

Françoise Caillods

World Science Forum, Rio

25 November 2013

ISSC

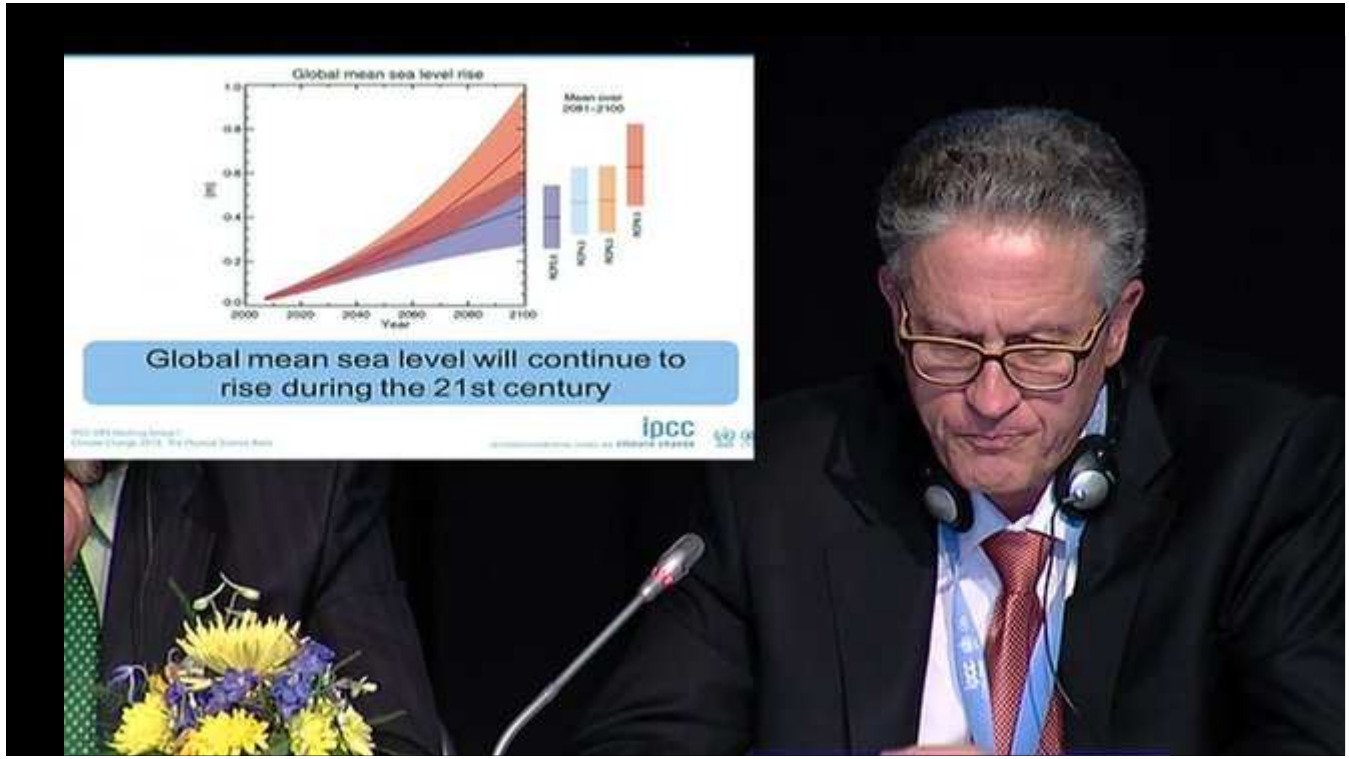
international social science council

Why a World Social Science Report on global environmental change?



Responding to urgency

Climate change “threatens our planet, our only home”



