

**5<sup>th</sup> UGEC SSC Meeting – Dakar, Senegal**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Draft – Not approved**

UGEC SSC members / EO / associates present: Roberto Sanchez, Karen Seto, David Simon, Cheikh Gueye / Michail Fragkias / Urbano Fra  
IHDP Liaison: Maarit Thiem

Saturday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

**Discussion over structure of the last day's workshop report (Climate change resilience in an urbanizing Western Africa workshop)**

+ Introduction

- Event in line with our Science Plan on the target of the science policy interface
- 

+ Overview of the main issues (use Roberto's and David's presentations

- IPCC, Stern (make sure to include terminology definitions – maybe in boxes – of terms such as coping capacity, resilience, vulnerability etc.
- African realities

+ Data availabilities and needs

- Utilize data from Cheikh Mbow, Bill Solecki (via Roberto)
- Use Mansour Fall presentation
- Ale Sy has potentially useful data on Dakar
- Make a point of two dimensions of “data” needs for practitioners: locality/geography specific data for decision-making and conceptual data (for example what is climate change)

+ Practitioners' viewpoints

- The selection of mayors and advisors to mayors (practitioners) revealed that there exists a strong interest for collaboration with local and international initiatives to combat the adverse effects of climate change and increase the resilience of cities to climate change. Concerns over drought, sea level rise, coastal erosion and land use change were raised. There is a general interest also to consider environmental protection in their work.
- Clearly there exists a consensus on the lack of human and monetary resources. Mayors are seeking local expertise on the topic (the report has to build on local knowledge regarding whether the consensus regarding human resources and other resources is a reality or a perception and whether the practitioners perceptions are representative of the views of the communities they come from or represent or whether they are the product of interest group influence – this is a rather delicate issue).
- “Horizontal” issues: uncoordinated actions of a tapestry of governments lead to problems, including poor response capacity for the metropolis. The

example of the 53 “mayors” or district managers of Dakar the fail to cooperate was mentioned several times.

- “Vertical issues”: going from national to local governance and vice versa.
- Really responsive people exist at the local level
- Inadequate decentralization: There exists an imbalance in the governance decentralization process; while more responsibility is being given to the local governments, not enough resources get decentralized. Mayors identified specifically the difficulty of utilization of human resources and the case of availability of human resources and competences (such as the basic one of environmental management) but non availability of monetary resources.
- Local action plans (amended every three to five years) are important entry points for change in local governance to accommodate policies that would increase resilience to climate change.
- There is a mandate to move ahead: mayors agreed that even small steps can help create momentum for change. Mayors are prepared to move forward once they get funding associated with policy changes that could build resilience of their cities.

#### + Established and Envisioned Outcomes

- Established: Increased awareness on the need for building climate change resilience of cities in Western Africa
- Established: Provided face to face contact between local, regional and international scientists with practitioners from the region
- Established: There exists a lot of local knowledge that is not being taken advantage of.
- Envisioned: Advance policy making capacity through continued science-policy interface and building an new research action project between ENDA, UGEC and other interested parties
- Envisioned: the adoption of a particular locality that shows high willingness to implement policy change
- Envisioned: Empower the local communities to work themselves and find context-specific paths to increasing resilience.

#### + Actions to be taken

- Joint formation of research agendas
- Elaborate on case studies (literature on Western Africa is scarce – at least in English so we might need to look into Francophone research)
- Pinpoint success stories / best practices (probably from the international experience; this possibly poses difficulty since response success to CC may be context specific.
- Create a Porto Alegre type of awareness and product (e.g. “Another world is possible” by Fisher and Poniah; *The Porto Alegre Experiment; learning lessons for better democracy*, by Marion Gret and Yves Sintomer (Zed, 2005) NB: the latter title was originally published in French in 2002 as *Porto Alegre: L’espoir d’une autre démocratie* (maybe v useful for Francophone countries).

