

# SCOPE

Scientific Committee on

Problems of the  
Environment

*connecting environmental science & policy*

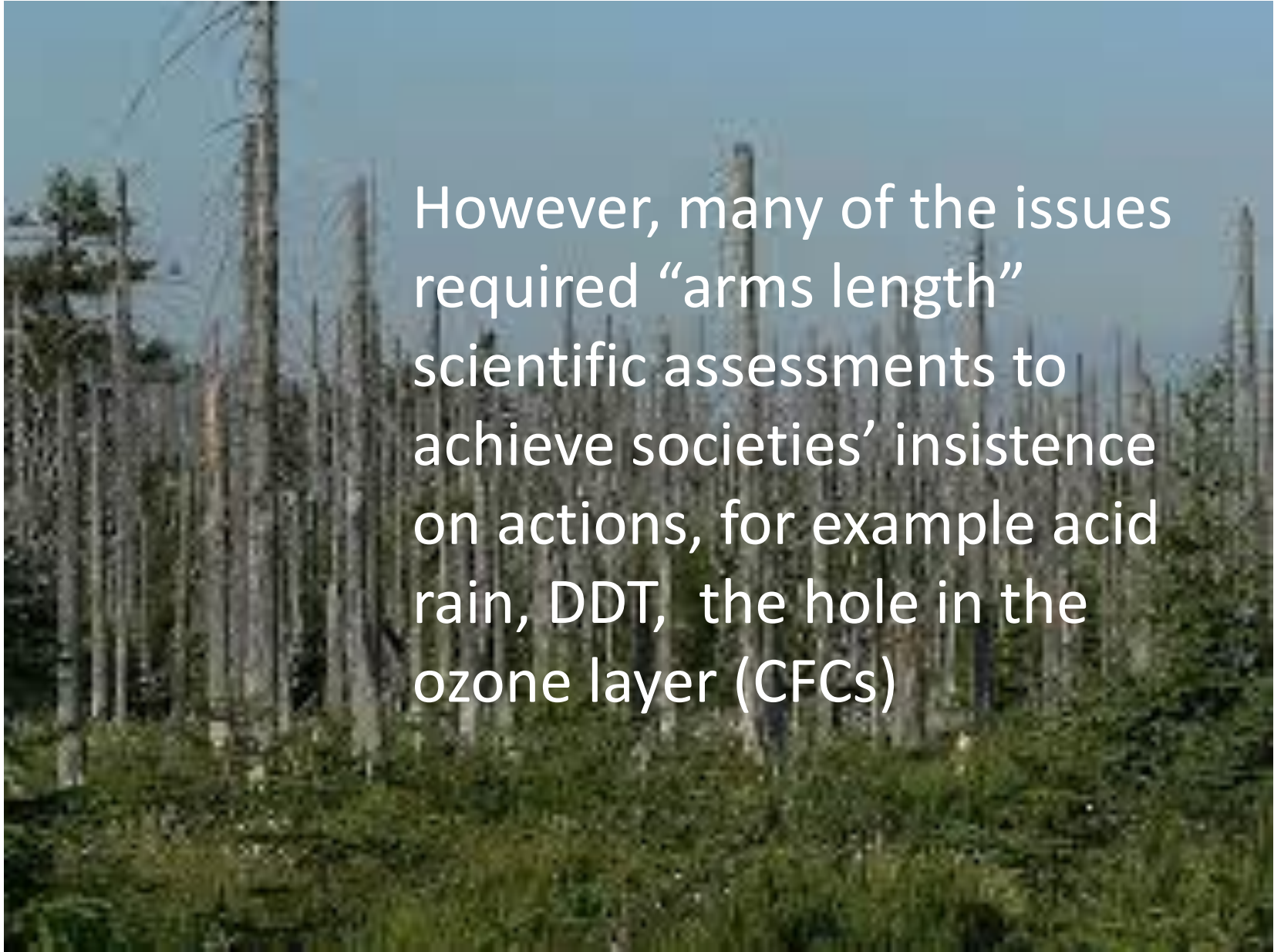
*Jon Samseth, President SCOPE*

In the 1960s *Silent Spring*  
awakened concerns about  
man's impact on the  
environment

The Club of Rome was formed in 1968 by leading experts who shared a common concern for the future of humanity and the planet, looking at issues such as:

“Limits to growth”, “Climate Change”,  
“Poverty”, etc.





