Guiding principles on the use of the Core Fund
Draft for community review
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The Future Earth Core Fund
The Future Earth Core Fund is a flexible, common pot of funding administered by the Secretariat Coordination Hub in support of Future Earth community activities. Whereas contributions to the Core Fund may be raised from any source, all Global Secretariat Hubs contribute annually to the Core Fund. The Fund is to support the Global Research Networks through annual block grants, funding for new cross-cutting and synthesis initiatives, and support of under-represented communities in Future Earth governance and activities. The distribution of the Core Fund is determined by the Governing Council, within the parameters specified below, and managed by the Global Coordination Hub. It is expected that the Core Fund will not be the sole resource for Future Earth activities, and targeted funding in support of specific priorities and activities shall be administered separately from the Core Fund.

Annual grants to Global Research Networks
● Between 30% and 70% of the Core Fund shall be used for annual block grants to the GRNs.
● The size of the annual grants will be the same for all GRNs, and large decreases from one year to the next should be avoided to the extent possible.\(^1\)
● To the extent possible, the use of the annual grants should be flexible and at the discretion of the individual GRNs in support of their programs, ensuring that they are used in accordance with the mission and objectives\(^2\) of Future Earth.
● The annual reports from the GRNs shall include financial summaries outlining how the annual grants are used.

Grants for cross-cutting initiatives
● Between 30% and 70% of the Core Fund shall be used for one- or multiple-year grants in support of cross-cutting initiatives.
● Proposals should emphasize integrative & synthesis activities that foster or require collaborations between Future Earth entities and/or facilitate research co-design and transdisciplinarity.
● The Governing council may identify priorities for proposals. However, consideration should not be restricted only to proposals addressing those priorities. Grants may be of varying sizes.

\(^1\)At the time of writing, a reasonable target for these annual grants would be $10,000/year, whereas $5000/year should be considered a minimum.
\(^2\) See “Future Earth Mission and Vision FAQs”
• The Future Earth Governing Council will have responsibility for setting evaluation criteria and awarding the cross-cutting grants. The GC may delegate that responsibility to a sub-committee and recruit external expert reviewers, as deemed appropriate and necessary.

• Proposal submission should be continuously open, and the application form should be kept simple and brief. The dates on which the selection committee will meet should be made public.

• The grant recipients will report on the use and outcomes of the cross-cutting initiative as directed by the Future Earth Secretariat Coordination Hub.

Support of Future Earth core values of inclusivity and diversity³

• If necessary and approved by the Governing Council, some of the Core Fund may be used by the Secretariat Coordination Hub to support participation of under-represented communities in Future Earth governance and activities.

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³ See "Future Earth Mission and Vision FAQs"