

ICSU's Rio+20 Activities

END OF PROJECT REPORT

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FORWARD

ICSU compiled this document to record the activities and outcomes of ICSU's work for Rio+20. There were numerous partners involved in each of ICSU's activities, and therefore credit often goes to several organizations. As the Rio meetings concluded quite recently, it is not possible to assess the full range of impacts of ICSU's work, as many of the Rio outcomes will evolve (or fail to evolve) over the coming months and years. Also, ICSU was one of many actors in the highly complex Rio+20 arena, so it is often difficult to subscribe direct cause and effect from ICSU's own efforts. Nonetheless, ICSU worked to become the main voice speaking for science in the Rio+20 process, and the broad range of activities undertaken received wide recognition. This document serves as a summary of the activities, and gives currently known outcomes and possible future steps. This document was compiled from inputs from many staff members within the ICSU secretariat.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place 20-22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. A series of global Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings were also held in the run up to the conference over 2011 and 2012. In addition, five Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings were held in 2011. ICSU was asked by the UN to act as co-organising partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group for Rio+20. ICSU also decided to organise a range of activities and meetings in the run up to Rio+20 to ensure that it could present the best possible scientific knowledge to Rio+20, and engage the wider international scientific community, and governments and other stakeholders, in discussions on science for sustainable development.

ICSU activities included: participation in the official global and regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings and Rio+20 itself; the organisation of five Regional Science and Technology Workshops; coordination and dissemination of nine policy briefs; co-organization of the international interdisciplinary science conference '*Planet Under Pressure: new knowledge towards solutions*'; organisation of a 5-day *Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development* at Rio+20; promotion and the launch at Rio+20 of the 10-year international initiative *Future Earth – research for global sustainability*; and mobilising and coordinating ICSU National and Union Members for Rio+20. ICSU also executed a comprehensive media and communications strategy.

These efforts served to raise the profile of science in the intergovernmental process. While the final Rio+20 outcome document was lacking in ambition and clear actions for sustainable development, the importance of science for policy was well recognised throughout and several major follow-up processes are set to include a far closer bond between governance and the scientific community than has been possible previously. Furthermore, it has been noted by many observers that the true strength of Rio+20 may not be in the intergovernmental process, but in the range of other processes and agreements that were reached in parallel, often among non-governmental actors. ICSU also became heavily involved in many of these parallel processes, and was able to push for key scientific points of interest beyond the intergovernmental process.

BACKGROUND

ICSU and UN Processes for Environment and Development

In 1991, in preparation for the first Rio Earth Summit in 1992, ICSU and partners organised a large scientific conference to define the Agenda of Science for Environment and Development into the 21st century (ASCEND 21).

At the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, ICSU was the principal scientific adviser to the summit's secretariat, and ICSU provided substantive input for several chapters of Agenda 21, the formal action plan agreed upon at the summit.

In 2002, ten years after the Rio Earth Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) was held in Johannesburg, South Africa. Here ICSU and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) were invited to act as 'co-organising partners' of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group – one of nine 'Major Groups' (stakeholder groups) identified in Agenda 21: women; youth and children; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; farmers; and the scientific and technological community. Continuing to engage in other international summits, ICSU also actively participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, 2003 and Tunis, 2005.

After these meetings, ICSU and WFEO continued their roles as co-organising partners of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group in the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) – the global intergovernmental body overlooking the implementation of Rio and Johannesburg outcomes. The CSD has met annually since 2003, with active participation by ICSU at each session.

Rio+20 and ICSU

ICSU was again asked to act as co-organising partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, with WFEO, for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place 20-22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Governments were represented "at the highest possible level", including 105 heads of state or government. A series of global Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings were also held in the run up to the conference over 2011 and 2012. In addition, five Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings were held in 2011.

In its role as co-organising partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, ICSU was able to participate actively in these meetings, submitting written and oral input.

ICSU was responsible for presenting the knowledge, needs and concerns of the scientific community throughout the Rio+20 process. This included being the voice for the full range of scientific disciplines, including the natural, social and health sciences, as well as the humanities, while drawing on input from the ICSU family and partners, such as the International Social Science Council (ISSC).

ICSU also decided to organise a range of activities and meetings in the run up to Rio+20 to ensure that it could present the best possible scientific knowledge to Rio+20, and engage the wider

international scientific community, and governments and other stakeholders, in discussions on science for sustainable development.

ICSU's Objectives and Key Issues for Rio+20

ICSU had a number of key objectives and key issues for Rio+20:

Objectives:

- To highlight the urgent need for greater action on sustainable development.
- To ensure that policy recommendations resulting from Rio+20 integrate the best available knowledge from across the natural, social and engineering sciences.
- To emphasise that strengthening science and technology will be essential for accelerating the implementation of sustainable development.
- To ensure that the needs of the international and national research community are recognised, and that support is given to research, training and monitoring programmes that address sustainable development.
- To act as the global voice of science during the Rio+20 preparatory process and at the summit itself.
- To get endorsement for Future Earth (objective explicitly added in late 2011).

Key issues:

- Natural science, social science and technology together have crucial roles in finding solutions to the challenges of sustainable development.
- A much greater proportion of research must be solution-oriented and interdisciplinary, addressing the integrated social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.
- Research agendas must be defined through broad-based, participatory approaches involving those in need of scientific information. The scientific and technological community must improve cooperation with other parts of civil society, the private sector, governments and intergovernmental bodies.
- Improving science education and capacity-building, for women and men, is essential, as is bridging the North-South divide in scientific and technological capacity.
- Improving public access to scientific data and information, and data sharing between scientists, is crucial for sustainable development.

Resources for ICSU's Rio+20 Activities

Outside funding sponsorship for ICSU Rio+20 Activities

ICSU received funding from 22 outside organizations/companies. We directly received €493k from external donors that was used to support dedicated staff (PB and AA), participation in the formal preparatory process and summit, regional meetings and the S&T Forum in Rio. Significant additional staff support was provided by the ICSU Secretariat, including the Regional Offices. The S&T Forum and activities at the Rio summit were also supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), National Science Foundation (for Future Earth events) and several Brazilian sponsors. The Regional meetings attracted some additional financial support from UNESCO regional offices. The total cost (including staff) of the ICSU-led efforts for Rio+20 was ~€1m.

