

Governance Plan of the Future Earth Health Knowledge Action Network

(Working Draft Feb 2017)

1. Purpose of the Future Earth Health Knowledge Action Network (Health KAN)

1.1 Vision

Support and enable solution-driven transdisciplinary research in conjunction with key stakeholders to improve understanding of the links between health and the environment and to lead to holistic solutions of global challenges for human health and environmental sustainability.

1.2 Mission

Connect and engage with the global communities of health, other research disciplines, policy-makers, educators, civil society, media, industry, donors, and representatives of those who might be affected, to advance research and build capacity for *generating, synthesizing and implementing* research evidence on health and the environment and *evaluating* the impacts of potential solutions to global challenges.

1.3 Structure

Knowledge-Action Networks (KANs) are open and inclusive frameworks largely driven by the research community and users of research findings.

For operational purposes, Health KAN has the following structures:

Development Team: to lead the planning and execution of the initial scoping for a limited time period (~one year), and the establishment of the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee: to establish the objectives of the Health KAN and to organize activities to achieve the objectives.

Advisory group: to provide guidance and feedback on strategic directions, priorities and progress towards agreed objectives, and facilitate and extend network of experts and institutions in and outside of research communities. It is also expected to have visions of continuity through progressing stages of this KAN and also certain flexibilities as a specific structural component to Health KAN.

2. Membership

Members of all above structures will be invited from the global environmental change and health research communities and from the wider stakeholder communities relevant to the overall Mission of the Health KAN. The groups will aim for a balanced representation of disciplines, gender and regions. Additional considerations include transdisciplinary science expertise; and a reasonable balance between external and internal Future Earth communities.

2.1 The Development Team and Steering Committee

The Development Team and the Steering Committee will consist of 10-20 members from the research community and from the wider stakeholder community relevant to the overall Mission of the Health KAN. Both groups will aim for a balanced representation of appropriate disciplines, gender and regional diversity. Additional considerations include transdisciplinary science expertise; and a reasonable balance between external and internal Future Earth communities.

2.2 Advisory Group

The Advisory Group will be slightly larger (maximum of 25) with a broad range of perspectives, although with a smaller time commitment to the KAN.

2.3 Eligibility

2.3.1 Steering Committee

The Committee should have members from the internal Future Earth community, and from external partners who could add expertise to the Network. The following criteria will be assessed in selecting the overall membership of the Steering Committee with individual members being expected to fulfil some of them:

- Demonstrable track record in a field relevant to the Health KAN using transparent selection criteria
- Well-networked at the international and/or regional level to support the implementation of the KAN
- Experience in engaging different stakeholder groups
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- Willingness and ability to fundraise for the Knowledge-Action Network
- Experience in international collaborative work
- Experience with innovative approaches to addressing sustainability issues across sectors/practices and contexts, such as;
 - Public policy-making
 - International development
 - Business and industry
 - Science-policy fora
 - Civil society
 - Funders (public and private)
 - Early career scientists
- In addition members will be expected to have :
- availability and motivation to serve the Future Earth KAN (e.g. dedicating several hours a month, participating in a monthly online meeting and occasionally a workshop)

Interest and willingness in working collaboratively across sectors and cultures

2.3.2 Advisory Group

Similar qualities as above, but broader perspectives. The Advisory Group is intended to extend the network of experts and institutions but will have a lower time commitment to the KAN.

Long term representation could be considered from certain organizations such as WHO and UNEP, or additional members could be actively sought for from academic disciplines that are lacking in the other FE bodies or representing wider civil society perspectives.

2.4 Application and Selection of Members

Nominations should be submitted for approval to the Future Earth Secretariat, who will consult with Future Earth's Scientific and Engagement committees, as well as existing KAN members (or the Development KAN before the KAN has been launched), before approving or seeking changes to membership.

2.4.1 Steering Committee

Selection of Steering Committee members should involve responses to a request for an expression of interest, i.e.:

- A Call for Expression of Interest to the Future Earth internal community
- A Call for Expression of interest to the global research and stakeholder communities (website, mailing lists and the Future Earth Open Network)

2.4.3 Advisory Group

Members of the Advisory Group will be nominated for their expertise/ organization/ professional standing, and chosen through a transparent process. However, initial members are nominated by Development Team of Health KAN and Future Earth Secretariat, from the viewpoint of efficiency. During the development of the KAN, several more members will be selected through open calls. From the second term of the Advisory Group, a fully open selection process will be undertaken and nominations should be submitted for approval to the Future Earth Secretariat, who will consult with Future Earth's Scientific and Engagement committees, as well as existing KAN members, before approving or seeking changes to membership.

2.5 Termination of Membership

The Development Team will be terminated at the launch of the official Health KAN, when the Steering Committee begins.

Membership in Steering Committee shall terminate upon occurrence of the following:

- A. Resignation.
- B. Failure to participate in at least 2 teleconferences per annum
- C. After 3 years in team, with one renewal

Membership of Advisory Group shall be rotated by half, after a term of 2 years with the option for one two-year renewal.

3. Officers of the Future Health KAN

3.1 Officers.

The Officers of the Health KAN shall be a Chair and Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, with additional support from KAN Coordinators (early career volunteer scientists). The Chair and Co-Chair shall be appointed by Future Earth following an open process of nominations by the Committee. A Chair-elect will be elected one year prior to the end of term of the Chair.

3.1.1 Term of office

The terms of the Chair and Co-Chair shall be two years, with the opportunity of renewal (therefore maximum of 4 years). Initially, this process will be staggered, such that officers are randomly allocated a 2 or 3-year renewal.

3.1.2 Tenure of office

Each Officer shall serve until the installation of their duly-elected successor.

3.1.3 Vacancies

An ad interim vacancy in any office shall be filled according to the rules outlined in this document.

3.2 Nominations and Elections of Officers

Nominations and Election of Officers will be supported by the Future Earth Secretariat.

4. Role of Future Earth

(text from Knowledge Action Network – Framing and Operationalisation)

Oversight: The Future Earth SC/EC and Secretariat representatives on the Steering Group oversee the running and operation of the Knowledge-Action Networks and report to their committees, on the basis of which the SC/EC monitors progress. The overall SC/EC provides strategic guidance. The Governing Council of Future Earth is the ultimate approval body with regard to major structural and strategic changes.

Management: Overall management lies with the Steering Group and, if applicable, additional management staff that has been put in place by the Knowledge-Action Network leaders. Designated representatives of the Future Earth Secretariat support the management of each Knowledge-Action Network.

Support: The Future Earth Secretariat ensures the continuous progress of the Knowledge-Action Networks through coordination and help in identifying new actors and communities of researchers, stakeholders and decision makers, and through communication, synthesis coordination, capacity building, engagement support, event organisation, online tools, and technical support.

5. Code of Conduct

While promoting representation of diverse viewpoints, members of all of facets of the Health Knowledge-Action Network community agree to maintain respectful communications without regard to age, gender, ethnicity, race, geographic, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or religious and political beliefs and affiliation. Communications should be constructive and avoid disparaging of individuals. This extends to communications on the Open Network.