

Background information on Future Earth

Future Earth is a 10-year programme on global environmental change and sustainable development launched in 2012 at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). Future Earth brings together around 70,000 researchers internationally and builds on over two decades of successful international science collaboration in the International Geosphere-Biosphere (IGBP), Diversitas (a global research programme on biodiversity), International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Future Earth will coordinate new, interdisciplinary approaches to research, and will be a platform for international engagement to ensure that knowledge is generated in partnership with society and users of science. It is open to scientists of all disciplines, natural and social, as well as engineering, the humanities and law.

An interim Secretariat for Future Earth was established in July 2013 at the offices of ICSU (the International Council for Science) in Paris. Professor Frans Berkhout is interim Director of Future Earth. In 2015 the Future Earth Secretariat will transition to a permanent structure with offices located in France (Paris), Sweden (Stockholm), Canada (Montreal), Japan (Tokyo), and the United States (Boulder, Colorado), in addition to four regional offices which today cover the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

Future Earth is governed by the members of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability (the Alliance), an informal international alliance of the Belmont Forum (of which the European Commission will be a co-chair from February 2015), ICSU (International Council of Science), ISSC (International Social Science Council), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), UNU (United Nations University) and the WMO (World Meteorological Organisation). The Alliance is committed to making full use of science and technology to inform equitable, sustainable solutions to the most pressing issues currently confronting humankind. Its members envision a sustainable world where decision-making is informed by the best available scientific evidence and knowledge. By working together, the Alliance members will fulfil this mission by promoting interdisciplinary research and facilitating partnerships between the scientific community, political bodies, the business sector and civil society.

Background information on the Strategic Research Agenda 2014

The Strategic Research Agenda 2014 was published by Future Earth in December 2014, following a year-long consultation with scientists and societal stakeholders. The document calls for a step-change in research to address serious environmental, social and economic threats. It urges the private sector, governments and civil society to work with researchers to co-design and co-produce a more agile global innovation system.

More info: Future Earth Strategic Research Agenda:

<http://www.futureearth.org/news/future-earth-strategic-research-agenda-2014-published>