

Future Earth: update on implementation

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Science Council of Japan conference

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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



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

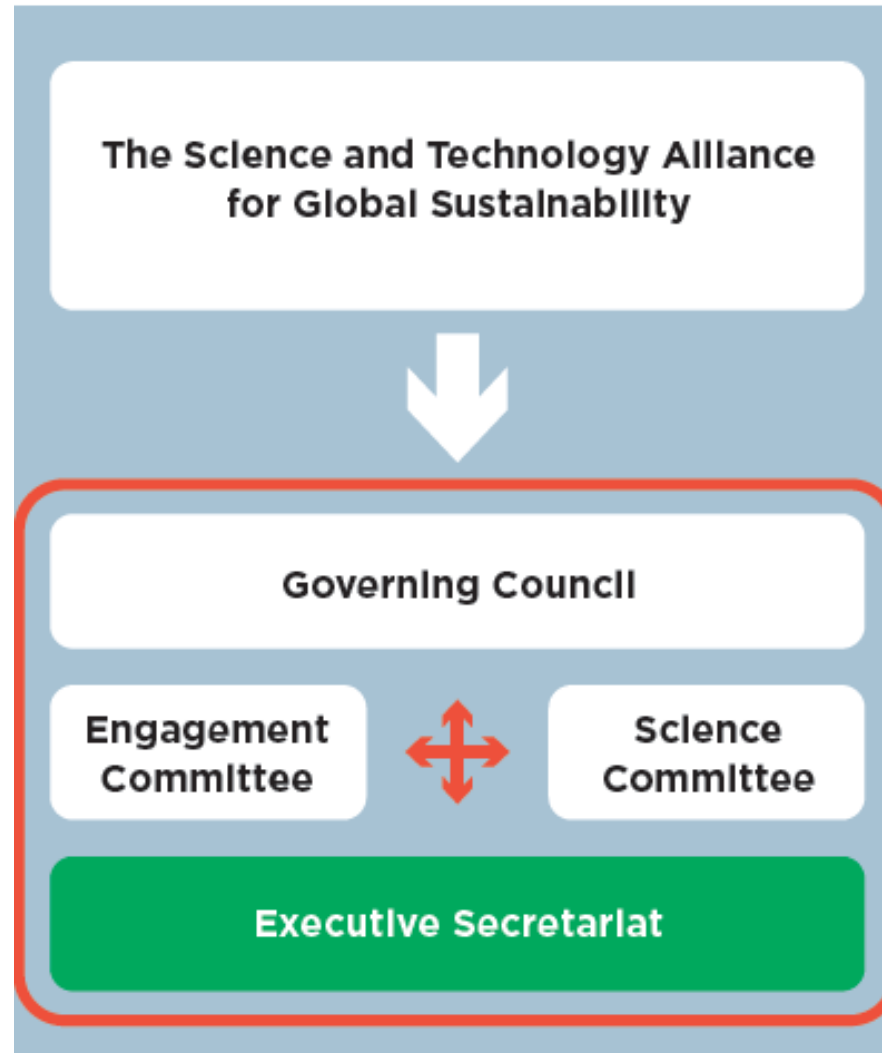
Our objective

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



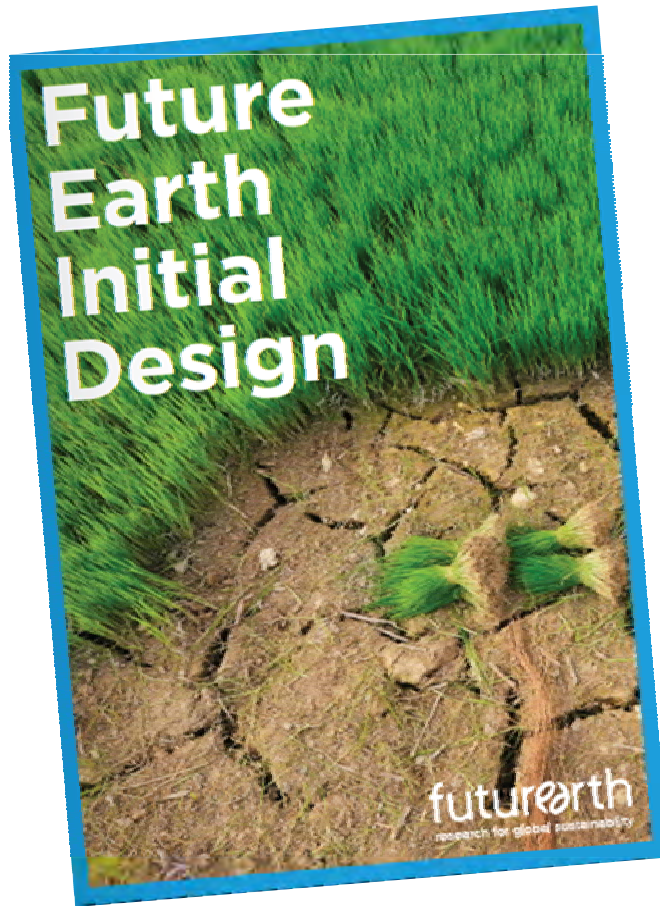
Completing the architecture

- **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, 3rd July 2014
- **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



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