

International Year of Planet Earth 2007-2009

Earth sciences for society



The International Year of Planet Earth aims to capture people's imagination with the exciting knowledge we possess about our planet, and to see that knowledge used to make the Earth a safer, healthier and wealthier place for our children and grandchildren

Visit www.yearofplanetearth.org



What is the International Year of Planet Earth?

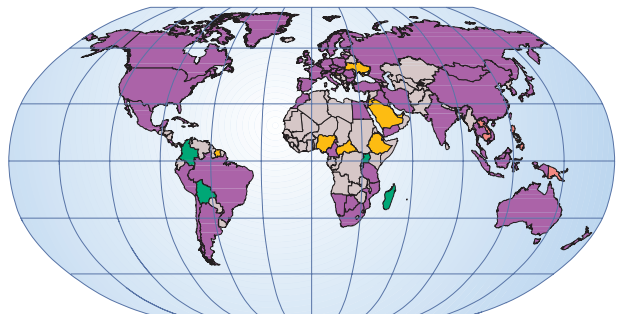
The International Year of Planet Earth aims to ensure greater and more effective use by society of the knowledge accumulated by the world's 400,000 Earth scientists.

The Year's ultimate goal of helping to build safer, healthier and wealthier societies around the globe is expressed in the Year's subtitle 'Earth science for Society'.

The International Year runs from January 2007 to December 2009, the central year of the triennium (2008) having been proclaimed by the UN General Assembly as the UN Year. The UN sees the Year as a contribution to their sustainable development targets as it promotes wise (sustainable) use of Earth materials and encourages better planning and management to reduce risks for the world's inhabitants.

Who is behind the International Year?

The International Year of Planet Earth is a joint initiative by UNESCO and the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Twelve Founding Partners, 26 Associate



■ In operation ■ Regional Committees ■ In progress ■ Under consideration

"The International Year of

Planet Earth aims to ensure

more effective use of Earth science"



Partners and a growing number of International Partner organisations from all continents and representing all major geoscientific communities in the world, have embarked on this initiative. The Year also enjoys the full political support of 191 UN countries. By January 2008, National Committees on the Year of Planet Earth had been established in 60 countries and regions around the world, and preparations are being made to launch similar Committees in 15 more.

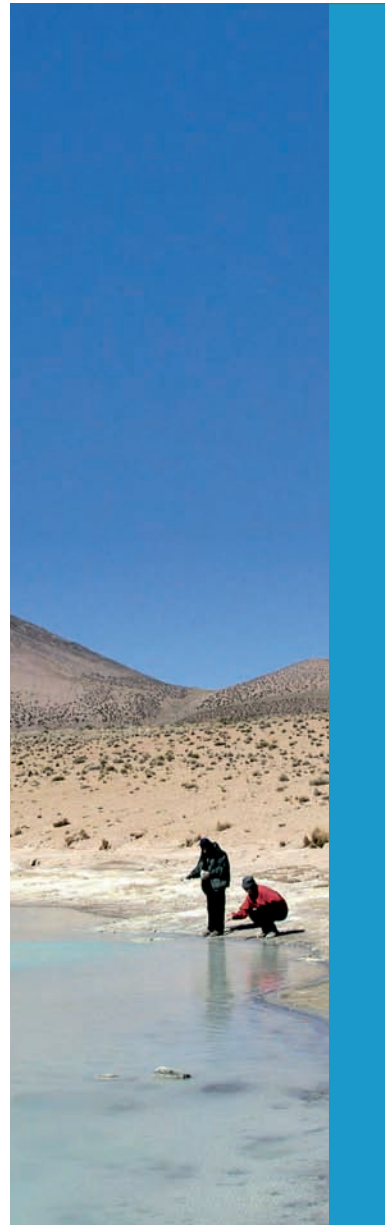
How does it work?

The main activities of the International Year of Planet Earth operate within its SCIENCE and OUTREACH programmes. Funding for projects in both programmes is sought from industry, Foundations and governments worldwide. Both programmes essentially operate in a response, or 'bottom-up' mode.

The Science Programme consists of 10 broad, societally relevant and multidisciplinary themes: health, climate, groundwater, ocean, soils, deep Earth, megacities, hazards, resources, and life. Brochures on each of these themes are available in hard copy, and can be downloaded from the Year's website. Some 100 Scientists from all countries of the world are invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EoIs) dedicated to specific questions within each theme.

For example ...

Through the OneGeology project, Geological Surveys all across the planet will compile their maps into one database thus making the Earth 'transparent' and providing a third dimension to the current packages. Launch of NATURE GEOSCIENCE in 2008. 'Planet Earth' will dominate numerous (inter)national scientific congresses in 2007 - 2009. IYPE will specially focus on the youth and students.



