

futurearth  
research for global sustainability

## Objective

To provide the knowledge required for societies in the world to face risks posed by global environmental change and to seize opportunities in a transition to global sustainability

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## Grand Challenges for Science

- Planetary stewardship
- Social equity
- Human well-being and security

A new sense of urgency and pressure to contribute to real-world problem solving



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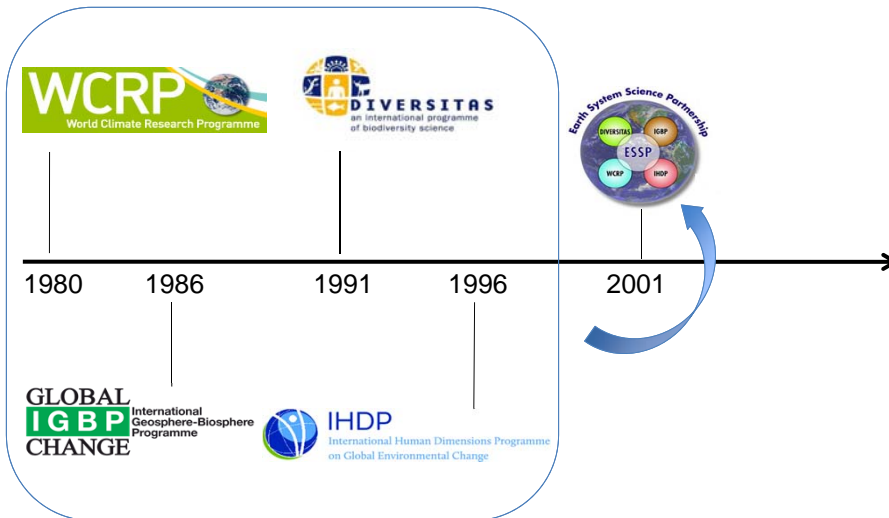
## Complex Challenges

- Feeding 9 billion people within sustainable planetary boundaries
- Valuing and protecting nature's services and biodiversity
- Transitioning to low carbon societies
- Adapting to a warmer and more urban world

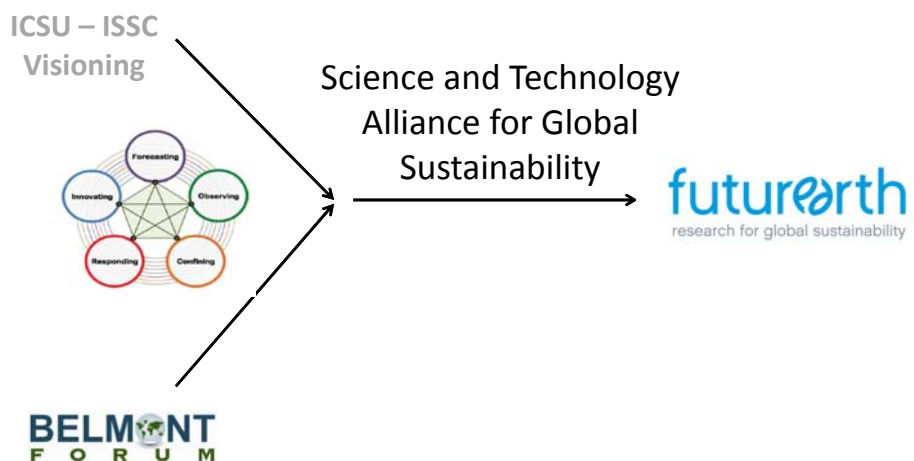


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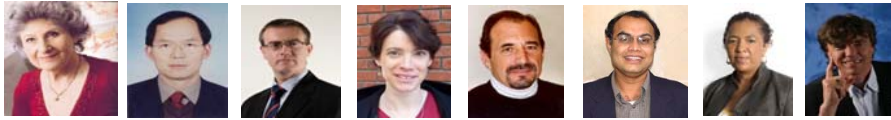
## Origins of Future Earth



