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IGCP – 2010 CALL FOR NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

THE INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP) - formerly International Geological Correlation Programme - is a joint endeavour between the IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

The objectives of IGCP are met through individual projects. The number of active projects in any given year depends on the current priorities of UNESCO and IUGS, the availability of funds, the success and progress of existing projects and the quality and merit of newly submitted proposals.

BACKGROUND: The success of the Programme and individual projects is the result of the dedication of project leaders and the enthusiasm, support, and participation of geoscientists from around the world. Projects often build upon existing activities within participating countries, and attract additional funds from governmental and other agencies.

Project proposers should identify the societal relevance of their work, address the challenge of capacity-building in developing countries, emphasize education and training, including a focus on under-represented groups (e.g. youth, women, ethnic minorities, etc.).

DURATION: IGCP projects are approved for a period not exceeding five years. Individual projects are reviewed annually after the second year and may be terminated if performing poorly as identified during a review.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: The annual allocation of support for each project depends upon its quality and, for an already funded project, upon its performance during the previous year. The financial support provided annually by IUGS and UNESCO for IGCP projects covers part of the costs of organizing and managing research (not to the research itself), meetings and workshops related to the project, as well as to facilitate participation by scientists from developing countries. In general, IGCP funds cannot be used for items such as data gathering (e.g., field and laboratory expenses). Moreover, the allocated sum should not be used exclusively to cover the travel expenses of project leaders. These limited funds provide 'seed money' to assist in the acquisition of additional funds from other sources. Past experience indicates that successful IGCP projects are able to secure significant additional funding from other sources. The actual amount of funding provided annually to IGCP projects reflects the collective decisions of UNESCO and IUGS.

EVALUATION: IGCP projects must successfully meet the following criteria:

- focus on high-quality science relevant to the scientific objectives of the IGCP;
- meet a need of international importance and societal relevance;
- emphasize interdisciplinary cooperation;

- constitute international participation including scientists from developing countries;
- demonstrate potential for both long-term and short-term geoscientific and/or societal benefits;
- explicitly acknowledge the sponsorship of UNESCO, IUGS, and IGCP; and,
- promote global geoscience visibility. For example, through the publication of scientific results using internationally recognized journals or other media

UNESCO and IUGS jointly appoint members to the IGCP Scientific Board. Individual IGCP proposals and Annual Reports are assigned to thematically appropriate members of the Scientific Board for initial evaluation of their scientific merit and relevance to IGCP objectives. Select members of the IGCP Scientific Board collectively consider the initial evaluations and prioritize applications for funding.

TOPICS FOR IGCP PROJECT PROPOSALS

IGCP welcomes proposals on the following topics:

GEOSCIENCE OF THE WATER CYCLE

Life on Earth depends on water and its sustainable use is crucial for continued human existence. Earth's water resources include surface/ground water, ocean water, and ice. The study of Earth's water involves understanding and managing both surface and groundwater systems, including sources, contamination, vulnerability and history of water systems.

GEOHAZARDS: MITIGATING THE RISKS

Geohazards include earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, tsunamis, floods, meteorite impacts and the health hazards of geologic materials. Geohazards can range from local events such as a debris slide or coastal erosion to events that threaten humankind (e.g., supervolcano eruption or meteorite impact). Earth scientists undertake research to better understand such hazards and contribute to risk reduction.

EARTH RESOURCES: SUSTAINING OUR SOCIETY

Earth resources include minerals, hydrocarbons, geothermal energy, air, and water. The future well-being of society depends on sustainable use of these resources. The environmentally responsible exploitation of these resources is a challenge for geoscience research. The progress of technological development is equally bound to this premise.

GLOBAL CHANGE AND EVOLUTION OF LIFE: EVIDENCE FROM THE GEOLOGICAL RECORD

Changes in the Earth's climate and of life on Earth are preserved in the rock record. Ice and dust records, terrestrial and ocean sediments, and sequences of fossil plant and animal assemblages all comprise parts of this record. Life has impacted Earth's atmosphere, oceans, and land surface. Several major extinctions have punctuated Earth's history, associated with dramatic environmental and ecosystem change. Past environmental lessons shed light on present and future challenges.

THE DEEP EARTH: HOW IT CONTROLS OUR ENVIRONMENT

The Earth's surface, including our habitable environment, is a product of, and controlled by deep Earth processes. The study of this environment (ranging from changes in the Earth's magnetic field to plate tectonics) using for example, geophysical and geodynamical techniques, enhances our understanding of the working of System Earth.

OTHER TOPICS
Other relevant topics in fundamental and applied geosciences will also be considered.

The IGCP encourages submission of project proposals in all aspects of the geosciences, provided they meet the requirements outlined above ("Evaluation" part of Section 2 - Operational Policy).

PROJECT PROPOSALS
IGCP project proposals may be submitted by individual scientists or by a group of scientists using the application forms available through the Secretariat office website. The IGCP Scientific Board is ready to advise project leaders, regarding the scientific quality, content, scope, viability, budget and relevance of potential project proposals (e.g., advice regarding the inclusion of other qualified scientists, bridging to other initiatives, outputs, etc.).

Assessments of proposals for new IGCP projects (and the Annual Reports of ongoing projects) are conducted once a year by selected representatives of the IGCP Scientific Board, usually during the first half of February. Assessments are based upon the criteria and objectives of IGCP (e.g. the scientific potential and feasibility of proposals, adherence to the overall goals of IGCP, qualifications of the proposers, scientific progress of the projects, significance of their results, adherence to an approved budget and so on). Projects are ranked into one of three funding levels: high, medium, or low.

The deadline for submission and receipt of new project proposals to the IGCP Secretariat is 15 October 2010.

Each project leader must include a letter of endorsement from his or her respective IGCP or IUGS National Committee. The IGCP Secretariat will promptly inform proponents of the decisions regarding individual proposals.

For details go to the website: http://portal.unesco.org/science/en/ev.php-URL_ID=6304&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Additional information on IGCP Projects may be downloaded (in either pdf or Word format) under the "Related links" heading from the title "IGCP Guidelines and proposal form 2009"

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