

# Research Programme Review

## ● Implementation of Research Programme Review

The Research Programmes Review reported to Council in March 2010 with recommendations on how the Society *supports the generation of new geographical knowledge through research and scientific expeditions*. The recommendations can be broadly categorised in terms of: (1) making more of the Society's current activities; (2) enhancing the Society's grant giving programme; and (3) developing five new research partnerships to be delivered over the course of the Society's next strategy. Below is a brief update, as reported to Council in April 2011, on progress to date.

### A. Make more of the Society's commitment to research and discovery through fieldwork

<p>A1 - Improve the visibility of the RGS-IBG's role in all its funded research, including scientific expeditions, for example in terms of how the Society and grant recipients refer to, profile and publicise the studies.</p>	<p>Started and Ongoing. Enhanced presence of grant funded research projects and scientific expeditions on the web; in the Society's Bulletin; in the Monday night lectures (one per term on average) and at Explore; Articles in Geographical Magazine and in the press more widely. All Society funded projects encouraged to develop online profile and to appropriately acknowledge Society's support.</p>
<p>A2 - Provide added value, for example, developing educational resources to share the findings of selected Society-supported projects with teachers and pupils and the public.</p>	<p>Started and Ongoing - 'From The Field', educational resources developed to inform and inspire young people from selected Society grant supported field projects and scientific expeditions. Materials in development, first set to be published in autumn 2011. Supported in part by the Goldsmiths' Company.</p>
<p>A3 - Develop the RGS-IBG's role in encouraging 'informed travel and fieldwork' and providing opportunities for members and Fellows to share expertise.</p>	<p>Started and Ongoing. This involves activities across the Society: Continuing workshops, advice and training by Geography Outdoors; Extended offering of informed travel events including 'Hidden' and 'Discovering' places &amp; Journeys website. New country-based resources on the Members' Only web site; Discovering Britain walks website to encourage people to understand and explore Britain – project to be launched this summer.</p>

**B. Research Grants Programme, to continue with its current style and approach of supporting high quality research and scientific expeditions through open competitive grants, to be strengthened by**

B1 - Fundraising for one further annual grant to support established researchers working on a European/ UK-based project with a human geography focus.	To be incorporated into the Society's strategic planning in 2011. Fundraising required.
B2 - Refocusing the directed strand of grant-giving to fund research on important geographical topics at one or more of the 700+ field centres around the world (as below)	Started and Ongoing (see also below): New Society grants to be launched in the autumn of 2011 to support field research and capacity building at international field centres. Approved by Expeditions and Fieldwork committee.

**C. Five new Research Partnership Initiatives to be delivered over the next ten years**

C1 - Building links with other national geographical societies or academies overseas to enhance capacity and develop collaborative research links and programmes. This initiative will lead to one joint field programme focused on an issue of international significance.	To be incorporated into the Society's strategic planning in 2011. Fundraising required.
C2 - Bringing groups of experts together as catalyst to develop applications for field/other research projects on innovative geographical topics (e.g. themes of Research Councils).	To be incorporated into the Society's strategic planning in 2011. Some fundraising required.
C3 - Working with one or more of the 700+ field centres around the world to support high quality studies on important geographical topics integral to their research programmes. We will support with advice, expertise and with funding for small field centre projects on a key theme.	Started and Ongoing (see also above B2): New Society grants to be launched in the autumn of 2011 to support field research and capacity building at international field centres. Approved by Expeditions and Fieldwork committee.
C4 - Supporting outreach and education activities as a partner in large projects organised by others	Opportunities and principles for selecting projects discussed by the Society's Education Committee in spring 2011.
C5 - Funding research by selected participants in large projects organised by other groups, through the Society's grants programme.	Started and Ongoing: Examples include grant awarded to Dr. Helen Findlay (Plymouth Marine Lab) through the Ralph Brown Expedition Award for scientific work on Catlin Arctic survey (summer 2010). Featured at Explore; in 'From The Field'; and Monday lecture in autumn 2011.

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