Top sponsors (over 100,000 USD to ICSU's Rio+20 activities):

- Chenzyme Foundation, China - Taipei
- CNPq, Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico, Brazil
- E Ink Corporation, China - Taipei
- Macronix International, China - Taipei
- National Science Council, China - Taipei

Other international sponsors:

- Accenture Japan Ltd, Japan
- Canon Inc., Japan
- Central Japan Railway Company, Japan
- Central Nippon Expressway Company Limited, Japan
- East Japan Railway Company, Japan
- Nissan Motor Co., Ltd, Japan
- NTT Data Corporation, Japan
- Osaka Gas Co., Ltd., Japan
- Panasonic Electric Works Co., Ltd, Japan
- Shimadzu Corporation, Japan
- Shiseido Co., Ltd, Japan
- Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Local sponsors for the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development:

- CAPES, Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior, Brazil
- Escritório Modelo de Arquitetura, Urbanismo e Design, PUC-Rio, Brazil
- FAPERJ, Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- PUC-Rio, The Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro
- Secretaria Especial de Ciência e Tecnologia da Cidade do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

ICSU's internal structure for Rio+20 activities

ICSU had a core team of staff working on the Rio+20 activities, supplemented by additional staff for special projects.

ICSU Staff	Title	Length on project	Duties
Gisbert Glaser	Senior Advisor	2+ years	Overall coordination, incl. policy briefs, networking with governments, attended UN meetings, provided input to draft documents.
Alice Abreu	Regional Coordinator of ICSU's Rio+20 Initiative	1.5 years	Coordinating regional workshops and local logistics for the Forum in Rio, networking with governments, attended UN meetings.
Carthage Smith	ICSU Deputy Executive Director	2+ years	Provided ICSU strategic support for the Rio initiatives.
Peter Bates	Science Officer	1.5 years	Project manager, attended UN meetings, was the program director for the ICSU STI Forum, provided input to draft documents.
Steven Wilson	ICSU Executive Director as of April 2012	3 months	Executive Director of ICSU; provided overall guidance on ICSU's Rio+20 work.
Denise Young	Communications Manager	2.5 months	Organized ICSU's media campaign for the STI Forum and Rio Conference events
Maureen Brennan	Administrative Officer	3 months	Provided logistical support and arrangements for ICSU activities in Rio.
Julie DeMeester	Science and Outreach consultant	2.5 months	Provided organizational support for the STI Forum and Side Events at Rio Centro.
Saskia Heijltjes	Web editor/ science communications officer	2.5 months	Web content for Rio, social media, facebook and twitter activity during the STI Forum. General communications needs.
Roberta Quadrelli	Science Officer for Future Earth	2 months	Provided Future Earth organization and support for Rio activities.
Anne-Sophie Stevance	Assistant Science Officer for Future Earth	3 weeks, in Rio	Provided logistical support for Future Earth and general STI Forum activities on the ground

ICSU Regional Staff	Title	Length on project	Duties
Manuel Limonta	ICSU Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean	2 months	Organised the Latin America and the Caribbean regional workshop and attended Latin America and the Caribbean Rio+20 regional preparatory meeting. Attended Rio+20 Forum on STI to represent the regional office and for networking.
Nordin Hasan	ICSU Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific	2 months	Organised the Asia and the Pacific regional workshop and attended the Asia and the Pacific Rio+20 regional preparatory meeting. Attended the Rio+20 Forum on STI to represent the regional office and for networking.
Edith Madela-Mntla	ICSU Regional Director for Africa	2 months	Organised the Africa workshop and attended the African Rio+20 regional preparatory meeting. Attended Rio+20 and the Forum on STI at Rio+20 to represent the regional office and for networking.
Kerstin Schmidt-Verkerk	Science Officer in Latin America and the Caribbean	2 months	Coordinated the Latin America and the Caribbean workshop. Attended Rio+20 Forum on STI to represent the regional office and to provide logistical support.

ACTIVITIES

Overview of ICSU Activities for Rio+20

ICSU organised a range of activities for Rio+20, undertaken with various partners. These activities aimed to ensure that the best available scientific knowledge was integrated into the Rio+20 process, and that the needs and concerns of global and regional scientific and technological communities were effectively represented.

ICSU activities included:

- Participation in the official global and regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings, including giving written input, oral statements, and comments on various versions of the Rio+20 outcome document
- Organization of S&T side events at the official preparatory meetings and at the Rio+20 summit (also participation in side events organised by partner organizations)
- Organisation of five Regional Science and Technology Workshops to provide input into the five Rio+20 intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs)
- Coordination and dissemination of nine Policy Briefs
- Co-organization of 'Planet Under Pressure: new knowledge towards solutions', an international interdisciplinary science conference
- Organisation of a 5-day Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development at Rio+20
- Setting up science for sustainability through The Future Earth 10-year international research initiative
- Mobilising and coordinating ICSU National and Union Members input to Rio+20
- Participation of a small ICSU delegation in the Rio+20 summit programme as representatives (together with WFEO) of the global Scientific & Technological Community, including a statement by the ICSU President, Professor Yuan-Tseh Lee at the opening session and participation of ICSU delegates in three High-Level Roundtables during the summit days
- Executing a comprehensive media and communications strategy.

Global and Regional Rio+20 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings

Background

As co-organising partner of the Scientific and Technological Community Major Group, ICSU participated in the intergovernmental preparatory meetings for Rio+20, providing official written input and participating actively in the discussions. ICSU also organised side events at many of the meetings.

Preparatory meetings took place at the global and regional levels:

- Three global Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs) were held in New York between 2010 and 2012, to develop the ideas and themes of the Rio+20 conference and to secure political commitment to the process.
- A series of global intergovernmental intersessional meetings and informal meetings were held in between the Preparatory Meetings, also in New York.
- Five Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings were held in 2011, hosted by the five regional UN Economic and Social Commissions (ECA, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC) in their respective regions (Africa, the Arab Region, Asia Pacific, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean).

Global preparations and ICSU's involvement

Three ICSU staff members (Gisbert Glaser, Alice Abreu and Peter Bates) rotated their attendance at the Global Intergovernmental Preparatory Meetings. Participation in the meetings involved submitting oral and written statements, disseminating scientific information (including the Planet under Pressure policy briefs), participating in science side events, and networking to enhance relationships.

Throughout 2012, the meetings were focused on the development of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, titled 'The Future We Want'. ICSU followed this process closely, and submitted written and oral input to the meetings and worked with governments and UN staff to help with the document's evolution. ICSU argued for a sense of urgency, greater ambition and concrete targets in the document, and proposing extra text on coordinating and supporting science and technology. For more information on this process, see page 23 of this document.

