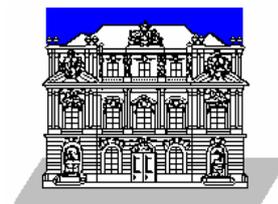


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ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AKADEMIE DER
WISSENSCHAFTEN

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: land use change (the impact of agroindustrial practices on traditional mountain farming/"Almnutzungen" in particular), climate change (the impacts on alpine ecosystems including permafrost patterns in particular), and the impact of neobiota. How alien species create "novel ecosystems" 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, change of circulation modes in lakes) 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.

- **Designing dynamic portfolios of mitigation and adaptation options**

Stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change will require major changes in energy systems, management of forests and agriculture, and other human activities. No single technology or approach can achieve this goal. Instead, a portfolio of various mitigation and adaptation options will be required to successfully achieve stabilization and adaptation in the larger context of development, sustainability and equity. Regions and countries will need to design specific portfolios of options in accordance to their environmental, socioeconomic and institutional circumstances. It is unlikely that two regions or countries in the world will design identical portfolios although general similar patterns may emerge for regions and countries with more similar realities. In fact, the portfolios will not be static and good for all times, but will be dynamic and evolving more like a pathway.

Designing the mix of mitigation and adaptation options requires to define and maximize benefits, utility and well being, at the same time it minimizes a generalized cost including environmental ones. It will also need to consider the right incentives (and barriers) for mitigation and adaptation and using windows of opportunity as they emerge. Finally, it will be important to have a long-term vision which ensures results beyond the immediate needs (e.g. Kyoto Protocol commitments for signatory nations).

Based on this very demand specified in the Joint Global Carbon Project Science Implementation Plan we invite case studies enhancing knowledge in this field in any relevant respect, from methodological analysis to implementation.

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 from the ÖAW homepage at <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/deutsch/forschung/programme/programme.html>), and should give a clear outline of the project idea, the main questions, and persons involved. Deadline for submission is **October 16, 2006** (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 2007**.

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

January 31, 2007	Submission deadline for full proposals upon invitation, based on EOI review
<i>International review</i>	
April 2007	Notification of funding decision
starting with June 2007	Work in funded project begins