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Green Room Event

Future Earth - Science on co-producing knowledge for policy

26 June 2014 10:00 - 10:45
Conference Room 11 (Rooftop), UN Complex, Gigiri, Nairobi

Future Earth is the new global research platform providing knowledge and support to accelerate transformations to a sustainable world. It is the first global initiative supported by the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability formed by UN Organisations and funding agencies. Future Earth brings together and integrates four existing global research programmes, mobilizing thousands of scientists, building and connecting global knowledge to intensify the impact of research and find new ways to accelerate sustainable development in the wake of Rio+20. Future Earth will contribute to observation, data and science-policy processes, including IPCC, IPBES and GEO, and could provide scientific data to UNEP Live. Future Earth is a 10-year programme, with implementation starting in 2013.

Progress and prospects for Future Earth will be reported in this Green Room event. Discussion will focus on the synergies between the science-policy interface and co-design under Future Earth, and will examine how Future Earth can most effectively support UNEP activities and other UN organisations.

Provisional agenda

10:00 – 10:05	The Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability and the SDGs Hartwig Kremer, Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP
10:05 – 10:10	Solution-oriented sustainability science – an update on Future Earth Cheikh Mbow, Senior Scientist, (ICRAF) the World Agroforestry Centre Member, Future Earth Science Committee
10:10 – 10:15	Co-design and co-production ensuring stakeholder engagement in the science-policy interface Farooq Ullah, Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum Member, Future Earth interim Engagement Committee
10:15 – 10:20	Science-policy interface in the context of SCP, resource efficiency and decoupling Arab Hoballah, Chief of Sustainable Consumption and Production/SCP, International Resources Panel
10:20 – 10:25	Mainstreaming Natural Capital into Development Decisions: A Cornerstone for Transition towards Sustainability Pushpam Kumar, Chief of Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, UNEP
10:25 – 10:45	Discussion and Questions

For more information on Future Earth, go to www.futureearth.info or follow @futureearth on Twitter

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Speakers:

Arab Hoballah has served as the Chief of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in UNEP since October 2005. He is responsible for mainstreaming Resource Efficiency and SCP policies at local, national, regional and global levels, as well as improving the decision making process. He launched and supervises the implementation of the Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative, the Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities and the Greener Cities Partnership. Arab is currently supervising the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP, the only operational issue that was explicitly adopted in "The Future We Want" at Rio+20.

Hartwig Kremer works as acting chief of the Scientific Assessment Branch and head of Thematic Assessment Section at UNEP. He gives strategic direction to integrated assessments such as the GEO process and engages in the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability aiming to bring the latest scientific findings into UNEP's work. Specifically he looks after water quality such as the Global Monitoring System for Water GEMS, coastal and ocean as well as transboundary waters assessments incl. the Regional Seas. He oversees UNEP's engagement in climate change vulnerability impact and adaptation assessments (PROVIA) and supports the networking and building of communities of practice for UNEP Live. Before joining UNEP in 2013 Hartwig was Chief Executive Officer of "Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone", LOICZ, an Earth system research project and worldwide network currently transitioning to Future Earth.

Pushpam Kumar is Chief, Ecosystem Services Economics Unit, Division of Environment Programme Implementation, UNEP where he works on mainstreaming of the ecosystem services into development policy. He has been engaged in international scientific assessment efforts on biodiversity, ecosystems and climate change. Pushpam was Co-coordinating Lead Author, Responses Working Group for Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and Lead Author for the Fourth Assessment of the IPCC (Mitigation) –recipient of Nobel Peace Prize for 2007. He was also the Scientific Co-coordinator of the Conceptual Framework for the TEEB; and member of the Expert Panel for the National Ecosystem Assessment in UK. An economist by training, Dr Kumar has numerous publications in peer reviewed journals. Currently, he leads GEF supported "Mainstreaming of ecosystem services into development policies (project known as 'Proecoserv'), Coordinates "Inclusive Wealth Report", "Valuation of Options" under Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Partnership and Co-Chairs the Policy and Technical Expert Committee (PTEC) of the World Bank led Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES).

Cheikh Mbow is Senior Scientist on climate change and development at ICRAF, the World Agroforestry Centre based in Nairobi, Kenya. He is also a member of the Future Earth Science Committee. He is a regional expert on disturbances of savanna vegetative systems, particularly the impact of bush fires and other land cover changes in rural areas. He has experience with above-ground carbon stock assessments, the use of vegetation inventory for carbon models, and the monitoring of vegetative communities. He coordinated the GOFC-GOLD Regional Network for West Africa (WARN) and worked in several regional programs such as AMMA, UNDESERT projects, for the Global Atlas of the convention on Desertification, the GBO3 and for OSS.

Farooq Ullah is Executive Director of Stakeholder Forum, an international organisation working to enhance the participation of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes on sustainable development. He is also a member of the Future Earth interim Engagement Committee. Before joining Stakeholder Forum, Farooq worked on strategic assessment at the UK Sustainable Development Commission (SDC). In all, Farooq has nine years of public sector experience at international, national and local government levels, with a further three years of private sector consultancy experience. Currently, Farooq is a Specialist Advisor to the UK Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee and a member of the Alliance for Future Generations.