The timeline for the Rio+20 global intergovernmental preparatory process was as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location
17-19 May 2010	PrepCom1	New York, US
10-11 Jan 2011	First intersessional meeting	New York, US
7-8 March 2011	PrepCom2	New York, US
15-16 Dec 2011	Second intersessional meeting	New York, US
25-27 Jan 2012	Initial discussions on the zero draft of outcome document	New York, US
19-23 March 2012	'Informal' negotiations on the zero draft of outcome document	New York, US
26-27 March 2012	Third intersessional meeting	New York, US
23 April – 4 May 2012 28 May – 2 June 2012	'Informal' negotiations on the zero draft of outcome document	New York, US
13-15 June 2012	PrepCom3	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
20-22 June 2012	Rio+20 Conference	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Side events at the global preparatory meetings and at Rio+20

Alongside the formal negotiations, ICSU also arranged and participated in side events at the global preparatory meetings.

On 8 March 2011 at PrepCom2, ICSU co-organised a side event *Planetary Boundaries and the Urgent Need for Societal Transformations*, with the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) and the United Nations University (UNU). The speakers explained that humanity has reached a point in history at which continued development is jeopardized, because the basis of development — the natural functioning of the Earth system — is at risk. They also emphasised the urgent need for substantial societal transformation to achieve a sustainable future, and explored avenues through which this might be achieved.

On 20 March 2012 at the informal negotiations, ICSU and UNESCO co-organised a side event titled *Science Messages for Rio+20*. The aim of the event was to enhance the understanding of government delegations on science issues in the Rio+20 outcome document, and also to highlight many of the science activities done by ICSU in the build up to Rio+20, including the regional science and technology workshops and the Planet under Pressure policy briefs. Future Earth and its potential to enhance science for policy was another topic discussed.

On 27 March 2012 at the informal negotiations in New York, ICSU, UNESCO and the GEC Programmes organised a side event titled *The State of the Planet Declaration: Science in Support of Rio+20, Outcomes of the Planet under pressure conference*. The side event brought together scientists, and policy-makers to discuss the outcomes from Planet under Pressure and the scientific inputs to Rio+20.

During the Rio+20 preparatory process, ICSU staff were also invited to speak at side events organised by other groups and organisations:

- Gisbert Glaser gave a presentation on enhancing science-policy links for global sustainability at a stakeholder meeting organised by UNEP and the Stakeholder Forum on 6 March 2011.
- Alice Abreu gave a presentation at the side event organized by UNEP's International Resource Panel on strengthening the science policy interface on the sustainable management of natural resources on the 26 March 2012.
- Gisbert Glaser gave a presentation on 'Science and Rio+20' at the UNDESA capacity building and information workshop on 23 April 2012.
- Gisbert Glaser and Alice Abreu gave presentations in the UNEP side event *Advancing the Sustainability Science Agenda* on Monday 30 April 2012 in New York at the second informal round of negotiations. They presented on results of the *Planet under Pressure* conference and of the regional science and technology workshops.

Intergovernmental regional preparations and ICSU's involvement

As the UN aimed for Rio+20 to have a strong regional dimension, five Rio+20 Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings were held in 2011, hosted by the five regional UN Economic and Social Commissions (ECA, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC) in their respective regions (Africa, the Arab Region, Asia Pacific, Europe and North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean).

ICSU sent small delegations from the ICSU-UNESCO regional science and technology workshops to the UN regional preparatory meetings to communicate the results and key messages from the workshops. In this way ICSU was able to highlight the importance of region-specific scientific knowledge, needs and concerns. Through this process the ICSU regional offices also become further engaged with policy-makers and policy-processes at the regional level.

The timeline for the Rio+20 regional intergovernmental preparatory process was as follows:

Date	Meeting	Location	ICSU Delegation
7-9 Sept 2011	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, ECLAC	Santiago, Chile	Manuel Limonta Director, ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean Arturo Martinez Coordinator of Programas especiales CONICET, Argentina
10-14 Oct 2011	Africa Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting, ECA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Edith Madela-Mntla Director, ICSU Regional Office for Africa Hilary Inyang University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering
16-17 Oct 2011	Arab Region Regional Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, ESCWA	Cairo, Egypt	Boshra Salem Department of Environmental Sciences, Alexandria University Faculty of Science, Egypt Hoda Elmikaty Director of Planetarium Science Center, Bibliotheca Alexandrina Alexandria, Egypt
19-20 Oct 2011	Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting, ESCAP	Seoul, Republic of Korea	Nordin Hasan Director, ICSU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Bruce Mckellar Honorary Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne, Australia
1-2 Dec 2011	Europe and N. America Intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting, ECE	Geneva, Switzerland	Gisbert Glaser ICSU Senior Adviser Mikael Hildén Professor, Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki, Finland

UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) – summit programme

At Rio+20 itself there were only limited opportunities for ICSU to participate in the main programme.

Professor Lee was able to give a 3 minute statement in the main plenary on 20 June 2012, highlighting the importance of science and technology for sustainable development.

There were also a number of ministerial round tables, in which Professor Lee and Future Earth transition team members Johan Rockström and Tanya Abrahamse participated.

On 22 June 2012 Future Earth was the focus of a special side event organized by ICSU, in co-operation with partners, at the official venue (RioCentro) of the Rio+20 summit. Information on this event is provided in this report in the section on Future Earth.

The ICSU secretariat also participated in other events organised by other organisations. Gisbert Glaser gave a presentation on the results of the Planet under Pressure conference at the side event organized by UNEP on Advancing the Sustainability Science Agenda, Friday, 22 June, in Rio de Janeiro.

At the summit ICSU was responsible for coordinating delegates of the scientific and technological community major group, running daily briefing meetings for group members and ensuring that access to the main plenary halls was possible for them.

ICSU-UNESCO Regional Science and Technology Workshops

In 2011 ICSU and its regional offices partnered with UNESCO to organise four Rio+20 regional science and technology workshops (for Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Arab States). A fifth workshop, for Europe and North America, was organised by the European Group of ICSU National Members, working with ICSU and UNESCO. All workshops were held in cooperation with the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the International Social Science Council (ISSC) and regional stakeholders.

The workshops were designed to provide input for the five Rio+20 intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs). The results and recommendations of the workshops were presented by our delegations at these meetings (see above), and have informed ICSU and UNESCO's inputs for the Rio+20 Conference.

