

Prospectus and Business Plan

International Year of Planet Earth

Earth Sciences for Society

- What is the International Year of Planet Earth?** –
- Who is behind the International Year?** –
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Executive Summary

Natural disasters like the 2004 tsunami testify to the Earth's incredible power. More effective use of geoscientific knowledge can save lives and protect property. Such knowledge also enables us to satisfy the growing needs for Earth's resources for an expanding human population in a sustainable manner. Such knowledge is readily available in the practical experience and publications of some half a million Earth scientists all over the world, a professional community that is ready and willing to contribute to a safer, healthier and wealthier society if called upon by politicians and decision makers. Professional guidance by Earth scientists is available in many aspects of everyday life including, for example, identification of the best areas for urban expansion, sites to avoid for waste disposal, the location of new underground fresh water resources, and where certain toxic agents implicated in Earth

related diseases may be located, *et cetera*. The International Year of Planet Earth (2007 - 2009) aims to contribute to the improvement of everyday life, especially in the less developed countries, by promoting the societal potential of the world's Earth scientists, as expressed in the Year's subtitle *Earth sciences for Society*. Ambitious outreach and science programmes constitute the backbone of the International Year, politically endorsed by all 191 member states of the United Nations Organisation when it proclaimed 2008, the central year of the triennium, as the UN Year of Planet Earth.

This brochure is principally designed to inform sponsor organisations and donors about the essential core characteristics of the Year. It describes who is behind it, how it will work, and how the political process leading to United Nations proclamation proceeded. The brochure



About this logo: In 2002 the German Ministry of Education and Research in 2002 instigated the very successful *Jahr der Geowissenschaften*. The logo used in the national event forms the basis of the International Year logo, by kind permission of the German Ministry. This consists of an inner circle (red) representing the solid Earth, then the biosphere in green and the hydrosphere in dark blue, above which is the pale blue atmosphere, all constituents of the Earth System.

describes the financial and organisational aspects of the International Year, sets out the commitments necessary for the realization of the Year's ambitions by all nations, and explains how the raising of US\$ 20 million will be approached.

We very much appreciate your interest and your contributions to *The Greatest GeoShow on Earth*.

The Board of Officers of the Corporation of the International Year of Planet Earth

1. What is the International Year of Planet Earth?

Aims, ambitions & target groups

The International Year of Planet Earth is an ambitious programme designed to foster outreach and research activities with the single purpose of raising worldwide public and political awareness of the vast (but often under-used) potential of Earth Sciences for improving the quality of life and safeguarding the planet. The aim is encapsulated in the Year's tagline 'Earth sciences for Society'. Its desired outcomes are raising public awareness and enhancing research, in both less developed countries (LDCs) and developed nations, with all the

attendant capacity building this will entail. The International Year of Planet Earth envisages a significantly expanded role for the Earth Sciences in building a healthier, safer and wealthier society. Among a range of objectives, the International Year aims to:

- Reduce risks for society caused by natural and human-induced hazards through current knowledge and new research
- Reduce health problems for mankind by improving understanding of the medical aspects of Earth Science
- Discover new natural resources and make them available in a sustainable manner

- Build safer structures and expand urban areas, utilizing natural subsurface conditions
- Determine the non-human factor in climatic change
- Improve knowledge concerning the occurrence of natural resources (such as groundwater), which are often sources of political tension between neighbouring countries
- Improve understanding of unique conditions on ocean floors relevant to the evolution of life.

And, at a more general level, to:

- Stimulate interest in the Earth sciences within society at large

- Expand the number of students in the Earth sciences
- Increase budgets for Earth science related research
- Promote exposure and application of geosciences
- Promote sustainable extraction of Earth's resources.

Target groups include:

- Decision makers and politicians who need to be better informed about how Earth science knowledge can be used for sustainable development
- The voting public, who need to know how Earth science knowledge can contribute to a better society

- Fellow geoscientists, who are very knowledgeable about various aspects of the Earth but who need help in using their knowledge for the benefit of the world's population.

2. Who is behind the International Year?

Initiators, Founding & Associate Partners

The project was jointly initiated in 2001 by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Earth Science Division. IUGS, a Non-Governmental Organisation, and UNESCO, an Inter-Governmental Organisation, have enjoyed several decades of productive cooperation, for example through its joint International Geoscience Programme (IGCP). The project has attracted 12 *Founding Partners* that actively support the initiative either in kind or in cash.



United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization

They are:

1. International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)
2. International Geographical Union (IGU)
3. International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)
4. International Lithosphere Programme (ILP)

5. Geological Survey of the Netherlands TNO (TNO)
6. The Geological Society of London (GSL)
7. International Soil Reference and Information Centre (ISRIC)
8. A consortium of the International Association of Engineering Geologists and the Environment (IAEG), the International Society of Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)
9. International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)
10. American Geological Institute (AGI)
11. American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG)
12. American Institute of Professional Geologists (AIPG).

