

GLOBAL INITIATIVES AS INTEGRATIVE STUDY AREAS

In order to ensure product delivery during Phase 2 of the Project (2007-2010) and to involve the broader natural and social science community interested in global change issues, GWSP defined three Global Initiatives as Integrative Study Areas (ISA) within which the implementation of the tasks of the Scientific Framework will be coordinated and the delivery of truly integrated and interdisciplinary research results will be secured.

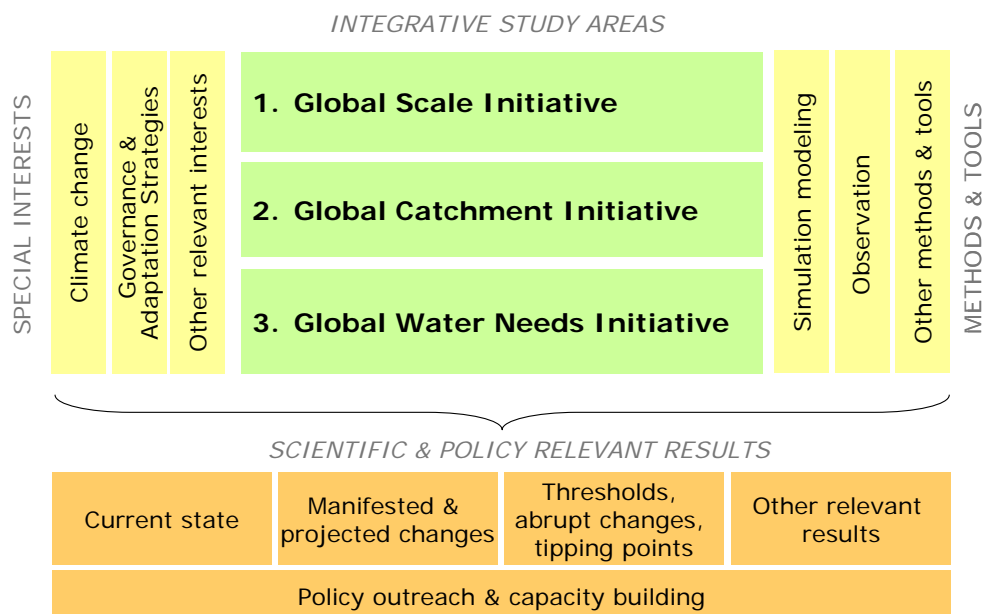
The Initiatives are targeted towards the production of scientifically outstanding and highly policy-relevant results. To achieve these results an integration of activities across themes and sub-themes of the Scientific Framework as well as across disciplines is essential. This way, the Initiatives are a strategic tool for the overall integration and synthesis of project results.

The three Global Initiatives are:

- **Global Scale Initiative: Ranking of Changes to the Global Water System**
- **Global Catchment Initiative: Bringing the Global Perspective to River Basin Research and Management**
- **Global Water Needs Initiative: Balancing Human and Nature Water Requirements**

For each Initiative a GWSP Expert Group will be established in order to guide the implementation of related activities and the achievement of the overall goals and objectives. Membership in GWSP Expert Groups will be open to the broader scientific community related to global water system research.

The Conceptual Framework of GWSP Activities in Phase II (2007-2010)



Expert Group 1 – *Global Scale Initiative: Ranking of Changes to the Global Water System*

Goals and Objectives:

- a) Create a coherent geography – a set of electronic maps – on the State of the Global Water System and world water resources with focus on contemporary and future time horizons.
- b) Demonstrate the use of sufficiently mature "off-the-shelf", operational data bases that can assess the state of and variability in the global water system.
- c) Develop models, data sets, and other necessary tools to identify hot spots of change with respect to the physical, biological, biogeochemical, and human dimension aspects of the global water system.
- d) Translate the global-scale outputs into research, education, and policy priorities.

Expert Group 2 - *Global Catchment Initiative: Bringing the global perspective to river basin research and management*

Goals and Objectives:

- a) Advance the state of scientific understanding of the global water system through a worldwide study of catchments
- b) Encourage researchers working on a catchment level to address questions associated with the global water system not normally addressed in catchment studies
- c) Identify regional feedbacks between the hydrologic system, the terrestrial environment, the climate system, and governance regimes
- d) Develop new ideas for adapting to undesirable global changes on the river basin scale, and to communicate these ideas to policymakers and other stakeholders.

The first meeting of the Expert Group of the Global Catchment Initiative was held on February 7/8, 2008 in Bonn with representatives from UNESCO's HELP and FRIEND initiatives, the CGIAR Challenge Programme on Water and Food, the GLOWA programme, and further distinguished scholars from natural and social science disciplines.

Expert Group 3 - *Global Water Needs Initiative: Balancing Human and Nature Water Requirements*

Goals and Objectives:

- a) Develop a global consensus on approaches for the assessment of environmental flow needs.
- b) Consolidate the state of knowledge about human water consumption patterns and quantify the implications of future human water allocations on the sustainability of river ecosystems.
- c) Valuate freshwater ecosystem goods and services.
- d) Devise strategies for harmonising human and nature water requirements.

The three Initiatives were launched at the GWSP Scientific Steering Committee meeting in August 2007. The Expert Groups are currently under formation and the work programme for the three Initiatives is being discussed.

Contact

For further information on the new initiatives and on how to get involved, please contact the GWSP IPO: gwsp.ipo@uni-bonn.de