

# The Science-Based Pathways Initiative

## What is the Pathways Initiative?

The Pathways Initiative is designed to promote **transformative change through research** and to **support researchers in developing their capacity to engage in inter- and transdisciplinary processes** of adaptive learning to design, implement and evaluate **pathways to sustainability**

## What are pathways to sustainability?

Generally speaking, pathways describe processes, triggered by socio-environmental factors, that lead to transformative changes. Sustainability pathways are interested in implementing these transformative changes, through collaborative and inclusive approaches, in order to address sustainability issues in specific contexts

## Why should research become part of transformational change?

The Pathways Initiative was created to respond to the 2019 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), which states that dominant research modes are not enough to guide the societal transformations needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The GSDR laid out a framework for researchers, practitioners, decisionmakers, funders and civil society to work together to achieve “*universally acceptable and mutually beneficial sustainability science*,” and identified the urgent need to produce knowledge and understanding in three key areas: **systemic interactions, competing development agendas, and transformations in concrete contexts** (Messerli et al., 2019)

## What is the long-term objective of the Pathways Initiative?

To foster an **active international research community** making a strong contribution to **pathways to sustainability** on the ground by building knowledge and capacity to evaluate and act on: systemic interactions, competing development agendas, and transformations in concrete contexts

## What type of activities and opportunities do you offer?

All our activities are the result of collaborations between **members of the Pathways community** and are supported by the Pathways Initiative Secretariat.

The Pathways Initiative support is articulated around 3 pillars:

- 1 **Providing a space for critical discussions** around concepts of pathways and their implications on research practices and on researchers as individuals. This space is most visibly materialised through our webinar series: **Pathways Form**
- 2 **Supporting researchers engaging or wanting to engage in pathways research** by organising collaborative activities in the form of networking events or workshops geared towards capacity development
- 3 **Promoting** existing pathways research by providing funding opportunities for the development of research projects and communication products on the topic of pathways to sustainability. On-going programs include the **Pathways Postdoc Grants** and the **Pathways Communication Grants**

To find more information about upcoming events and opportunities, visit our **webpage**, follow us on **Twitter**, or subscribe to the **Pathways Initiative newsletter**

## How can I join the Pathways Initiative?

The Pathways Initiative is an open community. Any researcher with an interest and/or experience in pathways research is welcome to **join our activities and respond to our funding opportunities**



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