In addition, the International Year of Planet Earth enjoys the support of 26 *Associate partners* including all major international geoscientific and other relevant organisations (table page 4).

Additional geoscientific support

The geoscience community has expressed its support for this initiative in the form of written declarations from national geoscience committees of at least 44 nations. Moreover,



a Declaration in support of the International Year was unanimously adopted by representatives of geoscientific communities in 140 countries at the 32nd International Geological Congress in Florence, Italy, in August 2004.

Partners

Organisations wishing to participate actively by joining the Corporation following UN Proclamation may become Partners in the International Year. Partnership fees for not-for-profit organisations are US\$ 5000 (minimum)/yr for 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Fees for commercial Partners are double this amount (US\$10,000/yr minimum).

Associate Partners of the International Year of Planet Earth

ICSU	International Council for Science	GSAF	Geological Society of Africa
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO	UNU	United Nations University
IPA	International Permafrost Association	AGID	Association of Geoscientists for International Development
IAGOD	International Association on the Genesis of Ore Deposits	UN/ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
SEG	Society of Economic Geologists	NESF	North-eastern Science Foundation (USA)
SGA	Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits	AASG	Association of American State Geologists
IAH	International Association of Hydrogeologists	ISPRS	International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing
IGCP	International Geoscience Programme IGCP	GSA	Geological Society of America
EFG	European Federation of Geoscientists	NACSN	North American Committee for Stratigraphic Nomenclature
AARSE	African Association of Remote Sensing of the Environment	CPC	Circum Pacific Council for Energy and Mineral Resources
SCA	Science Council of Asia	IPA	International Palaeontological Association
ProGEO	European Association for the Conservation of the Geological Heritage	CGMW	Commission for the Geological Map of the World
SEPM	Society for Sedimentary Geology		
CCOP	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia		

3. How will it work?

Timing

In December 2005 the United Nations proclaimed 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth. This UN-Year is centred in a triennium starting in 2007 and running to the end of 2009. Fund-raising and developing the Secretariat began early in 2006.

Most activities in 2007 will be concerned with raising awareness among the general public as a prime target. This will break ground for the UN-Year (2008) when outreach activities and the generation of political awareness will culminate. At the same time, the first project grants will be awarded for work on the Year's scientific themes. These will reach a peak of activity by 2009, by which time the first answers to questions posed by the International Year of Planet Earth will emerge. It is anticipated that some of

the science projects will continue after the formal termination of the Year in December 2009. Formal activities for the International Year will wind up by mid-2010.

The International Year has two major lines of activity: an Outreach and a Science programme.

Outreach Programme

Outreach lies close to the heart of the International Year because of its prime aim to generate interest and greater awareness among the general public, decision makers and politicians about the effective application, for the benefit of human society, of the widely available wealth of information in the hands of the Earth science community. The publication of the Year's first brochure: *Planet Earth in our hands* was a step in that direction, quickly

followed by the brochure on *Outreach, bringing Earth sciences to everyone*.

The outreach programme will invite any interested party or group to submit international project proposals addressing the above-mentioned aims. For example, these may take the form of:

- Events, event listing, and badging
- Cooperation for increased visibility
- Recycling of educational material
- 'Citizen science', involving the public in research
- Competitions, books, story ideas
- TV documentaries/programmes
- Art commissioning.

Top Conferences, with high level politicians and leading scientists in attendance, will be organised with the over-arching aim of reaching agreement on the most practical and effective ways in which Earth information can address the needs of society.

Science Programme

The scientific themes selected for the International Year of Planet Earth were all determined on the basis of their relevance to Society. The selected themes are:

- Groundwater: reservoir for a thirsty planet?
- Hazards: minimizing risk, maximizing awareness
- Earth and Health: building a safer environment
- Climate change: the 'stone tape'
- Resources: towards sustainable use
- Megacities: going deeper, building safer
- Deep Earth: from crust to core
- Ocean: abyss of time
- Soil: Earth's living skin
- Earth and Life: origins of diversity.

Specific questions, identified within each of these themes, have been designed to attract project proposals with the potential to provide answers to a range of societal problems facing politicians and decision-makers. Scientists are invited to submit Expressions of Interest and project proposals for work within these themes

