

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

You are hereby kindly informed that this Volume 23/2016 annual publication of *Papers on Global Change IGBP* marks the end of an era, as it brings to a close the history of this publication from the Polish Academy of Sciences' National Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere-Global Change Programme. It was back in 1989, under the auspices of that Committee, that there was launched the associated necessary process to achieve Polish-centred publication of knowledge on mechanisms underpinning global environmental change – as perceived at the international and national levels.

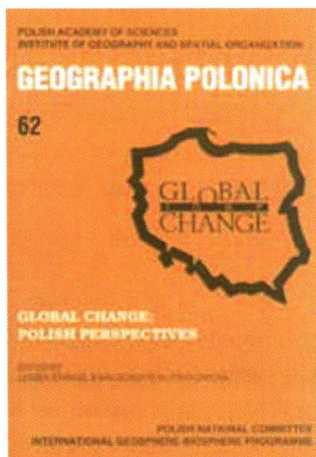
In all the time since then, more than half of all the materials published in these volumes linked to the Programme have represented the fruits of active cooperation between the IGBP-Global Change Committee and other Committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences (be these Committees to the PAS Presidium or ones active in different disciplines close to Faculties), as well as the PAU (Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences), following on from the initiation, coordination and patronage of international and national conferences associated with the threats induced by global changes of climate and the Earth's environment.

Publishing activity began with *Newsletters* (1–6) from the Polish Academy of Sciences' Polish National IGBP Committee. It was then in 1994 that cooperation with the *Geographia Polonica* journal of the PAS Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation (IGiPZ PAN) got underway, allowing for the launch of a full periodical of the Polish National IGBP-Global Change Committee PAS, albeit appearing under different titles.

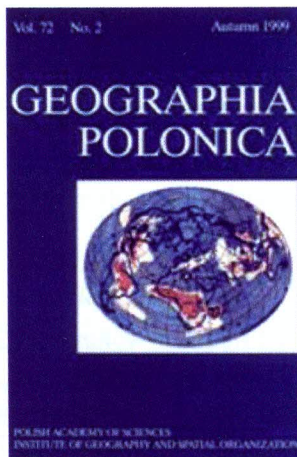
Numbers 1–6 (Vol. 62 No. 1 of 1994 – Vol. 71, No. 5 of 1998) were entitled *Geographia Polonica: Global Change. Polish Perspectives series*.

Numbers 6–8 (Vol. 72, No. 2 and No. 6 of 1999 – Vol. 74, No. 2 and No. 8 of 2001) were effectively the same, if with a different series title, i.e. *Papers in Global Change IGBP*.

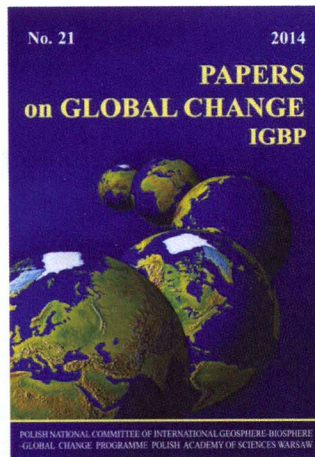
However, in the years 2002–2016 inclusive (under numbers 9–23), a separate annual publication has been brought out regularly by the PAS Polish National Committee of the International Geosphere-Biosphere-Global Change Programme – in this whole period under the title *Papers on Global Change IGBP*.



Vol. 62 No 1/1994–
Vol. 71, No 5/1998
**Global Change. Polish
Perspectives series**



Vol. 72, No 2, No 6/1999–
Vol. 74, No 2, No 8/2001
**Papers in Global Change
IGBP series**



No 9/2002–23/2016
**Papers on Global Change
IGBP**

In fact, since 2007 onwards *Papers on Global Change IGBP* has come out both on paper and in an online version. Furthermore, digitised versions of Numbers 1/1994–8/2001 are available on an Open Access basis via the *Repozytorium Cyfrowego Instytutów Naukowych PAN* (RCIN), while Numbers 17/2010–22/2015 are on the De Gruyter platform, as well as at the *Czytelnia Czasopism PAN*. They are also indexed in several tens of international and domestic abstract bases. In 2015, Nos. 16/2009–21/2015 inclusive were catalogued on the Polish POL-index Citations Base, which brings together information on articles in Polish journals, as well as cases of these articles being cited, with a view to the so-called Polish Coefficient of Influence (*Polski Współczynnik Wpływu* or *PWW*) being determined.

It is also worth mentioning that the links to digitised issues 1/1994–8/2001 (via the RCIN), as well as 17/2010–23/2015 (the De Gruyter platform and *Czytelnia Czasopism PAN*) are located on NUKAT – the Poland-wide catalogue of science libraries, as integrated with other Polish and global digital libraries and catalogues, like the *Europeana* (European base), or the *WorldCAT* catalogue of global reach. This all ensures that information on the digitised issues of *Papers on Global Change IGBP* reaches a wider, global group of infostrada users (including institutional), who include them in their scientific information systems. This has the effect of increasing numbers of citations, and is thus of benefit to both the authors and the institutions they are affiliated with.

It also means that there is a further important link in the chain by which Polish science (and within that the Polish Academy of Sciences) is promoted in the international arena.

Given the formal cessation of activity within the IGBP-Global Change framework in 2015, in March this year the PAS management decided that the work of its relevant Committee – and hence our publication – should be brought to an end.

There has been a consistent focus in *Papers on Global Change IGBP* throughout the time of its publication, and that is on problems of global change on Planet Earth, as well as its causes and consequences, and means by which it might be forecast.

Interesting examples of an interdisciplinary approach to global warming have been provided by certain themed volumes that have presented results from both Polish researchers and scientists abroad. In this way, the pages of the journal have been made available to many research teams, and to authors from different countries in different continents.

Currently, particularly key approaches to the global change process and problem (above and beyond those involving the natural, geophysical causes) entail the study of economic, social and political consequences. The articles, reports and reviews presented here and in previous issues and volumes have done much to enhance people's knowledge of the Earth's future; and indeed the output of the Polish Academy of Sciences in this field is considerable.

Our heartfelt thanks for cooperation down the years hereby go out to all those who have helped the issues and volumes of our publication come into existence: to the authors, of course; but also to the reviewers and the language verifiers; and to the Programme Council and Editorial Advisory Board. We also offer particular thanks to readers both at home and abroad, for taking such an interest in the subject. Citation of the work of authors publishing here has inspired the Editorial Board into joint action, with the effect being enhanced knowledge on mechanisms relating to the sustainable development of the Earth's environment.

It is our hope that, after nearly a quarter of a century of publishing continuity, with successful incorporation into the world system by which information circulates, the title *Papers on Global Change IGBP* can somehow be retained with another affiliation and structure in the reorganised Polish Academy of Sciences, as adjusted to contemporary needs and requirements regarding cooperation in the world of science over what is, after all, a vital priority subject for integrated study.

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