

## The Royal Society, The UK and the ICSU Family

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The Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK dedicated to promoting excellence in science.



- UK was a founding member of ICSU
- UK now adheres to ICSU itself plus 24 Unions and 11 other ICSU family bodies
- Total UK subscription to ICSU family £350k (say USD 700k)



# How can we maximise benefit to UK Science from this investment?



- Key to benefit is involving the relevant scientists
- Key to involvement is subsidiarity



- 1985: Royal Society adhered to everything and employed 10 staff to manage 28 British National Committees (BNCs) and 25 Subcommittees
- 1990: Abolished BNCs and set up an international relations committee and 4 interdisciplinary science committees
- 1995-2000: Reviewed adherence and, where possible, delegated



- Now: Royal Society adheres to ICSU plus 4 [was 26] Unions and 11 [15] other bodies
- Other UK societies adhere to 20 unions and 3 other related bodies
- Shared subscription, devolved responsibility



# Policy on inviting international bodies to meet in the UK



## Royal Society role now:

- Adhere where necessary (total: £350kpa)
- Competitive funding for delegates to congresses and business meetings (£50k pa)
- Scientific Unions Committee
- Triennial lecture and reception

Total staff requirement: 0.5



## And the consequence?

- UK scientists more engaged in their Unions
- Royal Society focused on the task it should be doing