



Global Environmental Change and  
Human Health

# Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH) Joint Project

Agenda Item II-9

Dr. Lucilla Spini, GECHH Project Officer

8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SSC of the GWSP  
Bonn, Germany, 9 December 2010



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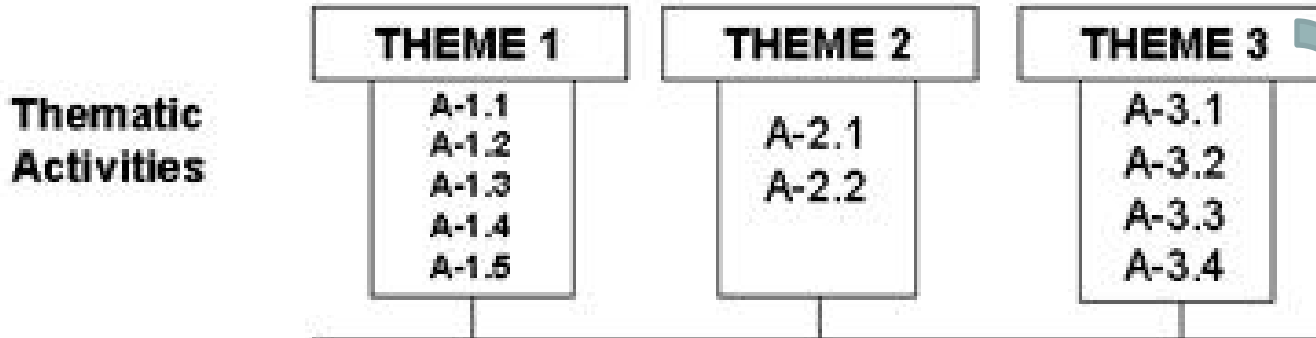
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## GWSP THEMES & CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES



### Theme 3. Resilience and Adaptation

“Human health and livelihoods are closely linked to both availability and quality of **water**. The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg affirmed the Millennium Development Goal to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water.”

Framing Committee of the GWSP (2005)





1. The GECHH Project: institutional framework, objectives & tools

2. GECHH 2010-2011 Activities

water/health nexus

3. GECHH/GWSP Synergies



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ESSP WAS ESTABLISHED AND CO-SPONSORED BY THE FOUR INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE PROGRAMMES



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ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH

GECAFS – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE AND FOOD SYSTEMS



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# The GECHH IPO

The GECHH is hosted & supported by the  
United Nations University Institute for Water,  
Environment and Health  
(UNU-INWEH)

- UN Think Tank on Water
- Chair of UN-Water
- Including a Water-Health Nexus Programme,  
hosting the GECHH International Project  
Office (Hamilton, Canada)



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➤ [www.inweh.unu.edu](http://www.inweh.unu.edu)



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# The GECHH Scientific Steering Committee

Co-Chairs:

U. Confalonieri (Brazil) & M. Rosenberg (Canada)



Members:

C. Butler (Australia); S. Kovats (UK); M. Cesario (Brazil); A. Kijazi (Tanzania); K. Ebi (USA); A. Aguirre (USA/Mexico); G. Poveda (Colombia); E. Lindgren (Sweden); U. Oswald Spring (Mexico);  
A. Morse (UK); F. Grifo (USA); M. Depledge (UK);  
& C. Corvalan (PAHO/WHO)

*Ex Officio:* Z. Adeel (UNU-INWEH) *Corresponding members:*  
A. Haines (UK), and A. McMichael (Australia)



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# The GECHH Goals

- Identify and quantify risks to human health posed by GEC - now and in the foreseeable future
- Describe spatial/temporal differences in health risks, to better understand vulnerabilities and priorities for interventions
- Enrich the policy discussion about mitigation and adaptation from a human health perspective
- Foster research training, to boost networked international research capacity in GEC & HH



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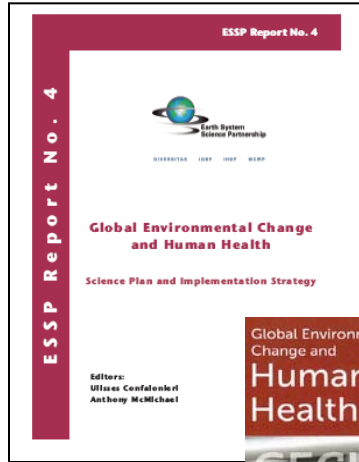


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# The GECHH Tools

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[www.gechh.unu.edu](http://www.gechh.unu.edu)



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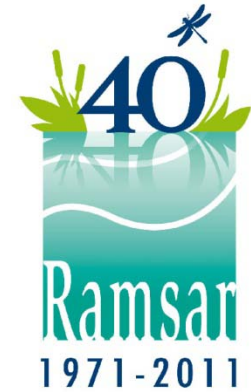


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# GECHH 2010-2011 Activities

## Science/Policy Bridging

- Summary for Policy Makers
- Inputs to, and ESSP events at, UNFCCC SBSTA
- Dialogue on wetlands & health with STRP & Bureau of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Dialogue with UNECE Protocol on Water and Health & Side event "The science-policy bridge for a changing climate: water, health, disease" at MOP-2 (Bucharest, Romania, 24/11/10)