Participants at the Regional Workshops

Each workshop had between 40–80 participants, primarily coming from countries in the region.

Participants were made up of:

- Natural scientists, social scientists and engineers, including young scientists and engineers;
- High-level policy-makers/ government representatives;
- Representatives of civil society ('Major Groups' in UN terminology), including business and industry, farmers and indigenous peoples;
- Co-sponsors.

Aims of the Regional Workshops

- To ensure that regionally specific knowledge and concerns were integrated into ICSU's work and the global Rio+20 science agenda.
- To give natural scientists, social scientist and engineers from the different regions the opportunity to prepare joint positions and concerted input for the Rio+20 RPMs, in collaboration with policy-makers and other key actors.
- To provide a platform for science-policy dialogue at the regional level.
- To provide a platform for a multi-stakeholder dialogue with other 'Major Groups' (civil society stakeholders), including business and industry, at the regional level.

Overall Objectives of the Regional Workshops

- To ensure that the best available natural and social science was integrated into policy recommendations resulting from the RPMs and Rio+20.
- To identify where support is needed by the STI community, at national and regional levels.
- To highlight the major contributions from STI to sustainable development.
- To identify the roles of civil society and the private sector in STI activities at regional, national and local scales, and their needs from the STI community.

Duration and Agendas

Each regional workshop lasted three days, with keynote presentations, plenary discussions and break-out group sessions. The workshops addressed the main themes of Rio+20:

- Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
- The institutional framework for sustainable development.

The workshops also assessed new and emerging challenges and priority issues.

ICSU's follow-up to the workshops:

- ICSU delegations presented the results and recommendations of the regional workshops at the five Rio+20 intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) being held in the run up to the Rio+20 Conference by the five regional UN Economic and Social Commissions (ECA, ESCWA, ESCAP, ECE, ECLAC).
- The regional workshop results were presented to government delegations at an information meeting organised by ICSU and UNESCO at the UN headquarters in New York (20 March 2012).
- Workshop results were presented at the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development at Rio+20 (11-15 June 2012) and at Rio+20 side events, including a UNEP-organised side event on science-policy links for Rio+20.
- ICSU disseminated the regional workshop recommendations at the *Planet Under Pressure* conference, and to ICSU national and union members.
- The regional workshop recommendations informed ICSU's written contribution to the Rio+20 Outcome Document (see page 23 of this document).

More specifics about the regional workshops, including the recommendations, agendas and participant lists, can be found here: www.icsu.org/rio20/regional-workshops.

Policy Briefs

Background

ICSU helped to coordinate and develop a series of nine policy briefs in conjunction with the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP), DIVERSITAS, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). These policy briefs were designed to specifically target policy-makers in the Rio+20 process, giving the latest scientific thinking on sustainable development issues. They were developed as part of the scientific preparations for the *Planet Under Pressure* Conference.

Each policy brief tackles an issue of importance to the Rio+20 conference. The topics covered in the briefs are:

- Energy security
- Health
- Well-being
- Green economy
- Water security
- Food security
- Biodiversity and ecosystems,
- Transforming governance and institutions
- Interconnected risks and challenges

The policy briefs can be accessed online: www.icsu.org/rio20/policy-briefs.

Dissemination of the Policy Briefs

- The policy briefs were highlighted, discussed and disseminated at the Planet under Pressure conference.
- ICSU distributed the policy briefs during the Rio+20 Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee Meetings
- At the Rio+20 Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee Meetings, ICSU highlighted the policy briefs in written and oral comments and distributed the policy-briefs to policy-makers and governments.
- ICSU distributed the policy briefs to its National and Union members as well as Regional Offices and encouraged them to use the briefs to raise awareness of science issues among national Rio+20 policy teams.
- ICSU discussed the policy briefs at ICSU's Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation at Rio+20
- ICSU promoted and distributed the policy briefs at the Rio+20 Conference.

Planet Under Pressure Conference

Background

The Planet Under Pressure Conference (26-29 March, 2012) was a major platform for science and technology in the crucial months prior to Rio+20. The conference was jointly organized by the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP), DIVERSITAS, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and ICSU¹.

This major international interdisciplinary science and policy conference linked global environmental change science in a two-way engagement with a wide range of other stakeholders involved in delivering enhanced stewardship, including senior policy-makers, industry leaders, NGOs, development agencies and the media. The conference participants explored options, obstacles and opportunities for sustainable development, drawing on the particular input from science.

The conference had over 3000 attendees and another 3500 people attending through live webstreaming. There were 150 science centers around the world webstreaming the conference, possibly reaching an additional estimated 12,000 viewers.

ICSU's Activities for Planet Under Pressure:

- ICSU was a co-organizer of the conference and helped plan many of the speakers and events.
- Several of the ICSU executive board and secretariat were keynote speakers at the plenaries
- ICSU ran two of its own sessions about Future Earth and Rio+20
- ICSU had a booth for informal discussions about Future Earth and Rio+20
- ICSU disseminated information about the ICSU-UNESCO Regional Science and Technology Workshops
- ICSU helped to promote and disseminate the nine Planet under Pressure policy briefs
- ICSU was on the committee which drafted the State of the Planet Declaration that was released at the end of the conference
- The State of the Planet Declaration endorsed the ICSU-led initiative 'Future Earth' as a way of defining and achieving global sustainability goals.

¹ Originally, IGBP was sponsoring this conference about global environmental change. Soon, the other programs joined in the effort and it became a multi-stakeholder activity. This culminated in the conference becoming an avenue for science to help feed Rio+20.

ICSU's Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation at Rio+20

Background

The Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development was a major five-day event (11-15 June 2012) in the days just prior to the Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro. The Forum was organised by ICSU, in partnership with UNESCO, the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. The Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro hosted the event. Two committees provided guidance in organizing the Forum: the International Programme Committee, chaired by the ICSU President, Prof. Yuan -Tseh Lee, with representation of all six co-organising partners of the Forum, and the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Prof. Alice Abreu, ICSU, with representation of all Brazilian institutions involved in the Forum, including WFEO-Brazil and UNESCO-Brazil.

