



IHDP Open Meeting 2009

7th International
Science Conference on the
Human Dimensions of
Global Environmental Change

26-30 April 2009
World Conference Center Bonn
UN Campus
Bonn, Germany

The Social Challenges of Global Change

IHDP Secretariat | Hermann-Ehlers-Str. 10 | D-53113 Bonn | P +49 (0)228 815 0600 | F +49 (0)228 815 0620
www.openmeeting2009.org | openmeeting@ihdp.unu.edu

Time: Thursday 30 April 16:00 - 17:30

Climate Change and Societal Change, The South of the North: Desertification, Drought, Migration and Society, the missing agenda in Europe

Organised by: The Spanish Committee on Global Change Research (CEICAG)

Convenor: Mercedes Pardo Buendía, University Carlos III of Madrid

Panelists: Mercedes Pardo Buendía, University Carlos III of Madrid, Ana Iglesias, Technical University of Madrid, Consuelo Varela, Technical University of Madrid

Venue: Bundesrat Plenarsaal

Climate Change is basically a social problem, as society is both the main cause of the problem and the main affected. Even so, historically the mainstream approaches to Climate Change have been the natural sciences ones. As a result the key connections between CC impacts and society have been neglected, particularly those regarding the "South" of the "North", as it is the case of Spain. This session will deal with the following questions: How to distinguish the societal causes of desertification and droughts (e.g., provoked fires, irrigation, urbanization...) from the Climate Change ones in the South of Europe? How to locate those problems from sociological perspectives? What kind of social change is needed to deal with climate change impacts in these societies? How these impacts could affect the social "fabric" of the Mediterranean cultures (e.g. rural population takes the saints in procession to get rain)? How to plenty incorporate these issues into the political and research agenda in Europe?