

PRESENTS

TSM

TOPICAL SCIENCE MEETINGS

**Be a champion and help
create a TSM for your
field of expertise!**

PAGES calls on coalitions of researchers, institutions and funders to take leadership on a specific topic that meets their broad interest, expertise and ambition by convening a PAGES Topical Science Meeting.

This championing role involves local organization, financing of the event, and collaboration with PAGES in the program planning. Involving local engagement and introducing new ideas will make each Topical Science Meeting even stronger.

CONTEXT



The PAGES project is an international effort to coordinate and promote past global change research through the themes climate, environment, and humans.

Over the last few years, the context of environmental research has been subject to exciting developments. Under the umbrella of the United Nations, the global community adopted major international political agreements in areas such as sustainability, climate, disasters, and biodiversity.

These agreements have directed much-needed attention towards environmental and sustainability challenges, provided frameworks for global action and sharpened the demand for scientific knowledge. This is a great responsibility and opportunity for science and its enablers, such as

research programs like PAGES, research funders, and others.

Observing and understanding past environmental changes can contribute crucially to addressing big questions and challenges that face societies and ecologies in the human-activity-impacted Anthropocene era and in globally connected socio-environmental systems.

PAGES, with its global network of expert communities at its core, is committed to facilitating the generation and delivery of multi-perspective expert knowledge from retrospective scientific evidence. The Topical Science Meetings are designed to advance and deliver such knowledge on hot topics.

TSM Example 1: A Unique Ocean

The **ocean** has a substantial impact on people's well-being. It is a source of food, biological diversity and regeneration, moderates the climate and atmosphere's composition, but also threatens coastline stability, drives weather extremes and bears potential for abrupt changes. The joint expertise of several PAGES Working Groups e.g. on ocean circulation, carbon cycling, sea-ice dynamics, and sea level rise, could **develop a comprehensive view of the global role of the ocean in the past and advise future management and decision options.**

CONTEXT



WORKING GROUP WORKSHOPS

- 20–40 disciplinary researchers
- Specific scientific problems
- Peer-reviewed publications



TOPICAL SCIENCE MEETINGS



- 80–100 topical experts
- Scientific topic of societal relevance
- Peer-reviewed synthesis



OPEN SCIENCE MEETINGS

- 300–800 paleoscientists
- Cross-section of the field of paleoscience
- Proceedings and special issues

Topical Science Meetings are a complementary format between large, multidisciplinary Open Science Meetings and more scientifically specialized Working Group workshops.

They combine the strengths of its two most successful formats: the convening power, integrative character and high visibility of the PAGES Open Science Meetings and the scientific focus, world-class expertise and productivity of the interactive workshops of PAGES' question-driven Working Groups.

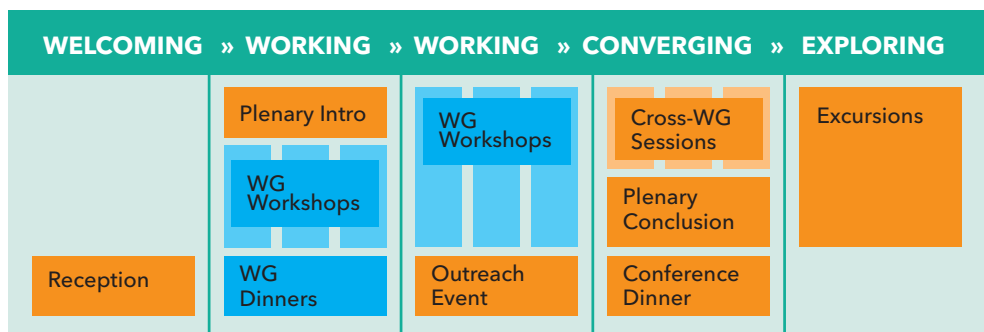
The new format is designed to address societally and scientifically important matters in a way that is both focussed and comprehensive and has the flexibility to integrate ideas and inputs of the local conveners.

To add further value, impact and visibility, the workshops can be complemented with outreach, public, networking, engagement, and educational components.

TSM Example 2: Sustainable Land Use

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG15) Life on Land aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.” However, what would be desired, sustainable land systems? Key to a science-based answer is a systemic understanding of past states, dynamics and evolution of land ecosystems as addressed by several PAGES Working Groups that work on **sectoral land ecology aspects such as forests, land cover and fire, hold a key for land management targets.**

FORMAT



A Topical Science Meeting will typically involve approximately 100 participants, global and local, and stretch over three or more days. The schematic schedule

structure of the Topical Science Meeting could be as seen above, a mixture of working group-specific (blue) and joint cross-topical (orange) elements.

TSM Example 3: Climate Change-resilient Societies

In the past, societies coped in different ways with the challenges and opportunities of their environmental changes and extremes. Working Groups connecting societal strategies to different external factors like climate changes, volcanic eruptions and the floodings, address aspects of this interaction. With a concerted Topical Science Meeting effort they could **analyze past coping strategies and inspire societies on how to strengthen their resilience.**



ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Researchers, institutions and funders interested in hosting a TSM are invited to contact **PAGES Executive Director Marie-France Loutre: marie-france.loutre@pages.unibe.ch**
For more information visit our website: pastglobalchanges.org/tsm



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