- Building a program/initiative for South cities and a regional network in West-Africa (UN-Habitat/ENDA/UGEC initiative)

***ACTION ITEMS:***

*+Michail will put together a two/three page document that summarizes the main points of the workshop*

*+Cheikh Gueye (UGEC), Wim S. (UN-Habitat) will write the main report with the editorial assistance of David Simon (UGEC) and Michail Fragkias (UGEC). The report will be circulated both in English and French*

*+Michail will also quickly collaborate with Wim to create a two page document fleshing out a possible joint project between UGEC, ENDA and UN-Habitat that will take form before the WUF4; create a framework of analysis of responses to climate change for a selection of a group of diverse cities (around five). This will draw on Cheikh's longer draft document now circulated.*

**Revisited the minutes from last meeting (Tempe 2007)**

**Reports - SSC members**

***Roberto:***

NYC workshop (workshop very successful, report coming out soon, UGEC printed newsletter expected in March).

IAI workshop partnership is being sought but is still pending. Details have to be worked out.

ECLAC workshop participation in Santiago de Chile. (on environmental issues at the local level); our endorsed project Risk Habitat Megacity was also present. Roberto noted that the people from the project were not aware of our endorsement but we did find that they recognize this endorsement on the project's website (on the first page). Interesting fact: the municipality of Milan is helping organize various related meetings – the assumption is that Milan industries provide products and services such as processes for solid waste management). Climate change is not part of their agendas.

Also involved with Urbano's Advanced Training Course involving local officials with young scholars in Spain.

***Parenthetical first discussion over IHDP OM 08 UGEC participation***

To create a side event that will bring all Urbanization related participants themed "Lessons learned from two international workshops on the science-policy interface in urban governance"

It would be easy to organize an SWOT analysis (Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

***ACTION ITEM***

*Michail talks to Maarit about organizing a side event.*

**David:**

His activities are listed in the several e-Newsletters in detail (Publications/Launch event in November for the IHDP UK National Committee/Participation in UN-Habitat Expert Group/Presentation in Oslo/Effort to steer the next “state of the world cities report” with a focus on climate change)

**Karen:**

Participated in two meetings: 1) the Sustainable Urban Futures programme workshop – uncertain development plans of the programme currently 2) the Rockefeller Foundation weeklong workshop at the Bellagio Center in Italy.

People at the events either knew very little about UGEC. A sign of lacking in prominence for the project currently.

Will attend the Shanghai Forum, asked by Zizhe Peng to organize a meeting on “Urbanization issues confronting Asia” Peter/Ling/Frauke etc. – end of May

Is currently directing a meta-study on physical urban growth rates across the world.

Research – Article on urban expansion impact on precipitation patterns in J. on Climate Change attracted a lot of press.

**Urbano**

- Advanced Training Course: Spatial Planning as a Strategy for Mitigation and Adaptation to Natural Hazards in Santiago de compostela. Roberto will participate.
- Will hold related Forum together with regional government (ugec could cooperate in the document to be disseminated)
- Urbano is a member of the SC of the Spanish IHDP National committee and is committed to increase IHDP issues awareness in Spain
- Proposal to the Spanish Science Foundation for research on project supported by letter
- Program Sahana – used in disasters in Central Asia – translated in Spanish to use in Latin America initiative
- Virtual campus on sust. Development (<http://blackboard.ou.nl/evs/>) – offer a course on UGEC topics to accomplish targets of education (maybe it would be worth to pursue a UNU or an ASU collaboration on this regarding educational tools).

Urbano suggested that we could steer the Forum closer to the UGEC project. Will also bring the Spanish National Science Foundation closer to UGEC Latin America activities.

**Cheikh**

1) Dakar workshop: This UGEC-sponsored event has allowed Cheikh to take a leadership role on the topic of cities and climate change in the region. Through such activities he has gained legitimacy through international collaborations. Also very useful outcome, developing the relationship with UN-Habitat.

2) Climate change and Fisheries project: An ENDA-TM and IDRC joint project (Duration 36 months). Theme: How fishermen experience climate change. Half a million

people depend on fisheries in the region. The research team has the task of helping out in the making of policies at national, regional and local levels.

