

Diversity of Life & Climate Change

Content

I.	Workshop “Kick-off Process”	1
I.I.	What it is about: Subject matter	1
I.II.	Climate Ecology: A transdisciplinary field	1
I.III.	What we want to obtain: Goals of Workshop	1
I.IV.	Participants	1
I.V.	Timeline	1
I.VI.	Overall workshop budget	1
I.VII.	List of optional participants	1

JOINT-PROJECT Diversity of Life & Climate Change

I. WORKSHOP “KICK-OFF PROCESS”

I.I. What it is about: Subject matter

The aim of this application is to enable the initiation of an international interdisciplinary consortium of scientific institutions and multipliers from political and economical institutions in order to launch a transnational research project about climate change and diversity. The project shall generate knowledge about the dependencies between biological and cultural diversity and climate change for sustainability politics and strategies as well as for interdisciplinary science.

Several explorations that focus on the effects of global ecologic and climate change on bio-ecological diversity are already existing. The impacts of the loss of diversity of lifeforms - bio-ecological as well as cultural - on ecological and particularly climatical change are until now insufficiently understood. These questions shall take centre stage in the envisaged joint research project.

Sustainability politics and the ecological sciences are gaining actually and steady highest priorities for political, social and economical stability worldwide. As well, they are of far-reaching relevance for a peaceful co-existence of the peoples of our world. In particular the European Union has the chance to take an international cutting-edge position within this requirements. Until now the co-operations between Germany and England are insufficient to mediate and encourage an european and international sustainability strategy wholehearted and believable. That is one main field where the proposed venture will take effect.

For science as well as for politics it is essential to achieve a better understanding of the role of diversity and its cause variables for ecological sustainability, and in particular the general value of diversity. The evaluation and development of practise related strategies inside the interfaces of science, economy and politics with nature and civil society is highly relevant for a global sustainability strategy. Therefor it is basic part of the schemes intention.

Correspondingly this ambitious initiative shall be kicked off by a workshop for the initiation of the core consortium.

I.II. Climate Ecology: A transdisciplinary field

The accesss to the still young subject field of climate ecology demands an interdisciplinarian perspective, which complementary connects the humanities with the natural sciences. In order to achieve an operational capability the divergent disciplinarian accesses have to be linked up trans-disciplinary towards an advanced perspective and strategic approach.

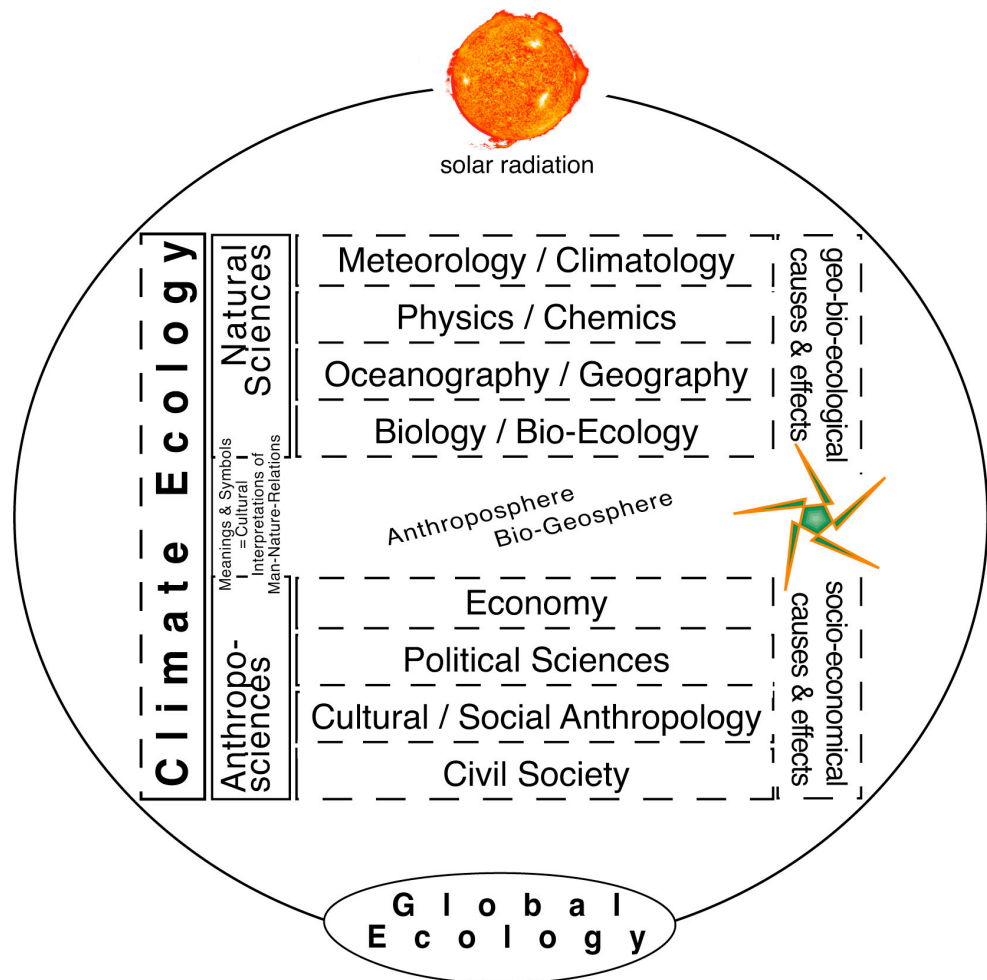
Abb. 1: Transdisciplinary dimensions of climate ecology

Biosphere and geosphere are in close dynamic interdependency. Their relational structure is gaining degrees of complexity which causal relatedness is far beyond analytical objectivity. In particular, linear determinisms – still common in most scientific analyses – are reaching their constraints. The fundamental uncertainty of ecological interdependencies and processes multiplies within the cultural dimensions of the

anthroposphere. Human value concepts and interpretations of reality (lat. *res = thing*) are becoming bio- and climate ecological parameters. Economical and political strategies are directly affecting the geo-bio-ecological budgets, material and energetic flows, incorporations, balances and distributions – in space as well as in time.

