

# **Shifting Research Priorities:**

**The Role of the Human Dimensions  
of Global Change Research Program**

Genevieve Maricle

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# Missed Opportunity Matrix

Does the decision maker need HD information?		
Does research focus on the information needs of the decision maker?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Yes</b>	Sophisticated user	<b>Missed opportunity</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>Missed opportunity</b>	Non-user

# Overview

- Goals of Human Dimensions research
- Trends in Human Dimensions research
  - Historical progression
  - Current situation
- Why?
- Where are we going?
- Research opportunities

# 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 integrate, policy research impera

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are needed to see this picture.

# 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
  - Ie Seasonal Climate forecasts



# And the Sub-Goal?

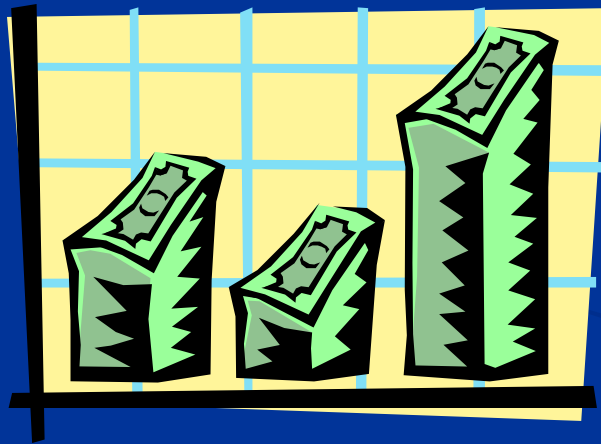
- At least 80% CCSP budget for fundamental research questions or large-scale, climate products.
- HD remains a separate - and unintegrated - component of GCR (NRC, 1999).

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# Why?

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



And there is little indication that change is on its way.

# 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

- Clarify the causes of the current trends.
- Ask:
  - What institutional change would allow for incorporation of human dimensions results into global change research agendas?
  - Where do opportunities for co-production exist? Can we create more?

# Questions?

