

International Continental Scientific Drilling Program Charter for Scientific Investigation

Scientific drilling retrieves the otherwise inaccessible rock record of tectonic, climatic, and biological cycles from the present day back into deep time. The International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP), organized by an international consortium, provides infrastructure for scientific drilling on the Earth's continents including their continental shelves. It welcomes proposals from international teams of scientists to investigate sites of global significance and socio-economic relevance. Proposals undergo confidential review of scientific merit and are selected on the basis of their scientific quality and impact. Through these activities ICDP puts excellent scientific ideas into practice to better understand the workings of planet Earth, natural hazards, and the resources that sustain humanity.

1. ICDP consortium memberships are established through Memoranda of Understanding that form partnerships between the Executive Committee of ICDP and nations or institutions worldwide, thus committing funds that help form the basis of ICDP activities.
2. ICDP promotes equal opportunity and participation in all of its activities regardless of extraneous criteria (including race, sex, age) not directly related to the ability to carry out tasks and duties within the ICDP program.
3. ICDP encourages the submission of project proposals from the geoscientific community (bottom-up approach) on topics which address the objectives described in the program's guiding documents, the ICDP Science Plan. The current science plan is entitled *Unravelling the Workings of Planet Earth, Science Plan for 2014-2019*.
4. ICDP support of a project is not one of full sponsorship, instead following the principle of comingled funding. It encourages and assists scientists in gathering additional financial support.
5. In practice, proposals to ICDP are normally submitted in two phases: a workshop proposal, and a drilling proposal. Workshop proposals seek financial support to assemble an international team, refine the scientific objectives, and prepare engineering and management plans. Drilling proposals contain the full research plan for the drilling project.
6. The proposals are reviewed by three ICDP panels: the Science Advisory Group, which is an independent body that provides a thorough review of the science and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee, responsible for financial and logistical affairs, which then recommends a course of action to the Assembly of Governors, which provides governance and financial approval.
7. A proposal that receives support (financial and/ or logistical) by ICDP is considered to be a viable project within the ICDP program and must follow the guidelines outlined in the document *ICDP Primer: Planning, Managing, and Executing Continental Scientific Drilling Projects*, to be found on the ICDP website. For example, drilling campaigns supported by ICDP must be environmentally compatible, and carried out in accordance with accepted protocols.
8. Following approval of a drilling proposal, the Operational Support Group negotiates a Joint Research Venture for each funded proposal and jointly develops a schedule for the drilling program.
9. ICDP policies, procedures, summaries of funded projects, and documentations of events and procedures are openly available to the public within the limits of the program's confidentiality policies for proposals, samples, and data. ICDP will provide open access to all project samples and data once the project participants have had a reasonable opportunity to complete their initial studies within an established moratorium period.