

Future Earth: solution-driven, interdisciplinary and stakeholder-engaging research for global sustainability

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Recent political developments of global scope, most evidently the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, have stressed the urgency for solution-oriented knowledge that supports our transformations to a sustainable world. The new international research coordination platform Future Earth aims to facilitate the generation of such knowledge. Apart from the focus on solutions, the strategy also includes broadening of the interdisciplinary range across natural and social sciences and the humanities and to involve stakeholders of sustainability research more centrally in co-designing the research plans and co-producing the output. Several initial successful examples where research contributes to societally pressing issues and manages to engage with decision makers at various levels encourage the further development of a new culture of sustainability research with a worldwide network of researchers and stakeholders. The main vehicle for carrying out knowledge generation in Future Earth will be Knowledge-Action Networks. A first set of eight of them are now being launched on the topics food-water-energy nexus, natural assets, cities, health, oceans, finance and economy, transformations, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

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