Objectives

1. To provide a platform for the science, technology and innovation (STI) community to highlight key messages within the Rio+20 context, and to enter into dialogue with policy-makers and other stakeholders.
2. To highlight the urgent need for greater action on sustainable development and poverty alleviation, and to explore strategies and best practices for addressing these issues.
3. To highlight the importance of interdisciplinary research, collaboration and dialogue across the natural science, social science and engineering communities, for addressing the interrelated economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development.
4. To explore modalities for dialogue and collaboration between the STI community and policy-makers.
5. To provide a platform for young people to discuss sustainable development issues, and to inspire young people and teachers about STI for sustainable development.
6. To generate dialogue between the STI community and civil society stakeholders, including business and industry, indigenous peoples and farmers.
7. To generate further momentum for the development of a new contract between science and society, including policy-makers and other stakeholder groups.
8. To share global, regional and local perspectives.

Agenda

There were 14 main sessions during the Forum, including an initial 'setting the stage' session and a high level science-policy dialogue session, and 11 thematic sessions on the following topics:

- Human wellbeing and population trends
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Climate and other environmental changes
- Food security
- Water security
- Urban wellbeing
- Ecosystem services and biodiversity
- Indigenous knowledge

- Disasters
- Energy
- Green economy and rethinking social and economic models

There were over 23 session co-convenors and more than 75 speakers.

There were 23 different side events that took place during the evening and lunch periods, organized by more than 20 different organizations.

The Future Earth international 10-year research initiative was also launched at the Forum.

A full program of the Forum, with recorded sessions, can be found at: www.icsu.org/rio20/science-and-technology-forum/programme.

Audience

The target audience for the Forum consisted of:

- Government delegates and high-level policy makers.
- Representatives of civil society (Major Groups), including business and industry, indigenous peoples and farmers.
- Children, youth and teachers.
- Natural scientists, social scientists and engineers.

Based on room counts, registration and user surveys, ICSU estimated that 600-700 people attended the STI Forum in person. Approximately another 1000 people watched the live webcast. From the registration information, these people were from 75 different countries and represented scientists, policymakers, industry, NGOs, donors, journalists and youth.

Results and recommendations

A series of recommendations were developed by the co-convenors of each thematic session of the Forum, with policy-makers as the primary audience. The recommendations are on-line on the Forum website.

Media

The Forum was the focus of much of ICSU's communications work for Rio+20. See page 26 of this report for more information on ICSU's communications work.

Evaluations from the Forum

ICSU gave audience members the opportunity to evaluate the Forum through a survey, with the goal to determine the general experience and thoughts of those who attended. Of the Forum participants, 106 people returned the survey, with 79 completing all of the questions. Thus, while the survey provides important information about views of the Forum, our survey sample size (approximately 15% of Forum attendees) is too low to make firm conclusions.

Of the people who returned the survey, 21 countries were represented, with almost half of survey respondents being Brazilian. 55% of respondents were male, and there was a good distribution of all age categories. 73% of respondents at least partially affiliated with being "academic/scientific."

Approximately one quarter of respondents only attended one of the forum main sessions. The median number of sessions attended was 3 (and the average number of sessions attended was 4).

Views from the survey include:

- Over 80% of respondents felt the Forum met their expectations.
- Over 90% of respondents thought the scientific information was appropriate for this type of event.
- 87% of respondents thought the Forum was successful in integrating the natural and social sciences.
- 62% of respondents thought the Forum established dialogue with decision-makers
- 90% of respondents thought there was good dialogue between the speakers and the audience
- Over 90% of respondents thought the Forum was a strategically important venue for science and technology at Rio+20.
- At least 45% of respondents had heard of Planet Under Pressure. Approximately a third had heard of the ICSU-UNESCO Regional Workshops

In general, respondents remarked that they approved of the quality of the speakers. Many people noted that there were not enough breaks and not enough time for informal networking. Some people felt that there should have been more business people and decision-makers on the panels, and involved in organizing the events. Overall, the respondents seemed satisfied with the Forum.

The Future Earth 10-year International Research Initiative

Background

Future Earth - research for global sustainability is a new 10-year international interdisciplinary initiative on Earth system research. The goal of Future Earth is to provide the knowledge required for societies in the world to face risks posed by global environmental change and to seize opportunities in a transition to global sustainability. Future Earth will mobilize thousands of scientists while strengthening partnerships with policy-makers and other stakeholders to provide sustainability options and solutions in the wake of Rio+20.

It is a joint initiative of ICSU, the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Belmont Forum (a high level group of major funders of global environmental change research), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN University (UNU), and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as an observer.

Future Earth was launched at ICSU's Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation at Rio+20.

More background on Future Earth can be found here: www.icsu.org/future-earth.

Future Earth and Rio+20

There were several ICSU efforts for Future Earth leading to Rio+20:

- Future Earth was presented and highlighted at the Planet under Pressure Conference through two side sessions devoted to the initiative, and through discussions in the plenary.
- Future Earth was one of the main recommendations for achieving sustainability goals in the Declaration Statement coming out of the Planet under Pressure Conference.
- Future Earth was presented and highlighted at the UN Rio+20 preparatory meetings and related side events, as one of the scientific community's efforts to link science, policy and society.
- Future Earth information was distributed through newsletters and emails to UN Government delegations, the UN Major Groups, the media, and ICSU National and Union Members.
- The Future Earth website was redesigned to highlight Rio+20, and ICSU Rio+20 website also highlighted Future Earth. New videos about Future Earth were added to the Future earth website.

There were three major events for Future Earth at Rio+20. Programs of these events can be found at www.icsu.org/future-earth/whats-new/news.

1. A new contract between science and society- Future Earth, presented at the Opening Session of the ICSU Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

Diana Liverman helped set the stage of the ICSU Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development by discussing the research objectives and plan for Future Earth.

2. The Future Earth Launch at the ICSU Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

The launch event included 10 speakers and panellists that were highly successful career scientists (including a Nobel Laureate), policy makers, UN representatives, and business people. Around 200 people attended the launch event.

3. Enhancing science-policy links for Rio+20: The Future Earth Initiative at a side event at RioCentro during the Rio+20 negotiations

The Future Earth side event at RioCentro included 11 speakers: highly successful career scientists (including a Nobel Laureate), policy makers, and high-level UN representatives. We estimate that over 125 people tried to attend the event, but not all were able to get into the room.

Additional Future Earth activities in Rio included:

- A booth and Future Earth team members at the Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2012.
- Diana Liverman presented Future Earth at a UNEP organised side event on science-policy at RioCentro.
- Diana Liverman and Johan Rockström participated in an ICSU high-level science-policy dinner (hosted by the President of ICSU), discussing Future Earth with government and business leaders from Brazil and other countries.
- Diana Liverman attended the Business Day, held by the Business Major Group, to engage business leaders in Future Earth.
- Future Earth transition team members Johan Rockstrom and Tanya Abrahamse participated in the high-level round tables during the Rio+20 summit at RioCentro.