Climate change affects the fishing sector in various ways, by modifying the composition of animal and plant populations, ocean currents, and the frequency and intensity of tropical storms. Over-fishing and degradation of the coastal environment make the resource all the more vulnerable to climate change. This project aims to improve fishing practices and policies in the face of climate change in six countries - Cap Vert, Gambia, Guinée, Guinea Bissau, Mauritanie and Sénégal. It will do so by facilitating twice-yearly meetings at three levels (sub-regional, national and local), bringing together political decision-makers, researchers, representatives of fisher associations and managers of projects and programs. The researchers will gather scientific and endogenous knowledge that will allow the participants to explore together various possible scenarios and evaluate different adaptation strategies. The project will benefit from the experience of the Network on Fishery Policies in West Africa (REPAO), coordinated by Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM), which has been working on harmonizing fishing policy in the region.

Funding recipient institution(s): Environmental Development Action in the Third World, ENDA-TM, <http://www.enda.sn>, An international private not for profit institution.

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> 2008

### **IHDP report (Maarit)**

PERN initiative:

UGEC should participate. Urbano could represent UGEC and act as a manager of this network.

Suggestion for workshop theme change: incorporate soft information as well (rather than just hard data analysis).

Discussion over new initiatives

Integrated Risk Governance:

Communicate with the SC. Establish precedent by our SSC in communication

Earth System Governance is going ahead in October; they do not specify a connection with UGEC in their current SP draft.

### **IPO Report**

*UGEC developments*

**Network, associates**

- Wider network
- New project associates since last SSC meeting;
  - Rimjhim Aggarwal, Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University
  - Lisa Schipper, Project Manager and Reseach Fellow, START Bangkok, Thailand
  - J. Marshall Shepherd, Associate Professor, Dept. of Geography, University of Georgia
  - Prakash Tiwari, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Kumaon University Naini Tal, India
  - (Pending) Andrea Lampis, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

Still a target: a balance of practitioners on that list – end goal 10-20 highly motivated individuals that will assume a leadership role in project activities

Discussion: SSC members should bring in their closest contacts and people from their networks (e.g. David suggested Harriet Bulkeley and Sue Grimmond, Karen suggested contacts from policymaking sphere in Asia, Roberto also suggested people from his own network). Cheikh Mbow, one of the participants in Dakar will be also contacted. Michail and Danielle will explore the contacts. Action: MF to write to Peter Droege to advise of outcome.

On expanding the SSC - opportunities for contacts: Shanghai Forum (Karen in May), Roberto's Latin America network, Debra Roberts (Durban). Focus on Latin America, China, India, Australia (John Black at the OM), look into American and European Planning Associations.

### **Project endorsements**

- *Risk Habitat Megacity* (Overall Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Bernd Hansjurgens; Dr. Dirk Heinrichs, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ; Funding Source: Helmholtz Association)

- *Global environmental change and urban land-use change in peri-urban areas: a case study of Taipei-Taoyuan area* (Overall Coordinator: Dr. Shu-Li Huang, Graduate Institute of Urban Planning, National Taipei University Funding Source: National Science Council Taiwan)

### **Letters of support**

- *Water Management in Khartoum International Research Project (WAMAKHAIR)*, Project coordinators: Detlef Muller-Mahn, Universtitat Bayreuth, and David Blanchon, Universite Michel de Montaigne-Bordeaux III

- *Exploring the Inclusion of Satellite Derived Constructed Area Densities in the Calculation of National and Sub-national Ecological Footprints*

Principal Investigator: Christopher D. Elvidge, Earth Observation Group, NOAA-NESDIS National Geophysical Data Center, U.S. Department of Commerce, Co-Investigator: Paul C. Sutton, Department of Geography, University of Denver

*- Escenarios actuales y potenciales de exposicion y vulnerabilidad a los riesgos naturales. Integracion de la mitigacion en la ordenacion y planificacion territorial para el incremento de la eficiencia de las politicas*

Principal investigator: Urbano Fra, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Discussion:

