

*Austrian Global Change-Committee at the
Austrian Academy of Sciences
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ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

NATIONALE UND
INTERNATIONALE
FORSCHUNGSPROGRAMME

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Austrian Global Change - Committee at the Austrian Academy of Sciences (the Austrian contribution to *IGBP-International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme*, *WCRP-World Climate Research Programme* and *IHDP-International Human Dimensions Programme*)

1) INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Global Change Programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences provides funding for targeted research and activities that will contribute to a better understanding of impacts on and vulnerabilities of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to global change and provide information necessary for the development of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

According to the new research agenda for the Austrian Global Change program, the National Global Change-Committee decided to focus theme-supported funding for future research predominantly on the following research topics:

- **Fingerprints of global change**

Detecting already ongoing changes in the natural but also in the rural and urban world which can directly be related to global change phenomena is one of the most important activities in ecological sciences today. Monitoring relevant indicators directly or by analysing time series of past observations is essential in evaluating the relevance of global change impacts, in qualitative (e.g. species composition of mountain biota, waters, mires or forests) as well as in quantitative terms. Global change phenomena considered here are: climate change (including extreme events), and the impact of neobiota. How alien species may react to climate change might be of particular interest. "Alien species" means in this context invaders (including potential ones) in a broad sense. The interpretation of observed changes should be combined with models based on the principle mechanisms behind. The models should allow predictions for future changes, should be spatially explicit, and the outputs imaginable.

- **Climate change effects on sensitive ecosystems and economic sectors**

Further research is needed to advance our knowledge of the rate, magnitude, and regional distribution of climate change and its impact on sensitive ecosystems and the socio-economic structure of the surrounding region.

The programme is aimed to support research projects suitable to

- increase our knowledge on the vulnerability of sensitive ecosystems (e.g. high mountain regions, wetlands, natural areas in urban regions...) to climate change.
- describe and understand the interactive physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate function of sensitive ecosystems, the unique environment that it provides for life, the changes that are occurring, and the manner in which changes are influenced by human actions.
- improve our knowledge on how and why different economic sectors are affected by risks from climate change, and what responses are advisable for individual sectors and the societal risk management as a whole.

- **Consumption patterns as points of intervention: instruments for sustainable consumption**

Consumption patterns are the root drivers of fossil fuel emissions, as well as other environmental pollution problems. At the same time, consumption patterns arise due to more fundamental pressures of human wants, needs, values and preferences, which can be eventually translated into marketplace activity and production behaviour. Environmental pollution has typically been addressed through intervention on the production side, with reasonable success. On the other hand efforts to change behaviour and bring about societal transformations have been often unsuccessful. In the case of fossil fuel emissions, it is likely that substantial response might require fundamental changes in consumption patterns.

The Austrian Global Change Committee invites case studies on the evolution of consumption patterns, and production–consumption systems. This will provide insights into ways and instruments by which more sustainable consumption patterns might be fostered, in particular, whether and how changes in these patterns would, in turn, influence the entire production system, with attendant environmental and – as a special focus – carbon consequences.

2) CALL INFORMATION

The Funding Process:

The selection of projects to be funded is done in a two-stage process.

Stage One: Call for Expression of Interest

All EOIs should entail a focus on at least one of the above noted key questions within one of the three main topics. Since Austrian Global Change research should be embedded into international research efforts, internationally competitive and/or cooperative projects are encouraged. Furthermore, the projects have to meet the IGBP's and/or IHDP's current

research agenda and priorities. Details on the goals and scope of these programmes can be found on <http://www.igbp.kva.se> and <http://www.ihdp.uni-bonn.de>.

All EOI submissions should be prepared using the template provided (downloadable as [MS-Word-Version](#) or [pdf-Version](#)), and should give a clear outline of the project idea, the main questions, and persons involved. Deadline for submission is **October 31, 2004** (date referring to the arrival of submissions at Austrian Academy of Sciences).

The EOIs will be reviewed by the National Committee for Global Change. The Committee will request full proposals from only the highest ranked EOI-submitters. The number of full proposals requested will vary based on the funding available in the Call and the funding requested in the EOI. Notification of decisions about the EOIs of Interest will be provided within 4 weeks of the submission date.

Stage Two: Full Proposals

Proponents selected to submit a full proposal will be provided with a template (official ÖAW form) and a submission deadline. The full proposals must include a description of the project methodology, work plan, deliverables, budget and supporting documentation related to the expertise of the project team. All proposals will undergo external scientific review. Only the highest ranked proposals will be funded by the National Committee for Global Change. Notification of decisions about the proposals will be provided by April 2005.

Time schedule for full proposal submission and decision (tentative):

January 31, 2005	Submission deadline for full proposals upon invitation, based on EOI review
International review	
April 2005	Notification of funding decision
starting with June 2005	Work in funded project begins