

July 2, 2007

Global Collaboratory for Drylands and the City Memorandum of Understanding

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum of understanding (MOU) is to establish and characterize a Global Collaboratory for Drylands and the City (the Global Collaboratory). The Global Collaboratory is a joint venture of six strategically located and internationally known research institutions concerned with issues of urbanization and the sustainable economic development of drylands. The Global Collaboratory will provide its participating institutions an organizational vehicle for more effective research and problem solving on a global scale.

2. Participating Institutions. The members of the Global Collaboratory (Members) and signatories to this MOU are:

Argentina:	Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones de las Zonas Áridas
China:	Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute
Egypt:	Desert Research Center
Israel:	Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research
Namibia:	Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
USA:	Desert Research Institute, Nevada System of Higher Education

3. Our common interests: The common interests of the members of the Global Collaboratory are at the intersection of three fields: drylands ecology, urban planning, and sustainable economic development. The goal of our research collaboration is to create economic opportunities and improve the quality of life in arid lands through science- and technology-based, environmentally sustainable urban development. Global phenomena, including climate change, population growth, urbanization, and rapid economic and technological development of previously underdeveloped drylands, have crucial implications for quality of life, global security, and economic stability. We understand that arid lands also have special resources that, when well understood, can be tapped to achieve their prosperous and sustainable economic development.

In addition to common interests in the topical areas of drylands and the city, the Members share a mutual interest in removing barriers to effective international collaboration for research and development. We support the improvement of national and international policies and programs to promote best practices in research administration and management. In particular, we recognize a need for integration across national boundaries in program funding, management, and accountability that maximizes the efficiencies and synergies of global collaboration for the solution of global problems. Formation of the Global Collaboratory represents an important step toward meeting this need. We will work to encourage corresponding and enabling steps by research sponsors worldwide.

4. Our mutual agreement. The Members of the Global Collaboratory hereby agree to work together to:

- a. Identify problems and articulate research questions of global impact related to urbanization and the sustainable economic development of drylands;
- b. Identify sources of funding support for such research and problem solving and, when appropriate, craft collaborative research proposals to address those problems and questions;
- c. Undertake collaborative research and development based upon successful proposals;
- d. Make their field sites and unique equipment for research on these problems and questions available to other Members, according to the same considerations of availability access and cost that pertain to their own researchers;
- e. Foster and promote the interchange of faculty, postdoctoral fellows, staff, students, and research administrators among the Members;
- f. Encourage and support national and international science policies that facilitate international research collaboration, including unified funding, management, and accountability of international research collaborations; and
- g. Develop their capabilities, over time and consistent with available resources, to address the problems and questions of interest to the Global Collaboratory.

5. Further Agreements. The members of the Global Collaboratory further agree that:

- a. No part of this MOU is intended to limit or constrain the ability of a Member to pursue or conduct collaborations with any entity or autonomously at its sole discretion.
- b. No part of this MOU is intended to require a Member to participate in any particular initiative, proposal, or research and development program. Such participation is at the sole discretion of the Member.
- c. Any agreements or obligations pertaining to a specific collaboration, beyond those specified in this MOU, will be specified by future agreements, such as letters of intent, contracts, or subcontracts, among the collaborating Members.
- d. Each member will be responsible for the expenses of their participation in the Global Collaboratory.

6. Governance.

- a. Each Member shall designate a qualified individual as its representative to the Global Collaboratory. The designated representatives shall constitute the Plenary Board of the Global Collaboratory. The Plenary Board will be the governing body of the Global Collaboratory.
- b. The Global Collaboratory is a voluntary, unincorporated association of research institutions. No action or decision of the Global Collaboratory or of its Plenary Board is binding on any Member except as freely entered into by subsequent agreement.
- c. Each Member will have a single vote in the Plenary Board. All Plenary Board actions will be by majority vote except as provided in Section 7, below.
- d. The Plenary Board may meet in person, by teleconference, electronically, or by asymmetric electronic media such as email.
- e. Within 90 days of the execution of this MOU by all Members, the Plenary Board will meet and:

- 1) Establish a proposed set of Bylaws for the operations of the Plenary Board,
 - 2) Establish an Executive Director and whatever other officers and committees it deems necessary for carrying out the business of the Global Collaboratory,
 - 3) Establish a set of procedures for the establishment and pursuit of collaborative projects and all other activities by the Global Collaboratory.
- f. Dr. J. Scott Hauger of the Desert Research Institute will serve as Interim Executive Director until the first meeting of the Plenary Board.

7. Membership

- a. The research institutions signatory to this MOU comprise the Members of the Global Collaboratory.
- b. Other institutions and individual researchers may and should participate in Global Collaboratory projects by subcontracts, subgrants, or agreements through one of the Members.
- c. A Member may withdraw from the Collaboratory at any time with 30 days notice to the Plenary Board of the Global Collaboratory. Withdrawal will relieve the former Member of all obligations under this MOU, but not from any obligation assumed through ongoing grants, contracts, subawards, or other agreements.
- d. New members may be admitted to the Global Collaboratory only with the unanimous agreement of current Members according to bylaws to be established by the Plenary Board.
- e. A Member may be removed from the Global Collaboratory by a unanimous vote of the other Members according to bylaws to be established by the Plenary Board.
 - 1) Members who fail to appoint a representative to the Plenary Board or to participate in Global Collaboratory activities for an extended period of time may be asked to participate or resign.

8. Term of this Agreement

- a. This MOU shall be take effect upon its execution by five of the six Members.
- b. This MOU will expire three years after its effective date.
- c. This MOU may be extended in increments of two years, by amendment.
- d. This MOU may be amended by the unanimous agreement of all current Members at the time of the amendment.

Hereby Agreed to:

Signed by authorized representatives of the six member institutions.