

# **One Page Statement for IGBP Workshop at Lund, 26-31 Oct 08**

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## **Desirable Futures**

1. Satisfaction of basic needs for human development for all people in all countries. These needs would be regularly redefined with full recognition of the global limits derived from research on sustainability science.
2. Population in individual countries would change to ensure the provisioning of the basic needs to all. In many countries such changes may need a reduction in the population.
3. Natural ecosystems would function at well-defined levels of moderation arrived at through open scientific research and participation of all stakeholders in decision making. This will ensure the continuance of ecosystem services.
4. Frontiers of science would advance and technological developments would continue in 2050. However, in the case of research and development that are perceived to pose threats to humans, flora, fauna or natural ecosystems, the intellectual property rights would be reviewed and such activities could be stopped or monitored in wider human interest.

## **Pathways**

1. Fight against poverty at the global level through a vigorous international capacity building process undertaken by the international community, led probably by a reformed UN.
2. Top priority given to the promotion of education and research on sustainability science based on a wise mix of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary knowledge of nature and natural processes. An appropriate international convention on human knowledge, participation and sustainability is to be evolved.
3. Global initiatives towards continued evolution of new policies and their implementation for resolution of conflicts over natural resources and on environmental impacts at local, country and inter-governmental levels. The main objective of such steps would be to ensure that human economic activities do not pose a threat to other humans or cause unexpected damage to the natural ecosystems.
4. Global spread of a consumption culture of austerity and sustainability. Threat of Global Climate Change to recede by wise consumption movement and technological innovations..

## **Immediate Constraints and Opportunities**

1. In large and rapidly growing economies, like of China, India or Russia, where the elite are trying to catch up with the consumption patterns and levels of industrially advanced countries, the desirability of 10 percent growth in GDP has overshadowed the need for equity and sustainability. The industrially advanced countries are faced with small time political risks, are doing little to radically transform their own consumption patterns to respect the needs of sustainability. These are constraints.
2. Many social action groups working among the common people in all parts of the world and their collaborators like independent professional experts have succeeded in bringing desirable changes, where governments have not. This provides a great opportunity for humanity.
3. The power of knowledge which is being enhanced everyday by the growing body of interdisciplinary research provides an opportunity if the knowledge base remains open and accessible to all. The politics of knowledge would decide which side this power will go. This offers a mixture of constraints and opportunities.