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**ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY AT THE GLOBAL  
SCALE**

Concern over the effects of chemicals in the environment on the health of man and animals is growing as rapid economic and population growth extends such problems as land degradation, pollution and urbanization from industrialized nations to the developing world.

The Global (International) Geochemical Mapping programme has developed from earlier work as part of the IGCP 259 and 360 Projects between 1988-1996. The new programme is aimed at establishing an international geochemical database, and facilitating the adoption of standardized methods of geochemical mapping and preparation of international reference materials as a basis for the compilation of geochemical data at national and regional scales. The work will form the basis for sustainable environmental and resource management into the next millenium.