From bench to community: the policy pathway

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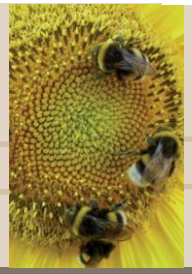
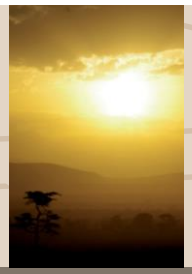
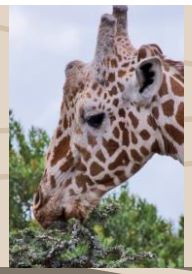
Outline

- Who is IAP?
  - IAP/Carnegie project on SDGs
- Academies and public policy
- ACOLA's SAF Project
  - lessons learnt
- Final thoughts—from bench to community

The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP)

(www.interacademies.org)

iap SCIENCE RESEARCH HEALTH
the interacademy partnership

A global partnership of more than 130 national and regional merit-based academies of science and health.

Committed to making the voice of science heard on issues of crucial importance to the future of humankind.

Four regional networks (Asia, Americas, Europe, Africa)

Strategic Priorities

- Provide evidence-based advice and perspectives on global issues;
- Build a scientifically literate global citizenry;
- Strengthen the global scientific enterprise;
- Strengthen the global network of academies, including establishing new academies in countries where they do not currently exist.

aassa Asia — The Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia

European Academies easac Science Advisory Council

IANAS — Inter-American Network of Academies of Sciences

Network of African Science Academies NASAC

Improving Scientific Input to Global Policymaking

- Funded by the Carnegie Corporation
- 3 year project framed around the global science community's contribution to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular focus on the academies

- Expert group of IAP academicians with GYA and ICSU nominees

Improving Scientific Input to Global Policymaking--Aims

- Raise awareness of the SDGs
- Explore opportunities to support SDGs
- Encourage collaboration and adoption of best practices that generate scientific advice

- Special focus: the academies and regional groupings

Three pillars: mobilization | capacity building | linkages & partnerships


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD
1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND
16 PEACE AND JUSTICE
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

Challenges with the SDGs

- Span research disciplines and institutional boundaries
- Important interdependencies, synergies, trade-offs
- Some goals and many targets are poorly defined

- Mismatch/disconnect between national and international policy advice
- National research and advisory systems often incompatible

- Many voiceless communities require capacity building

- Complexity of the UN and pathways for advice


The Contribution of Science in Implementing the **Sustainable Development Goals**
German Committee Future Earth
DFG
UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY
futureearth
research for global sustainability
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS


1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
SUPPORTING THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS
13 CLIMATE ACTION
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
A Short Guide for Science Academies
iap
SCIENCE RESEARCH HEALTH
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IAP academies' survey

- Objective: to learn about the role of academies in supporting the SDGs
- Over 55% responded
  - 57 senior, 30 young, GYA
  - 31% from Asia
- Provides a snapshot of where academies
  - can bring knowledge to the SDGs,
  - could be more involved, and
  - need to develop their own capacity

Academies' survey--headlines

- Most academies indicate they already play an advisory role, especially nationally
- Most are keen to support the SDGs but limited awareness of how to do so
- Limited awareness of national implementation
- Systemic disconnects between different actors
- Many already contributing/publishing potentially relevant knowledge which can support the SDGs

Since January 2014, has your academy published (or is about to publish) academy reports/ outputs that are relevant to the SDGS? If so, to which goals specifically?

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Strengths of national science academies in informing policy

- Independence, scientific authority and credibility
- Organised or cooperate regionally and globally
- Many are multi-disciplinary or cooperate with other learned academies
- Many academicians have senior roles in their governments
- High-quality output and back catalogue of reports on many issues relevant to policy
- Growing number of young academies

Common criticisms of academies in informing policy

- Tend to work on projects that interested them
- Tend to come to debates too late in the day.
- Reports that are often too technical, too academic and not tailored to a user community
- Narrowly focussed on what constitutes “science” and are not generally trans/inter/cross-disciplinary.
- Not naturally disposed to working in partnership or with other sectors.
- Do not have the profile and/or access to the highest levels of decision-making in national or regional governments
- Yet to appreciate that evidence *informs* not dictates policy.

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ACOLA's SAF Program

- **$AUD10 million project commissioned by Australian Chief Scientist**
- **4 year project drawing on the 4 Australian academies**
- **11 reports of substance**
- **Synthesis volume released in June**
- **www.acola.org.au**

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ACOLA's SAF Program

SAF Program—an assessment

"A fundamental tenet ...is the interdisciplinary nature of the enterprise. The ability to mobilize first-rate expertise across the science, engineering, social science and humanities communities is quite extraordinary. Indeed, there is no comparable effort outside Australia that has been able to sustain such an integrated structure beyond a one-off study."

Dr Richard Bissell, Executive Director, Public Policy & Global Affairs, US National Academies

SAF Program-lessons

- Expertise is necessary but not sufficient
- Importance of cognitive diversity and ‘collaboration genes’
- Engagement with policy makers
- Timeliness
- Reports fit for purpose—accessible

Final thoughts-from bench to community

- “Put the end-user first”
- Understand the context in which adoption will occur
- Regulation matters
- Scientific research is not of itself innovation
- Science matters but is often not the most important element