## Developing Future Earth



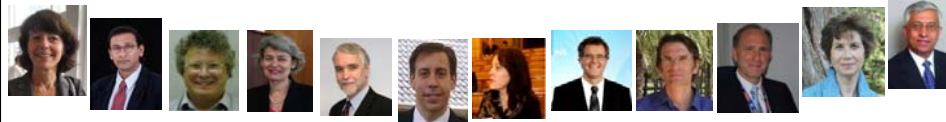
## Transition Team, 2011-2012



Many disciplines, sectors, regions



for a co-design effort

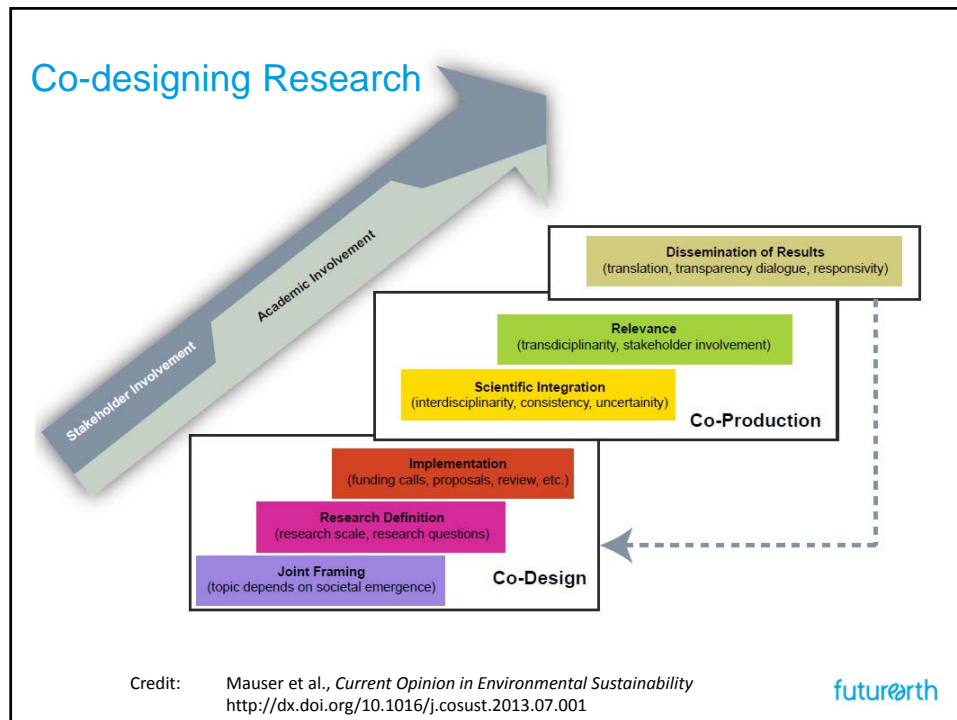


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## What is Future Earth?

- A **global platform** for international research collaboration on global environmental change and sustainable development
- Provides **integrated research** on major global change challenges and transformations to sustainability
- Strengthens partnerships between researchers, funders and users of research through **co-design** of research
- Is **solutions-oriented**, aiming to generate knowledge that contributed to new more sustainable ways of doing things

