

**WORKING GROUP FOR INCREASED COOPERATION AMONG UNESCO
INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMMES IN THE UK**

1. Background

- 1.1. Of the 6 UNESCO ISPs - International Geoscience Programme (IGCP); International Hydrological Programme (IHP); Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC); Man and the Biosphere (MAB); International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP); and Management of Social Transformations (MOST) - the UK is active in IHP, IGCP, IOC and MAB, each with its own UK National Committee.
- 1.2. The ISP National Committees are a very important structuring element. They ensure the presence of the ISPs on a national level and promote awareness of their activities within governmental agencies and among researchers. They also coordinate UK inputs to the relevant ISP governing bodies.
- 1.3. As of March 2010, the UK currently has membership on the IOC Executive Council. Until October 2009, when it completed its two terms, the UK also had membership on the Intergovernmental Council of IHP and the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme; it currently attends executive meetings of these bodies as an observer.

2. Mandate

The primary function of the Working Group is to assist the Sciences Committee in fulfilling its responsibilities in respect to UNESCO's intergovernmental and international scientific programmes (ISPs).

3. Aims

With a view to adopting a more holistic approach to the ISPs in the UK:

- 3.1. To increase cooperation and coordination among the UNESCO ISP UK National Committees (through their respective Chairs as focal points).
- 3.2. To increase interaction with the UK National Commission and its Committees and with UNESCO.
- 3.3. To increase the visibility of the ISPs as a collective.

4. Objectives

- 4.1. To maintain reliable cross-ISP mechanisms for information sharing, feedback and discourse on key ISP activities, priorities and targets.
- 4.2. To explore opportunities for synergy actions and implement concerted actions.
- 4.3. To provide coordinated inputs on relevant policy issues to the UK National Commission, UNESCO and UK Government.

5. Duration and Timing

- 5.1. The Working Group will operate for the period of time required to carry out its function.
- 5.2. The Working Group shall hold meetings as are required to carry out its function, at least two a year.

Approved: 12 May 2010