

Update on the most important ICSU ongoing activities

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Priorities: 2009-2011



Consolidating/refocusing existing activities:

- Complete reviews of Global Change Programmes
- New World Data System and Strategic coordinating Committee
- Review of Regional Offices

Implementing new programmes:

- Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)
- Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS)
- [Health and Wellbeing in the changing Urban Environment]

Foresight and strategic planning:

- **Visioning of Earth System science**
- Strategic Planning for 2012-17 (e.g. foresight analysis)

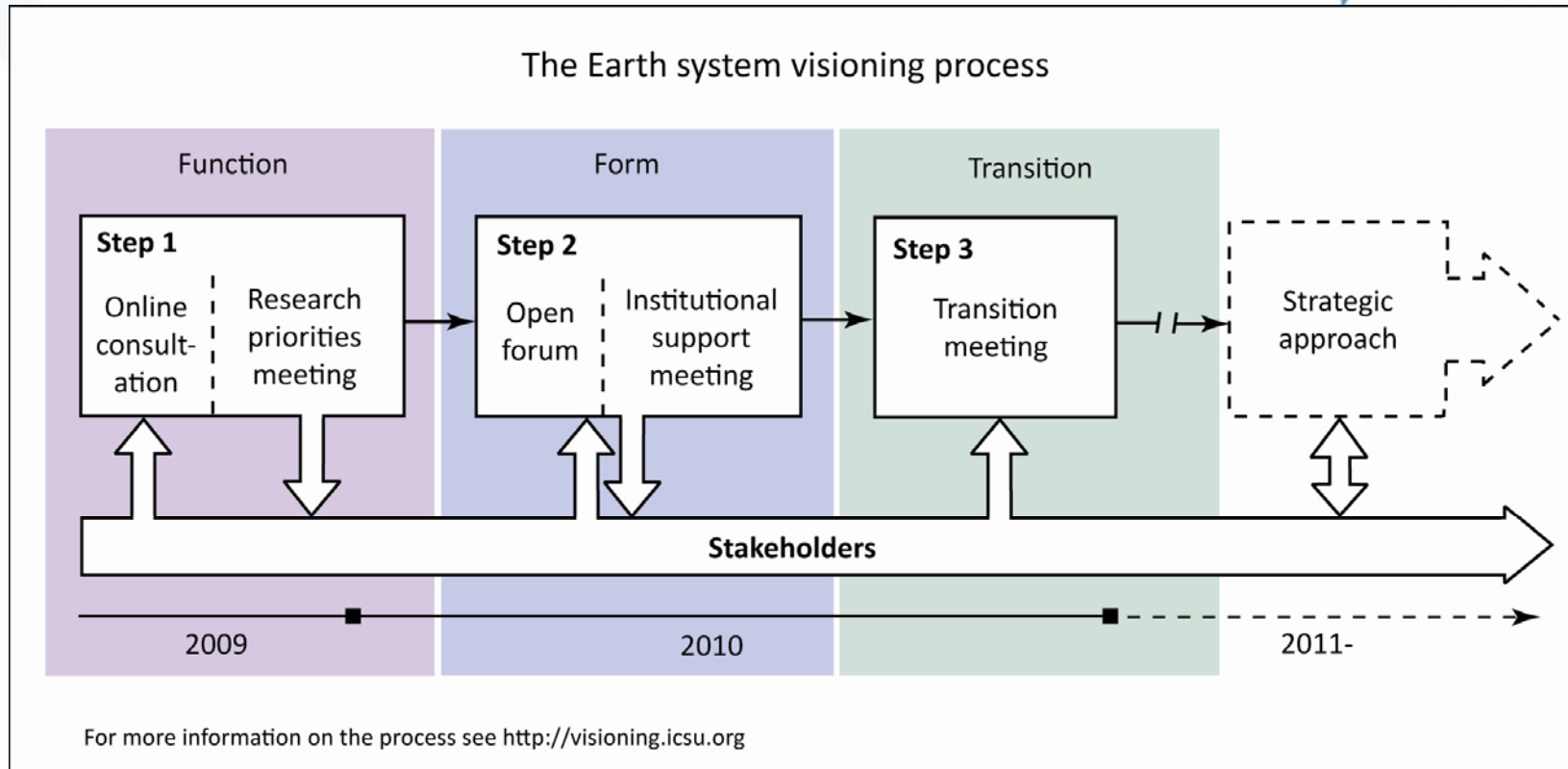
A few updates

- **IRDR:** first scientific committee meeting conducted in May 2009 in Bergen. UNISDR joined the co-sponsorship before that meeting. UNU decided to join a few weeks ago. The International Project Offices is being established in Beijing.
- **PECS:** first scientific committee meeting conducted in June 2009 in Paris.
- **World Climate Conference-3: was held in** Geneva last September. CSU co-sponsored the event. A concept on a global framework for climate information service was agreed upon.
- **IPY:** Oslo Science Conference is scheduled from 8-12 June 2010.

A few more updates

- **Reviews of Global Change Programmes:** ICSU-WMO-IOC-IGFA review of WCRP, and ICSU-IGFA review of the IGBP published in June. **DIVERSITAS review will be delayed.**
- **Review Regional Offices:** the review for Africa office finished (report available to members last December) and the reviews for Latin America & Caribbean and Asia-Pacific offices started.
- **Visioning of Global Environmental Change (Earth Systems Science):** Ongoing, second meeting in June.
- **Foresight exercise** launched after the approval by CSPR in last September. **Your input is expected!**

Visioning: a 3 Step Process



Goal: to engage the scientific community to explore options and to propose implementation steps for a holistic strategy on the Earth system research. This strategy will both encourage scientific innovation and address policy needs.

EARTH SYSTEM VISIONING

DEVELOPING A NEW VISION AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR EARTH SYSTEM RESEARCH



