

## Integrated Global Change Research:

### Co-designing knowledge across scientific fields, national borders and user groups

Discussion about stronger integration of research among different scientific disciplines becomes more and more prominent in areas where science should deliver knowledge to societal question, particularly complex challenges such as global change. However, the concept of 'integration' is difficult to understand because integration might be understood as a loss of disciplinary identity or a loss of diversity. But 'integration' is not a merger or blending of disciplines, it involves collaboration on a jointly defined basis, where disciplinary expertise remains critically important.

Many research projects already focus on research challenges of societal relevance and many research strategies call for interdisciplinary and integrative research efforts. But do we share a common understanding of what integrative research means, what it entails, how it is accomplished, what the obstacles/barriers are and how best to overcome them?

In preparation of the upcoming challenges for the global change research community (see also [Earth System Science for Global Sustainability](#)), the German National Committee on Global Change Research (NKGCF), Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), International Council for Science (ICSU), and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) will co-convene a workshop (funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) in Berlin, 7 – 9 March 2012). This international workshop is designed to elucidate the dimensions of integration, to identify and analyze best practice examples, to exchange ideas about new concepts of integration, to discuss upcoming new challenges for science and to begin the discussion about balancing academic research and stakeholder involvement.

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Presentations and results of the workshop will be made available on this website and discussed in the session "[Challenges of Integration](#)" at the Planet under Pressure Conference.

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Global Change Research



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