The imperative of transdisciplinarity in action-oriented climate ecology gets practical: The one and only field, where humans are able to interact and communicate with their ecological environment is ‚culture‘. Only via culture human-nature-relations are interpreted and strategically translated and realised. By means of cultures of knowledge, of economy, politics, of social and civil relations etcetera humans set limits and openings for their position in „the world“, their patterns of actions and opportunities.

Application-oriented science is consequently transdisciplinary science. This affects specifically the enormous global ecological challenges of the 21st century. The recommended joint project and the consortiums composition aim to tackle this demand.



I.III. What we want to obtain: Goals of Workshop

In order to establish an interdisciplinary consortium for an international joint research project, an initiating workshop shall be carried out at the Natural History Museum. Keypersons from international renowned research institutions and representants from research funding institutions will be the participants.

The workshop shall initiate a research consortium of highest international expertise and disciplinar range, that addresses the above mentioned thematical complexities over a period of 5 years. An option of extension of the research period is planned. Within the scope of the workshop the target matters shall be further focused and differentiated in contents and practical relevance. Furthermore the political and organisational partners shall be involved for the strategical and financial realisation of the project process.

I.IV. Participants

The number of participants should not exceed 20 persons. Senior representants of research institutions from natural science as well as from the humanities with international reputation and high political and scientific performance and influence will be invited. Beyond them a small group of key persons and decision makers from ministries and funding institutions will be involved in the workshop process (quod vide, I.VII).

In particular british and german institutions, co-operated with selected international institutions shall be the leading and initiating forces. Aim is an european research process with broad international effects and strategical and political impact.

I.V. Timeline

The workshop shall find place near-term in spring-time 2007, preferably end of April / beginning of May 2007. It is planned for 3 days, beginning on the 1st evening, ending on the 4th evening.

I.VI. Overall workshop budget

Ca 22 000,- £

(Regarding the research joint project in the forefront an estimated sum of 20 – 30 Mio £ is assumed.)

I.VII. List of optional participants

Until now the following persons and multipliers have been asked to participate, respectively were envisaged as promising participants for the workshop:

Australia:

University of Melbourne

*Prof. Dr. **David Turnbull**, Philosophy of Science, University of Melbourn*

Austria:

University of Vienna

*Prof. Dr. **Friedrich Wallner**, Dean Institute for intercultural Philosophy, University of Vienna*

Deutschland:

Max Planck Institute for Meteorology

*Prof. Dr. Dr. **Hartmut Grassl**, former Director of Max-Planck-Institute for Meteorology (-2006), Professor for meteorology at the Meteorological Institute of the University of Hamburg, until 1999 Director of the World Climate Research Programme, Geneva.*

Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research

*Prof. Dr. **Stefan Rahmstorf**, Professor for Physics of the Oceans, Potsdam; Head of the Department Climate System, Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research.*

*Prof. Dr. **Hans-Joachim Schellnhuber**, Director of Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research; Visiting Professor Oxford University (Department Physics and Christ Church College); Member of the US-american National Academy of Sciences.*

Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy

*Dr. **Hermann Ott**, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy, Director Berlin; former Director of the Department of Climate Politics.*

*Dr. **Wolfgang Sachs**, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy; leader „Globalisation and Sustainability“ and PhD-Colleg "Ecology and Fairness in the World Trade Regime". Chairman of the Supervisory Board Greenpeace Germany; Member Club of Rome; Coordinator "Johannesburg Memorandum for the World Summit on Sustainable Development".*

Leibniz Institute for Marine Sciences

*Prof. Dr. **Peter M. Herzig**, Director Leibniz-Institute of Marine Sciences at the University Kiel (IFM-GEOMAR).*

Humboldt University of Berlin

*Prof. Dr. **Christoph Marksches**, President Humboldt-University of Berlin.*

*Prof. Dr. **Dominik Perler**, Professor for Philosophy at the Humboldt-University of Berlin; Leibniz-Award of the Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft 2006.*

Governmental Level Germany / Multipliers

***Wolf-Michael Catenhusen**, until 2005 Parliamentarian State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research Germany.*

***Matthias Machnig**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany.*

***Michael Müller**, Parliamentarian State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany.*

Ethiopia:

Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia

*Prof. Dr. **Tewolde Gebre Berhan Egziabher**, General Manager Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia; Professor for Biology, University of Addis Ababa; Right Livelihood Award (Alternative Nobel Prize) 2000; "Champion of the Earth"- Award der UNDP 2006*

UK:

Natural History Museum

*Dr. **Daniel Dahm**, Researcher Diversity, Natural History Museum*

*Dr. **Johannes Vogel**, Keeper of Botany, Natural History Museum; Head of UK Biodiversity Programme*

*Dr. **Harald Schneider**, Research Leader, Natural History Museum*

USA:

University of California, Santa Barbara

*Prof. Dr. **Ernst-Ulrich v. Weizsäcker**, Dean Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara. Founding President of Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, Energy; former Director of UN-Centre for Science and Technology New York; until 1991 Director of the Institute for European Environmental Politics.*

International:

United Nations:

*Dr. **Klaus Töpfer**, until 2006 Under Secretary General of the UN, General Director of the Office of the United Nations Nairobi and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).*