



Earth System Governance

A GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE

WWW.EARTHSYSTEMGOVERNANCE.ORG

Earth System Governance — a global research alliance, is the largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change. The Earth System Governance research alliance takes up the challenge of exploring political solutions and novel, more effective governance mechanisms to cope with the current transitions in the biogeochemical systems of the planet. The normative context of this research is sustainable development; earth system governance is not only a question of institutional effectiveness, but also of political legitimacy and social justice.

The Earth System Governance Project is a core project of Future Earth.

Research

The Earth System Governance research alliance advances a research strategy that is organized around five analytical problems: The problem of the overall *architecture* of earth system governance, of *agency* beyond the state and of the state, of the *adaptiveness* of governance mechanisms and processes and of their *accountability* and legitimacy, and of modes of *allocation and access* in earth system governance. These research problems have been identified based on an analysis of the current state of research,

recent theoretical developments, and societal demands.

In addition, the research strategy emphasizes four crosscutting themes that are crucial for the study of each analytical problem but also for the integrated understanding of earth system governance: The role of *power*, *knowledge*, *norms*, and *scale*.

The Earth System Governance Science and Implementation Plan outlines the research programme in detail and is available in English, Japanese, and Spanish at www.earthsystemgovernance.org.

Network

The Earth System Governance research alliance is a global dynamic network that reflects the interdisciplinary, international, and multi-scale challenge of developing effective systems of governance to ensure sustainable development within the confines of planetary boundaries.

The Earth System Governance research alliance can draw on support from many of the most prominent scientists in the field, along with numerous PhD students, early-career to mid-career researchers. The alliance is open to all social and natural scientists who are engaged in research on the governance of environmental change at all levels.

Scientific Steering Committee - The network operates under the direction of a Scientific Steering Committee, chaired by Professor Frank Biermann of Utrecht University. The role of the Scientific Steering Committee is to guide implementation of the Earth System Governance Science Plan.

Lead Faculty - The Earth System Governance Lead Faculty is a group of scientists of high international reputation who take (shared) responsibility for the development of research on particular analytical problems or crosscutting themes.

Research Fellows - Earth System Governance Research Fellows and Senior Research Fellows are early to mid-level career scientists who seek to link their own research projects with the broader themes and questions of earth system governance. Through a bottom-up, dynamic, and active

				ARCHITECTURE
				AGENCY
				ADAPTIVENESS
				ACCOUNTABILITY
				ALLOCATION & ACCESS
POWER	KNOWLEDGE	NORMS	SCALE	Research Domains such as <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food Systems• Global Water System• Global Climate System• Global Economic System• Other Research Domains

network they collaborate on research, debate ideas and disseminate information on relevant events and opportunities in the field.

Taskforces

Through Taskforces, the Earth System Governance Project seeks to push the frontiers of research in specific areas of its research agenda. Taskforces are led by Lead Faculty or Senior Research Fellows, with numerous Research Fellows participating. Taskforces are open for all and often interact with other research communities, organizing events, webinars, and publications, and facilitating research all over the world.

The *Taskforce on Conceptual Foundations of Earth System Governance* explores key ideas that frame international discussions of the governance challenges of global environmental change and earth system transformation. It is concerned with understanding, refining and critically interrogating concepts that increasingly provide the foundation for contemporary

theory and practice in the environmental domain.

The *Accountability in Global Environmental Governance Taskforce* explores different approaches to accountability, and assesses the necessity and potential for greater accountability in global environmental governance, an area that has been riddled so far by fragmentation and duplication of efforts, dispersed political authority and weak regulatory influence.

Publications

The body of scientific literature on earth system governance is growing rapidly and includes theoretical and applied research findings on the analytical problems and crosscutting themes, as well as the interlinkages between them. A book series with MIT Press and the Earth System Governance Working Paper Series are flagships of a broad portfolio of publications.

Events

The Earth System Governance research alliance organizes, co-organizes, and endorses numerous academic and science-policy workshops and conferences. Many earth system governance researchers present the research programme and their research findings at various occasions worldwide. Each year, an Earth System Governance open science conference brings together the research community, and attracts other research communities, policy makers, and other stakeholders to discuss the challenge of exploring political solutions to the challenge of earth system governance.

Teaching

There are numerous teaching programmes worldwide that address problems of earth system governance. The Earth System Governance research alliance also organizes, endorses and provides teaching to summer schools and capacity building events and programmes.

Policy Relevance

Even though the Earth System Governance research alliance is predominantly focussing on cutting-edge scientific research, it is also designed to assist policy responses to the pressing problems of earth system transformation. The alliance aims at improving the science-policy dialogue and at exploring and implementing more effective ways of translating complex, interdisciplinary social science research into policy-relevant insights and information.

To this end, many researchers engage in advisory groups to UNEP and other UN agencies and national and regional governmental and nongovernmental organizations, contribute to scientific assessments, or serve in national delegations to intergovernmental negotiations.

With the compilations of policy assessments that synthesize the research findings to specific policy-relevant questions, the global, diverse, and interdisciplinary Earth System Governance network brings to bear its collective knowledge and insights.

Research Alliance

A core element of our network is the Global Alliance of Earth System Governance Research Centres. These Centres in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Americas and Europe are research hubs that support the implementation of specific parts of the Earth System Governance Science Plan and act as focal points for earth system governance research in their geographical and thematic area.

In addition, strong networks on earth system governance research exist in China, Latin America, and Russia. New networks are emerging in many other countries and regions.

Australian National University

Australia

Chiang Mai University

Thailand

Colorado State University

United States

University of East Anglia

United Kingdom

University of Ghana

Ghana

Keio University

Japan

Lund University

Sweden

Stockholm Resilience Centre

Sweden

Toronto University

Canada

Utrecht University

The Netherlands

VU University Amsterdam

The Netherlands

Yale University

United States

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