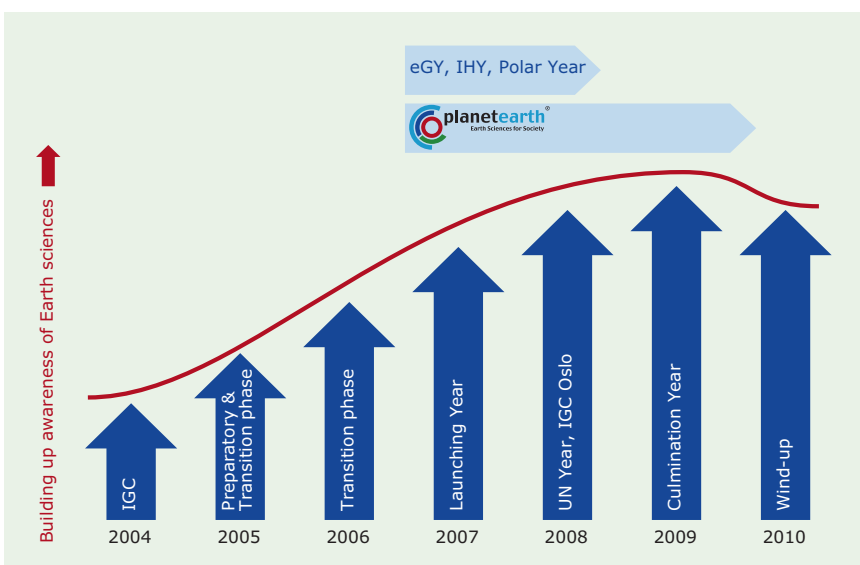
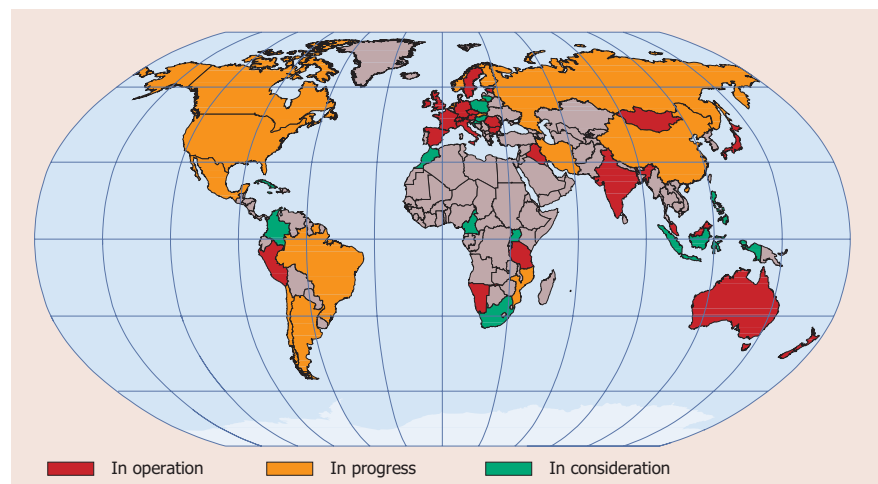
and, more specifically, for addressing the special topics therein. Selection criteria for seed money grants (only) include: geoscience based, truly international, holistic and multidisciplinary, human impact, potential for developing countries and for outreach.

Implementation of the science programme will involve close cooperation with the International Geoscience Programme (IGCP), a global UNESCO-IUGS programme that has run successfully for more than 33 years.

National committees

Success or failure of the International Year's ambitions will largely depend on

how these are realised at national and local levels. For that reason, the Year's national committees are perhaps the most important structural components of the Year of Planet Earth because their activities will be most clearly visible to the public. Every country is encouraged to create such a committee. National Committees already exist in Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania and the UK, whereas 15 other nations are currently developing such committees, and



Anticipated awareness increase and relation with other science initiatives

15 more are strongly considering doing so (see Figure). National committees are independent bodies and raise their own funds from national resources. On request, the Corporation may assist national committees wherever needed and practical. Through the Year's logo and event-listing, the Corporation gives world wide exposure to their activities. To formalize such cooperation, national committees are invited to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Corporation.

Relation to other science years

Three other international science years, none of which has sought UN-Year status, will run at the same time as the International Year of Planet Earth. These are the International Heliophysical Year (IHY), the electronic Geophysical Year (*e*GY), and the International Polar Year (IPY). Each of the four international years has its own

unique characteristics in terms of target groups, ambitions and parties involved, but they all share the view that a better understanding of System Earth is a key to the sustainable development of humankind. The four initiatives have agreed to maintain close communication and to cooperate with each other, coupling their science and outreach programmes wherever possible and appropriate. This spirit of cooperation

is formally stated in the *Celimontana Declaration* (Annex 3). The four initiatives will move forward together to generate a major wave of enhanced awareness of the relevance of the geosciences to everyday life and livelihood.

4. The UN route, political support

Why take the UN route?

The International Year of Planet Earth has chosen the UN-route for a number of reasons, the two most cogent being:

- Proclamation by the United Nations will commit the 191 UN member countries to stimulate national politicians and decision makers to use the Earth sciences as means of advancing sustainable development in their countries, and will report back to the UN on the progress made.
- UN proclamation provides credibility to the claim that this initiative is widely accepted by all nations as a most worthy endeavour, and will thus be instrumental in approaching donors and sponsors for financial contributions to realise the Year's aims.

Milestones for political support

Three milestones mark the key stages along the road map to UN Proclamation:

- Adoption of a Resolution by UNESCO's Executive Board
- Adoption of a Resolution by UNESCO's General Conference
- Adoption of a Resolution by the UN General Assembly.



The Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to UNESCO and Vice-President of UNESCO's Executive Board (left) at its 171st meeting, April 28th, 2005

The first milestone was reached on 28 April 2005 when a Draft Resolution on the International Year, tabled by the Permanent Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania, was adopted unopposed. Twenty five nations voiced their full support at the 171st meeting of UNESCO's Executive Board.

The second milestone was reached on 19 October 2005, when a Draft Resolution on proclamation of 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth was adopted unopposed by UNESCO's 33rd General Conference. On that occasion, fifteen additional countries voiced their full support. That resolution invited the UNESCO Director General to support all efforts

leading to UN proclamation for 2008. It also recommended that the UNESCO National Committees should create national groups for the purpose of implementing the Year and collaborating with Earth science societies and groups throughout the world, including the less developed countries.

The United Republic of Tanzania again took the lead among a core group of 82 nations in co-sponsoring a Draft Resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. On 22 December 2005, the UN General Assembly, with reference to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted by consensus Resolution 60/192 proclaiming 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth (see Annex 2).

Proclamation of the International Year of Planet Earth by all 191 UN member states urges their commitment to report on progress made in optimizing the use of geoscientific knowledge and information for the benefit of society. Realisation of this commitment will be checked for the first time during the 62nd meeting of the UN General Assembly in 2007.

5. Fund-raising and finances

Fund-raising

Upon UN proclamation, a fund-raising campaign necessary for the implementation of the International Year of Planet Earth was launched. Substantial funds will be needed for science and outreach activities at both national and international levels. At the international level, a budget of about US\$ 20 million will be needed for realisation of at least part of the Year's ambitious programmes. The science and outreach programmes require US\$ 9 million each. An absolute minimum budget requirement for implementation of such an international programme is US\$ 5 million.

The following are potential financial sources for the Year:

- Multinational industry (private companies)
- Multinational intergovernmental institutions / Development Banks / science organisations and donor organisations
- National/regional/local governmental & non-governmental organisations (ministries, private companies and cities)
- Charitable foundations and trusts
- Direct solicitation of small contributions from individuals via the internet
- Bequests and donors.

Potential sponsors and donors will be approached by members of the Development Committee. Financial contributions will fall into four categories: US\$1 million + contributions are placed in the highest (5 stars) category, between US\$ 1 and US\$ 0.5 million in the second (4 stars), between US\$ 500,000 and US\$ 100,000 in the third (3 stars), and those between

Budget for the implementation of the International Year of Planet Earth. Note that, in total, activities are planned and budgeted over a four year period, commencing 6 months prior to the triennium (i.e. by mid 2006) and closing down 6 months after the triennium, by July 2010

Amounts in US\$	Science	Outreach	Bureau*
Year 1	200,000	2,250,000	450,000
Year 2	3,500,000	3,750,000	600,000
Year 3	5,300,000	3,000,000	700,000
Year 4	0	0	250,000
Total	9,000,000	9,000,000	2,000,000

* Including Secretariat

US\$ 100,000 and US\$ 50,000 in the 2 stars category. Individuals and organisations donating US\$ 1000 or more to the International Year are designated *Affiliates of the International Year of Planet Earth*. Funding category determines the level of recognition (see table on page 8).

Fiscal legislation, with the appropriate tax-exempt regulations, is secured under the law of the State of Delaware (USA) where the Corporation is registered as a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) Organisation. The funds will be managed by the Corporation. If, for whatever reason, the Year should fail, all remaining

Financial support

Amounts in US\$	IUGS	UNESCO	Partners & Sponsors	Total
2001	5,500	0	5,000	10,500
2002	25,000	15,000	10,000	50,000
2003	40,000	18,000	35,000	93,000
2004	22,500	26,600	60,000	109,100
2005	40,000	20,000	92,294	152,294
Total	133,000	79,600	202,294	414,894

moneys will be reimbursed, pro rata, to the suppliers after payment of outstanding costs.

Financial support during the preparation phase

The preparation costs of the International Year of Planet Earth were jointly covered by the initiators, Founding Partners and sponsors. The amount of cash money accumulated over the period 2001 - 2005 was US\$ 414,894, but at least twice this figure was invested in the form of salary costs and out-of-pocket expenses and support in kind provided by the Initiators and Founding Partners.

Expenditures

Amounts in US\$	Publication	Meetings	Promotion	Office	Website & miscellaneous
2001	0	2,500	8,000	1,500	0
2002	1,000	17,000	24,000	2,500	1,000
2003	15,070	31,022	6,768	6,094	221
2004	51,322	21,118	6,094	8,341	7,643
2005	54,440	35,623	24,630	5,850	1,685
Total	121,832	107,263	69,492	24,285	10,549

Most of this money went to the production of the Year’s series of science and outreach brochures, leaflets and posters (under ‘publication’ in table above). Other major items of expenditure were meetings and promotion, including work involved in encouraging a range of organisations to partner the initiative.

