

Opening Remarks

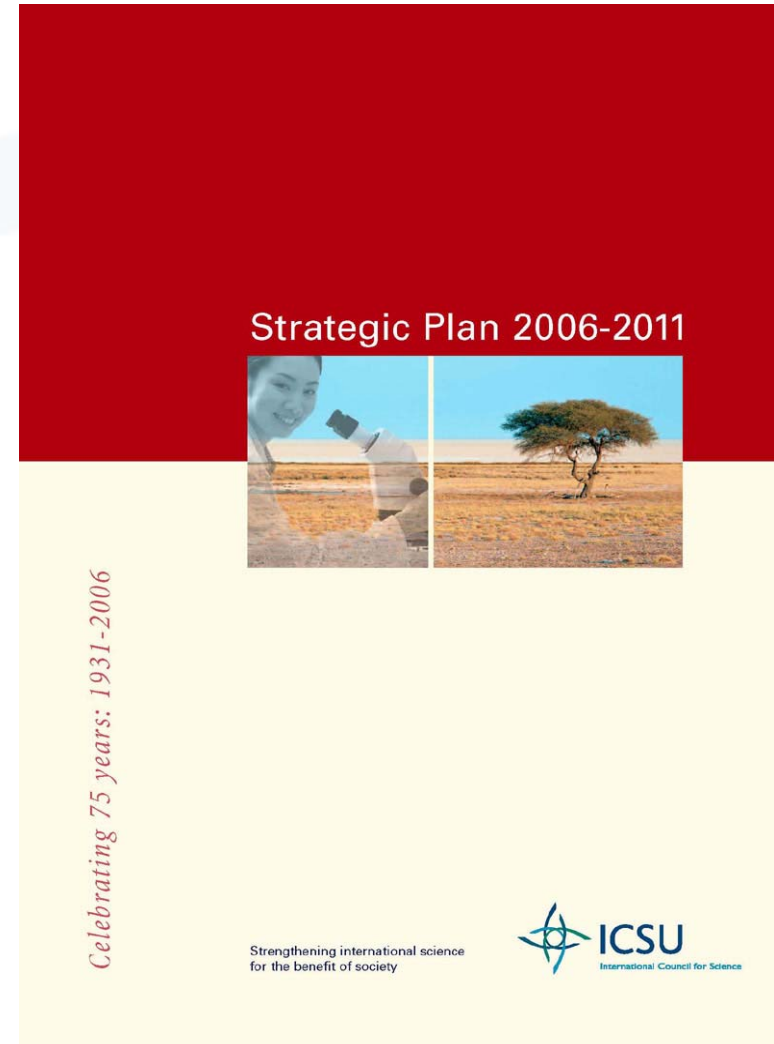
ICSU-UNESCO Regional Conference on Natural and Human- Induced Hazards and Disasters

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 18 September 2006

**Professor Thomas Rosswall
Executive Director, ICSU**

The ICSU Strategy

- Strategic Plan for 2006-2011 approved in 2005
- A major focus is on regional aspects
- The ICSU Regional Offices are key to its success



