

ICSU: Strengthening International Science for the Benefit of Society

Thomas Rosswall
Executive Director, ICSU

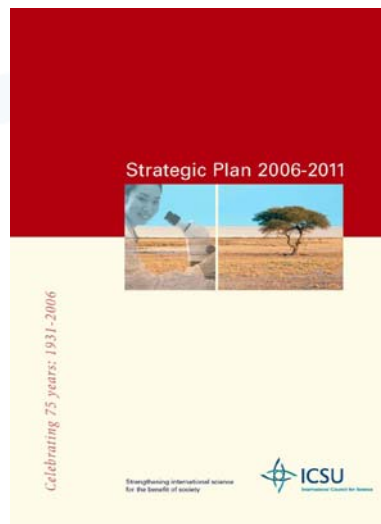
ICSU - a long history

- ICSU 75th Anniversary in 2006, but roots back to 1899
- The strength of ICSU is its membership:
 - 29 International Scientific Unions
 - 111 National Members
- Based on disciplinary expertise, Members address key international and multidisciplinary priorities
- Limited finances but unique worldwide access to intellectual resources

The ICSU Strategy



- An intensive 3-yr planning effort including intensive consultations with National Members, Unions, IBs and partners
- Approved in October 2005
- Valid 2006-2011 with mid-term review in 2008



18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

3

Vision and Mission



Mission: To strengthen international science for the benefit of society

Vision: A world where science is used for the benefit of all, excellence in science is valued and scientific knowledge is effectively linked to policy-making. In such a world, universal and equitable access to scientific data and information is a reality and all countries have the scientific capacity to use these”

18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

4

Focus of the Strategic Plan



Three inter-related themes:



18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

5

1. Planning and Coordinating Research



- International Geophysical Year 1957-1958
- International Biological Programme 1964-1974
- Four Global Change Research Programmes 1980-present
- International Polar Year 2007-2008

18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

6

IPY 2007-2008



**An intensive burst of internationally coordinated,
interdisciplinary,
scientific research and observations focussed on the
Earth's Polar regions
1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009**

**IPY is a Programme of ICSU
and WMO**



Hazards and Disasters



- Identified in the planning process for the Strategic Plan (PAA on Environment, Foresight Study)
- UN Disaster Conference, Hyogo (2005)
- ICSU General Assembly (Oct., 2005) decides this to be a priority topic
- Draft Planning Group Report for review in April 2007
- Planning Secretariat to be established in Canada with funding from insurance industry

ICSU and Human Health



- Involvement of health community identified as major failure in ICSU report to WSSD
- ESSP programme on Global Change and Human Health
- ICSU Scoping Group has proposed a programme on urban health with a systems analysis approach

18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

9

Science for Sustainable Development



Based on ICSU input to WSSD:

- Research to integrate environmental, social and economic pillars
- Participatory approaches
- Local, placed-based research
- Need to address the knowledge divide



18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

10

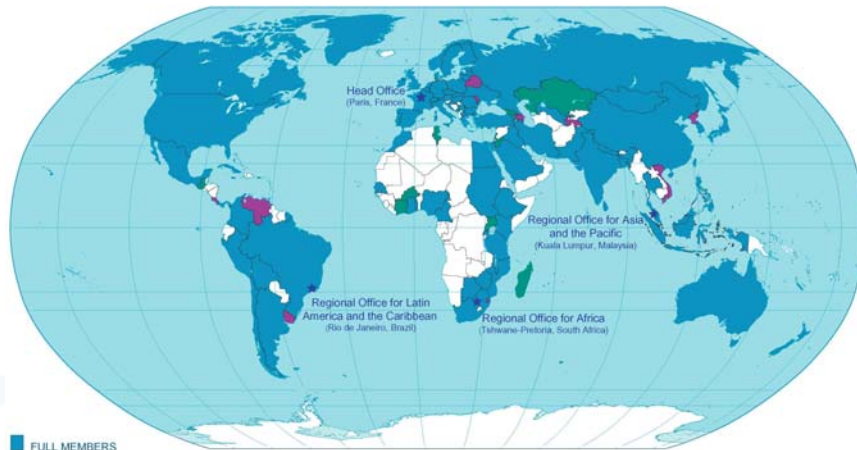
2. Science and Policy

- ICSU responsible for the input from the international science community to the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD)
- UNESCO and ICSU follow-up to the World Conference on Science
- UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Participation in planning for World Climate Conference III (2009)

3. Universality of Science

- The Principle of Universality of Science
 - Committee on Freedom and Responsibility in Science
- Reaching out to all countries:
 - Access to Data and Information
 - Capacity Building
 - Regional Offices

ICSU National Members and Regional Offices



18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

26/10/2006

13

ICSU



Strengthening International Science for the Benefit of Society

www.icsu.org

18 April 2007

Inauguration ROLAC

14