Future Earth outcomes and opportunities after Rio

The work to promote Future Earth at Rio+ 20 gave Future Earth good visibility amongst governments, the UN system and other stakeholders. This hopefully positioned it well to play a key role in future UN initiatives involving the science-policy interface. Please see page 29 of this document for the science-policy activities taking place post-Rio+20 in which Future Earth could play a role.

Other positive outcomes include:

- Positive media attention. This is discussed in the media section of this report
- Becoming a new initiative in the “Friends of Rio” group
- New connections with the agricultural and business groups

Mobilizing ICSU's National and Union Members for Rio+20

ICSU has 120 National Members and 31 Union members, representing 140 countries. It was important to mobilize this community for the Rio+20 process.

To help mobilize its members, ICSU

- Sent formal letters to both National and Union members inviting them to participate in ICSU-Rio activities, and by providing written statements
- Circulated regional workshop outcomes
- Circulated the 9 policy briefs
- Circulated Future Earth information
- Sent frequent newsletters and memos about ICSU's Rio activities

Several of the members actively engaged with ICSU in Rio activities.

- ICSU worked closely with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences on many of the activities building up to Rio+20, particularly the organisation and execution of the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development.
- Four members submitted formal written statements for ICSU to incorporate into various Rio activities and science position statements, see: www.icsu.org/rio20/icsu-members.
- Other members participated in ICSU's Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in Rio, often through organising side events.

OUTCOMES

As the Rio meetings concluded quite recently, it is not possible to assess the full range of impacts of ICSU's work, as many of the Rio+20 outcomes will evolve (or fail to evolve) over the coming months and years. Also, ICSU was one of many players in the highly complex Rio+20 arena, so it is often difficult to subscribe direct cause and effect from ICSU's own efforts. Nonetheless, ICSU worked to become one of the main voices speaking for science in the Rio+20 process, and the broad range of activities undertaken received wide recognition and served to raise the profile and importance of science within the intergovernmental process and beyond. The results of these activities are summarised here as:

- ICSU Influence on the Rio+20 Outcome Document
- Parallel processes at Rio+20
- Partnership building
- ICSU communication and media coverage throughout Rio+20
- Looking forward: The Science Advisory Panel, Sustainable Development Goals, and the High Level Forum

ICSU's Influence on the Rio+20 Outcome Document

As a voice for the Science and Technology Major Group for the international negotiations, ICSU exerted effort to ensure that science and technology were adequately included in the Outcome Document, as well as in other key documents and statements. To do this, ICSU initially submitted its full written inputs for integration into the 'zero draft' of the document, in October 2011, alongside governments, UN agencies, and other civil society groups. Following the construction of this initial zero draft by the UN using all of these inputs, access to the process was then limited, so that only governments could make new changes and revisions. From this point, ICSU therefore worked with individual governments to try to encourage them to insert specific items or text that were felt to be important for the scientific community. ICSU also gave formal oral and written statements in the meetings where the document was being developed, urging governments to include or strengthen key issues for the scientific community.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document, entitled "The Future We Want", was the result of this long process. This document is somewhat disappointing. It appears to be the continuation of business as usual for sustainable development, rather than recognition of the need for concrete and rapid actions on the scale that the scientific evidence now demands. It lacks many of the aspects that ICSU was hoping to achieve: a sense of urgency, a recognition of the scale of the threats to the planet, or a recognition of 'planetary boundaries'. Overall, the document also lacks clear commitments by governments or clear 'next steps' to be undertaken to improve the implementation of sustainable development. We are also disappointed that governments have failed to recognise that new knowledge from science is a vital part of the solution to the sustainability challenges we face. Whilst we fully agree that technology development and transfer, both recognised in the outcome document, play a vital role – the strong relationship between scientific research and knowledge, development and innovative technologies has not been recognised. Where science and technology are discussed, there is a tendency to focus only on technological solutions, rather than examining the broad range of social, economic and technological changes that will need to take place to achieve sustainable development, and the interdisciplinary knowledge-base that should underpin such transformations.

Moreover, knowledge from across the natural and social sciences is needed to identify, validate and monitor new technologies and to introduce new green economic models. Technological approaches, while an important part of potential solutions, will not suffice on their own.

On the positive side, there are numerous aspects of the document that are more hopeful. The need to increase the science-policy interface is mentioned in 6 different paragraphs – it is a recurring theme throughout. The decision in the document to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the Millennium Development Goals which will expire in 2015 is also a positive outcome, which should lead to some of the concrete actions and targets that are lacking from the Rio+20 outcome itself. Working with the scientific community is highlighted as an important part of developing the SDGs, which gives a clear signal that the process should be rigorous and scientifically informed. Governments have also agreed to “upgrade” and “strengthen” the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), a process that is aimed at providing UNEP with more secure funding and a universal membership base, and strengthening the science-policy interface within UNEP is specifically mentioned as part of this process. Also, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) will be replaced by a UN high-level political forum, which will have greater powers to oversee the implementation of sustainable development commitments contained in the Rio+20 accord and in the agreements reached at the previous summits. A strong science-base and improved science-policy links are to be an integral part of this forum.

Other relatively strong features of the document include:

- Oceans: recognition of the ‘blue planet’ and of new ocean issues requiring internationally coordinated action (conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, ocean acidification; ocean fertilization, sea level rise and coastal erosion, marine research);
- Sustainable consumption and production (adoption of a 10-Year Framework Programme);
- Education (including support for educational institutions to carry out research and innovation for sustainable development);
- An acknowledgement of the importance of corporate sustainability reporting.

Parallel Processes at Rio+20

It has been noted by many observers that the true strength of Rio+20 may not be in the intergovernmental process, but in the hundreds of other processes, initiatives and agreements that took place in parallel to the official process, often among - in different combinations - governments, business, natural and social science organisations, NGOs and other parts of civil society. The launch and commitment made to *Future Earth* can be seen as one such parallel process. ICSU also became highly involved in many other parallel processes, and was thus able to push for key scientific points of interest beyond the intergovernmental process. Here we discuss some of the most significant of these.

High Level Panel on Global Sustainability

On 9 August 2010, the Secretary-General launched the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (GSP), which brought together renowned world figures to formulate a new blueprint for building a low-carbon, green and resilient economy that can eradicate poverty and ensure a dignified life for all.

