

1st Earth System Governance Scientific Steering Committee Meeting

17–18 October 2008, New Delhi, India

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Present: Frank Biermann (Chair), Michele Betsill, Joyeeta Gupta, Heike Schroeder, Bernd Siebenhüner, Shobhakar Dhakal (Guest, GCP), Ruben Zondervan (Executive Officer).

Absent: Norichika Kanie, Louis Lebel, Diana Liverman, Liu Zhenye.

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17 October 2008, 10:00–17:00, DolphInn Select, New Delhi, India.

Frank Biermann welcomed all to the 1st Earth System Governance Scientific Steering Committee (ESG SSC) meeting and congratulated with the approval of the Earth System Governance Science Plan and the appointment of the ESG SSC.

Report from the IHDP SC meeting (*Frank Biermann*)

IHDP SC Agenda Item “ESG”

Based on the draft Science Plan, the Note on Governance of the Project and a presentation by Frank Biermann, The IHDP Scientific Committee (IHDP SC) discussed the Earth System Governance Science Plan and the list of proposed members for the ESG SSC on 16 October 2008.

In general the IHDP SC was very positive in its assessment of the Earth System Governance Project. Regarding content of the Science Plan, some questions were raised about the governance versus management terminology, the notion of ‘democratic governance’, and about the role of power (in particular in violent conflict) in governance.

Regarding the proposed ESG SSC, criticism was made about the high number of candidates from OECD countries. The IHDP SC required the Earth System Governance Project suggests 2 to 4 additional members for the ESG SSC to be appointed at the next IHDP SC Meeting in April, Bonn, Germany. The additional members should be from Latin America, Africa, Middle East and / or Central Asia. Preferably, the additional members should also represent additional scientific disciplines and areas of research.

Some discussion took place on the Flagship Activities. Both LOICZ and GLP expressed their interest to collaborate with the Earth System Governance Project as well. With LOICZ an arrangement has been made that Frank Biermann will be on their panel at the IHDP Open Meeting 2009 (26–30 April 2009, Bonn, Germany).

The ESG Science Plan was approved and the ESG SSC appointed by acclamation.

Compared to approval procedures of other projects, the process and discussions went very well for the ESG.

Other IHDP SC agenda items

Frank Biermann gave a talk to the IHDP SC on the transformation from IDGEC to ESG – this transformation is regarded as successful and a model for future transformations.

IHDP funding is a matter of concern, currently there is a funding gap and new models and sources for funding are being discussed.

The overall effectiveness of IHDP and in particular of the IHDP Secretariat will be evaluated and improved by an external consultant (the so called “Packard Initiative” named after the sponsor for this endeavor).

The other (core and joint) projects presented their activities and developments. A number of projects are smaller and less active than they appear.

Besides ESG, there are two other new initiatives:

- Integrated Risk Governance (IRG): The idea for this project comes from Chinese institutions that also have funding for the project available. The initiative has a draft Science Plan but still has a long way to go before it can become an IHDP core project with a global and integrative character. For ESG it is important that there is no content overlap between ESG and IRG. The IHDP SC decided to give the IRG the status of a ‘Pilot Project’.
- Knowledge and Learning for Societal Change (KLSC): This initiative has been developed by Ilan Chabay, Bernd Siebenhüner, Miranda Schreurs et al. including support from the IHDP Secretariat. The presentation of the concept note was warmly welcomed at the IHDP SC but still many questions on organisation and structure of the future project remain open and will be addressed at a meeting in November. The initiative aims at presenting a draft science plan at the next IHDP SC meeting in April 2009. There is a clear but not too big overlap between ESG and

KLSC in the area of adaptiveness. Both ESG and KLSC are explicitly open for collaboration.

Another event that takes place in New Delhi parallel to the IHDP SC meeting is the International Human Dimensions Workshop (IHDW). This IHDP capacity building activity that is being held once each two or three years, could offer an opportunity for ESG involvement.

Frank Biermann participated ex officio in the IHDP SC. He offered all ESG SSC members to represent ESG at the IHDP SC if they would like to do so.

Earth System Governance Science Plan

Official Review. The review of the Earth System Governance Science Plan by the official reviewers has been very positive. All their comments are implemented as far as possible.

Internal Review. The internal review process has resulted in a large number of comments. The combined comments even exceeded the length of the actual science plan. Most comments are processed.

Remaining Tasks. Some work on the Science Plan is still to be done. Following concrete tasks were identified:

- Frank Biermann will work on the remaining comments in the coming weeks;
- Frank Biermann will add a reference / footnote on LOICZ and GLP;
- Heike Schroeder will undertake a final review of chapter 4 – Agency;
- Joyeeta Gupta will write an additional paragraph to the allocation chapter [RAZ: about what?];
- Michele Betsill will undertake a final review of the chapter 10 – methods.
- Shobhakar Dhakal will undertake a final review of the Global Carbon section in chapter 11 – Flagships. In particular to address suggestion by reviewers to focus more on climate change and energy.

Chapter 8 – Interlinkages. The reviewers discussed the interlinkages chapter in different ways. Some argued to extend this chapter; others suggested leaving it out entirely. The SSC discussed various options, amongst others including the interlinkages part to chapter 9 (crosscutting themes). It has been decided to stress the organic and dynamic process behind the science plan were appropriate and explicitly refer to the interlinkages again in the first paragraph of chapter 9.

Methods. The SSC shortly discussed a comment by one of the reviewers to extend the methods chapter by a section on legal analysis. It has been decided not to follow this suggestion.

Food Systems Flagship. The section of Food Systems in chapter 11 has relatively few references. Diana Liverman and / or John Ingram will be asked to provide more references. At the IHDP SC meeting, a question has been raised by John Ingram on the use of 'global' in 'global food systems'. Frank Biermann will discuss the correct wording with Diana Liverman and John Ingram.

Titles of the Flagships. Based on the discussion on the wording and title of the food flagship activity, it was suggested to rename all flagship activities. The main argument against doing so was that different titles will weaken the link to the cooperating projects. After some discussion the SSC decided that: (i) to each flagship text, a line should be added to strongly emphasize our understanding that global encompasses local; and (ii) the Global Carbon Cycle flagship will be renamed to 'Earth System Governance, Climate Change and the Carbon Cycle'.

English Language. Based on comments by a few reviewers, that an English language check might be helpful, Michele Betsill remarked that the language of the Science Plan is not perfect but good. There has been general agreement that a professional proof reading is not feasible.

Graphics. The SSC briefly discussed the graphics in the Science Plan. Currently there is only one graph that clearly needs some design improvement. Ruben Zondervan will address that together with the arts & design manager at the IHDP Secretariat. Additional graphs were considered. For some chapters that is considered to add value, for other chapters it could either result in very complex graphs or overly simplification of the chapter's content. While there was consensus on the fact that no symmetry is required (i.e. some chapters may use graphs and other not), no concrete additional graphs have been decided.

Timeline. Ruben Zondervan will distribute the current version of the Science Plan to all members of the SSC. The deadline for all remaining edits of the Science Plan will be 15 November 2008.

Earth System Governance Network

The Earth System Governance Project is a de-centralized activity.

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