

§ 2921. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term—

(1) “Committee” means the Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences established under section 2932 of this title;

(2) “Council” means the Federal Coordinating Council on Science, Engineering, and Technology;

(3) “global change” means changes in the global environment (including alterations in climate, land productivity, oceans or other water resources, atmospheric chemistry, and ecological systems) that may alter the capacity of the Earth to sustain life;

(4) “global change research” means study, monitoring, assessment, prediction, and information management activities to describe and understand—

(A) the interactive physical, chemical, and biological processes that regulate the total Earth system;

(B) the unique environment that the Earth provides for life;

(C) changes that are occurring in the Earth system; and

(D) the manner in which such system, environment, and changes are influenced by human actions;

(5) “Plan” means the National Global Change Research Plan developed under section 2934 of this title, or any revision thereof; and

(6) “Program” means the United States Global Change Research Program established under section 2933 of this title.

(Pub. L. 101–606, §2, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3096.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 101–606 provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Global Change Research Act of 1990’.”

Section 201 of title II of Pub. L. 101–606 provided that: “This title [enacting subchapter II of this chapter] may be cited as the ‘International Cooperation in Global Change Research Act of 1990’.”

SUBCHAPTER I—UNITED STATES GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM

§ 2931. Findings and purpose**(a) Findings**

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Industrial, agricultural, and other human activities, coupled with an expanding world population, are contributing to processes of global change that may significantly alter the Earth habitat within a few human generations.

(2) Such human-induced changes, in conjunction with natural fluctuations, may lead to significant global warming and thus alter world climate patterns and increase global sea levels. Over the next century, these consequences could adversely affect world agricultural and marine production, coastal habitability, biological diversity, human health, and global economic and social well-being.

(3) The release of chlorofluorocarbons and other stratospheric ozone-depleting substances is rapidly reducing the ability of the atmosphere to screen out harmful ultraviolet radi-

ation, which could adversely affect human health and ecological systems.

(4) Development of effective policies to abate, mitigate, and cope with global change will rely on greatly improved scientific understanding of global environmental processes and on our ability to distinguish human-induced from natural global change.

(5) New developments in interdisciplinary Earth sciences, global observing systems, and computing technology make possible significant advances in the scientific understanding and prediction of these global changes and their effects.

(6) Although significant Federal global change research efforts are underway, an effective Federal research program will require efficient interagency coordination, and coordination with the research activities of State, private, and international entities.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to provide for development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.

(Pub. L. 101–606, title I, §101, Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3096.)

§ 2932. Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences**(a) Establishment**

The President, through the Council, shall establish a Committee on Earth and Environmental Sciences. The Committee shall carry out Council functions under section 6651 of title 42 relating to global change research, for the purpose of increasing the overall effectiveness and productivity of Federal global change research efforts.

(b) Membership

The Committee shall consist of at least one representative from—

(1) the National Science Foundation;

(2) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce;

(4) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(5) the Department of Energy;

(6) the Department of State;

(7) the Department of Defense;

(8) the Department of the Interior;

(9) the Department of Agriculture;

(10) the Department of Transportation;

(11) the Office of Management and Budget;

(12) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;

(13) the Council on Environmental Quality;

(14) the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health; and

(15) such other agencies and departments of the United States as the President or the Chairman of the Council considers appropriate.