futureearth and the Science-Policy Nexus: Co-designing a solutions-oriented science for global sustainable development

Jon Padgham, Future Earth Secretariat / START
Sandrine Paillard, Future Earth Secretariat

What is Future Earth?
What is Future Earth?

An international research programme for global sustainability
What is Future Earth?

Built on 30 years of international research
What is Future Earth?

Supporting research on the planet’s most pressing challenges
What is Future Earth?

- International
- Inter and trans-disciplinary
- Excellent and Solution-oriented
- Global in scope, relevant at local level
Main instruments:

Knowledge-Action Networks

- Health
- Decarbonisation
- Oceans
- Natural assets
- Water-Energy-Food Nexus
- SDGs
- Finance & Economics
- Cities
- Transformations
- SDGs

Collaborative frameworks that facilitate integrative sustainability research with the aim to generate the multifaceted knowledge required to inform solutions for complex societal issues
Nexus Knowledge-Action Network

• Providing a **platform for integration and collaboration** between existing communities working on the Nexus

• Developing crosscutting activities that enhance integration and synergies, and bring added value

• **Fostering the generation of knowledge** to understand:
  - Interactions between water, energy and food systems (accounting for both their natural and social dimensions)
  - How synergies and trade-offs can be better managed

  With the goal to deliver water, energy and food for all in a sustainable and equitable way
Co-designing the Research and Engagement Plan

- What are the **key research** questions?
- **How to best produce and share knowledge** on the Nexus?

A Development Team

**Global Research Programmes:**
- Global Land Project
- Sustainable Water Future Programme
- Integrated Land Ecosystem – Atmosphere Processes Study
- Analysis Integration and Modelling of the Earth System
- EcoServices
- Earth System Governance
- Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society

**Future Earth Regional Centers**
- The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
- The Food, Energy, Environment, Water Nexus Network

Working in interaction with a wider community through:

- The **Future Earth Open Network**
- **Scoping events**
- The **Food-Water-Energy Nexus Dialogues in Africa**
Food-Water-Energy Nexus Dialogues in Africa

Four-year effort in West Africa; regional dialogues in North Africa

- Regional priority setting on nexus issues
- Knowledge assessment: tradeoffs, synergies and institutional responses
- Capacity building: transdisciplinary approaches to nexus planning

Collaboration with
Thank you very much