Recognition

The main and compelling incentive for sponsors and donors of the International Year of Planet Earth during the triennium is the overwhelming attention to be given to the integral relation between the Earth sciences and numerous aspects of society. Given that these aspects involve the (sustainable) use of Earth materials, promotion of the current and future value of such materials for society will not only benefit the extraction

industry, but will have wide-ranging societal impact. As the International Year also aims to contribute to a safer society, the use of Earth science knowledge and understanding of natural and man-induced hazards will also be of interest to insurance companies, development banks and organisations dealing with hazard prevention and mitigation. Equally, the Year’s work in contributing to a healthier society can be expected to interest the pharmaceutical industry, the World Health Organisation and other bodies active in this burgeoning field. Several other sectors and related industries and organisations should be able to profit from increasing public awareness of the Earth sciences and their direct or indirect contribution to the wellbeing of local communities, and of society at large.

Sponsors and donors require recognition in return for their financial contributions. The level of recognition is determined by the level of the contribution received, as indicated earlier. Sponsors and donors in the highest (5 stars) category will each be offered a seat on the Board; thus, they may influence the direction of parts of the work of the International Year. Their logos will be posted on the Year’s home page, and on all its publications and posters. Major sponsors and donors may be acknowledged by attaching their names to specific events, for example the ‘John Smith Forum on Sustainable Mining’. 4 Stars category sponsors and donors will be acknowledged by their right to share a seat with other 4 stars category sponsors and donors on the Board, by having their logos prominently displayed on the website, as well as on selected science and outreach publications, including posters. 3 Stars category sponsors and donors will be acknowledged by having their logos prominently positioned on the website and on selected publications, whereas the logos of organisations of the 2 stars category will also be found on the Year’s website. Partners actively involved in shaping the Year’s programme are properly acknowledged through the website and in the output of the respective fields to which they contribute.

Category range	Seat on Board	Shared seat on Board	Logo on home page	Logo on other pages	Logo on all publications & outreach materials	Logo on selected publications & outreach materials
*****: > US\$ 1 M	■		■		■	
****: US\$ 0.5 - 1 M		■		■		■
***: US\$ 0.1 - 0.5 M				■		■
** : US\$ 0.1 - 0.05 M				■		

6. Deliverables

We may distinguish between products to be produced prior to the Implementation Phase (scheduled to start 15 September, 2006) and those produced during that Phase.

Deliverables due before 15 September 2006

- Secretariat outsourced and Executive Director appointed
- Chair of the Board appointed
- First 10 national committees installed
- First US\$ 0.5 M raised, US\$ 1 M in the pipeline
- Exposure at large conferences (e.g. PDAC, Toronto; EGU, Vienna)
- Press Release, exposure in Nature and Science
- Earth & Life brochure published
- Second edition of Resources brochure published
- First 20 science project proposals submitted

- 3 Patrons accept invitation
- First 20 outreach proposals submitted
- Partnership with GEOSS, NASA and ESA in pipeline
- 3 Partners.

- Major launching event in preparation
- Multilingual website operational
- Calendar of international events available
- 10 Partners.

Deliverables due by the end of 2006

- Secretariat operational
- Board installed
- 20 national committees active
- US\$ 1.5 M raised, US\$ 2 M in the pipeline
- Exposure in major conferences
- First 50 science proposals submitted; 30 reviewed
- First 50 outreach proposals submitted; 30 reviewed
- Total of 10 Patrons accept invitation
- Agreements with major international science foundations in pipeline

7. Performance indicators

Performance indicators measure the effectiveness of the International Year of Planet Earth's organisation. Such indicators monitor the input and output of the International Year.

Input indicators quantify efforts and resources committed to implementation of the International Year and include: budget generated, number of Board members representing major sponsors and donors, number of Science Implementation Team members, number of Outreach Committee members, number of visits to potential sponsors and donors, number of National Committees created, number of Patrons, etc.

Output indicators quantify auditable products delivered in the reporting period and include: number of science and outreach projects granted, number of joint projects with other science years, number of international events generated, number of participants of these events, number of countries and continents represented in international events, number of press releases and other media attention, number of hits and downloads of website, number of languages on website, number of public presentations, increase in students selecting geosciences, number of volunteers working for the Year, number of countries reporting on International Year activities to the UN system.

Results of performance indicators will be included in the Annual Reports and in the Final Report of the International Year to be completed by the middle of 2010.

8. Organisation

Management Team

The organisational structure of the International Year evolved as the Initiative grew in significance. By mid 2002, a Science Programme Committee (SPC) and an Outreach Programme Committee (OPC) had been installed. The SPC and OPC are chaired by Prof Edward Derbyshire (University of London) and Dr Ted Nield (The Geological Society of London), respectively. Both hold a seat in the Management Team (MT). Regional representation in this Team is provided by China (Mr Li Zhijian), Africa (Dr Félix Toteu, Cameroon), North America (Dr Larry Woodfork, USA) and Latin America (Mr Eduardo Rubio, Peru). Dr Werner Janoschek (Past Secretary-General of IUGS) is the MT’s Treasurer and Dr Wolfgang Eder (former Director of UNESCO’s Earth Science Division) acts as liaison with UNESCO. Prof. Eduardo de Mulder (Past-President of the IUGS) chairs the MT. The MT includes observers from the eGY and IHY.

