



## INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE PROGRAMME (IGCP)

### What is the IGCP?

The International Geoscience Programme (IGCP) is a joint endeavour between UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and IUGS (International Union of Geological Sciences), within the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme of UNESCO (IGGP).

The primary aims of IGCP are to facilitate international collaboration amongst scientists from around the world in research on geological problems, particularly between those individuals from more industrialized and those from developing countries or, increasingly, between scientists from developing countries. Through long-term joint research efforts, meetings, field trips, and workshops, IGCP aims to promote the use of geosciences in global issues including, but not limited to, sustainable development, the health and safety of humanity and the reduction of the adverse effects of natural disasters and resource extraction.

Since its creation in 1972, IGCP has supported 360 projects in about 135 countries. IGCP provides geoscientific projects with seed money, typically between US\$ 5,000 and 10,000 per year for a maximum duration of five years. The financial support covers part of the costs of organizing and managing research, meetings and workshops related to the project and is also meant to facilitate participation by scientists from developing countries.

IGCP has proven to be a very successful and cost-effective way of promoting sustainable development by enhancing geoscientific knowledge and expertise in developing countries.

IGCP projects must meet the following criteria:

- Focus on high-quality science relevant to the scientific objectives of the IGCP;
- Meet a need of international importance and societal relevance;
- Emphasize interdisciplinary cooperation;
- Constitute international participation including scientists from developing countries;
- Demonstrate potential for both long-term and short-term geoscientific and/or societal benefits;
- Include capacity building workshops or activities and/or educational trainings, especially focused towards young scientists and scientists from the developing world;
- Explicitly acknowledge the sponsorship of UNESCO, IUGS, and IGCP; and,
- Promote global geoscience visibility, for example, through the publication of scientific results using internationally recognized scientific journals, but also other forms of more informal media (e.g. website, internet access to database, TV programs, exhibits, public briefings for decision makers).
- A report summarizing the scientific highlights and achievements must be published in EPISODES after 3 years

More information on IGCP can be found online at:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/international-geoscience-programme/>