

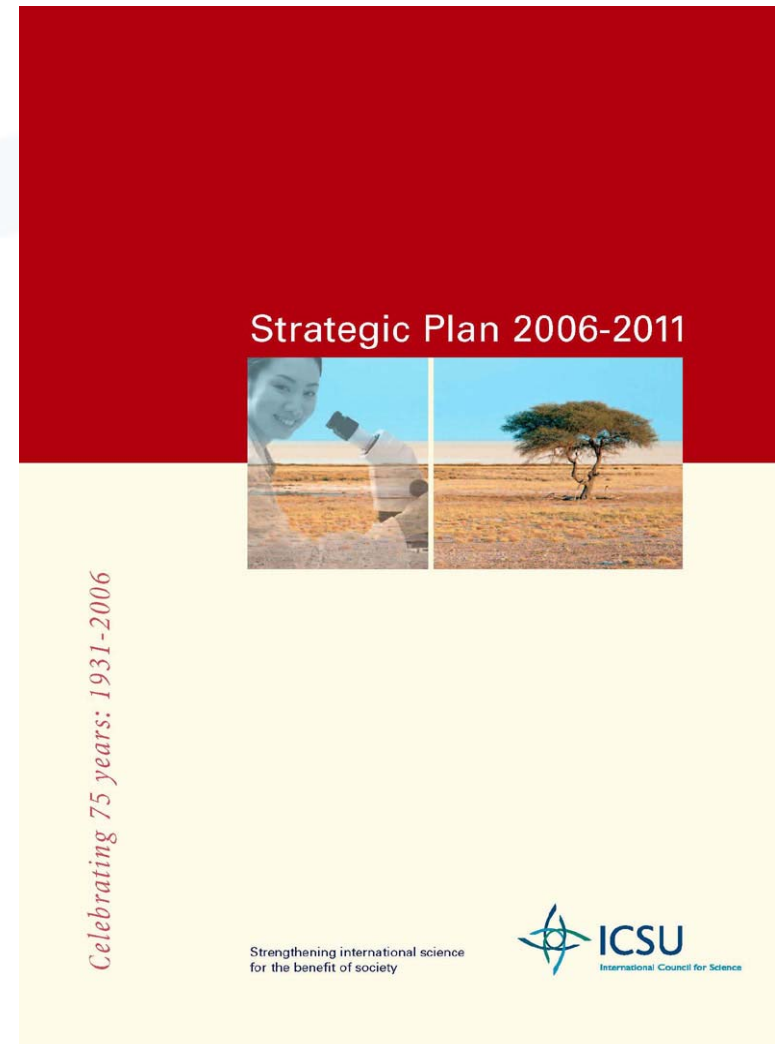
ICSU-IIASA workshop

**Towards a systems analysis
approach to health in the
changing urban environment**

- Mission:
To strengthen international science for the benefit of society
- membership:
29 International Scientific Unions
111 National Members
- Niche
international and multidisciplinary challenges
- Modus operandi:
Networking, planning, coordinating, communicating:
limited finances but unique worldwide access to intellectual resources

The ICSU Strategy

- An intensive 3-yr planning effort including intensive consultations with National Members, Unions, IBs and partners
- Approved in October 2005



Strategic themes

Three inter-related areas:



International Research Collaboration, 2006-2011

- Linking research, monitoring, and assessments with focus on global environmental change
- International Polar Year 2007-2008
- Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters
- Science for Sustainable Development
- Science for Human Health
- Sustainable Energy

ICSU – IIASA links

- Common interests and shared priorities
- Complementary approaches: ICSU global disciplinary networks + IIASA integrative analysis expertise
- Shared scientific communities, e.g. in global change research
- Shared History:
1978 – IIASA, ICSU, WMO and UNEP co-organised key climate workshop that triggered interest of scientific community and governments in climate change. Sewed the seeds for IPCC

Resolution 28th General Assembly of ICSU on Social Sciences



**The General Assembly recommends that
the Executive Board be:**

**“mandated to explore and identify the
most appropriate mechanisms for
securing the interaction and added value
of the social sciences in ICSU’s scientific
work”**

ICSU strategy and Health

- New strategic priority, 2006-2011: “there is a growing awareness that human health is inextricably linked to the health of our planet”
- Goal: “ensure health considerations are incorporated into future activities building on strengths and interest of members”
- Action: establish a Scoping Group to define ICSU’s potential niche

Existing ICSU activities, re Health



1. Science for Health and Wellbeing – an initiative from 18 different International Unions;
2. Global Environmental Change (GEC) and Health – an ambitious initiative from ICSU's GEC programmes that would put human health at the centre of research on sustainable development;
3. Health is also high priority for ICSU Regional Offices in Africa and Asia & Pacific
4. Several ICSU Interdisciplinary bodies have health-related projects