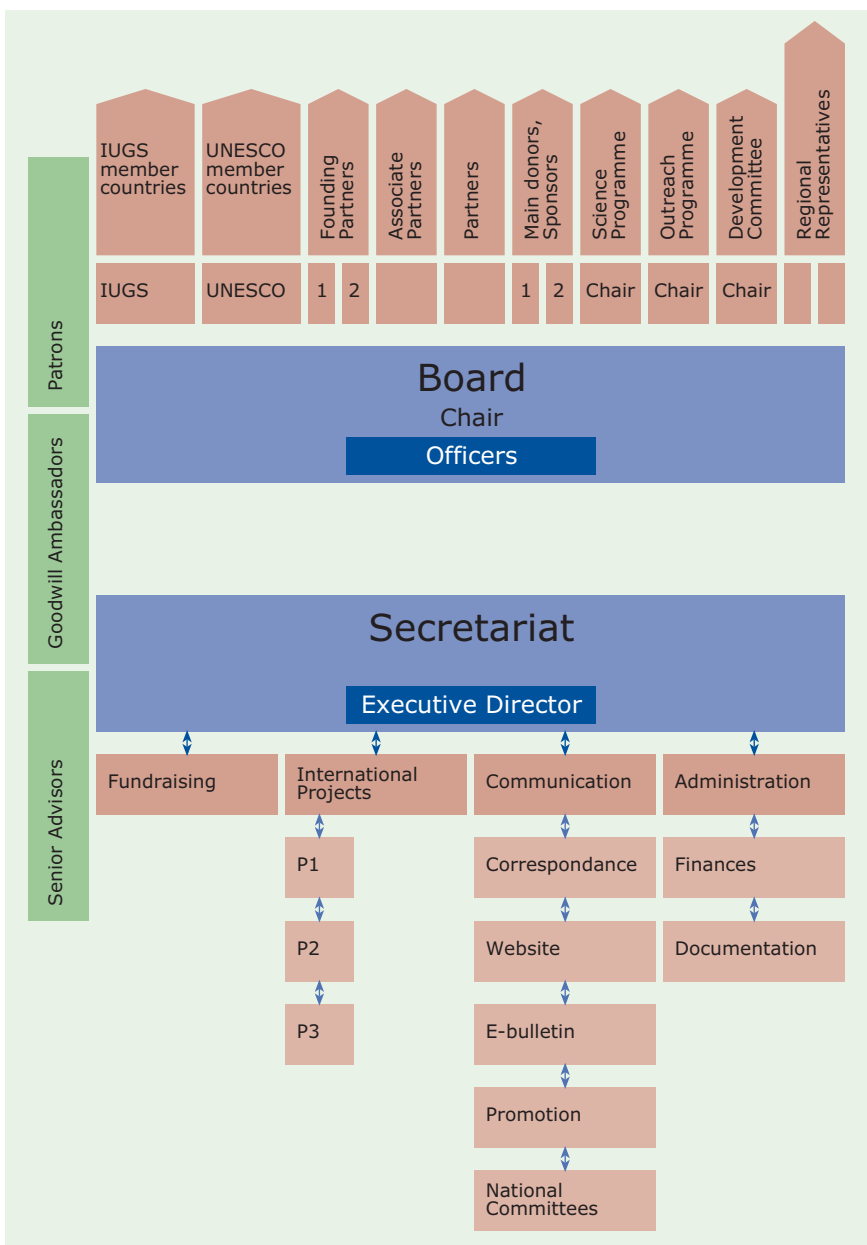
Incorporation

On March 16, 2006, the International Year of Planet Earth was registered as a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organisation under the law of the State of Delaware, USA. The Corporation reflects the responsibilities of the stakeholders and players in the Year and consists of a Board with Officers for decision making and a Secretariat to manage day-to-day operations. Both entities are supported by advisory bodies. Upon incorporation, the members of the Management Team were made Officers of the Board. They will be replaced once the Board has been installed, scheduled for the last quarter of 2006.

Board

The Board is responsible for all decision-making on strategic and legal matters, and instructs the Secretariat. All stakeholders are represented on the Board. These include both Initiators (IUGS and UNESCO), each of the Year’s Founding Partners, the Associate Partners and Partners, each group sharing one seat, Chairs of the three main lines of activity (science, outreach and fund-raising), and the national

committees by way of 6 Regional Representatives. Importantly, major sponsors and donors will be represented on the Board in accordance with their category. Finally, the Board will have a chairperson and a vice chairperson. Together with the three Committee Chairs and representatives of the Initiators, they are the Officers, responsible for regular decision making, including granting science and outreach project proposals.



Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for all of the Year's operational activities at the international level, including preparing and implementing the Board's decisions and instructions, maintaining contact with the advisory bodies and the national committees, promoting and representing the Year, producing promotional and documentation materials, maintaining the website, correspondence, book-keeping, budget preparation, keeping records of granted science and outreach projects, actively contributing to and keeping records of fund-raising activities, public relations and press contacts, maintaining the

Year's calendar, maintaining contact with all stakeholders, responding to requests from stakeholders, maintaining contact with other science year initiatives, etc.

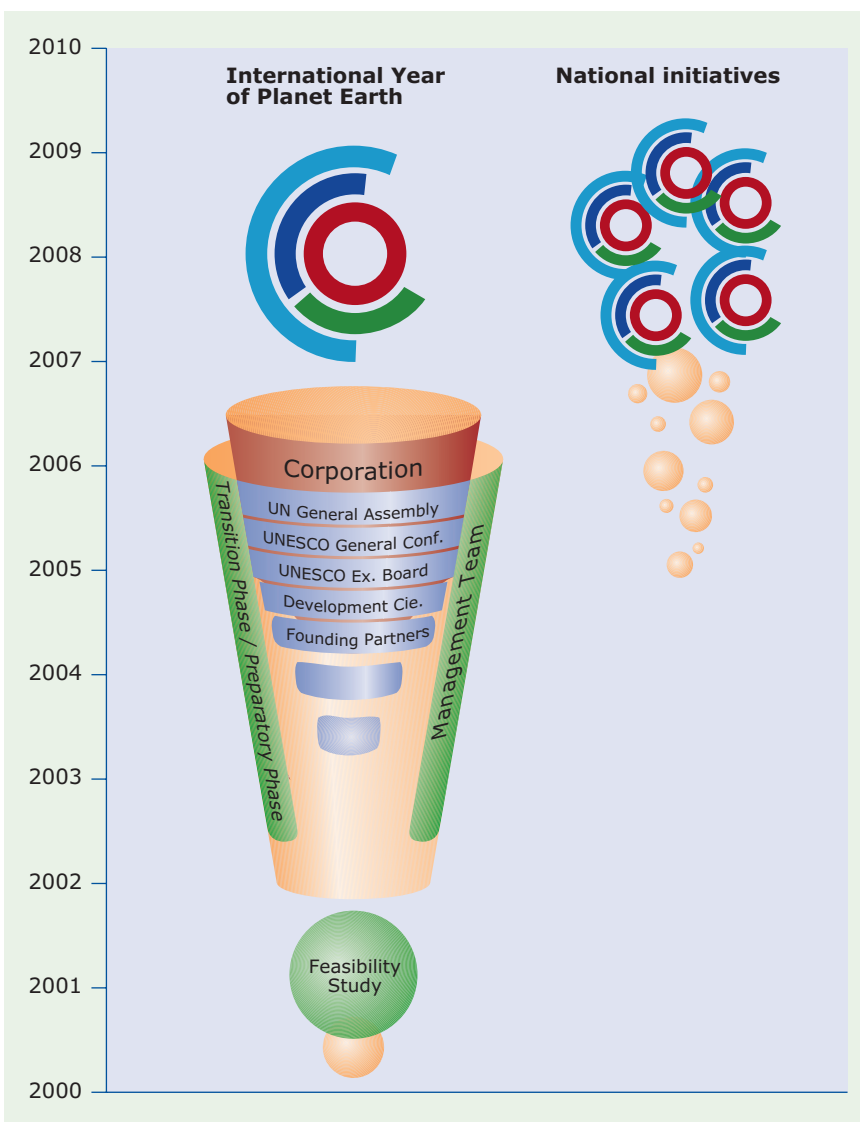
Secretariat activities are being outsourced. Open invitations have been advertised to organisations with long-standing professional reputations to bid for the contractual hosting of the Secretariat. The Secretariat has a full-time Executive Director responsible for all operations and performance of the Secretariat. The Executive Director acts as the non-voting Secretary of the Board's Officers.

Advisory bodies

The Corporation has three advisory bodies: the Senior Advisers, the Goodwill Ambassadors and the Patrons. They advise the Board and its Officers, the Secretariat and the national committees on all relevant issues, including fund raising. Patrons are typically Heads of State or persons of comparable stature. They explicitly support the goals and ambitions of the International Year of Planet Earth. As of August 2006, two such Patrons accepted our invitation: Sam Nujoma, Founding President of the Republic of Namibia and Benjamin Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Statutes and accountability

The Corporation's legal position, structure and decision making procedures are set out in the Statutes. These explicitly describe the legal and financial responsibilities of all parties involved. Bye-laws describe the Rules of Procedure. The financial accountability of the Secretariat is manifested through its hosting organisation. Financial statements and Reports will be produced by the Secretariat on an annual basis. A final Report of Activities will be produced by the Secretariat no later than July 2010.