Home View Questions The Visioning Process FAQ Tag Cloud

Welcome

The online consultation has now closed.

Please check back here regularly for updates on the Visioning Process. The input from the online consultation will now feed into the discussions at the Visioning Earth System Research meeting, which will be held from 29 September – 1 October 2009. It should be noted that the vote count for questions in the online consultation will be one of a number of metrics that will be considered by meeting participants when proposing a prioritized list of research questions to be investigated over the next decade. The proposed prioritized list will be posted here for comment in ~November 2009.

For more information on the entire process, please see "The Visioning Process" tab.

Contributors to the online consultation were asked to respond to the following question:

What is the most important research question in Earth system research that needs answering in the next decade? Why?

What is Earth System Research?

Earth system research focuses on observing, understanding, reconstructing and predicting global environmental changes involving interactions between land, atmosphere, water, ice, biosphere, societies, technologies and economies.

About the Visioning Process

- Read about the Visioning Process
- Email us at visioning@icsu.org for general feedback on this process.

The online consultation has now closed.

Search Questions

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Most Popular Questions

- 63 [How does mankind, responsible for climatic and other anthropogenic changes including geo-political and cultural processes, interact with biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide?](#)
- 48 [How will the global water cycle evolve in response to global warming?](#)
- 43 [Which is the space weather for tomorrow?](#)
- 41 [What factors determine the resilience of the full set of interacting ecosystem services that support](#)

Criteria for selection

- **Scientific importance**
- **Relevance to decision-makers**
- **Broad support**
- **Global coordination**
- **Leverage**

Draft Grand Challenges

Challenge #1: Improve the usefulness of **forecasts of future environmental conditions** and their consequences for people.