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## Research Themes

1. Dynamic Planet
2. Global Development
3. Transformations towards Sustainability

**Dynamic Planet**

Projecting Environment

**Approaches and Models**

drivers

observing

societal system

- **States and Trends**

explaining

understanding

**Critical Zones**

coasts

tropical forests

polar regions

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**Global Development**

clean air

**Stewardship of resources**

mining

materials

biodiversity

- **Ecosystem services**

Trade-offs

climate change

fisheries

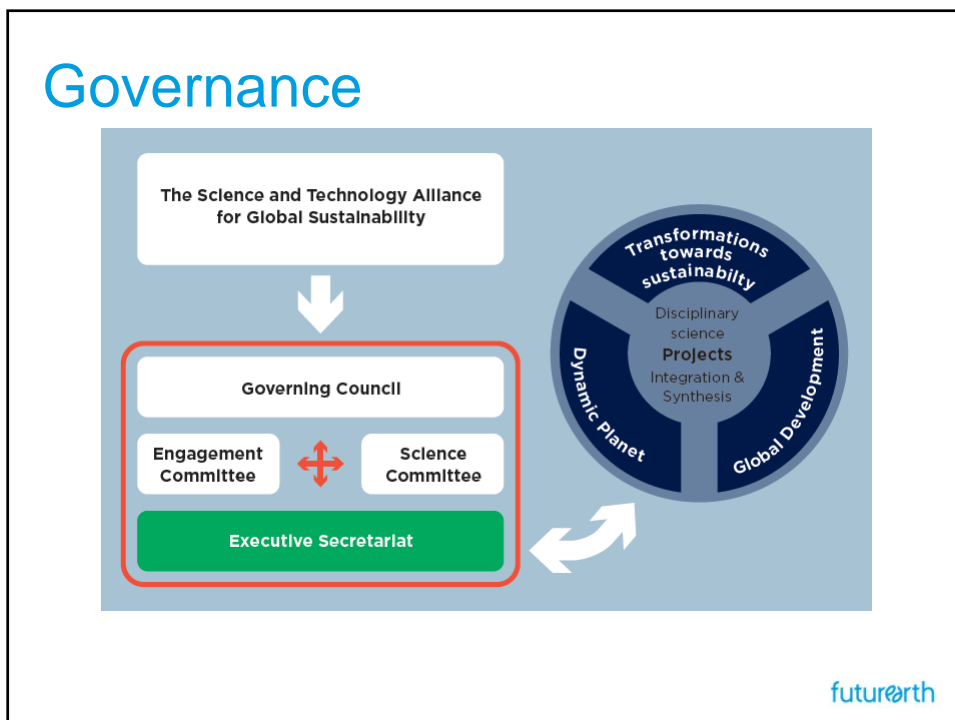
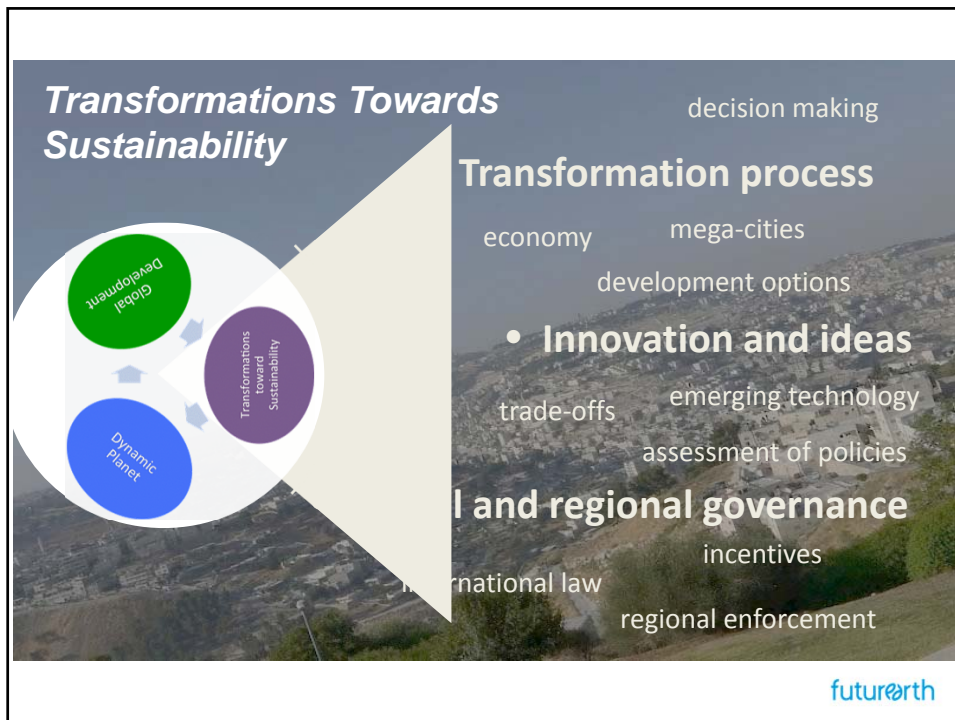
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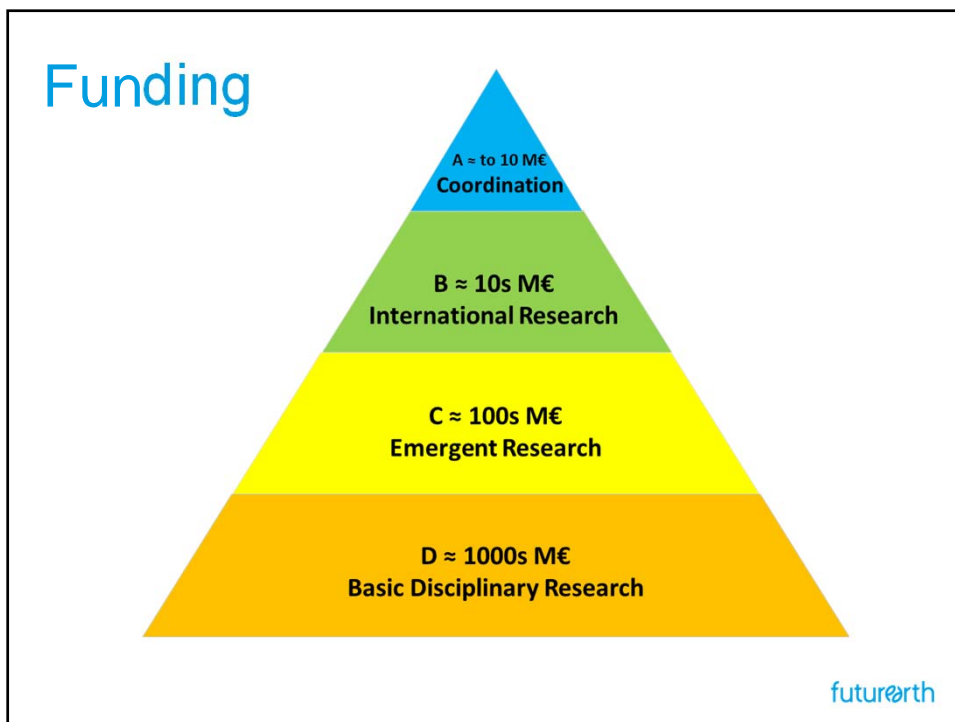
food security

water availability

healthy environment

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## Current status

### Recent

- Scientific Committee established
- Interim Engagement Committee established
- Interim Secretariat
  - Director appointed and secretariat hosted by ICSU in Paris, France



### Short-term priorities

- Further develop Future Earth governance
- Bring GEC projects into Future Earth
- Launch new Future Earth projects and initiatives
- Consolidate Future Earth communications and brand
- Attract new resources into Future Earth science and action

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Website: [www.icsu.org/future-earth](http://www.icsu.org/future-earth)  
Blog: [www.futureearth.info](http://www.futureearth.info)  
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