



IGCP Scientific Board
Scientific Review of IGCP Project Annual Reports
Annual Assessment Form

SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT: Subduction Zones in the Caribbean

Principle Investigator(s) (and their Countries)	A. García Casco (Spain); U. Martens (USA)
Duration of Project	2007-2011
History of IGCP Funding	4,000 in 2008 \$USD
History of External Funds	no information supplied in AR \$USD
Future funding Requests	15,000 \$USD
Current Funding Status	4,000 in 2008 \$USD
Project Theme Category (select only one category)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geoscience and Water <input type="checkbox"/> Geohazards <input type="checkbox"/> Earth Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Global Change and the Evolution of Life <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep Earth <input type="checkbox"/> Other topic
EVALUATION SCORE LEGEND TO BE USED AS APPROPRIATE BELOW:	1 = Poor - Strongly Disagree 2 = Low - Disagree 3 = Average - Neutral 4 = High - Agree 5 = Excellent - Strongly Agree
Scientific Achievements: Is the project generating new and/or exciting scientific achievements, results, scientific ideas, and/or data?	Comments: This project had an excellent start in 2007 and has been active since then. New research results are reported from Cuba, Hispaniola, Colombia and the Antilles. A meeting was organized in March 2008 in the Dominican Republic during the 18 th Caribbean Geological Conference, followed by a 3-day field trip. A student training course in metamorphic petrology was held in Granada, Spain, in May 2008. It is particularly important that young scientists from Cuba are involved to overcome the scientific isolation of this country. Good cooperation between scientists in the Caribbean region with colleagues from Europe and North America. The list of publications is impressive, as many are in high-impact journals and attest to excellent international cooperation and to significant progress in research. Activities planned for 2009 include a major meeting and training course in Havana, a workshop in the UK and a topical session at GSA in Portland, Oregon. This is a highly active and well-led project with vigorous scientific discussions. Funds in 2008 were mostly spent in supporting scientists from Developing Countries. The website is informative and up-to-date.
Evaluation Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5

<p>Scientific Quality: Is the quality of the work consistent with the scientific objectives of IGCP, UNESCO and IUGS, and does it provide a basis for future research?</p>	<p>Comments: Quality of science is very good and appropriately aligned with IGCP objectives in that the tectonic drivers and petrogenesis of this volcanic arc dominated region have become better known. One might expect that in due course the results of this research will lend themselves to the mitigation of geohazard risk in the area. Project research may also impact on exploration for platinum and Ni placer deposits in the region.</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5</p>
<p>Project Participation: Does the number, the geographic and scientific discipline distribution of the participants meet IGCP standards? (e.g. participation of developing countries)</p>	<p>Comments: The project has made the provision of funding and support for students from the developing world to attend several international meetings and field workshops a priority. Two field workshops took place in the Caribbean (e.g. Cuba, Dominican Republic) & one in South America (Guatemala) attracted a good contingent of students from the local region. Rare chance for Cuban scientists to collaborate internationally..</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5</p>
<p>Project Meetings: Did the project organize/contribute to meetings, conferences, workshops, short courses and other capacity building?</p>	<p>Comments: Very good and successful meetings were organized. One training course in 2008, another planned for 2009.</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5</p>
<p>Project Collaboration: Extent, evidence and appropriateness of project collaboration with other IGCP projects.</p>	<p>Comments: Collaboration with IGCP 524 is envisaged, perhaps via a joint meeting in 2009. But from the report, the project appears to be largely self-contained.</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5</p>
<p>Project Work Plan: The work plan and schedule for the next year is appropriate and feasible.</p>	<p>Comments: Work plan for 2009 is good, with participation in Internet conference in Havana, a training course in Havana.</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5</p>
<p>Project Communication: Scientific publications (e.g. peer-reviewed journals), informal publications (e.g. abstracts, guidebooks, textbooks) and other media (e.g. website, internet access to database, TV programs, exhibits, public briefings for decision makers).</p>	<p>Comments: outstanding list of publications in international literature; field guides were also prepared for the field workshops. It is perhaps too early to gauge full level of engagement with the public and decision-makers although the nature of the subject (subduction begets seismic and other geological risk) would appear to lend itself naturally to engagement with the public. Endorsement of project activities by Costa Rica Government is one case in point and has been publicised on website. Articles promoting young researchers have been released through various media (and also promoted through web-site).</p>
<p>Evaluation Score:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5</p>

Project Website: Content, quality, updated regularly, IGCP/UNESCO/IUGS are recognized, etc.	Comments: Informative and up-to-date. Excellent: easy to navigate and access, up to date with latest activities advertised and promoted, including one story on a young Cuban researcher who has won a place in the University of Mainz PhD program (eg. media release - "brilliant minds").
Evaluation Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
IGCP Funding: The requested funding for next year is appropriate and adequately justified.	Comments: This is a lively and successful project with significant participation from Developing Countries. The project is making a determined effort to engage with the developing world & help train students; the budget requested can be justified if it is mainly directed at further training of students & staff in the region.
Evaluation Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5
External Funds: The extent of external funding is appropriate and sufficient?	Comments: No information supplied, but in-kind support of participating researchers and their home institutions appears to be significant (e.g. access to geochronology facilities in Germany).
Evaluation Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Project Response: The project leaders adequately took into account previous recommendations of the Scientific Board?	Comments: no information supplied
Evaluation Score:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5

RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE ASSESSMENT:

Overall Score: 1 2 3 4 5

Project should (select only one):

- Continue as planned
- Continue with conditions (see below)
- Continue for one additional year only
- Continue on O.E.T. status (no funding)
- Be closed

Comments/Conditions: This project has only recently commenced but already has an impressive volume of international literature to its name. Most of this is in highly respected peer-reviewed international journals, a good measure of the level of new results and data being generated. This project is on track to fulfil its scientific goals and has been particularly active in providing opportunities for young researchers in the developing world to undertake advanced training in the west as well as attend meetings and workshops, most of which have been held in the Caribbean and surrounding Central and South American states to maximum benefit of the local geological community. Training courses are being provided in metamorphic petrology (presumably aspects pertaining directly to subduction zone settings) at minimum cost to students. Further workshops are planned and the project leaders are to be commended for making student training a priority. A request for increased funding that further boosts training of staff and students in the Caribbean region may therefore be warranted. Funding should not be increased for the sole purpose of meeting attendance costs for more established researchers in more developed western nations. Some small subsidy of travel by project leaders to ensure better coordination and organization of the project may nevertheless be inevitable.

Proposal Review: The IGCP Scientific Board

Date: 10-02-2009
