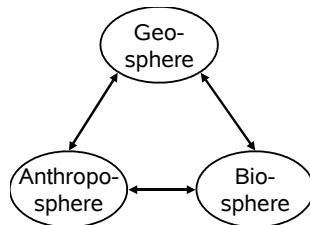


Discussion Summary¹

The quest for a policy relevant interpretation of data and simulation results

- Identification of metrics to measure changes relevant to humans
- A more precise concept of "risks" as a means to deal with uncertainties
- Can the concept of sustainability be made rigorous, e.g. from the viewpoint of systems theory? How should tipping points be defined?

Modelling of humans as external drivers vs. modelling as internal agents



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- The answer may be different for regional and global scales
 - What drives human decisions?
 - Human decisions depend on their perception. Can this be modelled?
 - Top-down managing of the whole Earth-system may be impossible.
→ Necessity for regionalization.
 - A potential world without humans is interesting for its own → paleo studies necessary to understand current state of biosphere

Possible community activities

- Data sets with known uncertainties for validation: a community effort
- Common benchmark data sets and measures for judging simulation results
- Model intercomparison

Moreover it was decided to try to establish a COST ACTION on land processes. This will allow us to perform training schools and specialized workshops with invited speakers targeting at synthesis papers. Deadline for a preapplication is end of March 2008. Christian Reick will coordinate this.

Finally the format/date of the next GINKGO-meeting was discussed. Generally it was voted against parallel sessions, but maybe the meeting can be combined with meetings on more specialized topics. Maybe the whole workshop could for intellectual stimulation be given a common theme (e.g. environmental history) to have a red line through all talks..

It was agreed to have the next GINKGO-meeting at PIK in Oct/Nov 2008.

¹ See also the ppt-slides produced during the discussion.