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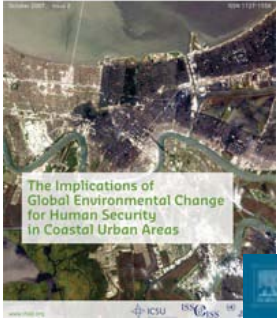


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# GECHH 2010-2011 Activities

## Publications

IHDP UPDATE  
Magazine of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change



## Capacity-building

→ 2nd International Student Training Workshop on Health and Environmental Change in the Beijing-Tianjin Mega City Area, hosted by the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences - Oct. 2010

→ An inventory of e-learning materials on global environmental change and human health (Australian National University)



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# GECHH 2010-2011 Activities

## Int'l Network Research: the GECHH Symposia

- 2010 Symposium "Global Environmental Change and Human Health: *Protecting Water Quality*" in partnership with *UNU-INWEH* (Hamilton, Canada, 31 Oct.-2 Nov. 2010)
- 2011 Symposium "Global Environmental Change and Human Health: *Healthy Forests for Life*" in partnership with *Italian CNR* (Italy, Sept.-Oct.2011)



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# The GECHH 2010 Symposium

Global Environmental Change and  
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"Global Environmental Change and Human Health: *Protecting Water Quality*" in partnership with UNU-INWEH  
(Hamilton, Canada, 31 Oct. - 2 Nov. 2010)

## OBJECTIVES

- State-of-the-science knowledge on water/health and GEC
- Gaps in the research landscape
- Research relevant to adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Knowledge-translation & Science/Policy Bridge



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# The GECHH 2010 Symposium

## PARTICIPATION

- Invited participants & selected grad students
  - Incl. Hydrologists, MDs, Vets, Tele-epidemiologists, Geographers, Engineers, Anthropologists
  - From e.g. Brazil, Canada, Kenya, Taiwan, USA

## OUTCOMES

- Research gaps & knowledge-translation needs
  - Data integration & transdisciplinary framework
  - Capacity building & governance
- Establishment of multidisciplinary networks
  - Writing teams
  - Research proposal developments



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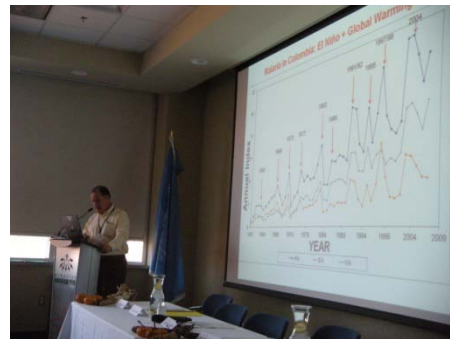
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# The GECHH 2010 Symposium

## FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES



-Side-event at MOP-2 of the Protocol on Water and Health (UNECE), Bucharest, Romania, 24 Nov. 2010



-Special Issue of the ESSP Journal "Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability" (Elsevier)



-Project development and planning workshop on water/health/GEC



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# GECHH/GWSP Synergies

## Themes

- Global mapping of water quality/quantity status
- Co-mapping of waterborne & water-related diseases
- Consider diffuse sources of pollution (Agriculture)
- Identify and address new water quality/health threats

## Frameworks

- Linkages between Project Endorsement Procedures
- Synchronize Calendars of Events
- Joint Publications (e.g. COSUST) and Statements



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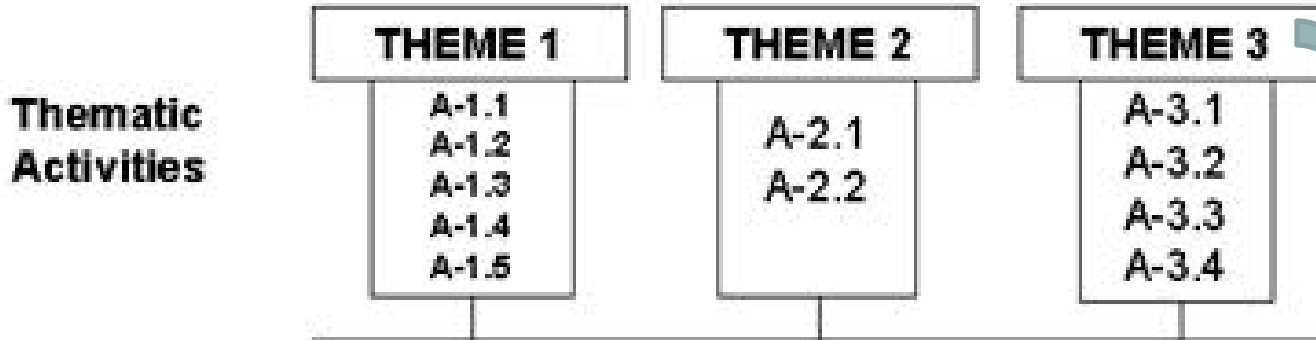
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## GWSP THEMES & CROSS-CUTTING ACTIVITIES



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# *Acknowledgements*

- UNU-INWEH
  - ESSP Coordination Office
  - GEC Research Programmes
- &*
- *The GWSP IPO!!*



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IHDP

GLOBAL  
I G B P  
CHANGE



DIVERSITAS  
an international programme  
of biodiversity science

WCRP

World Climate Research Programme



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# Global Environmental Change and Human Health (GECHH)

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