

Third symposium on Sustainability
Science:
Towards Guidelines on Research and
Education

Role of fundraising strategies of
sustainability science for implementing
the SDGs

Joanne Kauffman, PhD

Presentation

- Impediments to the high level integration needed for implementation of the SDGs
- The role of fund-raising strategies to contribute to implementation
- Challenges and opportunities of fund-raising strategies

Implementation requires diversity and flexibility in three dimensions

- The research landscape
- The funding structure to support research AND implementation of the SDGs
- Knowledge networks to promote sharing of data and outcomes
- These are synergistic and stimulate evolution toward higher integration

elements in fund raising strategies for SS that will contribute to SDG implementation

- Takes a long term view
- Contribute to building partnerships
- Long term support for partnerships helps STI initiatives move in right direction for SDGs
 - Avoid unintended consequences
 - Promote flexibility
 - Make adjustments in response to new knowledge
- Ripe for private sector and philanthropic support because SS is ACTION oriented

More elements in fund raising for SS that contribute to implementation

- Involvement of multiple stakeholders
 - Diverse strategies needed to engage investors from diverse institutions
 - Promotes development of holistic policy-making
 - Builds legitimacy for research results

SS contributes to implementation of SDGs

- The SDGs and targets are integrated and indivisible – qualities that lie at the heart of and are well-understood in sustainability science
- The 15 year horizon for attainment of the SDGs is in keeping with the long term research goals in sustainability science, which is intended to address the complex problems that stem from the inter-connectedness of the world's social, environmental, and economic systems
- SDG implementation requires quality, timely and accessible data for priority setting as well as policy- and decision-making. Inclusive research process of SS can contribute to ensuring access to relevant data.
- Sustainability science supports capacity building (also necessary for implementation) through its broad participatory process which serves as a forum for mutual learning between and among scientists and non-scientist stakeholders

International forums that support ss

- United Nations organizations and the UN Partnerships for SDGs initiative
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/>
- Future Earth (www.futureearth.org) A 10-year international research platform to advance sustainability science and to promote international engagement in transformation to a sustainable world.
 - Supports through provision of seed funding and management collaborative frameworks to facilitate highly integrative sustainability science research
 - Example of diverse funding landscape with a 4.6 m USD budget provided by private and public foundations, government agencies, universities and other groups

Int'l. forums support SS (cont)

- The International Council for Science (ICSU) recent proposal for a Global Funding Forum <https://www.icsu.org/events/meeting-on-supporting-science-for-the-sustainable-development-goals>
- The International Social Science Council (ISSC)(currently the ICSU and ISSC are pursuing a merger with a view to developing a new integrated pathway for international science): Transformation to Sustainability (T2S) program provides seed grants to help advance transformations to more sustainable and equitable societies around the globe. By generating knowledge that produces a broader and deeper understanding of the conditions, processes, outcomes and impacts of transformative social change in the context of global environmental change
<http://www.worldsocialscience.org/activities/transformations/>

-

Int'l. forums support SS (cont.)

- The Belmont Forum, an international group of funders of global change research including national science foundations and research alliances (including the US NSF and Japan's MEXT). The Forum is now supporting the Transformations to Sustainability project (T2S) among other initiatives <https://www.belmontforum.org>
- CRDF Global: an independent non-profit working in 40 countries to promote international scientific and technical collaboration through grants, technical resources, training and services (capacity building) <http://www.crdfglobal.org/>
- Newton's List: an on line tool for funders and grand seekers interested in international cooperation. Sponsored by crdfGlobal <http://newtonlist.crdfglobal.org/>

Int'l. forums support ss (cont)

- National Science Foundations participating in the international initiatives to leverage support for long-term complex sustainability research
- The European Union's Horizon2020 initiative which provides support for research on climate change (35% of budget) and the SDGs (60%) open to participants from all over the world. The largest EU research and innovation programme ever with nearly 80 billion Euros funding over a seven year period (2014 – 2020). Participation is open to everyone and in many cases the EU will fund in part the participation of international partners, including eligibility in developing countries.

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-sections>

Business and Industry support for SS

- Global R&D expenditures on the rise (most from private sector)
- World Business Council on Sustainable Development (Guide for CEOs to the SDGs)
- Business and Sustainable Development Council:
 - Committed to supporting transition to a sustainable economy
 - Support transdisciplinary research/partnerships

Diverse funding landscape supports diverse research

- Research funding agencies
- Development aid agencies
- Foundations
- National governments/STI budgets/national science foundations
- Private sector business and industry
- Private philanthropists
- Charitable organizations,
- Social media and “crowd-funding”

Challenges to fund raising for SS

- Limited funders especially at national levels for transdisciplinary research
- Difficulty raising funds for long-term projects
- Insufficient co-ordination/cooperation and inclusivity in fund raising
- Lack of identification/testing and sharing of fundraising strategies
- Institutional constraints on cross-border support

Lessons learned from AGS experience

- Seed money and “glue money” are important for launching and maintaining the partnerships that are crucial to effective science for sustainable development.
- Do good work, share it liberally, and the money will follow. (H. Komiyama)
- Perseverance furthers. Never give up!!

recommendations

- Work within the international forums that advocate sustainability science
- Join and expand global knowledge networks
- Develop flexible strategies that can benefit from the diversity of funding sources and increase transnational funding
- Ensure broad-based participation and include support for capacity building for successful implementation of research actions
- Share data, progress and results liberally including through social media