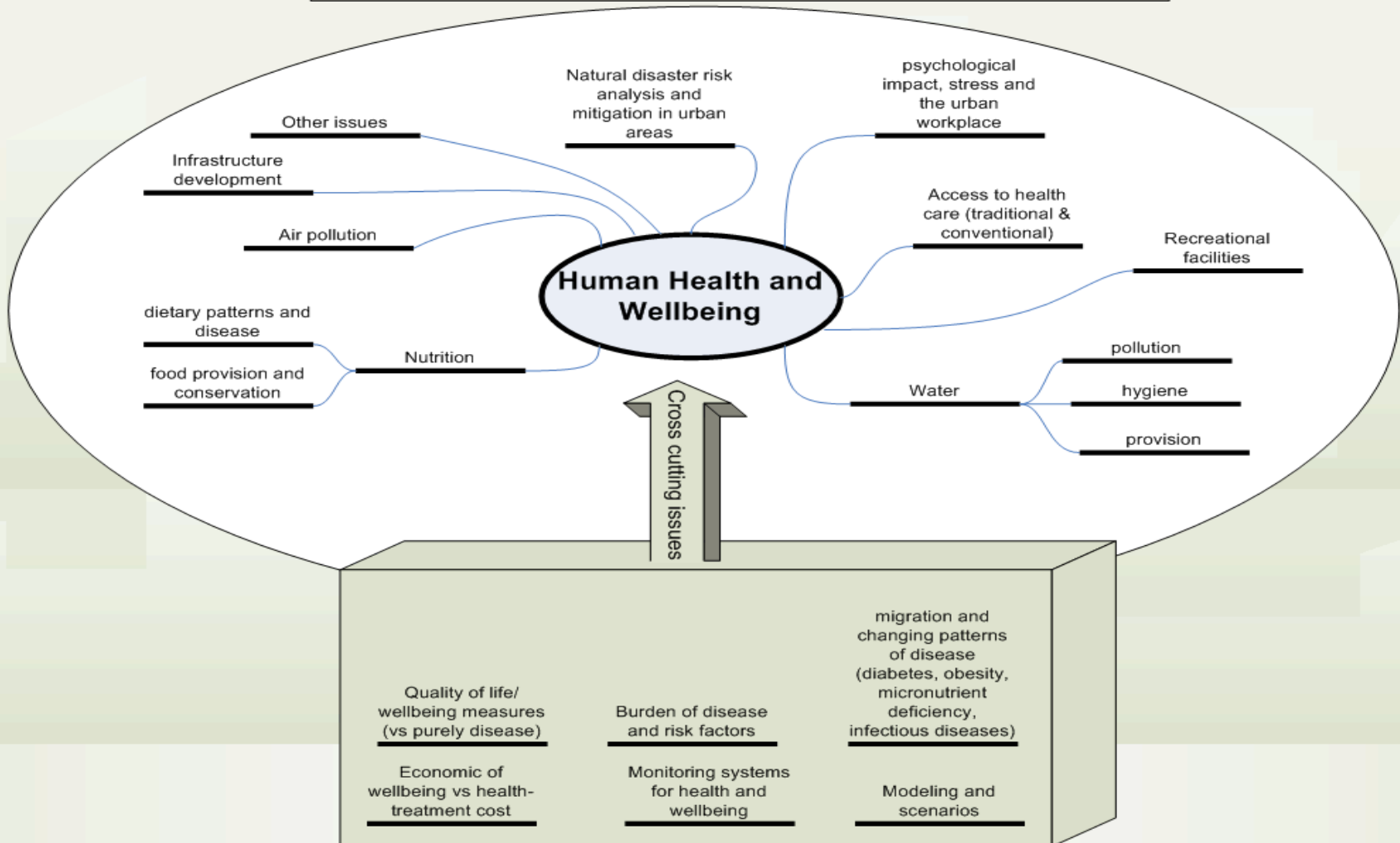
Scoping Group conclusions

- Adopt a systems approach to population health and wellbeing
- Focus on cities and the changing urban environment
- Aims:
 - integrate knowledge across disciplines and fields to better inform policy;
 - Identify critical gaps in knowledge

Urbanization as the theme

- 1. Relevant to developing and developed countries and the future**
- 2. A 'complete' systems/modelling approach would be novel**
- 3. Could build on sub-system models, eg health, transport, pollution.**
- 4. Primary Audience – town planners, local authorities**
- 5. Secondary audiences – private sector and NGOs**

Management of the Urban Environment to Achieve Sustainable Human Health and Wellbeing



Workshop aims

State of the science (day 1)

- Focus on key topics and assessing current state of knowledge
- Combine different disciplinary perspectives
- Consider different geographical perspectives
- Examples of applied systems analysis

Integration and synthesis (day 2)

- How can all this be integrated,
- what are the key scientific gaps
- How can a systems analysis approach contribute

Workshop outcomes

1. Inform Planning for new programme
2. Establish a core network of interested scientists and institutions

An ICSU Planning Group will meet immediately after the workshop to take forward its conclusions