i.e. ageing society that sets context for discussion on more disciplinary or thematic topic rather than just science endeavour around a theme.

It was agreed that three Vice Chairs should be held by Germany, Sweden and UK. JI agreed to be vice chair for EA for UK which gives a certain amount of influence as to how EA develops.

It was proposed that EA convene a National Committee day for GEC Committees, after the 2012 conference, on Friday 30 March 2012. This would provide an opportunity for National Committees to meet and discuss developments from the conference.

Further, it is hoped that the 2012 conference will provide plans being laid out by the international community (ICSU Visioning, Belmont group, Rockström's paper) on the way forward for the institutional landscape. A National Committees Day on the back of the conference would be opportune to discuss implications of any such plans.

ACTION 2: JI to submit a proposal to GERC for support for the EA-convened National Committees Day on Friday 30 March 2012.

b. 'Planet Under Pressure', the 2012 Global Change Open Science Conference. 26-29 March 2012, London

The first Scientific Organizing Committee (SOC) meeting will take place 13-15 Dec 2010 in London. An advisory body is to be convened from commerce, government etc. to act as sounding board for ideas rather than getting industry to join the SOC. In this way, major names can become associated with the conference through both an advisory role and participation.

A Local Organizing Committee (LOC) has been set up and will co-opt people as required. JI is Chair, Becky Farncombe from NERC is Secretary. It includes representatives from Elsevier who are contracted to deliver the conference.

The majority of logistics will be done by Elsevier. JI negotiated with Elsevier to minimize the registration fee. Elsevier are confident that they can, through their and GEC contacts, attract 2500 participants. It was agreed that there is a need to attract participation from the scientific community (including committees and projects) as well as wider stakeholders. It was suggested that *Planet Earth* could be used as a way to disseminate information regarding the conference in the lead up to it.

Ideas for conference content are still welcome. It is anticipated that a skeleton outline will be circulated after the SOC meeting and feedback will be important. National IGBP and IHDP committees need to be used to help promote the conference within the UK community.

ACTION 3: JI to clearly communicate to the SOC what the UK IGBP National Committee can do to assist with the 2012 conference.

c. National GEC Committees Day, 30 March 2012, London

As discussed above in 4a.

d. IGBP SC Chair update

The IGBP SC Chair is up for renewal at the end of 2011 when Carlos Nobre leaves. Three names have been shortlisted and interviews will be held later in December in Stockholm.

5. Update from Royal Society

As discussed in 6 below.

6. 2011/12 funding for international travel

RC to confirm as soon as possible whether funding will be available for international travel in 2011/12.

ACTION 4: RC to confirm if funding is available for UK IGBP National Committee members for international travel to ICSU family delegate and business meetings in 2011/12.

7. ICSU Grand Challenges

The ICSU paper 'Earth System Science for Global Sustainability: The Grand Challenges' has been published: http://www.icsu-visioning.org/wp-content/uploads/GrandChallenges_Nov2010.pdf

8. Belmont Challenge/Forum

SR provided an update of the Belmont Challenge/Forum and explained that it is a high level group of funders and representatives from the science councils. It is co-chaired by Alan Thorpe (NERC) and Tim Killeen (NSF). A White Paper is being drafted and SR will inform the committee when it is published.

ACTION 5: SR to communicate when the Belmont Forum white paper has been published.

ICSU, ISSC and the Belmont Forum have now built an Alliance to propose an innovative 10-year initiative on Earth System Research for Global Sustainability. It has been suggested that the initiative is launched at the 2012 conference.

9. Institutional Frameworks

Led by Johann Rockström, the visioning paper considers whether the current institutional framework (of four organizations) is appropriate to address the ICSU Grand Challenges document.

Institutional Frameworks paper: <http://www.icsu-visioning.org/wp-content/uploads/summary-of-the-sponsors-meeting-final-version-15sep2010.pdf>

A discussion followed on the need for greater integration across the projects which is not helped by the current structure; that it could be a useful way to fund international collaboration; and the need for an element of continuity for there to be successful change.

ACTION 6: JI to draft statement that can be worked up as a committee to get thoughts in at this stage of the process. To forward to Alan Thorpe who is the NERC and Committee's UK link into the Belmont Forum.

10. IGBP NC initiatives

a. New initiatives

CR: The Challenger Society for Marine Science is to become the UK body for SCOR. A proposal has been submitted for a workshop in Sept 2011 relating to the future of marine science. Early-mid career scientists over various disciplines within marine sciences to participate and to see how their visions fit into the international context. Anticipated that there will be a rolling 5 year vision and presentations to be published in Philosophical Transactions of Royal Society.

ACTION 7: JI to support marine science proposal in GERC meeting on behalf of the UK IGBP National Committee.

11. Membership issues

JI appointed as Chair through the GECAFS project which closes on 31 March 2011. IT WAS AGREED that due to JI's involvement in the organizing of the conference including being the Chair of its LOC, that JI should remain as UK IGBP National Committee Chair until after the 2012 conference.

12. AOB

The dates of the IGBP meeting coincide with those of the GERC ones. Therefore the next meeting is likely to be May/June 2011 and the specific date will be circulated as soon as it has been decided.

List of Actions from UK IGBP National Committee Meeting, 7 December 2010

- ACTION 1:** GL to contact Kevin Horsburgh, Head of the National Tidal and Sea Level Facility, as follow up from the Storm Surges meeting (Sept 2010).
- ACTION 2:** JI to submit a proposal at the next GERC meeting for an EA convened National Committee day on Friday 30 March 2012.
- ACTION 3:** JI to clearly communicate what the UK IGBP National Committee can do to assist with the 2012 conference.
- ACTION 4:** RC to confirm if funding is available for UK IGBP National Committee members for international travel to ICSU family delegate and business meetings in 2011/12.
- ACTION 5:** SR to communicate when the Belmont Forum white paper has been published.
- ACTION 6:** JI to draft statement that can be worked up as a committee to get thoughts in at this stage of the process. To forward to Alan Thorpe who is NERC and Committee's UK link into the Belmont Forum.
- ACTION 7:** JI to support marine science proposal in GERC meeting on behalf of the UK IGBP National Committee.