However, many of the issues required “arms length” scientific assessments to achieve societies’ insistence on actions, for example acid rain, DDT, the hole in the ozone layer (CFCs)



But these  
are only a few of  
the issues that are  
caused by or  
impact humans  
and the  
environment

In 1969 concerned scientists formed **SCOPE, the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment**

- to review current understanding of emerging environmental and ecological issues
- to provide sound assessments to better inform and interact with research, policy, and development needs



Over the years, leading world experts

– including Nobel Prize winners –

have led SCOPE syntheses and assessments  
to inform and advise about new research needed  
and policy options



# **SCOPE** is influential because of its

- **Focus** on environmental issues with a cross disciplinary approach
- **Recognition** as an independent and non-biased network of leading scientists and practitioners
- **Long tradition** of anticipating the agenda for emerging environmental issues
- **Capacity** to adapt rapidly to demand





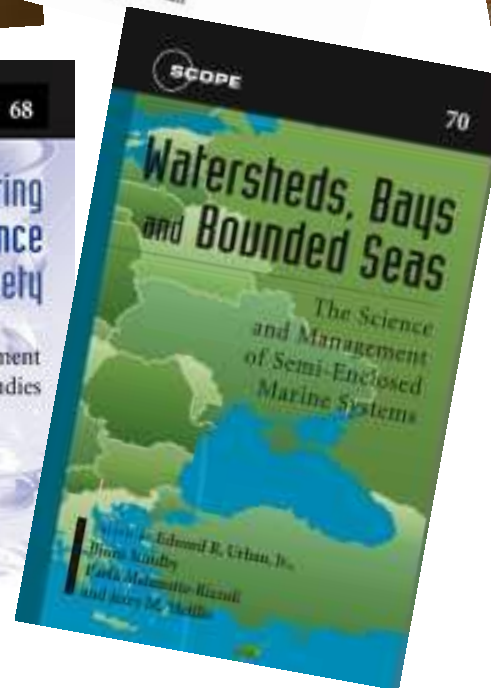
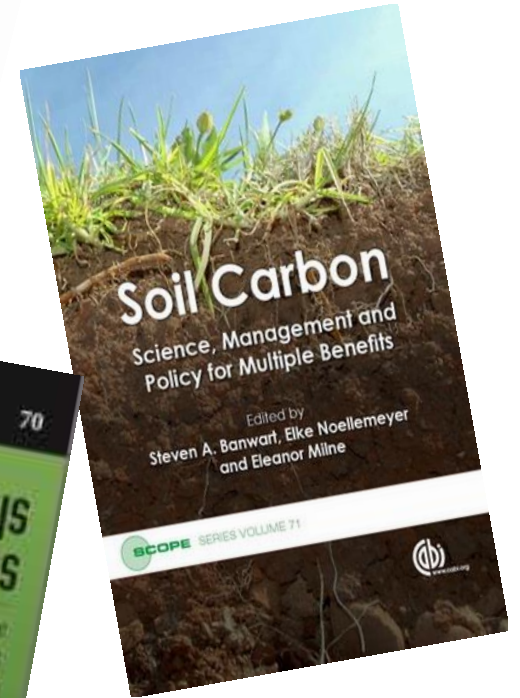
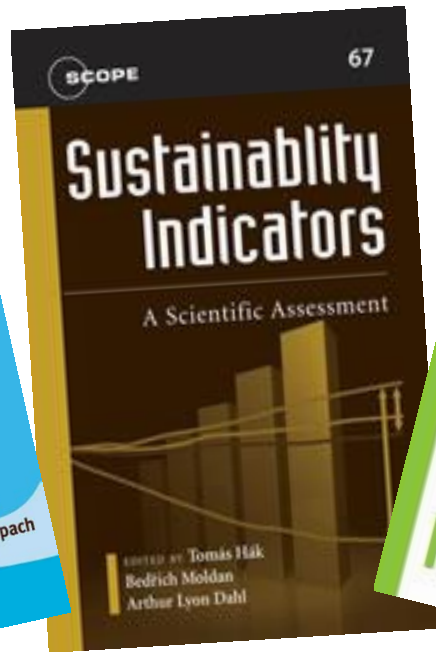
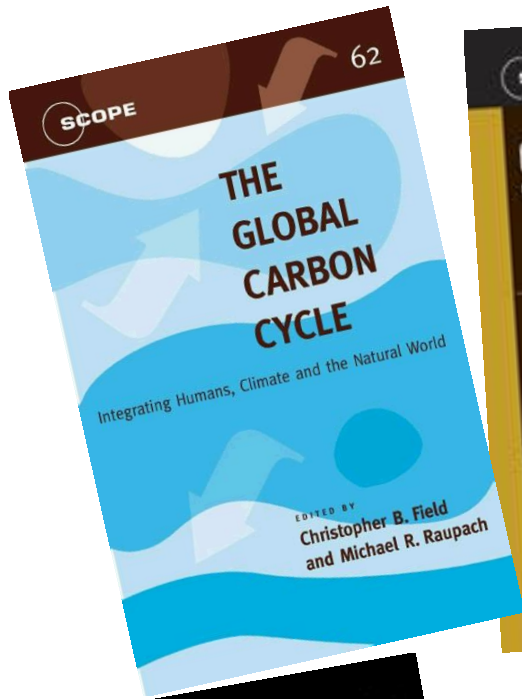
SCOPE experts have undertaken studies on i.a.

