

PREPARATION OF SCIENCE PLANS

Please refer to the inauguration ceremony of the Regional Office for Africa of ICSU (International Council for Science) which took place on 1 September 2005 in Pretoria, South Africa.

Based on the ICSU Strategic Plan 2006-2011, and the societal needs in the Sub-Saharan Africa, the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa has selected four priority areas for its activities in the period between 2006 and 2009. These are: (a) Health and Human Well-being; (b) Sustainable Energy; (c) Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters, and (d) Global Change.

This implies that we are now entering the intellectual phase whereby science plans for each of the priority area is being prepared. The first planning meetings will be held in April in Pretoria (South Africa); and the subsequent two ones will be held in the period between June and October 2006. The first planning meetings will produce the first versions of the four science plans (Draft I) for the four priority areas. These four draft documents will be submitted to the Regional Committee for evaluation on 17-18 July 2006 in Seychelles. Draft II of the science plans will be presented, for evaluation of its relevance and workability, to the Regional (Africa) Consultative Forum (about 100 participants) which will be held on 25-27 September 2006 in Pretoria, South Africa. It is envisaged that the four science plans will be completed by November 2006, and that the implementation phase will commence in January 2007.

The Scoping Groups are as follows:

(I) Sustainable Energy (first meeting on 6-7 April 2006)-

Ogunlade Davidson (Sierra Leone, Chair), Jabavu Nkomo (UCT, South Africa), Evans Kituyi (Kenya), Steve Lennon (South Africa), Manuel Chenene (Mozambique, RC member), Khotso Mokhele (South Africa, RC member) and Ben Sebitosi (UCT, South Africa, Secretary to the Scoping Group)

(II) Health & Human well-being (first meeting on 10-11 April 2006)-

Iqbal Parker (South Africa, Chair), Tessa Marcus (South Africa), Andrew Githeko (Kenya), Tola Atinmo (Nigeria), Vincent Titanji (Cameroon, RC member), Dominic Makawiti (Kenya, RC member), Khotso Mokhele (South Africa, RC member) and Neil Koorbanally (UKN, South Africa, Secretary to the Scoping Group)

(III) Global Change (first meeting on 24-25 April 2006)-

Robert Scholes (South Africa, Chair), Coleen Vogel (South Africa), Ramadjito Tabo (Niger), Antony Nyong (Nigeria), Ayite-Lo Ajavon (Togo, RC member), Khotso Mokhele (South Africa, RC member) and Isabelle Jane Ansorge (UCT, South Africa, Secretary to the Scoping Group)

(IV) (IV) Natural and Human-Induced Hazards & Disasters (first meeting on 27-28 April 2006)-

Genevieve Mulugeta (Ethiopia/Sweden, Chair), Opha Pauline Dube (Botswana), Deolall Daby (Mauritius), Filipe Lucio (Mozambique), Samwel Ayonghe (Cameroon), Francis Gudyanga (Zimbabwe, RC member), Khotso Mokhele (South Africa, RC member) and Raymond Durrheim (CSIR, South Africa – Secretary to the Scoping Group)

Terms of Reference

Scientific Scoping Groups of the ICSU Regional Office for Africa

Each priority area will have one Scientific Planning Group, which may need to meet three times. The generic Terms of Reference (ToR) for the working groups are as follows:

- (1) To briefly review the current status of the priority area in the Sub-Saharan Africa. This will include taking stock of the major R&D&I activities (i.e. ongoing and planned) of the priority area in the Sub-Saharan Africa. Interests of the ICSU Scientific Unions, Interdisciplinary Bodies and Joint Initiatives should be incorporated in this exercise.
- (2) To formulate a set of detailed objectives for the priority areas based on the ICSU Strategic Plan of 2006-11 taking note of past and ongoing planning efforts by ICSU internationally.
- (3) To make proposals on targeted areas of research in the given time frame, and define milestones that should be reached during the life span of the proposed programme of the priority area.
- (4) To define capacity building needs.
- (5) To define deliverables which they will produce to the society.
- (6) To propose ways by which the ICSU family and its strategic partners can be involved in implementing the proposed actions.
- (7) To identify ways by which the results of the research can be made available to policy makers and other stakeholders in the region.
- (8) To propose a budget for the activities of the programme(s) of the priority area, define fund-raising strategies and possible funding sources.
- (9) To propose a mechanism for guidance and oversight of the programmes/projects of the priority area, including the assurance that the activities of the Regional Office are complementary to (not duplicating) the existing activities in the Region.
- (10) To submit a preliminary report to the ICSU Regional Committee for Africa by 30 June 2006 and a final report before the end of 2006.

SOSPETER MUHONGO

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