

Dear DKN Community,

with this newsletter, we would like to keep you up to date about activities of the German Committee Future Earth (Deutsches Komitee für Nachhaltigkeitsforschung, DKN) and its partners as well as about interesting initiatives, events and calls within the German and international sustainability science community.

In case you have any questions, inquiries or news that might be interesting for our community, please contact us via info@dkn-future-earth.de.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to interested colleagues. In case you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter, please write us a note or use the link at the bottom of this e-mail.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas time as well as a healthy and happy 2021.

With best regards,

German Committee Future Earth / DKN

News December 2020

DKN

New DKN working groups started

The three new DKN working groups started their work in November:

- Modelling Human-EnviRonMental InTeractions In the ANthropocene (HERMITIAN) (contact: Prof. Dr. Julia Pongratz, Prof. Dr. Victor Brovkin)
- Anticipating and Transforming Coastal Futures (contact: Dr. Sebastian Ferse, Dr. Louis Celliers)
- Sustainable, transformative and circular bioeconomy (contact: Prof. Dr. Daniela Thrän, Uwe Fritsche)

The interdisciplinary groups will discuss and identify new approaches in their respective research fields within the coming 2 years. Please find more details about the groups, their members and working programmes [here](#).

Science Platform Sustainability 2030 (wpn2030)

Statement on the dialogue version of the German Sustainability

Strategy

The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 welcomes the dialogue version of the German Sustainability Strategy as well as the chance for interested parties and individuals to comment on it. The current statement builds on the two earlier published discussion papers "Nachhaltig aus der Corona-Krise!" and "Bitte Wenden!". Please find more information and the full statement [here](#).

Recommendations on sustainable work

The Science Platform Sustainability 2030 published recommendations for the Federal Government on fostering sustainable work. The recommendations were worked out by a transdisciplinary working group. The authors call for a new understanding of what constitutes "good work" and urge policymakers to use the German Sustainable Development Strategy as a framework to promote sustainable work comprehensively. Please find more information on the report [here](#).

Future Earth

Future Earth in transition

Recognising that scaling up global sustainability science is an urgent and crucial step towards transforming our relationship with the environment, it was a busy year for Future Earth.

Starting with the Future Earth Summit in June, a community-led process was initiated to figure out a new, transparent and effective structure for the work ahead. An Implementation Team made up of representatives from all entities is working to implement mechanisms, processes and policies for a successful transition.

A first step in the transition will be to create opportunities for more countries and regions to join Future Earth, e.g. by joining or leading the Future Earth Global Secretariat. Please find the pre-announcement for the Call for expressions of Interest to host a Future Earth Global Secretariat Hub [here](#).

At the same time governance structures are re-worked. Starting in mid-2021, Future Earth will be governed by a new Governing Council, selected from a new structure, the Future Earth Assembly, which will have representatives from all entities in the Future Earth Community. For more details, please check the [Future Earth Website](#) or see the blog posts by the [Implementation Team Chair Cornelia Krug](#) as well as [the co-chair of the Governing Council Maria Uhle](#).

Future Earth and WCRP partner to jointly address major societal challenges

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and Future Earth are initiatives that are driven by visions of creating a more equitable, sustainable, and resilient world. There have long been areas of synergy between the two initiatives on many levels, but this has largely taken place organically and on an ad hoc basis. Now Future Earth and WCRP

have announced a partnership to jointly address major societal challenges. Please see more on the joint statement [here](#) and [here](#).

New Earth Commission Working Group to focus on the challenges of cross-scale translation

A new Earth Commission Working Group on Translation and Methods will investigate the challenges of translating global scale targets into concrete and actionable targets for local actors. It will deliver an assessment chapter on current methodologies and issues related to cross-scale translation for the Earth Commission synthesis report. Please find more details on the Earth Commission and its new working group [here](#).

Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress 2021: Abstract deadline extended to 1 January 2021

Session proposals under the sub-theme "Dealing with systemic risk" will be accepted until 1 January 2021. Please find more information [here](#).

Call to host Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress 2022, deadline 31 March 2021

Future Earth and the Belmont Forum are seeking hosts interested in joining as core convenors in the development of the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress 2022 (SRI2022). SRI2022 will represent a new type of accessible, green and truly global multi-location event, with several inter-connected SRI hubs scattered across the globe. Please find more information [here](#).