- Environmental impact assessment
- Biogeochemical cycles of the major elements
- Ecotoxicology
- Consequences of nuclear war
- Greenhouse gases
- Biological invasions
- Climate change
- Genetically modified organisms
- Global environmental change
- Indicators of sustainable development

# SCOPE activities

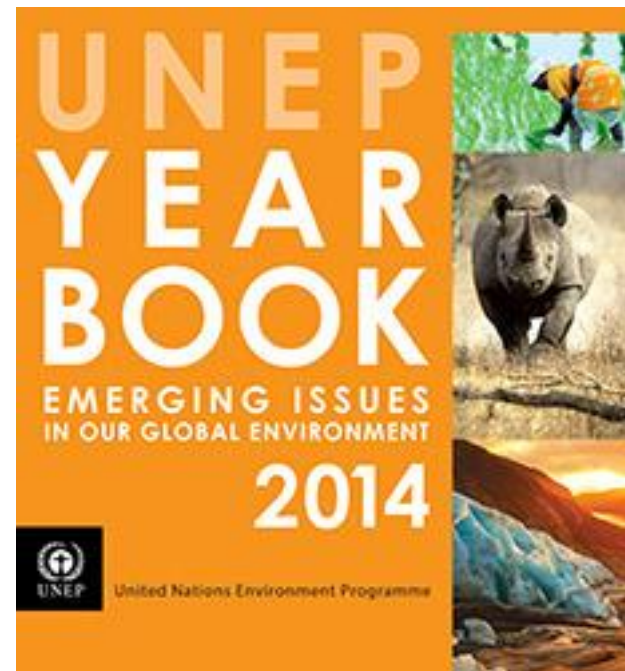
- Rapid assessment process (RAP) projects
- Annual international seminars on environmental issues
- Awards programme to acknowledge established and early career scientists
- Writing workshops for early career scientists in collaboration with Elsevier
- Publications





SCOPE network experts collaborate with UN agencies – UNESCO and UNEP – on a regular basis for specific projects and foresight initiatives.

The UNEP Year Book is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> edition



# UNESCO-SCOPE-UNEP policy briefs

- A series presenting state-of-the-art scientific knowledge for policy planners and decision makers
- Download the 14 issues to date at [www.scopenvironment.org/Unesco\\_scope.htm](http://www.scopenvironment.org/Unesco_scope.htm)





Launched in 2012 by Elsevier,  
**Environmental Development** is  
SCOPE's quarterly transdisciplinary journal

**Of special note is the forthcoming  
thematic issue on Sustainable Bioenergy,  
based on this project**

<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/environmental-development/>



SCOPE integrates concerns from different stakeholder communities.

For example:

Brazil relies on renewables for 41% of its energy needs. (IEA 2012)

Nordic countries typical 30-35 %



At a planning meeting in Sao Paulo in February 2013, SCOPE, FAPESP programmes and other partners developed a RAP to review currently available knowledge on

**Bioenergy and sustainability,  
Research needs, and  
Policy options for the future**

The RAP workshop was held in Paris, at UNESCO in December 2013





450 experts – scientists, industry, policy planners – met at **BBEST** in October 2014 to review the state-of-the-art and the report of the workshop

FAPESP brought 120 promising *young* students to this conference: an investment for the future





Today we meet to celebrate the launch of  
**Bioenergy & Sustainability: Bridging the Gaps**

SCOPE 72 results from the workshop discussions,  
multiple consultations, and internal and external  
peer review coordinated by the Editors



The full report can be downloaded at

<http://bioenfapesp.org/scopebioenergy/index.php>.



I would like to extend SCOPE's thanks and appreciation to all who have contributed to

## **Bioenergy & Sustainability: Bridging the Gaps**

and particularly to acknowledge the project leaders for this initiative

Muito obrigado!



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# SCOPE Update

- Release of SCOPE 72 (April 2015)
- New SCOPE office in China (April 2015)
- SCOPE-IUPAP Energy briefs (2015)
- New collaborative studies on coastal vulnerabilities (2015-2020)
- Engagement in North America and development of collaboration with Elsevier on science conferences (Toronto 2015/16/17)

