



[Future Earth](#) aims to be an inclusive global research and engagement platform. A basic design principle has been to give voice and influence to expertise and institutions across the globe. While this is partly reflected in regional representativeness in the Science and Engagement committees and the globally-distributed secretariat, there is a need for regional and national entities that can have input into equitable and innovative global priority setting and activities. In developing a mechanism for this, Future Earth is cognisant of key principles of legitimacy, credibility, inclusiveness, representation, transparency and openness, accessibility, responsiveness, flexibility and adaptability. Accordingly, Future Earth Secretariat is constituted of five Global Hubs (Colorado, Montreal, Paris, Stockholm, Tokyo), and four Regional Centres based in Cyprus for Middle East and North Africa, Japan for Asia, U.K. for Europe, Uruguay for Caribbean and Latin America.

Additional governance elements include National Committees and Regional Committees. National Committees existed for the precursor Global Programmes (IGBP, DIVERSITAS and IHDP) and about 20 Future Earth National Committees have been formed. Their role is to communicate, make relevant and promote Future Earth principles and activities within a country, to encourage participation, and to be a bridging-point for the global Future Earth platform with research and societal stakeholders. The role of Regional Committees is to be an effective advocate for Future Earth in their regions and to be an effective advocate for regional interests in the global Future Earth platform. Regional Committees will be aligned with Future Earth Regional Centres and Regional Offices, which form a part of the globally-distributed Executive Secretariat.

Regional Centres and Offices are important and active components of Future Earth's operational structure. These centres provide a conduit for communication between Regions and the Executive Secretariat. They garner regional partners and resources and provide the five core functions (i.e., coordination, research enabling, communication, capacity building and synthesis and foresight) of the Executive Secretariat within Regions. Many types of sub-global but multinational activities are expected to take place under Future Earth, including those focused on particular biomes (e.g. mountain regions of the world), issues (e.g. cities in Asia), or functions (e.g. capacity building in small island states). These can take the form of Regional Offices. These are important for the total capacity of Future Earth to operate subglobally.

Working in collaboration with the Africa Future Earth Committee (AFEC) we seek to establish Regional Offices in Africa. We are requesting proposals for setting up Regional Offices in Africa. Multiple offices are anticipated to meet the diverse needs of the African continent. A selection committee is being established, consisting of representatives of AFEC and Future Earth Science and Engagement Committees, and Executive Secretariat, and an independent external representative of African science community. We anticipate completing the selection process by December 2015. Once the Regional Offices are up and running and gain operational experience, one of these Regional Offices will be developed into the Regional Centre for Africa, based on needs, performance, resource availability, and ability to garner regional resources. This incremental process is designed to quickly establish basic presence in the form of Regional offices and work with them to create a Regional Centre for Africa.

The responsibility for implementing the regional architecture lies with Future Earth Secretariat. The Secretariat will work consultatively with Regional Committees, Centres and Offices to develop their respective plans of action. Regional entities will keep the Secretariat informed of developments in their region via periodic conference calls, and submit an annual report of their activities.

SELECTION OF FUTURE EARTH OFFICES FOR AFRICA

Template for Expression of Interest

To be sent by email to David Oram, Future earth Secretariat (David.Oram@futureearth.org) with subject 'Future Earth Office for Africa'

Deadline: 28 October 2015

Please comply with the word limits; additional text will not be considered. No additional documents beyond those requested here will be accepted.

The expressions of interests will be communicated to the Selection Committee. They will be examined under strict confidentiality.

Identification	
Name of interested organisation(s) (for consortia, please provide all organisations)	
Name of contact point and contact details (email, telephone, postal address)	
Proposed location for the centre headquarters	
Specification of interest	
Why are you interested in hosting the African Future Earth office? Specify the interest of each organisation in the case of a consortium expressing interest. <i>500 words maximum</i>	
What is your vision for a successful African Future Earth office? <i>500 words maximum</i>	
Capabilities	
Describe your capabilities to deliver Regional office services taking into account: 1. Experience in managing international research programmes on a regional basis. 2. Capacity to support effective collaboration and exchange between countries in Africa. 3. Capacity to convene different stakeholder groups (e.g. academia, funders, governments, international organisations and science assessments, development groups, business	

<p>and industry, civil society and the media)</p> <p>4. Capacity and resources for the Regional Office.</p> <p>Information should include, but not limited to; supportive infrastructure, office space, administrative services, internet and communication capabilities, ability to co-organise regional conferences/ workshops, etc. In addition to in-kind support, Regional Offices are expected to have sufficient financial support for organizing regional events and activities, and supporting the work of AFEC.</p> <p><i>1500 words maximum</i></p>	
<p>Please explain your funding strategy (including level of funding) and other resources (i.e. human resources and 'in kind' support) that you aspire to secure in coming years. <u>Documented evidence</u> of funding support must be attached.</p> <p>Explain how much will you commit to fund and how will that be allocated, with minimum commitment period of 3 to 10 years.</p> <p><i>500 words maximum</i></p>	
<p>What partners do you foresee engaging in creating the Regional Office.</p> <p><i>500 words maximum</i></p>	

Signature and stamp (on behalf of organisation / consortium):

Name:

Date: