

The setting



Human industry and creativity have shaped our past, are shaping our present, and will shape our future. We have entered a new geological epoch defined as the Anthropocene. **Humanity has become the dominant force on the planet.** Our generation has a new responsibility, as stewards of planet Earth, to find a safe operating space for humanity for the sake of future generations.

Future Earth Coasts is a core project of Future Earth, a global research platform to provide the knowledge needed to support sustainable development of the world's coasts. Coastal zones of the world include the most productive systems on Earth and are a focus of human activity and settlement. **While coastal environments are vulnerable to human impacts, they provide essential services and a rich vein for understanding system complexity and transitions to more sustainable futures.**

Future Earth Coasts emerges as the international community is confronting the threats and uncertainty of global environmental change through initiatives that include:

- the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- the Sustainable Development Goals;
- the COP21 Paris Agreement on climate change; and
- the World Business Council for Sustainable Development Vision 2050.

We are responding to this challenge through the co-design and co-production of a new type of knowledge acquisition and mobilisation that links disciplines, knowledge systems, and societal partners to confront and resolve contradictions that reproduce unsustainable practices at the coast.



Initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals require collaboration and partnerships with all stakeholders to address the challenges of living within planetary boundaries

The Future Earth Coasts Vision is to support transformation to a sustainable and resilient future for society and nature on the coast, by facilitating innovative, integrated and impactful knowledge mobilisation.

Future Earth Coasts is a **global coastal knowledge platform** to facilitate **communities and networks** of coastal scholars and practitioners interested in charting new pathways for sustainability in the coastal zones of the Earth. A major role for Future Earth Coasts and its Regional Engagement Networks, is to enable researchers and practitioners to work collaboratively with coastal stakeholders to critically examine current understanding and governance of coastal zones. We explore options for building more resilient and sustainable coastal communities. We aim to document successes and failures, teasing out the web of enablers and opportunities to build consensus on shared goals and transformative actions, while recognizing and reconciling conflicting viewpoints and inhibitors.

Our invitation to you!

Our agenda is to chart a new landscape of co-design and co-production of knowledge that will enable coastal communities to anticipate and adapt to change. Our outputs are focussed on the resolution of specific sustainability challenges regionally, nationally and locally and to chart innovative coastal sustainability pathways.

Get in touch with us if you are a stakeholder in government, an international organisation or NGO, civil society, the private sector or science / research and have an interest in innovative ways to translate coastal sustainability rhetoric into practical reality.

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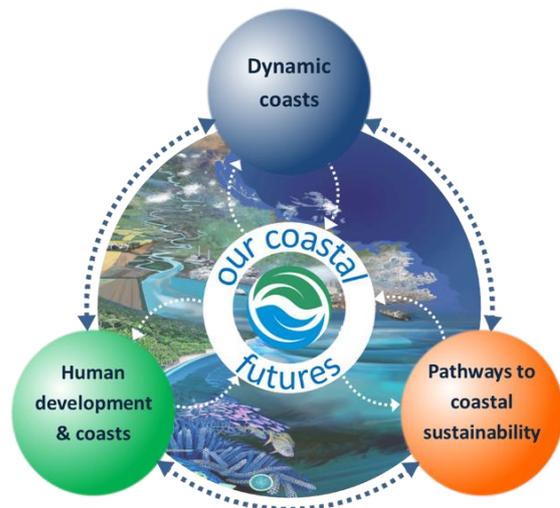
What will we do?

Future Earth Coasts is building regional engagement partnerships to enable global assessment of knowledge and practices that foster coastal sustainability, with a focus on capacity-building in regional seas and priority ‘coastal hotspots’: Coastal Urban Areas; Small Island States; the Arctic; and Deltas and Estuaries. **Future Earth Coasts is working with partners to diagnose future coastal scenarios and sustainability pathways with two core aims:**

- Identify emerging challenges and prospects for sustainable development, exposing existing conditions that reproduce unsustainable relationships and practices on the ground.
- Articulate practical solutions in support of transformative outcomes, testing the consequences and impacts of taking or failing to take these pathways.

Our strategy centres on a ‘**global coastal futures assessment and capability building**’ approach that builds shared knowledge for the co-design and co-production of solutions from regional to local scales, through an integrated understanding of:

- ✓ **Dynamic coasts:** how and why coastal systems and regional seas are ever-changing through natural processes and human activities: defining trends, strategic risks, and future prospects.
- ✓ **Human development and coasts:** to address consequences of human activity and value coastal ecosystem services to better understand the role they play in the local, regional and global economy: threats they face, and how these can be overcome
- ✓ **Pathways to coastal sustainability:** processes of development and institutional structures to build and assimilate knowledge about impacts of global environmental change and options for adaptation: transitioning towards sustainability.



How will we do it?

Working with regional and locality-specific coastal stakeholders and scientists, our approach visualises and charts coastal sustainability pathways and solutions that are credible, feasible, scale-appropriate and legitimate to overcome institutional barriers, unlocking opportunities. With a solutions-oriented focus, we aim to integrate disciplines and knowledge systems, bridging science-policy-practice interfaces in the synthesis, communication and implementation of co-produced knowledge. Our diagnostic and capacity-building approach is distinguished from many other assessments, which describe the status of coasts and are problem-defining. We aim to facilitate:

- ✓ A collaborative process of inquiry that is as important as the outcome.
- ✓ An approach rooted in the Future Earth principles of co-design and co-production of knowledge.
- ✓ Capacity to learn and apply best practices that can be institutionalised in coastal regions.
- ✓ Implementable solutions that enable and accelerate transition to global coastal sustainability.

Join our network to foster coastal sustainability.

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