- Roberto and Michail noted that while the Risk Habitat Megacity project and the PU-GEC projects connect to UGEC online, there is no mention on “Mega-cities Mega-risk” website that we have endorsed the project. We will ask Frauke to amend this.
- The group discussed the choice of not listing SSC members’ projects on the list of endorsed projects; this now is the result of a policy of not using the UGEC platform as a means for promoting individual SSC members’ projects (something that could be viewed as self-serving). Michail argued for the inclusion of some projects due to the fact that their non-presence in some format can raise questions about the practice. We decided to create one general projects category with endorsed projects listed together with SSC member projects.
- We also decided to simplify the endorsement application (cut budget information, IHDP connections, simplify the theme info request by just having a multiple choice)

***ACTION ITEM:***

*The IPO will create a new Projects page breaking up endorsed and SSC member projects  
The IPO will create and circulate a draft of the simplification to application form*

***UGEC International Working Paper Series (ISSN: 1935-9160)***

07-02, April 2007, Susan Parnell, David Simon and Coleen Vogel, Global environmental change - conceptualising the challenge for cities in poor countries

07-03, August 2007, Peter Marcotullio, Niels B. Schulz, Urbanization, increasing wealth and energy transitions: comparing experiences between the USA, Japan and rapidly developing Asia Pacific economies

07-04, October 2007, Michail Fragkias, Institutional responses of cities to global environmental change

07-05, December 2007, Prakash C. Tiwari, Urbanization and Environmental Changes in Himalaya: A Study of the Lake Region of District Nainital in Kumaon Himalaya, India

Discussion: The value of the workshop paper series was examined. Some SSC members suggested that this is not their preferred method for disseminating research (e.g. Karen) and do not plan to contribute to the Series. Others, (e.g. David) suggested that this is a useful tool. Michail pointed out that if the SSC and associates do not contribute to the series, it has the potential of not being a successful series. Also, the Series could be steered towards policymaker focused papers. Michail will gauge progress in the series and report back.

### *Newsletters (electronic and hardcopy)*

6 e-Newsletters per year up to date.

### *NYC workshop – Urban responses to climate change*

- Focus of regional workshop: the Americas
- ~15 participants from the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, etc.
- Provides the theme and content of our printed newsletter
- Workshop report draft

### *Asia Pacific Network (APN) Proposal*

- Title: Urban Responses to Climate Change in South and Southeast Asia: A Capacity Development Workshop
  - Amount of APN funding requested \$30,000
  - ~ 50-60 participants (researchers and practitioners) for a 2-3 day workshop. Activities included targeting the strengthening of the science-policy interactions.
  - Seek to create a **partnership** between the IHDP Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project and APN.
  - UGEC IPO provides administrative support, outreach, additional fundraising as well as co-funding of \$10,000.

Discussion: There is a conflicting proposal on the table from ICSU/START which has asked the endorsement from UGEC. In the ICSU proposal, there is mention of an APN proposal for \$75K. UGEC has also recently requested \$25K from APN for a similar event in Asia, although not focusing on megacities. Karen was asked to endorse it as a co-chair of UGEC. She will send a letter of endorsement and a confirmation of her participation as co-chair of UGEC. Karen and Michail will explore ways in which these two events may be combined or complimentary to each other. It would be good to know if the asked for funding under the CaPaBle program, for example.

### *IHDP Open Meeting '08*

- Questions: [1] How do we deal with demographic challenges? [2] How do we deal with limitations of resources and ecosystem services? [3] How do we maintain social cohesion while increasing (global) equity? [4] How do we adapt institutions to address global change?
- Proposed 7 sessions
  - Urban responses to climate change (two sessions)
  - Forecasting the magnitude, location, and form of urban growth
  - Emerging urban vulnerabilities under climate change; Implications for health and human security (joint with GECHS)
  - Ecology and environmental justice in urban areas
  - New directions for urban remote sensing for sustainability science: old questions, new approaches, and remaining gaps
  - How do culture, beliefs, attitudes and traditions in urban societies interact with environmental change? (joint with GLP)