Further News

National

New FONA strategy

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research published its new strategy on research for sustainability ("Forschung für Nachhaltigkeit", FONA). With the new strategy, the ministry doubles research funding, reaching four billion Euro for the coming five years. Please find more information [here](#).

New opportunity to compensate for CO₂ emissions within DFG funded activities

The German Research Foundation (DFG) is making a further contribution to foster sustainability. In the future, compensation payments for CO₂ emissions arising from business trips undertaken within DFG-funded projects as well as by DFG staff, members of statutory bodies and reviewers will be possible. The decision by the Joint Science Conference of the federal and state governments (GWK – Gemeinsame Wissenschaftskonferenz) resulted from a joint initiative of the Alliance of Science Organisations in Germany facilitated by the DFG. Please find more information [here](#).

New council on bioeconomy

DKN member Prof. Dr. Imme Scholz and DKN working group spokesperson Prof. Dr.-Ing. Daniela Thrän are among the 20 members of the new council on bioeconomy appointed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Please find more information [here](#).

German Advisory Council on the Environment (SRU) calls for action on sustainability

The SRU published a discussion paper that calls parties for action on sustainability. The authors name sustainability as a task of historic dimension and call all parties to address the topic in the upcoming election campaigns in 2021. Please find more details as well as the complete paper [here](#).

German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU) presents new report on land-use

On 3 November 2020 the WBGU presented its latest report entitled 'Rethinking Land in the Anthropocene: from Separation to Integration' to Federal Ministers Anja Karliczek (Education and Research) and Svenja Schulze (Environment). The key message of the report is that climate-change mitigation can only succeed, the dramatic loss of biodiversity can only be averted, and the global food system can only be made sustainable, if there is a fundamental change in the way we manage land. Please find more information [here](#).

Call for proposals by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

The Ministry announced several calls, e.g. on the following topics

- [Cluster4Future](#) (regional innovation networks), deadline for proposal drafts is 16 February 2021
- [Bioeconomy](#) (consolidation phase for setup of monitoring system), deadline for proposals is 30 April 2021

International

Review of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report second order draft of Working Group II

The second order draft (SOD) of the Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report Climate Change 2021: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability is open for expert review until 29 January 2021. The deadline for registrations to submit input is 22 January 2021. Please find more information on the [process](#) and [registration](#) here.

Priority themes for Swiss sustainability research

The Swiss Academy of Arts and Sciences outlines Switzerland's most urgent research needs in order to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals in a "White Paper on Sustainability Research". The priority themes were developed by 30 experts from science and practice on the basis of a broad-based dialogue with over 100 stakeholders from science, business, administration and civil society. Please find the full report [here](#).

Handbook on the use of biodiversity scenarios

In the framework of their Joint Action on Scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services, BiodivERsA and the Belmont Forum produced a Handbook on the use of biodiversity scenarios in support of decision-making. Please find more information as well as the handbook for download [here](#).

The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change

The Lancet Countdown is an international collaboration established to provide an independent, global monitoring system dedicated to tracking the emerging health profile of the changing climate. The report presents 43 indicators across the sections climate change impacts, exposures, and vulnerabilities; adaptation, planning, and resilience for health; mitigation actions and health co-benefits; economics and finance; and public and political engagement. Please find more information as well as the report for download [here](#).

Events

8 April 2021

[3rd World Symposium on Sustainability Science and Research](#), abstract deadline 20 January 2021

20 – 22 April 2021

[DLR Conference on Climate Change: Research in the light of the Paris Agreement](#)

12 – 15 June 2021

[Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021](#)

14 -18 June 2021

[6th International EcoSummit Congress](#)

17 -18 June 2021

[Transformations 2021: Enabling positive tipping points in an uncertain world](#), abstract deadline 1 March 2021

8 – 9 July 2021

[German Future Earth Summit](#)

Please also note the following upcoming events in German language:

18 January 2021

[8. Nationales IPBES Forum](#)

15 March 2021

[12. Deutsche Klimatagung](#)

18 March 2021

[tF-Symposium 2021: Vom Experiment zum Mainstream](#)

23 -24 March 2021

[Deutsche IPCC Jahrestagung](#)