The GSP issued its final report in early 2012, entitled "Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A future worth choosing". Its inputs fed into inter-governmental processes, including preparations for Rio+20, and the annual meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

ICSU, IGBP and the Planet under Pressure organising committee worked closely with the GSP to ensure that key issues for science were reflected in the document.

This resulted in a number of strong recommendations for improving the science-policy interface, especially paragraph 51:

51. Governments and the scientific community should take practical steps, including through the launching of a major global scientific initiative, to strengthen the interface between policy and science. This should include the preparation of regular assessments and digests of the science around such concepts as "planetary boundaries", "tipping points" and "environmental thresholds" in the context of sustainable development. This would complement other scientific work on the sustainable development agenda, including its economic and social aspects, to improve data and knowledge concerning socio-economic factors such as inequality. In addition, the Secretary-General should consider naming a chief scientific adviser or establishing a scientific advisory board with diverse knowledge and experience to advise him or her and other organs of the United Nations.

Ad hoc group on Science

Following the report from the High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability, the Secretary-General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, asked the Director General of UNESCO to convene an 'ad hoc group on science' to follow-up on some of the recommendations of the report, notably paragraph 51. ICSU was invited to be part of this ad hoc group, alongside UN system officials and representatives of other scientific bodies.

After a series of meetings and discussions, the Ad Hoc Group brought a series of recommendations to the UN Secretary General, including for the creation of an international scientific advisory panel that will directly advise the UN Secretary General on science related issues. The UN Secretary General has accepted this recommendation, and UNESCO has been asked to house this advisory panel.

Friends of Rio+20

The World Economic Forum facilitated the establishment of an independent, informal, multi-stakeholder group called the "Friends of Rio+20" composed of around 30 CEOs, leading scientists and NGO heads. The aim for the Friends of Rio+20 group was to provide their independent views to the Co Chairs for Rio+20, the media and others on promoting the potential of multi-stakeholder action on sustainable development at all scales.

The President of ICSU, Professor Yuan-Tseh Lee, was invited by the World Economic Forum to be a part of this group. ICSU then worked with the group in the development of a statement highlighting the importance of the multilateral process, the urgent need for action, and the usefulness of scaled multi-stakeholder initiatives designed to help governments deliver clear, measurable sustainable development outcomes. ICSU pressed for recognition of the importance of interdisciplinary science within this document, and was also able to get specific mention of Future Earth within the document.

Traditional and social media dissemination of the message occurred in the week prior to the Summit. A side event to discuss how to further this strategic agenda, involving the Friends of Rio+20 or their representatives, the Rio+20 Ministerial Co-Chairs from Brazil and other invited high-level guests took place during Rio+20 on 19 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro. The message delivered by the “Friends of Rio+20” is now positioned to be an integral part of the Rio+20 legacy and has international recognition.

ICSU Communication and Media Coverage at Rio+20

Background

ICSU planned and executed a complex and multi-faceted communications and advocacy operation over a two-week period in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro spanning the five-day Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development and the Rio+20 Conference.

Activities included:

- Developing key messages
- Op-ed development and placement
- Media outreach and media relations
- Liveblogging and social media
- 2 press trips
- A high-level science/policy dinner at ministerial level

The overall objective of communications/advocacy activities was to support ICSU's strategic goals in two areas:

- to strengthen the science/policy interface
- to position Future Earth in the post-Rio policy framework.

The aggregated activities in communications and advocacy – which reverberated across multiple platforms (liveblog, Twitter and Facebook) thanks to intensive social media efforts by ICSU staff in Rio and Paris and partners worldwide – were successful in positioning Future Earth as the answer to the question: “What's Next After Rio+20” in terms of the international science/policy interface. The Forum itself was an important communications platform for positioning science as a critical input for Sustainable Development Goals after Rio+20. It provided the venue for the very successful launch of Future Earth and helped to drive pick-up of ICSU's messages in the media and created a “buzz” amongst the Rio+20 community of NGOs, policymakers and the private sector. A full write-up of ICSU's communications at Rio can be made available.

Main outcomes of communications activities before and during the ICSU STI Forum

1. Extensive media coverage of the Forum and pick-up of ICSU's key messages by Scidev.net and Nature. Other coverage included The Guardian, Al Jazeera, German public radio, China Dialogue.net, Internews Earth Journalism Network and top-tier Brazilian media such as TV Globo, leading newsweekly Veja, Folha da Sao Paulo and Estado da Sao Paulo. Most extensive message pick-up seemed to be the “new contract between science and society”.

2. Close collaboration with Scidev.net as a media partner during the Forum carried over into Rio+20, notably with coverage of the Future Earth side event focusing on the announcement of the UNESCO-led Scientific Advisory Council, a key outcome of ICSU lobbying efforts.
3. During the Forum, press briefings and interviews were organized with Steven Wilson, Gisbert Glaser, Johan Rockström, Thomas Lovejoy, Gordon McBean, Adbou Sane and Lori Hunter.
4. The Forum liveblog received over 2,000 views, and helped to drive more visitors to the ICSU website, to the livestreaming of the Forum, and also to increase the number of Twitter and Facebook followers.
5. A successful side event on communications was organized at the Forum: "From Communication to Collaboration: Building New Bridges Between Science and Society in a Networked World" featuring Jonathan Watts of the Guardian as moderator and panelists from Scidev.net and IRIN News. One of the key messages that emerged from this event was: "All scientists have to become communicators now." A lively and interactive discussion with the audience followed the initial discussion amongst panelists.

ICSU's Social Media Efforts at Rio+20

Social media was a very successful component of the communications effort before, during and after Rio+20. Social media was used effectively to drive attendance of the Forum – both physical in terms of registration numbers and virtual in terms of online viewers of the social media platforms and livestreaming. From June 4-27, ICSU Communications staff posted a total of 244 tweets, 28 Facebook posts, 20 blog posts on the Forum liveblog, 74 photos uploaded to the ICSU Flickr stream.

Outcomes:

- More than 1,000 tweets about the Forum using the #sciforum hashtag.
- Nearly 150 additional followers on Twitter.
- On Facebook, ICSU reached nearly 4,300 people due to nearly 350 likes.
- Forum liveblog generated over 2,000 views.
- Unique visitors to the ICSU website in June doubled to 13,000 from a monthly average of 6,000.