- Endorsed sessions
  - Drivers of Change: Patterns and Processes of Urbanization in Developing and Developed Areas
  - Nighttime Lights
- IHDW

Discussion:

Roberto and Maarit: The ‘Carbon Management’ workshop was not titled or put together by Roberto and Patricia Lankao; it has not attracted a lot of applicants but all parties will be addressing this problem with additional advertising of the event)

*ACTION ITEM:*

*Michail will be in touch with Maarit for the continuation of the planning of the OM sessions smoothly.*

*Michail will try to give Harini and Chris Elvidge slides that pinpoint the UGEC endorsement of their sessions.*

**UGEC Online Bibliographic Database**

~ 1000 references (1980 – today) on UGEC Themes; offline version available annotated (by abstracts mainly) and labeled according to Science Plan Themes

Discussion:

We have to establish a way of capitalizing on the product: internally use it for our own research but externally try to measure user impact (e.g. by giving access to the database by request or simple registration.)

*ACTION ITEM:*

*Michail will find out the optimal way to set this up*

**Publication - Joint UGEC/GECHS/LOICZ IHDP Update “The Implications of Global Environmental Change for Human Security in Coastal Urban Areas”**

- Cities as crucibles of disaster politics, Mark **Pelling** and Kathy **Dill**
- Storm surges: the case of Hamburg, Germany - Hans **von Storch**
- Management strategies for urban coastal zones: Integrating DPSIR concepts with GIS tools in people’s participatory programs -N. Balchand **Alungal**, M. S. **Madhusoodhanan**, and C. **Reghunathan**
- Adaptation options for the built environment: linking experiences of developed and developing countries - Monirul Q **Mirza**
- Climate change and the risks of settlement in low elevation coastal zones - Gordon **McGranahan**, Deborah L. **Balk**, Bridget **Anderson**
- Three Cities and Their Vulnerabilities to Climate Hazards - Alex **de Sherbinin**, Andrew **Schiller** and Alex **Pulsipher**
- Urbanization and Global Environmental Change in Varadero, a Coastal Zone under Tourist Exploitation - Barbaro V. **Moya**

**Ongoing and planned activities**

- **Workshop** - Forecasting the magnitude, location and form of urban growth
  - Activity leaders: Karen C. Seto, Peter Marcotullio (+Subhro Guhathakurta)
  - Focus: state of the art in urban growth forecasting and their utility for planners, policymakers, and other stakeholders; interactions along the axes of conservation, climate and vulnerability; to facilitate a discussion among users and developers of data and models to assess the gap in needs.
  - Questions include:
    - What do we know about the future urban landscape and how it relates to other land uses?
    - How will the magnitude and shape of urban areas affect and be affected by GEC?
    - What is the policy relevance of urban growth models? How to increase policy relevance?
  - Potential funding: Digital Phoenix Project (USD 5,000); GIOS; US NSF; National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS)
  - Potential IHDP/IGBP and other partners: GLP, Conservation International
  - Targeted participants: Urban growth modelers, urban climate modelers, planners, and other stakeholders (e.g., conservation agencies, developers).
  - Exploring dates for April, September and November
  
- **Workshop** - Urbanization and GEC in Latin America
  - Activity leader: Roberto Sanchez-Rodriguez
  - Focus: strategies for adaptation to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and climate variability on urban areas in Latin America. It will bring together a balanced number of scholars and practitioners in an effort to facilitate integrating those adaptation strategies in the development of new approaches for current urban problems. (to be held in Mexico)
  - Co-funding: Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and UNDP (pending)
  - Potential IHDP/IGBP Collaborations: GCP
- **Workshop**
  - Environmental impacts of rapid urbanization in dry regions: growing challenges and vulnerabilities
- **Publications**
  - NYC workshop report
  - Dakar workshop report
  - First hard copy UGEC Newsletter planned for March 2008 on materials collected through the NYC workshop
  
- **Meetings/Conferences** -
  - Resilience 2008 (April)
  - IHDP OPL Meeting (April)
  - Earth Conference (June)