Strategic Themes

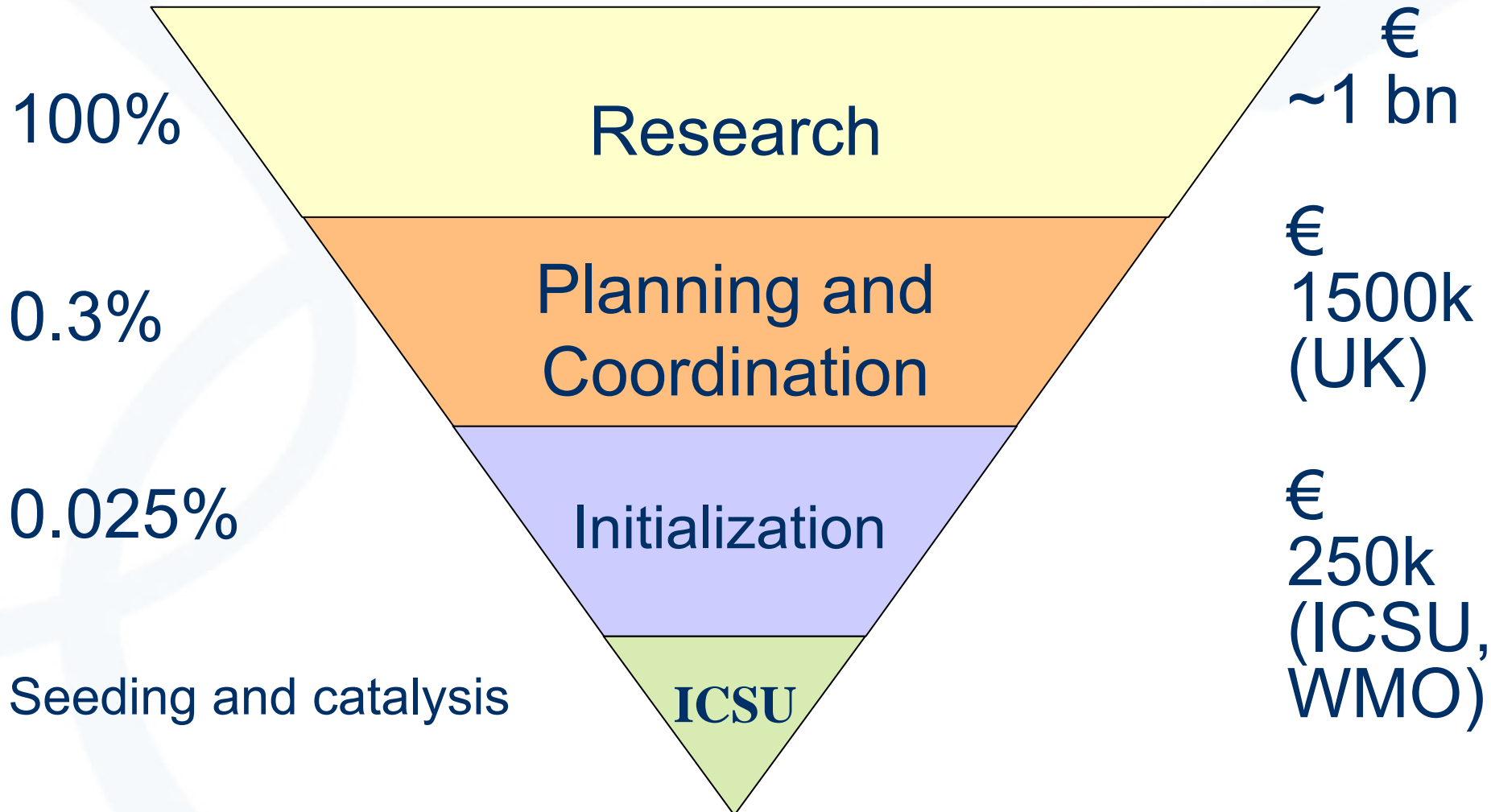
Three inter-related themes:



International Research Collaboration

- To plan and coordinate major international and multidisciplinary research programmes, e.g., the International Polar Year 2007-2008;
- To ensure linkages between research ↔ monitoring ↔ assessment ↔ policy, e.g., the four ICSU global change research programmes, global monitoring systems, IPPC & MA, FCCC & CBD & CCD
- To conduct foresight analysis and dialogue with Members to identify new priorities; i.e., Hazards and Disasters

ICSU's role: IPY 2007-2008



Hazards and Disasters

- The topic identified in the planning process for the Strategic Plan (2003-2004)
- Many recent disasters: Tsunami, Katrina, Kashmir earthquake, Philippine landslide (2004-2005)
- UN Kobe, Hyogo Conference (2005)
- Scoping Group presents report to ICSU General Assembly (Oct., 2005)

Hazards and Disasters

- First meeting of Planning Group (June, 2006)
- Asian Regional Hazards Conference
- Discussion next week at the 2nd African Consultative Forum of their draft plan
- Intensive consultation with science, policy and funding communities (2006-2007)
- Final Planning Group Report mid-2007

Science for Sustainable Development



Harnessing science,
technology and innovation
for sustainable development



A report from the ICSU-ISTS-TWAS Consortium *ad hoc* Advisory Group

Hazards and Sustainable Development in ICSU



- MA – Ecosystems and Human Well-Being
- Identification of gaps in scientific understanding of linked ecological-social systems (ICSU-UNESCO-UNU)
- Linking global change and development science (OSCII, Beijing, November)
- Resilience Alliance Conference (April 2008)

Other Key ICSU Related Activities



- International Year of Planet Earth (ICSU Unions)
- THORPEX focus on extreme weather events
- World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)
- Global Earth Observation Systems of Systems Hazards Societal Benefit Area
- International Consortium on Landslides (ICL)
- UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

The Regional Dimension

- Global Change is increasingly focussing on regions; Asian Monsoon Region a first priority
- Development research in addressing scaling issues to investigate regional characteristics
- Scientists from all parts of the world must engage in ICSU's global initiatives within their regional priorities