Main outcomes of communications/advocacy activities during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

1. Two press trips organized by ICSU: (1) Innovation to Feed 9 Billion: Brazil's EMBRAPA (National Agricultural Research Institute, and (2) Don't Trash the Slums: Bringing Hope to Rio's Favelas.
2. High-level science/policy dinner (ministerial level) – ICSU organized this dinner in partnership with Casa Thomé de Souza (a member of the Rio+20 National Organizing Committee).
3. Media coverage at Rio+20:
 - Interviews were conducted with Nature, Scidev.net, IPS, and the Guardian reinforcing ICSU's authority as the voice of international science at Rio+20.
 - Monika Seynsche, science reporter for German Public Broadcasting Corp, interviewed Gisbert Glaser as part of a roundup of Rio+20 participants broadcast on June 22. www.dradio.de/dlf/sendungen/forschak/
 - A number of key op-eds which emerged after Rio+20 reinforced ICSU's key messages, notably in Nature on June 27, 2012 stressing the importance of Future Earth.

- SciDev.net ran a piece on June 23 on the announcement at the Future Earth side event that UNESCO would take the lead setting up a new Scientific Advisory Council to the UN Secretary-General, and host the secretariat for this council.
- Another SciDev piece on June 25 titled "Scientists criticize lack of urgency in Rio+20 accord" is based on separate interviews with Steven Wilson and Gisbert Glaser

Partnership Building

The creation and enhancement of partnerships was a major outcome for ICSU from Rio+20. Through the activities and processes described above, ICSU formed strong relationships with many new individuals, groups and organisations, as well as strengthening existing relationships. Here we discuss some of the major categories of partnerships.

Governments

Through its work in the intergovernmental processes, at both global and regional levels, and by actively involving policy makers in its activities such as the Regional Science and Technology Workshops and the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation, ICSU was able to significantly raise its profile among governments. Some governments became firm supporters of ICSU's positions on science and technology and worked with us to try to include key text in the outcome document, others participated in or attended activities, meetings or side events arranged by ICSU and its partners.

United Nations

As part of its coordination activities for the Scientific and Technological Community major group, ICSU worked closely with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) at the UN headquarters in New York, as UNDESA is tasked with coordinating Major Group. UNDESA has recognised the great amount of work that ICSU carried out in its preparations for Rio+20.

Ties with UNESCO were further strengthened as ICSU took the lead in organising many joint ICSU-UNESCO activities, including the Regional Science and Technology Workshops and the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation. ICSU also worked closely with UNESCO in activities such as the Ad Hoc Group on Science discussed above. The UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector in particular now sees partnership with ICSU as central to their efforts to lead science within the UN system.

UNEP also recognised the strength of ICSU's work for science for Rio+20, particularly the effort and success of positioning Future Earth (for which UNEP is a partner) within the Rio+20 process. As a result UNEP is now inviting ICSU to work with it on Rio+20 follow-up activities such as developing science input for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through the course of the multifaceted activities and processes that ICSU was involved in for Rio+20, many other UN agencies and programmes, such as WMO, UNU and the UN regional economic commissions, also became more aware of or involved in ICSU's work, greatly raising ICSU's profile within the UN arena at many levels.

Science and academia

ICSU's profile in the science and academic community was greatly enhanced by acting as an international convener for science for a major UN process, and by providing a major platform for

science at Rio+20 itself through the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation. Overall, ICSU's activities for Rio+20 brought together hundreds of natural scientists, social scientists and engineers from across the world, and attracted the interest of many more. The regional workshops served to engage scientists from five global regions (Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the Arab States, Europe and North America) while the Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation engaged over 100 individuals, many new to ICSU, as conveners of sessions or as speakers. These individuals were often representing academic institutions or major international research programmes, thus connecting ICSU into wider global networks (see www.icsu.org/rio20/science-and-technology-forum for complete lists of conveners and speakers in the Forum).

Media

ICSU's communications and media strategy also greatly increased its ties with international and national media, as has already been discussed in the media section of this report.

Civil society

ICSU sought to include many representatives of civil society within its activities for Rio+20, to improve collaboration and discussion between science and society. Due to this, we also developed relationships with many different civil society organisations, including business organisations, NGOs, city networks and farming networks. ICSU's involvement in groups such as the Friends of Rio+20, a coalition of business, academic and civil society leaders, also served to raise ICSU's profile in civil society arenas.

Looking Forward

There are several outcomes in the Rio+20 outcome document that present opportunities for ICSU to continue its international science coordination efforts and for Future Earth to work towards its aim of providing science for policy. While it is not possible to know at this point how these outcomes will develop in the long-run, they will hopefully have positive ramifications for sustainable development and for the science-policy interface at the global, regional and national levels. Both ICSU and Future Earth will therefore be looking to collaborate with the UN system in their development.

UN Science Advisory Panel

ICSU was part of the UN's 'ad hoc group on science' chaired by UNESCO, which recommended to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon that an international scientific advisory panel be developed to provide him guidance on science-related issues. At Rio+20 the UN Secretary General accepted this recommendation, and formally requested that UNESCO set up the panel. The panel will consist of diverse scientists, including natural and social sciences and engineering. Panel members will represent diverse backgrounds and regions from the world. The panel will have a key function to promote cooperation on science-related issues between UN agencies as well as the scientific community. UNESCO has indicated that ICSU will be involved in the creation and operation of the science advisory panel.

High Level Forum

The Rio Outcome Document, "The Future We Want," specifies the creation of a High Level Forum to provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development. This is to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

Among the specific tasks given to the Forum, two are particularly significant for the scientific community:

85 (k) strengthen the science-policy interface through review of documentation bringing together dispersed information and assessments, including in the form of a global sustainable development report, building on existing assessments;

85 (l) enhance evidence-based decision-making at all levels and contribute to strengthen ongoing efforts of capacity building for data collection and analysis in developing countries.

This suggests that the scientific community will play a much stronger formal role than was possible within the structure of the CSD, and ICSU will follow this closely as it develops and seek to be fully involved as the global voice of science.

Sustainable Development Goals

Another outcome of Rio+20 was the decision in the outcome document to develop a set of Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) that will follow the example of the Millennium Development Goals that are set to expire in 2015. The detail of the process for developing these goals has yet to be defined, but the outcome document states that the scientific community are key actors in the process, giving a mandate to the scientific community to be involved in the process. ICSU will therefore be following this process closely, working with UNESCO and UNEP, as well as ISSC.