



## OBSERVATORIES TO STUDY HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTIONS

The human-environment observatories (OHM) are a research infrastructure of the Institute for Ecology and Environment of the CNRS. The first one was created in 2007. Today there are thirteen OHM, spread across metropolitan France (6), overseas (2) and abroad (5). They study anthropized systems affected by socio-ecosystemic crises resulting from Global Change and Globalization.

All OHMs are built upon:

- a founding event triggering of human origin that disrupts the entire functioning of an ecosystem;
- the convergence of Earth, Life, Human and Social Sciences in an interdisciplinary approach called "Global Ecology" to address the complexity of the socio-ecosystems under study;
- the development of scientific research to understand the mechanisms at play and to better inform political and economic decision-makers and citizens in their choices for the resolution of ongoing environmental crises.

## A CO-CONSTRUCTION OF THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The creation of an OHM is based on a co-construction of the socio-ecological problematic by all the environmental sciences. This approach promotes and builds the interdisciplinarity required for the implementation of a Global Ecology approach. Thus, the key topics of an OHM are elaborated collegially during its construction, whilst taking into account the demands of the society.

Chenorkian, R., 2020, Conception and implementation of interdisciplinarity in the Human-Environment Observatories (OHM, CNRS). *Nature Science Société*, 28, 3-4, 292-305

Chenorkian, R., 2019, Changements, transitions et contextes écosystémiques très anthropisés, in Bedouret, D, et al. : Actes du colloque « Changements et transitions : enjeux pour les éducations à l'environnement et au développement durable », Toulouse, 7, 8 et 9 novembre 2017.

Chenorkian, R., Abbadie, L., 2017, Is resilience still relevant, in Euzen, A., Laville, B., Thiébault, S., *Adapting to climate change*, Paris, EdiSens.

Chenorkian, R., 2014, Éléments constitutifs des Observatoires Hommes-Milieux, origine et évolutions, in Chenorkian, R. Robert, S., *Les interactions hommes-milieux. Questions et pratiques de la recherche en environnement*, Paris, Quae.

Chenorkian R., 2012, Les Observatoires Hommes-Milieux : un nouveau dispositif pour une approche intégrante des interactions environnements-sociétés et de leurs dynamiques, *Sud-Ouest Européen*, n° 33, p. 3-10.

## OBSERVATORIES DEDICATED TO GLOBAL ECOLOGY

The complexity of the socio eco-systems studied within an OHM places the scientists who study them in the role of observers of their functioning. All the questions are developed by embedding all the disciplines of environmental sciences. Data stemming from such research are therefore more robust than the data obtained from the classical observation of the systems.

## OHM ARE CONSTRUCTED BASED ON STRICT CRITERIA

Any OHM is constructed on three criteria all of anthropic origin:

- A *social-ecological framework*, also known as a structuring fact, resulting from the characteristics of the ecosystem,
- A *founding event*, corresponding to a past, present or future event, which disrupts the essential functioning of the ecosystem,
- A *focal object* on which are focused all the reaserches undertaken in the OHM by all the environmental sciences.

## A NEW INTERDISCIPLINARITY

The OHM/DRIIHM system and its engineering enable the disciplines to be opened and attentive to other disciplines and research. It is a heuristic posture of openness, designed to facilitate relations between disciplines. The convergence of all towards the same object allows each to be enriched by the contributions of others. This "spirit of openness" (indisciplinarity) and the possible integration of results from other disciplines leads to an "enlightened disciplinarity" that is much easier to achieve and implement than a possible interdisciplinarity.

## LOCALLY FOCUSED RESEARCH

OHM develop their activity at the local level, which is the level of the observed object and the level where societal actions take place.

Although all scales of time and space are taken into account in the development of research, it is on this local level that the design and implementation of research projects carried out in an OHM are based. It is also where most of the research-society interactions take place, from the construction of the research to the reporting of the results.

## FURTHER INFORMATION



## CONTACTS

Stéphane Blanc (Scientific and Technical Manager of DRIIHM): stephane.blanc@cnrs-dir.fr

Robert Chenorkian (INEE scientific advisor to the OHM): robert.chenorkian@univ-amu.fr

Corinne Pardo (Project manager Engineering and Governance): corinne.pardo@univ-amu.fr

Mathieu Massaviol (fomatic and data project manager): mathieu.massaviol@univ-amu.fr

## ADDRESS

FR 3098 ECCOREV

Europôle méditerranéen de l'Arbois

Bâtiment du CEREGE - BP 80

13545 Aix-en-Provence Cedex 4

<https://www.driihm.fr/>