- RGS/IBG (end August)
- IHDP OM 08 (October)
- WUF4 (November)

***Collaboration with other Core and ESSP Joint Projects***

- Currently: GECHS/GLP for IHDP OM 08 in India
- IGBP-IGAC International Global Atmospheric Chemistry for the IGBP Congress in S. Africa
- GCP, e.g. in our Urbanization and GEC in Latin America workshop
- Future potentials: MAIRS, Integrated Land Ecosystem-Atmosphere Processes Study (iLEAPS) and DIVERSITAS

***Financial set up of the IPO***

- NSF & ASU for 3 years (Sept. 2006 – 2009) ; US\$270,000 per year [63% NSF] (EO, project assistant, internal GIOS staff, equipment, traveling, workshops, publications)
- IHDP annually (USD 25,000 for 2007, USD 20,000 for 2008 – pending)

***Workplan for the next 2 years***

- Concrete research-oriented products
- Engage research community and practitioners (across regions and defined themes)
- Continue on other initial priorities
  - profile raising, visibility, outreach (interactive website, mailing lists, community supporting tools)
  - endorsing projects
  - fundraising

***Fundraising strategy***

- Short-term
  - Workshop/capacity developing funding: US NSF, National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), UNEP, UNDP
- Long-term prospects
  - NSF, Asia Pacific Network (APN), NASA, NOAA, Moore and other foundations

Discussion: Funding could go towards the project itself (such as staff) or activities (such as workshops). NCEAS for example funds only workshops in Santa Barbara. We can also expect that NASA or NOAA will only fund activities. Big question: how do we fund additional positions at the project.

***Evaluation of progress***

- Central activities outlined at the previous SSC meeting

- Publication of key articles in peer reviewed journal featuring the work of SSC members and other scholars under the label of the core project to claim grounds and provide basic reference points.
- Progress on workshops
- Newsletters, Publications and other outreach activities
- Loose ends
  - Science Plan updating and conversion into a review paper, audience: researchers and/or practitioners).
  - Translation of the Science Plan into French, Spanish and Mandarin
- “Yardstick” for next meeting
  - Generation of cutting edge science (possibly exhibited through the UGEC International Working Paper Series)
  - Progress on science-policy/practice interface aspects
  - Networks
  - Collaborations with other core projects, joint projects and integrated regional studies
  - Chinese and Indian scholar participation in the project

### **Other discussions held during and after the IPO report**

#### ***On the organization of the IPO***

##### **First day discussion**

Karen Seto discussed the issue of full utilization of the Executive Officer of the UGEC project especially in the light of the need for strong research output from UGEC and the slow pace of the incorporation of the UGEC branding in the research of SSC members (initially comments were made during the discussion over SSC member activities since the last SSC meeting). She suggested that as has been the experience of other project leaders in the past (e.g. Eric Lambin of LUCC) **the success of the project will depend on strong research output that will be driven by a core of UGEC researchers**. The LUCC example is perceived as a project of strong research presence by the EO and the project leader. Roberto Sanchez suggested that this is true but might be a result of the narrow focus of the LUCC project; he emphasized the need for **network development**. Maarit Thiem suggested a look at the GECAFS project and John Ingram for an alternative organization of the IPO; she suggested getting funds for doing additional research.

##### **Second day discussion**

Karen: EO should be doing more research – change the responsibility of the IPO and do more follow-up on workshops rather than more workshops.

David: We need to focus on the configuration of the optimal combination of working groups and tasks (probably a balance of networking, admin and research) that could push the project forward.

Karen: E.O was chosen on the basis of a strong research record and capacities – it is sad to utilize this person just as an administrator. – forming groups is not the only way to move the project forward.

David: what is it that the IPO can do to promote things? (Updating the Science Plan?, pushing for collaborative UGEC research? Working on something like the collaborative research effort with UN-Habitat?) Such tasks should be the responsibility of the IPO. Urbano: Own experience – each partner in a groups stays on his/her own research paths. Managing a project and doing research are not compatible unless you have additional support. One good task for the EO could be the production of a book or a textbook on UGEC (the state of the art in the UGEC field).

