

International Year of the Planet

Website: www.esfs.org/

Objectives and Background

The International Year of Planet Earth is intended to be a vigorous international program, the principal goal of which is to demonstrate the enormous potential of the Earth sciences to lay the foundations of a safer, healthier and wealthier society. This goal leads naturally to the Year's subtitle: Earth sciences for society. The Year will have two major lines of action—science and outreach

The Science programme, currently organized into eight broad themes, will endeavour to provide answers to specific scientific questions vital to addressing societal needs. These themes are:

- Groundwater – toward sustainable use
- Hazards – minimizing risk, maximizing awareness
- Earth & Health – building a safer environment
- Climate – the 'stone tape'
- Resources – sustainable power for sustainable development
- Megacities – going deeper, building safer
- Deep Earth – from crust to core
- Ocean – the abyss of time
- Soil – Earth's living skin
- Earth & Life – the origins of diversity

The Outreach programme will serve the general public. An Outreach Plan will demonstrate how the Year will help to promote activities such as:

- Communicating progress in and provisional results of the science topics
- Generating involvement of a non-scientific audience
- Involving the general public in the research
- Sponsoring excursions and tours to geoscientifically interesting places
- Commissioning educational tools on Earth science's significance for society
- Supporting production of Earth science TV documentary programmes
- Supporting exhibitions and events on geoscientific/societal topics)
- Generally promoting of the Earth sciences to a wider public.

It is planned that the Year, actually envisioned as a three-year event, will be proclaimed through the United Nations and will involve the active collaboration of the geoscience community worldwide