

Sustainable Development Goals and the Role of Research – a Focus on Coastal Regions

a Herrenhausen Symposium by the Volkswagen Foundation

December 8 & 9, 2015

Venue: Herrenhausen Palace, Hanover, Germany

In September 2015, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be adopted, designed to improve people's lives and protect the planet for future generations. The Volkswagen Foundation is convinced that science and scholarship play an essential role in approaching these ambitious goals. Therefore, we invite international researchers to discuss to what extent have research and innovation supported to tackle the earlier Millennium Development Goals - or where they did fail to do so. But the main focus of the symposium is the role of research in realizing the proposed new goals (SDGs) and what kind of research is needed. These questions will be asked against the backdrop of an area which is coming more and more into focus: coastal regions. Home to the majority of people already today, coastal regions will face major challenges: urbanization, population growth, resource conflicts, pollution, sea level rise, increase of water temperature and extreme events – to mention a few. Coastal regions are showcase systems to understand how human development and well-being are inextricably linked with environmental stewardship. Therefore, they constitute ideal frameworks to study all kinds of interfaces, both regarding 'natural' and 'anthropogenic' factors and processes, but also – on the more conceptual level – regarding the interlinkages between research, policy-making and society.

Please register at: www.volkswagenstiftung.de/sdg

The symposium addresses three major goals. It focuses on the role of research in tackling the Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on coastal regions, it will try to identify topics for further research and discuss which funding measures are necessary to support this research.

The first day provides an overview and discusses, which role research could play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in general and whether innovation and research had any impact on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The opening session looks at SDGs through the lens of coastal regions and seeks to clarify what impact they might have on civil society. Furthermore, it shall help to make clear why this symposium as one of the showcase systems for human life.

In the second session, three projects will present their results. They can be taken as an example for international cooperative research with a focus on topics such as environment, migration, sustainability, extreme weather events in coastal regions. These projects will show how this research has helped to realize the MDGs, what further research is needed and how a funding for this research should look like.

To guarantee a good networking process and to get further input from all participants, topic tables will be organized. The first day will conclude with a dinner speech that again looks at the SDGs and their challenges but from a completely different point a view than the opening session will do.

The second day is reserved for three theoretical (and even conceptual) point of views which focus on special topics of the SDGs like urbanization in coastal regions, the role of shared responsibilities and the inclusion of future generations in decision-making processes. These presentations will try to identify the need for future research on these topics and what impact this research might have on the achievement of the SDGs.

Tuesday, December 8, 2015	
9:30 a.m.	Registration
10:30 a.m.	<p>Welcome Address Wilhelm Krull, Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover</p> <p>Session 1: SDGs and the Role of Research in the Past/Future CHAIR: Anna-Katharina Hornidge, Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen (confirmed)</p> <p>Keynote Andrew Stirling, University of Sussex (confirmed)</p> <p>Comment: “What impact could the SDGs have for (civil) societies?” Hart Nadav Feuer, Kyoto University (confirmed)</p> <p>Comment: “Why focus on coastal regions?” Hildegard Westphal, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen (confirmed)</p>
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	<p>Session 2: Sustainability in Coastal Ecosystems – Research Projects and their Implications CHAIR: Hildegard Westphal, Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology, Bremen (confirmed)</p> <p>“Rapid Environmental Change and migration in the coastal regions of Ghana and Indonesia” Michael Flitner, University of Bremen + Partner from Ghana or Indonesia (confirmed)</p> <p>“CLIMB - Climate Induced Changes on the Hydrology in Mediterranean Basins - Reducing Uncertainty and Quantifying Risk” Ralf Ludwig, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich + partner from Global South (confirmed)</p> <p>“Flood management in Jakarta” Hendricus Simarmata, Ministry of Planning, Indonesia (confirmed)</p> <p>DISCUSSANT: Maja Göpel, Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy (confirmed)</p>
3:30 p.m.	Coffee Break
4:00 p.m.	<p>Session 3: Topic Tables on Sustainable Development Goals and Coastal Regions CHAIR: Silke Bertram, Volkswagen Foundation (confirmed)</p> <p>Young Researchers will present insights into their work and discuss it with the audience</p>
5:30 p.m.	Coffee Break
6:00 p.m.	<p>Session 4 CHAIR: NN</p> <p>Keynote Mike Davis, University of California, Department of Creative Writing (tbc)</p>
7:00 p.m.	Dinner

Wednesday, December 9, 2015	
9:00 a.m.	<p>Session 5: Population Growth as a Non-Topic in the SDGs – What are the Implications? CHAIR: Roland Rau, University of Rostock (confirmed)</p> <p>Keynote Wolfgang Lutz, Vienna Institute of Demography (confirmed)</p>
10:00 a.m.	<p>Session 6: Urbanization Processes in Coastal Regions: Coastal-Urban Interfaces CHAIR: Eberhard Rothfuß, University of Bayreuth (confirmed)</p> <p>Statements Hong Ching Goh, University of Malaya (confirmed) Rüdiger Korff, University of Passau (confirmed)</p> <p>DISCUSSANT: Jan Börner, ZEF, Bonn (confirmed)</p>
11:00 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:30 a.m.	<p>Session 7: Coastal Regions and the Role of Shared Responsibilities and Future Generations CHAIR: Eberhard Rothfuß, University of Bayreuth (confirmed)</p> <p>Svein Jentoft, University of Tromsø (confirmed) Ratana Chuenpagdee, Memorial University of Newfoundland (confirmed) Wolfgang Gabbert, Center for Atlantic Studies, Leibniz University Hannover (confirmed)</p> <p>DISCUSSANT: Jan Börner, ZEF, Bonn (confirmed)</p>
1:00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00 p.m.	<p>Session 7: Environmental Economics, Sustainable Development Goals and Coastal Regions CHAIR: NN</p> <p>Robert Constanza, Australian National University (confirmed)</p>
3:00 p.m.	<p>Session 8: Closing Panel Session</p>
4:00 p.m.	<p>Closing Remarks Wilhelm Krull, Volkswagen Foundation</p>
4:15 p.m.	End of Conference