Steps to move forward:

- Hire research assistants/interns to be managed by the EO and the Comm. Coordinator. Some internships could work through class credit at ASU (will have to ask Chuck about it). Establish compartmental projects for students
- Be selective in partnerships that are being formed
- Do more research at the IPO... Does it require a Ph.D. to do this?
- Explore whether RAs or interns (esp from ASU student body) can be hired with office money (but RAships should last at least a year)
- Explore postdocs/fellowships – IHDP based personnel.

### ***Communications between Officer, Project Leaders and SSC***

David pointed out that there were two events that pointed to problematic stream of communications between the OPL and the rest of the SSC: i) the change of plans for the NYC workshop to make it a regional workshop and ii) the first decision regarding WUF4 plans and the importance placed on the OM versus the WUF4.

Roberto suggested that this was a necessary executive decision due to costs and agreed that the point on the workshop communications is well taken. Michail suggested that the OM was clearly a very important focus for UGEC – the success with WUF remains to be seen.

### ***ACTION ITEM:***

*The IPO will organize teleconferences for the SSC more often – SSC should not feel that it is being left out in decision-making.*

### ***Concrete research based products***

[1]

Karen's metastudy on physical urban growth – cutting edge knowledge on the physical expansion of urban areas and the predictions on future expansions.

[2]

Science Plan Theme 3 based review paper – focus on urban responses to climate change

[3]

Roberto/David/Cheikh CC and Development paper (the co-authors started with the creation of an abstract for RGS/IBG 2008 Session on Climate Change and Development

*The urban development challenges of global environmental change: Stern, IPCC and beyond*

Authors: David Simon (Royal Holloway, University of London), Roberto Sánchez-Rodríguez (University of California, Riverside, USA), Cheikh Guèye (ENDA-TM, Dakar, Senegal) and Susan Parnell (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

The growing scientific consensus on the existence and importance of GEC – underpinned by the landmark reports of the Stern Review and IPCC Fourth Assessment – enables a shift of focus to the related challenges of impact assessment and coping strategies. For poor regions, countries and populations, GEC already represents an increasing burden, threatening to undermine development efforts and recent gains. As such GEC represents a profound new development issue, not least in urban areas, which are now home to half of humankind. The substantial recent increase attention to the position and role of urban areas as both contributors to, and victims of, GEC is therefore welcome. This paper provides a critical assessment of urban coverage in the Stern and IPCC reports, exemplifies different categories of urban GEC impacts in poor countries, and articulates a nuanced research approach for addressing such urban development challenges as part of wider interaction fields. Crucial research questions remain unanswered, especially in relation to the extent of climate impacts on urban areas, feedbacks within urban systems and urban responses to those impacts. Particular attention is focused on understanding differential vulnerabilities and adaptive potentials.

#### **WUF4 participation**

We will have to wait until we hear from the organizers with regards to the timing of WUF4 (October or November?) Our participation: Cheikh has one networking event; David is trying for a second which could be themed according to the ‘Lessons learned from two international workshops on cities and climate change’.

Discussion: How much do we think that we can influence UN-Habitat strategies? How much weight should we place for WUF? It is true that if we don’t try to do it now, in 2008, we might never have the chance again.

We have a potential opening on authoring chapters for the next ‘State of the world cities’ so we should jump on it once they let us know. Action: David to pursue all these with UN-Habitat.

#### **Next SSC meeting**

Early 2009 (e.g. February)

Potentials: Singapore (Ling as a host), China (along with APN/UGEC collaborative workshop), Spain.

#### **Presses**

A general consideration is needed for presses that are not very expensive: e.g. David Phillip Publishing (<http://www.newafricabooks.co.za/>), Fountain Press, Island Press, Earthscan, Duke U. Press, Guilford Press

**TO INCLUDE:**

List of proposed SSC activities / arrange a teleconference to discuss this table

