

RESCUE Working Group on “Science Questions”

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Goals for the WG on “Science Questions” (modified from RESCUE proposal)

Articulate scientific issues related to global change research, especially those that are society-driven:

- Identify emerging, or neglected areas
- Develop recommendations about research & governance priorities
- Develop recommendations about the institutions and procedures for carrying out global change research
- Propose ideas for funding and support mechanisms as incentives to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research projects in Europe within a global context.

Key words: *global change, transdisciplinary, society-driven (problem-and solution-oriented)*

Users of Output from RESCUE WG 1: Actors, Stakeholders, Partners

- Global change research funding organizations
- Global change research leaders & science-policy managers – Europe, international, national, regional
- Other environmental leaders/managers/institutions – Europe, international, national, regional
- Researchers
- Academics
- Public health and environmental risk managers
- Some NGOs, especially those concerned with global change issues

Plan B Complementarity to the ICSU Visioning Exercise

The Special Emphasis of the RESCUE WG “Science Questions”:

- focuses on the needs of the European research community and goals of sustainable development
- takes into account research concerned with the European society and environment in a global context

Plan B Complementarity to the ICSU Visioning Exercise

Therefore, WG “Science Questions” will

1. Act as **a** major liaison between ICSU Visioning Exercise and the European global change research community and the other RESCUE WGs

2. Take output of ICSU process – the short list of research priorities – and “calibrate” it for European research community:
 - Highlight research priorities
 - Elaborate research priorities
 - Give examples for Europe
 - Conduct a “future-proofing” of research priorities (test robustness against different European scenarios)
 - Identify additional questions that must be added in order to better cover the RESCUE remit, especially the social sciences, the humanities, and the systems approach.

Plan B Complementarity to the ICSU Visioning Exercise

Cont.

3. Work with other RESCUE teams to determine how to carry out innovative global change research
 - a. What new research is needed in order to achieve the tasks identified in other RESCUE WGs?
 - b. How do we need to change research methodology in order to address the next generation of global change research questions? (In cooperation with WG 3)

4. Work with other RESCUE teams: Summarize output from WGs & propose ideas for funding and support mechanisms to encourage interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research projects in Europe within a global context.

Activity Plan for Plan B

- Step 1. RESCUE Kick-off (September, 2009). Scoping of WG activities
- Step 2. Establish liaison between RESCUE WG “Science Questions” and ICSU Visioning Exercise
- Step 3. Review initial output from ICSU Visioning Exercise (Oct. 2009)
- Step 4. Establish WG “Science Questions” membership, develop plan to elaborate questions, and develop ideas for funding and support mechanisms, prepare scenarios for “future proofing”
- Step 5. Review ICSU research questions (June, 2010)
- Step 6. Consult with WG “Science Questions” or Task Team with RESCUE regarding results from Visioning Exercise
- Step 7. Conduct WG “Science Questions” Workshop & Interaction with other WGs (September, 2010)
- Step 8. WG “Science Questions” final report (December, 2010)