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## Appendix 5 – UNESCO scientific bodies and programs

### International Union Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP)

([www.unesco.org/science/earthsciences/igcp](http://www.unesco.org/science/earthsciences/igcp))

IGCP is a joint endeavour of UNESCO and IUGS. It was launched in 1972 to facilitate cooperation among geoscientists across frontiers and boundaries. Its objective is to bring scientists from all over the world together and enhance interaction, particularly between North and South, through joint research work, meetings and workshops. IGCP is interdisciplinary, covering the different fields in earth sciences, and is linked with other UNESCO scientific programs. It maintains active interfaces with disciplines such as water, ecological, marine, atmospheric and biological sciences. Reflecting the contemporary needs of society, the four main objectives of IGCP are:

- to increase the understanding of the different factors influencing the environment in order to improve human living conditions and wise management of the Earth as a human habitat;
- to develop more effective ways to search and assess natural resources of energy and minerals;
- to enhance knowledge of the Earth's geological processes and concepts through correlative studies of sites and locations around the globe;
- to improve standards of research methods and techniques.

#### Involved countries and organisations

IGCP funds are a combination of UNESCO, IUGS and U.S. Academy of Sciences financial contribution. IGCP operates in about 150 countries and involves several thousand scientists.

#### Australian involvement

- Australia does not contribute any funds directly to IGCP. However, Australia is a member of the sponsoring bodies UNESCO and IUGS.
- Australia has a National Committee for IGCP, funded by Geosciences Australia.
- Several Australian scientists are involved in the leadership of various IGCP projects.

#### Main programs

IGCP currently has 42 projects.

### International Hydrological Programme (IHP) ([www.unesco.org/water/ihp](http://www.unesco.org/water/ihp))

IHP, UNESCO's intergovernmental scientific co-operative program in water resources, is a vehicle through which Member States can upgrade their knowledge of the water cycle and thereby increase their capacity to better manage and develop their water resources. It aims at the improvement of the scientific and technological basis for the development of methods for the rational management of water resources, including the protection of the environment. As UNESCO's principal mechanism to contribute to the priority issue of water resources and related ecosystems, the IHP strives to minimise the risks to water resources systems, taking fully into account social challenges and interactions and developing appropriate approaches for sound water management.

#### Australian involvement

Australia has a national IHP network that acts as the IHP National Committee for Australia. Australian scientists are active in IHP projects.

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## Main programs

There are five Themes plus three crosscutting program components:

- Theme 1 - Global Changes and Water Resources;
- Theme 2 - Integrated Watershed and Aquifer Dynamics;
- Theme 3 - Land Habitat Hydrology;
- Theme 4 - Water and Society;
- Theme 5 - Water Education and Training;
- Flow Regimes From International Experimental And Network Data (FRIEND) - An International Collaborative Study in Regional Hydrology;
- Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy (HELP) – Joint program of UNESCO’s IHP and WMO. Has Australian involvement;
- Joint International Isotopes in Hydrology Programme (JIHP) – joint program of UNESCO’s IHP and IAEA endeavour.

## Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

<http://ioc.unesco.org/iocweb>

The IOC provides member states of the United Nations with an essential mechanism for global co-operation in the study of the ocean. IOC assists governments to address their individual and collective ocean and coastal problems through the sharing of knowledge, information and technology, and through the co-ordination of national programs. The work of IOC has focused on promoting marine scientific investigations and related ocean services, with a view to learning more about the nature and resources of the oceans. IOC focuses on four major themes:

- develop, promote and facilitate international oceanographic research programs to improve our understanding of critical global and regional ocean processes and their relationship to the sustainable development and stewardship of ocean resources;
- ensure effective planning, establishment and co-ordination of an operational global ocean observing system to provide the information needed for oceanic and atmospheric forecasting, for oceans and coastal zone management by coastal nations, and for global environmental change research;
- provide international leadership for education and training programs and technical assistance essential for systematic observations of the global ocean and its coastal zone and related research; and
- ensure that ocean data and information obtained through research, observation and monitoring are efficiently handled and made widely available.

## Involved countries

There are 129 member states.

## Australian involvement

Australia is a member, and is also a member of the executive council. Australian scientists are involved in various IOC projects.

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## **Main programs**

- Harmful Algal Bloom Programme;
- Working Group on Coral Bleaching and Local Ecological – Joint program of IOC and the World Bank;
- Study Group on Benthic Indicators;
- Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics (GLOBEC) – Joint program of IOC and SCOR;
- World Climate Research Program (WCRP) – Joint program of IOC, WMO and ICSU;
- Advisory Panel on Ocean CO<sub>2</sub> – Joint program of IOC and SCOR;
- The International Ocean-Colour Coordinating Group (IOCCG);
- Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM);
- Global Nutrient Export from Watersheds – Joint program of IOC, UNEP, US-NSF, and US-NOAA.

## **Man and the Biosphere (MAB)**

[www.unesco.org/mab](http://www.unesco.org/mab)

MAB develops the basis, within the natural and the social sciences, for the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity, and for the improvement of the relationship between people and their environment globally. MAB encourages interdisciplinary research, demonstration and training in natural resource management. MAB contributes not only to better understanding of the environment, including global change, but to greater involvement of science and scientists in policy development concerning the wise use of biological diversity.

### **Involved countries**

The MAB governing body consists of 34 member states elected by UNESCO's biennial general conference.

### **Australian involvement**

Australia is not currently a member of the MAB governing body.

## **United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP)**

[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)

The UN-wide WWAP seeks to develop the tools and skills needed to achieve a better understanding of those basic processes, management practices and policies that will help improve the supply and quality of global freshwater resources. Its goals are to:

- assess the state of the world's freshwater resources and ecosystems;
- identify critical issues and problems;
- develop indicators and measure progress towards achieving sustainable use of water resources;
- help countries develop their own assessment capacity;
- document lessons learned and publish a World Water Development Report at regular intervals.

WWAP has input from agencies across the UN system.