

## Reflections on the Training Workshop

How do we bring the trainees onboard with UGEC?

- They can participate in the next VP
- Survey to assess what works and does not work for a follow-up workshop
- Journal special issue – with IPO’s editing support
- Set of working papers
- UGEC website to act as a bulletin board for future projects, etc. – designating a special section to them
- Incorporating them as Project affiliates – nixing the name “junior associates”

## Report on the IHDP SC meeting in Nanjing

Day 1 – discussion of the ten most important human dimensions questions for global sustainability research to frame future research agenda

Day 2 – discussion of Project IPO/IHDP Secretariat relationships

IHDP future activities:

- Global Assessment on Drivers and Responses to Environmental Change (GADREC): to assess the relationship between world views, beliefs and values, socio-economic structures and incentives, behaviors and mechanisms of societal response and adaptation in the gec context. Funded by the Gates Foundation, 4 year timeline, 5-6 million USD, bringing in a 30 Working Group, will feed in to the MDG 2015 evaluation and IPCC, IPBES processes
- Inclusive Wealth Report: Partners with UNEP, this will report on the wealth and changes in wealth of nations with a focus on natural capital, will be launched at RIO+20
- Beijing Dialogues: replacing the Bonn Dialogues, will be a biannual event in different cities featuring themed discussions between researchers, policymakers, and decisionmakers, purpose is bilateral information sharing

## Strategic Directions

How will we measure success?

What science did we contribute to and develop?

What synthesis activities are being undertaken?

What do we still need to know on the ground in megacities, and so on?

Are there metastudies that need to be done?

Are we answering the questions in the Science Plan? Should we go through the SP to assess what’s been answered?

### *UGEC Themes*

1. Effects of the urban subsystem on the global environmental system
2. Effects of the global environmental system on the urban sub-system
3. Interactions and responses within the urban subsystem (brings up issues of equity)
4. Feedbacks into the global system

In the next few years do we focus on Theme 4?

Are we making a difference with respect to the global scale?

How do we build a framework to be strategic and operationalize 3+4 over the next five years?

How do we blend the global and urban? (However, the urban is in fact, the global)

An assessment of 1 and 2 should be done in order to answer Theme 3. Should discuss this in a teleconference prior to March at the PUP where we can roll out the date of our synthesis conference, scientific agenda, and activities.

### SSC Expansion

Ideally want 2 more, not to exceed three new members. Possibilities could include the workshop trainees' advisors

Thematic:

- urban ecologist (Diane Pataki -like)
- climatologist (possibly from WCRP)
- development / informal settlements)
- health
- water
- urban infrastructure
- disaster risk reduction
- demographer
- practitioner

Regional:

- Middle East (MENA)
- S. Asia (Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India)
- S. America (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, etc.)
- Europe

Names: Nigel Tapper, Dagmar Haase, George Martine

Institutional: UN-HABITAT connection, maybe WB

Next SSC meeting:

- Ibadan, late June 2012 (Urban agriculture START project) [3 participants]
- Hanoi, September 2012 (linked to Community-based Adaptation meeting, RMIT) [1-3 participants] *no longer an option*
- Buenos Aires, 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (WGII meeting) [2 participants]
- Hubei, September 2012, USEE workshop

March is the decided meeting time – to take place in conjunction with the PUP. Ibadan will be a back up.

Karen will draft a scoping/introduction-to-UGEC email template and will send out to the rest of the SSC for dissemination to potential candidates. Responses should flow in by December and we should be ready to discuss them and make selections by January's telecon.

December teleconference to discuss NSF proposal

### **UGEC Products/Activity Proposals**

- Routledge book proposal: Synthesis perhaps using the 4 themes of the project, SSC and Associates can take the lead on chapters, the start date is the next year to 2 years, before or work in parallel with the synthesis conference in March or Fall of 2013, we can bring in associates to present chapters/ideas at the next 2012 annual meeting
- UGEC special issue for journal : to get our community to write papers
- Arid cities workshop
- Capitalizing on existing research / past work: (green economy work with UN-HABITAT)
- Urban typologies workshop: possible WB funding, IPCC connection, geographical/regional input, capturing dynamic processes of urbanization; data needs: identify variables that capture the processes. Design this as a step process of reiteration and improvements. We need to be sure we are first or at least that we address the question of urbanization as a process and not just urban qualities. Early 2012? SSC based + Tony Bigio, Location: Yale, NYC, London
- Urban ecology, EJ, GEC: connect to IGBP, DIVERSITAS, IHDP can bring in additional expertise from ecologists, foresters, etc. Follow up on NCEAS and expand globally. Urban agriculture connection (Shuaib). Bring up on stages. SESYNC in Annapolis; University of Maryland, College Park. Interesting work at U. of Melbourne (greenspaces and accessibility). Cities and Biodiversity Outlook 1 (Elmqvist). HF (Darryn). APN proposal connection.
- A workshop on the Urbanization Scenarios and Environmental Effects through biogeophysical mechanism in China (USEE workshop) (Xiangzheng Deng)
- Urban agriculture project /workshops (Shuaib)
- Planet under Pressure 2012 publication plans: select emerging relevant topics; bring together specific authors. Social event to go ahead. (David Simon, Bill Solecki, RSR) IHDP slot – the importance of projects for the Grand Challenges – potentially UGEC and ESSI.