

Future Earth: update on implementation

Frans Berkhout
WCRP JSC, Heidelberg
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Outcomes of Rio+20

- Commitment to develop **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- Creation of UN **Scientific Advisory Board**
- **Future Earth** programme

Science & Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability



ICSU

International Council for Science



UNITED NATIONS
UNIVERSITY

futurearth
research for global sustainability



international social science council



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF
FUNDING AGENCIES FOR
GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH



What is Future Earth?

A **global platform** for scientific collaboration

- Enables **integrated research** on grand challenges and transformations to sustainability
- Strengthens **partnerships** between researchers, funders and users of research
- **Solutions-oriented**, building knowledge needed to accelerate transformations to sustainability
- **Communicates** science to society and society to science

Why a global platform?

- Heavy research **infrastructure**
 - Earth observations and data
- **Internationalisation** of science and engagement
 - Secular trend across science
- **Epistemic fit**
 - The scale of research must align with the global scale and connectedness of problems and solutions
- **Leveraging** resources
 - To leverage research across science systems in period of pressure on science budgets

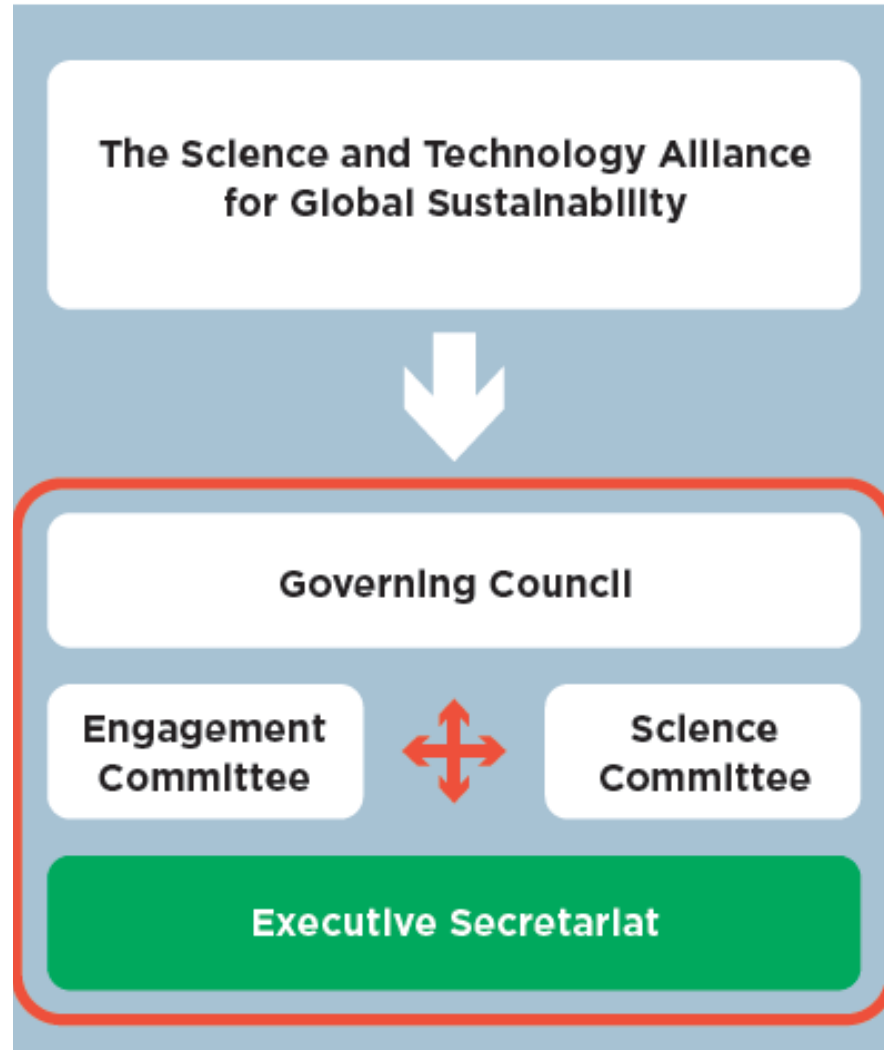
Our objective

To **build** and **connect** global knowledge to intensify the **impact** of research and find new ways of **accelerating** sustainable development