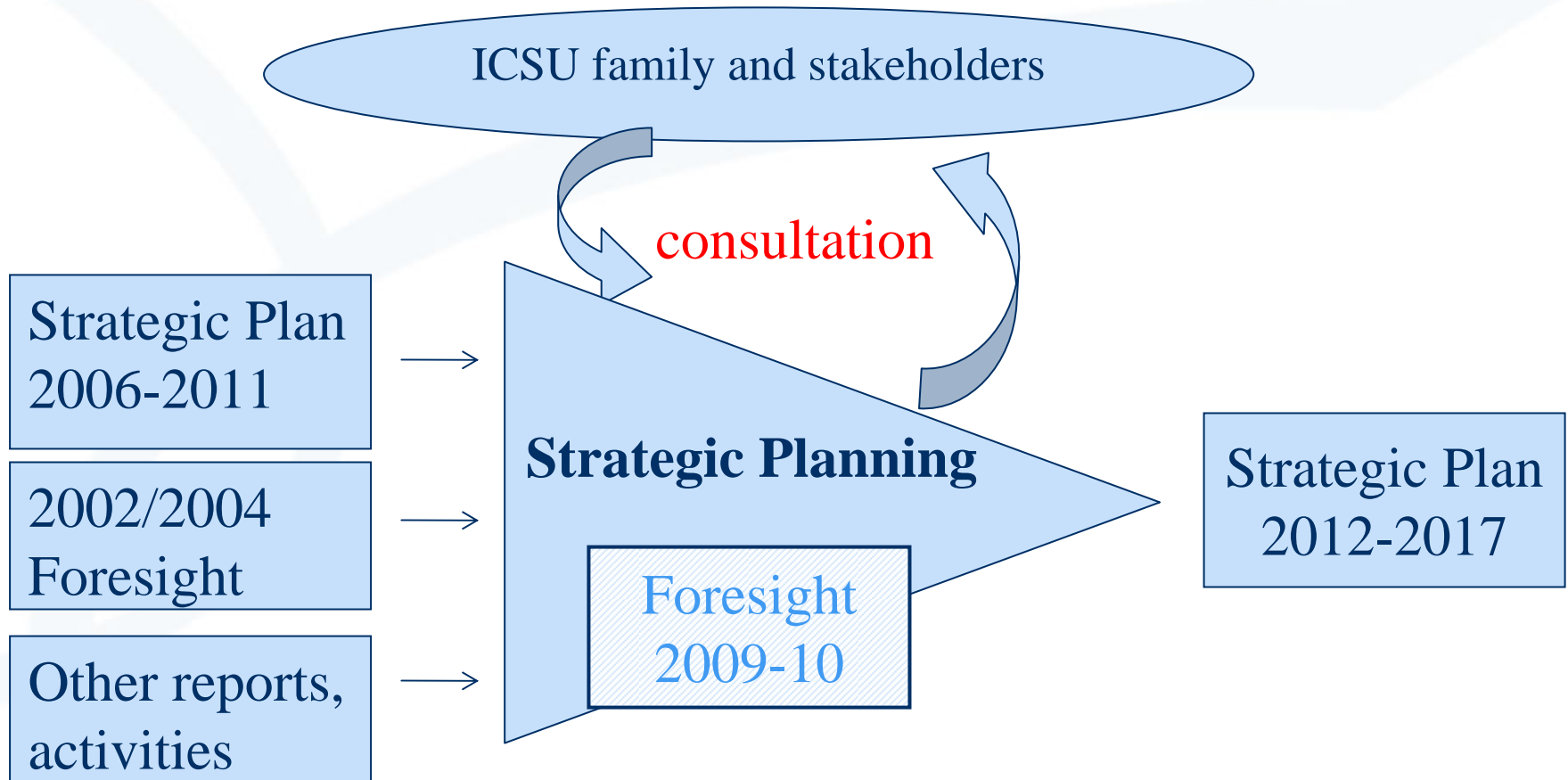
Challenge #2: Develop the **observation systems** needed to manage global and regional environmental change.

Challenge #3: Determine how to **anticipate, avoid and cope with dangerous global environmental change**.

Challenge #4: Determine what **institutional and behavioural changes** can best ensure global sustainability.

Challenge #5: Develop and evaluate **innovative** technological and social **responses** to achieve global sustainability.

Foresight: content and process



Thank you.

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