

Call for Nominations

World-leading scientists sought for the Earth Commission

Future Earth is seeking nominations of experts for the Earth Commission. The Commissioners will provide the scientific insights needed to develop science-based targets for a stable and resilient planet. The deadline for nominations is 23 April 2019.

Human activities are accelerating changes in the Earth system at a scale and pace that is pushing the planet out of a safe operating space for humanity. Urgent action is needed to slow, and even stop, the change. To avoid the most dangerous consequences of climate change, the world's nations have agreed to limit rise of global average temperatures to well below 2 C degrees. This science-based target has provided the critical guide for action - but science-based targets are missing for other parts of the Earth system. The mission of the Earth Commission is to synthesize the science needed to set targets that can help societies, cities and companies contribute to maintain the functioning life support systems of Earth: land, biodiversity, freshwater, oceans.

The Earth Commission's synthesis will be central for informing the work of a new Science Based Targets Network developing methodologies for companies and cities to set specific science-based targets to guide policies and practice. The Commission and the Science Based Targets Network are parts of The Global Commons Alliance, a network of organisations aiming to ensure our planet remains habitable.

The Earth Commission is convened by Future Earth which will host its scientific secretariat in collaboration with Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). The Commission was initiated by the Global Environmental Facility, IIASA, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Stockholm Resilience Centre, the World Economic Forum and the World Resources Institute.

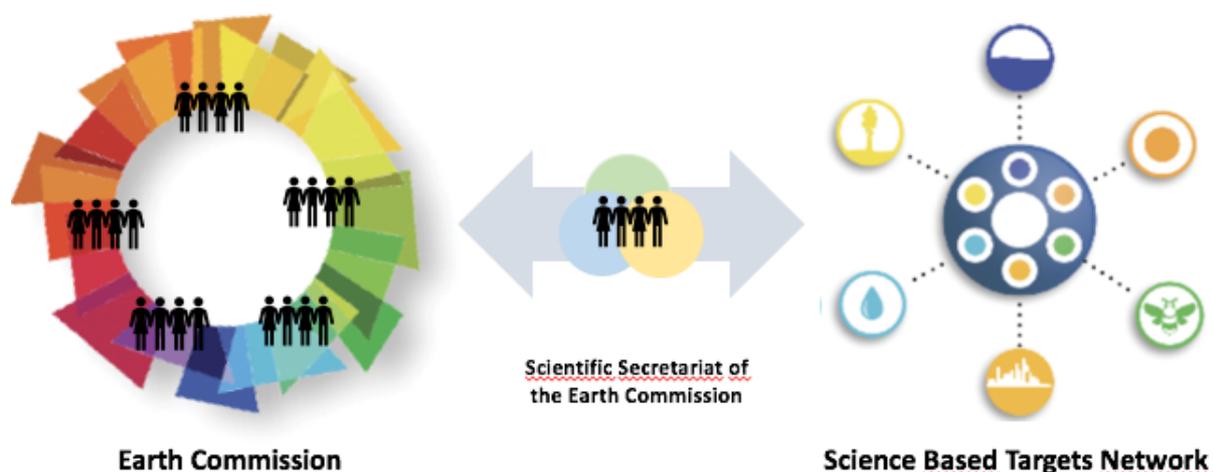


Figure: The Earth Commission and its working groups will be supported by a scientific secretariat that will facilitate interaction with the Science Based Targets Network

Objective and mission

The core scientific objective of the Earth Commission is to provide a state-of-the-art synthesis of the quantitative boundary conditions (with uncertainty ranges) for the biophysical processes and systems that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system, securing continued functioning life support systems (e.g. for water, land, oceans and biodiversity).

The Commission will also provide knowledge about the levers of transformation that can support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommend metrics to measure progress towards the achievement of targets.

Analyses will be undertaken at the relevant geographical scale (e.g. global, regional, local, or watershed levels) acknowledging that global scale targets are not relevant for all components of the Earth System.

The Commissioners will be supported by working groups of experts undertaking deeper analysis of particular sub-systems and on cross-cutting issues. Working groups will be appointed in a staggered approach as needs are identified by the Commission. Commissioners and working groups will be in regular interaction with the Science Based Targets Network to ensure integration of current science and insights of the Commission into the methodologies for target setting.

For more details, please refer to the Terms of Reference provided at <http://futureearth.org/news/call-nominations-earth-commission>.

Requirements

We invite nominations of experts for the Earth Commission and its working groups. Three co-chairs are in the process of being appointed to lead the Commission. The Commission - and each of its working groups - will consist of up to 20 outstanding, internationally recognized experts covering sustainability science across multiple disciplines. Natural as well as social scientists are sought, with expertise in the different systems and processes that constitute the Earth system. Nominations are encouraged from scientists with experience of traversing disciplines to provide an integrated, systems view.

The Commission will be a well-balanced group of men and women, from different regions of the world. Interdisciplinarity will be highly valued, as well as extensive experience of international collaboration. For the Earth Commission to succeed, it is important that its members are strong collaborators and team players. Although seniority and leadership are crucial, also nominations of outstanding early career researchers are encouraged. Nominees must hold a PhD in a relevant discipline and be fluent in written and spoken English.

Commitment

The Earth Commission will produce a synthesis report, with a scope of approximately 50 pages, to be published in a peer-reviewed journal during 2021. Working groups will also produce peer reviewed publications.

To be a Commissioner is an honorary, voluntary commitment requiring at least 10 percent of working hours for a 2-year period, starting in August/September 2019. The Commissioners will attend at least two in-person meetings, and regular online-meetings as required. Regular interactions with the Science Based Targets Network is required throughout the period of work. This interaction will be facilitated by the scientific secretariat, which will also provide scientific and administrative support.

Nomination and appointment process

Nominations should be made through this form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BBBPHWC>
Self-nominations are possible. If you nominate another person, the nominee must agree.

The members of the Commission will be appointed by Future Earth, and approved by the Global Environmental Facility, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Stockholm Resilience Centre and World Resource Institute.

Deadline for nominations is 23 April 2019.