Two primary aims

- Integration of science
- Co-production of knowledge

A. Future Earth Governance



Completing the architecture

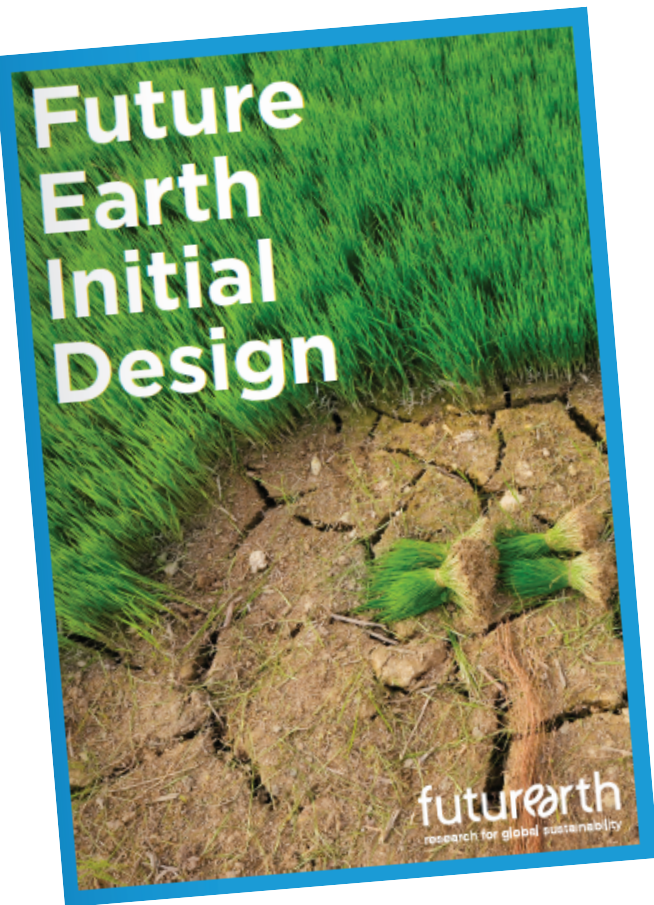
- **Science Committee:** announced July 2014
- **Interim Engagement Committee:** Nov 2014
- **Engagement Committee:** announcement expected Sept 2014
- **Future Earth Council:** announcement expected Sept 2014
- **Executive Secretariat:** announcement of preferred bidders yesterday
- **Core project affiliation:** transition process working smoothly (transition statement, MOU)

GEC Programmes

- **International Human Dimensions Programme**
(ended June 2014)
- **Diversitas** (ends December 2014)
- **International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme**
(ends December 2015)

- **World Climate Research Programme**

B. Phased science strategy



- **2025 vision: Success Factors for Future Earth**
Publish Q4-2014
- **Strategic Research Agenda 2014: Agenda-setting for funders**
Launch Q3-2014
- **Short-term initiatives: Fast track initiatives and cluster activities**
Launch Q2-2014

Strategic Research Agenda

- Request from Belmont Forum (September 2013)
- Medium term (3-5 year) research priorities
- Launched in Oct 2014 (then every 2-3 years)
 - a. Consultation with the GEC research community projects
 - b. Engagement with external stakeholders and new communities
 - c. An assessment of recent and on-going priority-setting processes relating to global change and sustainability

Short-term Initiatives

- Fast Track Initiatives and Clusters
 - Funding from NSF
 - 52 proposals received
- 8-10 initiatives funded (~\$100k)
 - Global nitrogen cycle
 - Biodiversity observation
 - Seasonal and sub-seasonal forecasts for Africa
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C. Engaging stakeholders

- **Engagement White Paper:** to be published Q3
- **Science-Policy engagement:** Scoping and safeguarding on-going engagement; responding to new opportunities (UN Climate Summit, SRA launch, SDGs, HFA)
- **Future Earth Forum:** New York, 24th September
 - Theme: *Global Change and Global Risk*

D. Creating awareness

- **Messaging and communications strategy:**
Completed
- **Implementing strategy:** Focus on key events (ESG conference, Climate Summit, Forum), major outputs (SRA) and audiences (funders, business)
- **Website and Blog:** Launched and active

E. Attracting new resources

- **Funding for short-term initiatives**
- **Dialogue with development funders (ICSU-led)**
- **ISSC T2S programme (ISSC-led)**
- **New funding model:** Informing Belmont Forum discussions at their October 2014 meeting

Future Earth and WCRP

- More connected problems requires more connected science
- Governments, business and civil society expect a more joined-up science community
- Climate science is vital to all of Future Earth
- WCRP's own objectives are well-served through a close relationship with Future Earth



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