

In the past few months, we have witnessed a growing interest in the concept of the Anthropocene – the age dominated by mankind. Momentum is building to officially declare it a new geological epoch. Editorials and articles in high-profile outlets such as *Nature*, the *New York Times* and *The Economist* have discussed



it took decades of meticulous research to elucidate and quantify human impacts on the planet. Moreover, it took vision and creativity to connect what could have remained as disparate pieces of information (for example, the Great Acceleration graphs from IGBP's first synthesis). IGBP's contribution

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to the research, but equally or perhaps even more importantly, synthesising knowledge cannot be underestimated. Synthesis continues to remain high on our agenda. During the past six months, IGBP has brought together natural and social scientists, policymakers, funders and others to synthesise knowledge about several policy-relevant areas, from geoengineering to nitrogen and climate (see page 4 of this issue). Outcomes of this effort will find their way to the Planet Under Pressure conference to be held in London next year, and will also be consolidated as journal articles, opinion pieces and summaries for policymakers. The emphasis of the synthesis, as of the conference, is on solutions to move humanity onto a sustainable pathway. Here's hoping that our efforts will yet again nourish the emergence of a concept as thought provoking as the Anthropocene. ■

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