

Questionnaire "B" Question 1, Annex III

Environmental perception and policy research

Undertaken at the Institute for Environmental Studies, University of Toronto by the Environmental Perception and Policy Working Group.

A group of interrelated projects are being planned and undertaken with support from various national and international agencies including ICSU-SCOPE, UNESCO-MAB, IGU, IDRC, UNEP, AECB and EPC. Two themes are considered to be of possible interest to other UNESCO National Commissions:

- a) Development of methods to study environmental perception with particular emphasis on
 - non-literate populations
 - governmental and other decision-makers and planners
 - methods not requiring high expertise on the part of field researchers.
- b) International comparative studies of national approaches to environmental risk assessment and policy for natural and man-made hazards. These studies include analysis of scientific monitoring, modelling and testings needs and the development of criteria, institutional and regulatory mechanisms as they have emerged within different national structures. The escalation of environmental risks in newly industrializing and urbanizing countries with limited scientific resources is an important focus in the project.