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**Global perspectives for the education of environmental managers:  
Interdisciplinary teaching on global environmental change research**

We are planning to report on our experiences with conducting a graduate seminar on global environmental change research at the Free University of Berlin in late November 2004. The seminar is designed for students in environmental management and addresses core concerns of the IHDP and its IDGEC project.

It will be based on approaches from geography and political science with a focus on governance and institutional analysis. We encourage an interdisciplinary perspective drawing on a strong theoretical base in economic models and social theory but remaining solidly anchored in specific local and regional contexts. We seek to enhance the capacity of the students to comprehend the nature and dynamics of general global systems and analyze intertwined natural and societal processes across temporal and spatial scales.

The seminar will be arranged around four case studies in the areas of climate change, land use, water, and urbanization. All topics represent paradigmatic cases for the complex interactions of biophysical and socio-economic drivers of global environmental change. All address problems challenging prevalent institutional approaches on different levels of scale. They inherently question disciplinary approaches and require reconciling methodological and conceptual differences to develop an appropriate perspective on the problem.

Groups of four students will give presentations on various aspects of one of the case studies. They are strongly encouraged to collaborate closely in the preparation of their respective session to embrace the complexity of the subject matter in a coherent way. By the end of the semester, each group is required to hand in a joint report. Quality of work permitting, there may be scope for publication of these reports on the Internet.

Furthermore the students choose to chair the session (including the coordination of the working group), provide a thematic introduction of the session, and act as a rapporteur or edit the group's report. Grading will be based on the quality of the presentation as well as teamwork skills and active contribution to discussions in all sessions.