Annex 1

UNESCO-IUGS joint declaration in support of the International Year of Planet Earth

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS),

Welcoming the decision of the United Nations to declare 2008 as the United Nations Year of Planet Earth, placed in the centre of the International Year's triennium 2007 - 2009,

Taking note of their designation by the United Nations as the leading agencies in the implementation of the activities during the International Year of Planet Earth,

Acknowledging the great potential contribution of the International Year of Planet Earth to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and to the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development,

Considering their successful partnership in the international coordination of geoscience activities in general, and particularly through their joint International Geoscience programme (IGCP), providing excellent opportunities for cooperation between geoscientists worldwide,

Convinced that financial contributions from industries, international organisations and foundations are crucial in the implementation of the activities during the triennium,

1. *Share* the vision that geosciences have made important progress in understanding the Earth processes over the past decades and that Society should apply this knowledge for a, healthier, safer and more prosperous world for all,
2. *Share* the vision of «Earth Science for Society» as the subtitle of the International Year of Planet Earth, being highlighted by the equal importance of outreach and science activities during the International Year's triennium,
3. *Encourage* the geoscience community to use the International Year of Planet Earth to find satisfactory answers to future dangers posed by the Earth and to let Society profit from the opportunities provided by a sustainable use of the Earth' resources,
4. *Invite* national, international and intergovernmental space organisations to make their observations systems available to support this initiative,
5. *Encourage* industries, international organisations and foundations to join and support this initiative to raise awareness and appreciation of the Earth as the ultimate resource of our everyday needs and the foundation of global society and economy.

For IUGS

Prof Zhang Hongren
President

For UNESCO

Koïchiro Matsuura
Director General

Annex 2

United Nations

A/RES/60/192



General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 February 2006

Sixtieth session
Agenda item 52 (a)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/60/488/Add.1)]

60/192. International Year of Planet Earth, 2008

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming Agenda 21,¹ the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (“Johannesburg Plan of Implementation”)² and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015,³

Noting that the wealth of scientific information available on planet Earth remains largely untapped and hardly known to the public or to policymakers and decision makers,

Convinced that education in Earth sciences provides humankind with tools for the sustainable use of natural resources and for building the scientific infrastructure essential for sustainable development,

Welcoming the decision of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support the declaration of 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth with a view to highlighting the importance of Earth sciences,

Taking into account the crucial role the Year could play, inter alia, in raising public awareness of the importance for sustainable development of the Earth’s processes and resources; disaster prevention, reduction and mitigation; and capacity-building for the sustainable management of resources; and its important contribution to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development,

1. *Decides* to declare 2008 the International Year of Planet Earth;

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

² *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

³ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

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2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency and the focal point for the Year to organize activities to be undertaken during the Year, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant entities of the United Nations system, as well as the International Union of Geological Sciences and other Earth science societies and groups throughout the world, and in this regard agrees that the activities of the International Year of Planet Earth will be funded from voluntary contributions, including, inter alia, from industry and major foundations mobilized by a consortium of international organizations, led by the International Union of Geological Sciences;

3. *Encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of Earth sciences for the achievement of sustainable development and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on the progress of the preparations for the International Year of Planet Earth.

*68th plenary meeting
22 December 2005*

Annex 3

Celimontana Declaration

The leaders of the Electronic Geophysical Year, the International Heliophysical Year, the International Polar Year, and the International Year of Planet Earth, meeting with representatives of international science bodies at the Home of Geography, Villa Celimontana, Rome, on 7 September 2005,

note that we

- share a fundamental motivation to understand, in a descriptive and predictive sense, many facets of our planet,
- share a common recognition that understanding our planet requires not only an understanding of linked systems and processes that interact on many time and space scales, but also an understanding of this planet as home to inhabitants of wondrous variety and complexity;
- share the goal of extending to all citizens a sense of substantial human influence and dependence on many systems of planet earth and a view of shared knowledge of the planet as a fundamental right and responsibility;
- recognise the 50th anniversary of the International Geophysical Year (2007 - 2008) as a unique opportunity to raise public awareness and increase scientific capability;
- recognise a mutual interest and benefit in sustaining cooperation among our programs; and

declare that we will

- maintain vigorous and open communication to realise such benefit;
- define and implement joint activities in areas of common scientific interest, as well as in education, outreach, capacity building, and development of data and information systems; and
- communicate our collective efforts, results and products to the scientific community, governments, and the public.

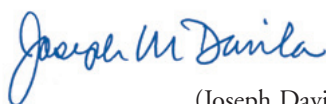
Signed:



(Eduardo de Mulder) for the International Year of Planet Earth



(David Carlson) for the International Polar Year,



(Joseph Davila) for the International Heliophysical Year



(Dan Baker) for the Electronic Geophysical Year



