



Shifting Priorities:

The Role of the Human Dimensions in Shaping Global Change Research

Genevieve Maricle
December 12, 2005

Center for Science and Technology Policy Research

University of Colorado/CIRES Boulder, CO USA

<http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu>

Missed Opportunity Matrix

Does the decision maker need HD information? →		
Does research focus on the information needs of the decision maker? ↓	Yes	No
Yes	Sophisticated user	Missed opportunity
No	Missed opportunity	Non-user

Overview

- The Context
 - Goals of human dimensions research
 - Trends in human dimensions research
 - Historical progression
 - Current situation
 - Why?
 - Where are we going?
- Research Plans

Overarching Goals

- IHDP: “to explore:
 - the anthropogenic drivers of global environmental change
 - the impact of such change on human welfare
 - societal responses to mitigate and adapt to global environmental change.” (IHDP, 2005)

Sub-Goal

- IHDP: "to ensure that [the international science community's] research agenda reflects current and future societal needs."
- US: "the social sciences can help direct the priorities of the overall global change program towards more integrative, policy relevant, and effective research imperatives."

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Research Questions

- Impact on science policy decisions?
- Application of Lessons Learned?

Trends: Timeline

- **1960s:** HDGC research begins
 - ICSU SCOPE, IIASA, HDP
- **1980s:** Scholarly attention increases
 - IGBP --> LULC, IHDP
 - US NRC, NSF (1989)
 - Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
- **1990s:** Growth and Expansion of these programs, researchers involved

(Brunn, 1999)

Products of HDGCR?

- Understand human consequences of GC
- Enumerate necessary conditions for successful long-term resource management
- Understand needs of decisions makers/end-users
 - I.e. Seasonal Climate forecasts



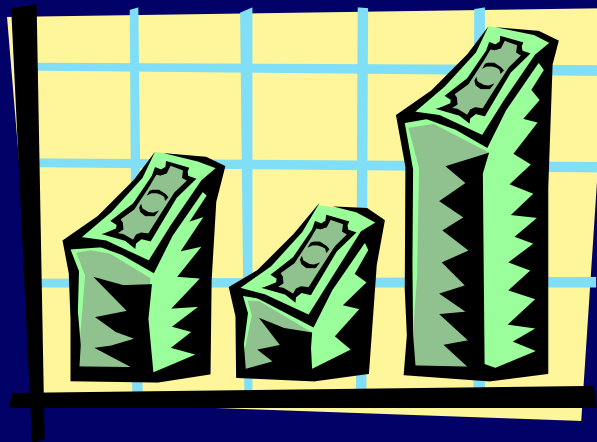
And the Sub-Goal?

- At least 80% CCSP budget for fundamental research questions or large-scale, climate products.
- HD remains a separate - and unintegrated - component of GCR (NRC, 1999).

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Why?

- Institutional and Cultural Reasons
- Funding Concerns
- Co-Production?



And there is little indication that change is on its

Co-Production

- When the “division between science and policy is blurred and “usable” knowledge is co-produced in the context of everyday interaction between science, policy, and the public.”

Research Opportunities

- Harvest lessons from HDGCR
- Evaluate HDGCR
- Methods:
 - Interview program managers
 - Evaluate budgets
 - Evaluate RFPs, nameless proposals
 - Evaluate BASC
 - HD influence on NRC
 - NRC influence on research agendas
- And a smaller case study?

Questions? Advice?