“The activities of the International

Year operate within Science and

Outreach programmes”

The Greatest Geo-Show on Earth

The Year’s Outreach Programme consists of a very large number of national and some major international activities. Some plans and outreach projects provided by the Year’s National Committees include:



- The World's IYPE Launch Event will take place in Paris, 12-13 February 2008
- Release of 4,567 bio-degradable balloons, each representing 1 My of Earth history, by India President and in London UK in January 2007
- IYPE balloon launches in India, Brazil and Portugal in 2007
- National IYPE Launch events with politicians, scientists and representatives of industry in Tanzania, Portugal, Malaysia, Austria, and many other countries
- TV Documentaries on Earth Sciences in USA, Spain, Canada and other nations
- 100,000 copies of IYPE book with worldwide distribution
- International Congresses with focus on IYPE in IGC and IGU (2008), GSA (2007, 2008 and 2009), and many more
- National science congresses labelled with IYPE logo in many nations
- First world conference of Young Earth Scientists (YES), 2009
- Development of International Standards in Geo-Information (CGI)
- Special Nature Supplement on IYPE in 2008
- Portuguese and UN Stamps for IYPE to be issued in 2008
- IYPE coins in Australia
- Launch of "Geoheritage" journal
- Award-winning students in Geo-Contest to participate in Global IYPE Launch Event in Paris
- Mosaic artists will focus on 'Planet Earth' in 2008
- Books on IYPE science themes in 2008 and 2009
- 18-wagon Years train crossing the Indian subcontinent (India)
- The world's biggest deep drilling research vessel ('Chikyu') will carry IYPE logo (Japan)
- Earthlearning to involve youngsters in geoscience (IGEO, UK)
- IYPE books, journals, exhibitions and articles in more than 20 countries
- Fado song composed for the International Year (Portugal)
- Geo-bus and -truck tours (Austria, Netherlands, Belgium)
- Rock concert dedicated to the IYPE in central Oslo (Norway)
- Geoparks (China, Austria, Switzerland, Iran, Germany)





The UN Year (2008) will be formally opened at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris. This Launch Event includes presentations on three selected topics by world leaders in politics, science and industry who will share their views on geo-related societal problems and raise issues concerning their solution or mitigation. In addition, they will debate these issues with some 200 youngsters from all around the world. The Paris 'Launch Event' will be a model for comparable Events of a more regional character to be held in most continents in 2008. Other international events with a significant outreach component include a content-wide launch event in Arusha, Tanzania for Africa and one in Brasilia (Brazil) for Latin America.

How can YOU contribute and support?

The International Year of Planet Earth provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to highlight the urgent need for knowledge of the Earth that will help to make societies on the planet which is our home safer, healthier and wealthier. You may contribute by generating ideas for implementation of these goals or by actively supporting current ideas, on both national and international levels.

As an individual, you may wish to contact your International Year of Planet Earth National Committee. Contact can be made by way of our Secretariat. In the event that no such Committee exists in your country, you may wish to help establish one. If you wish to support this initiative financially, please contact the Secretariat.

“...a once-in-a-lifetime chance

to highlight the need

for geoscientific knowledge”

If you are a representative of the industrial sector or of a Foundation, you may wish to communicate your ideas about implementation and/or sponsoring certain elements of this initiative. Please note that industry and nations need many more scientists to find and sustainably extract and produce Earth materials, without which the advance of human society will be seriously impeded.

A national Earth science event held in Germany in 2002 clearly demonstrated that initiatives of this kind can greatly stimulate the renewal of such expertise, thoroughly justifying investment in sustainable use of the Earth while, at the same time, securing its more fragile aspects for future generations. You may wish to support this initiative at the national or international level but, in all cases, please contact the Secretariat.

If you are a scientist, you may wish to submit research proposals on one or more of the 10 themes by completing an Expression of Interest (EoI) form. You may also wish to contribute by linking existing or forthcoming (applied) scientific research programmes to those of the Year. In either case, please contact the Secretariat.

If you are a representative of the media or of other sectors in the outreach industry, you are invited to share your ideas with the Outreach Programme Committee through the Year's Secretariat.

If you are a government representative with suggestions or questions about fitting this initiative into new or current plans on sustainable development, mining, energy, science and technology, international cooperation, environment, land-use planning, or education, please contact the Secretariat.



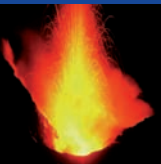
What does the International Year's logo mean? The International Year is intended to bring together all scientists who study the Earth System. Thus, the solid Earth (lithosphere) is shown in red, the hydro-sphere in dark blue, the biosphere in green and the atmosphere in light blue.

*The logo is based on an original designed for a similar initiative called *Jahr der Geowissenschaften* (Earth Sciences Year) (2002) organized in Germany.*

The German Ministry of Education and Research presented the logo to the IUGS.



United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation



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