Thomas Stocker,
IPCC Co-Chair,
27 September 2013

Providing indispensable knowledge for action

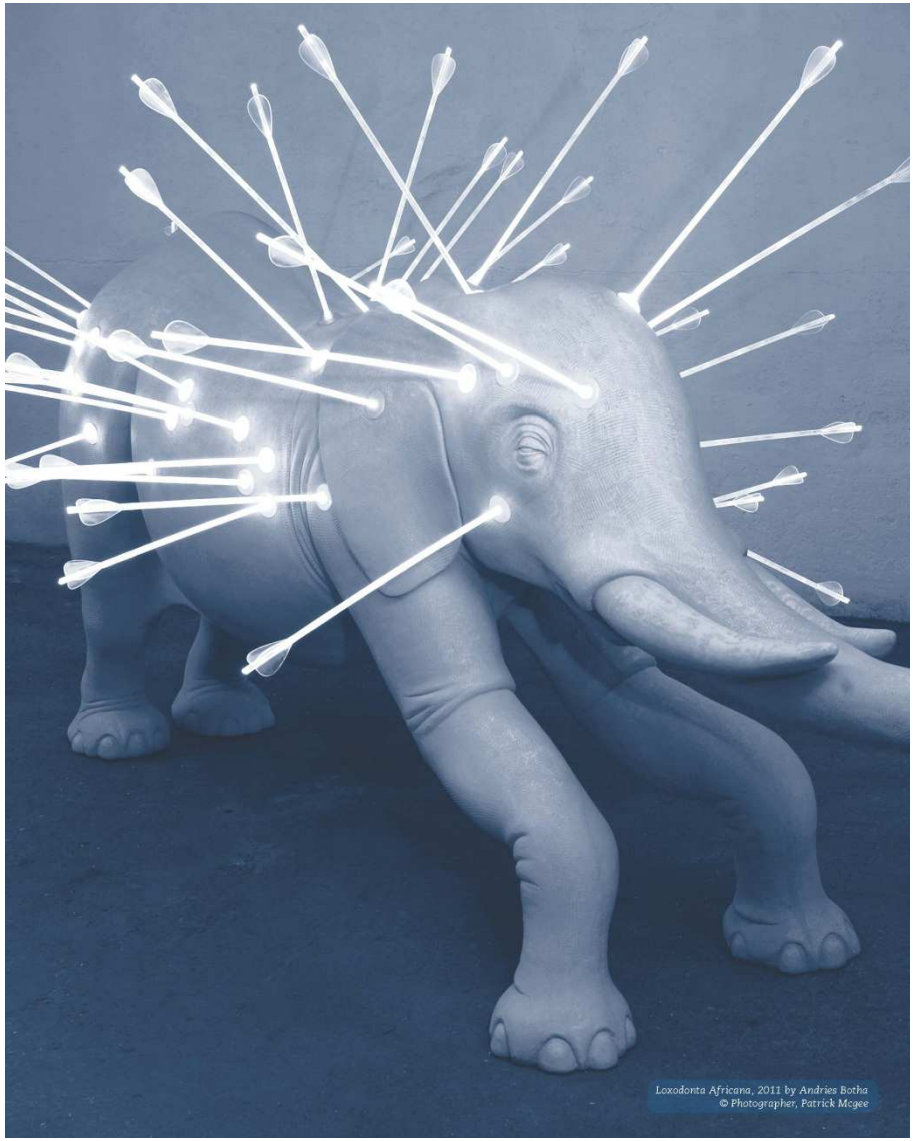


- Environmental and social problems are inseparable
- People are at the centre: Environmental change affects people and people affect the environment
- Urgent need for social transformation

Content

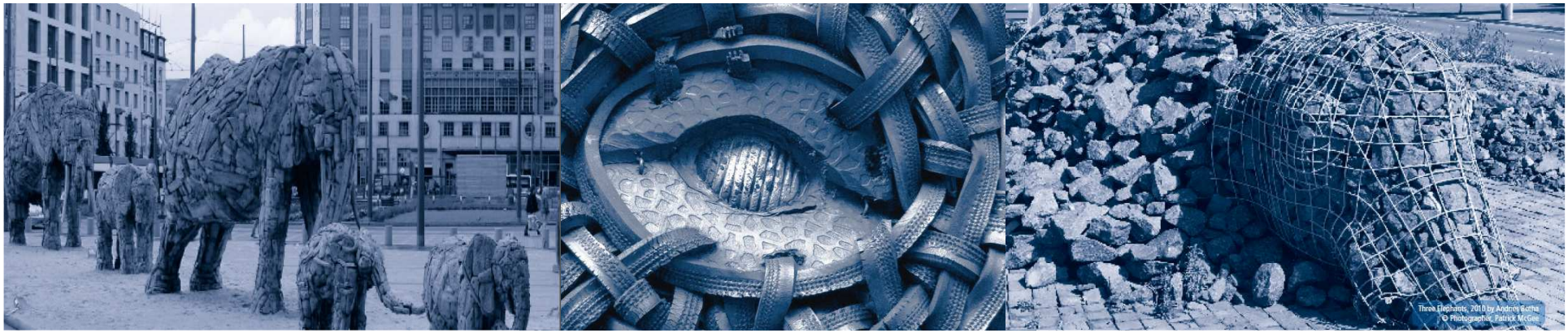


- International Editorial Team and Scientific Advisory Committee
- Based on a call for papers
- 150 + authors – 18 from Latin America
- 23 disciplines
- All regions of the world



- Complexities and real-world consequences of environmental change in different geographic, cultural and personal contexts

Example 1: Vulnerable populations do not have the resources, networks or information to migrate and are trapped in and exposed to the consequences of climate change (Adger and Adams)



- Role of values, worldviews and beliefs - interpreting and responding to threats

  Example 2: Many people think that climate change will have impacts in the future rather than today while others believe the effects are happening elsewhere (Smith)

- Visions and conditions for changing individual and collective behaviour and practice

  Example 3: Working against human nature guarantees low effectiveness while working with it increases the likelihood of success (van Vugt)

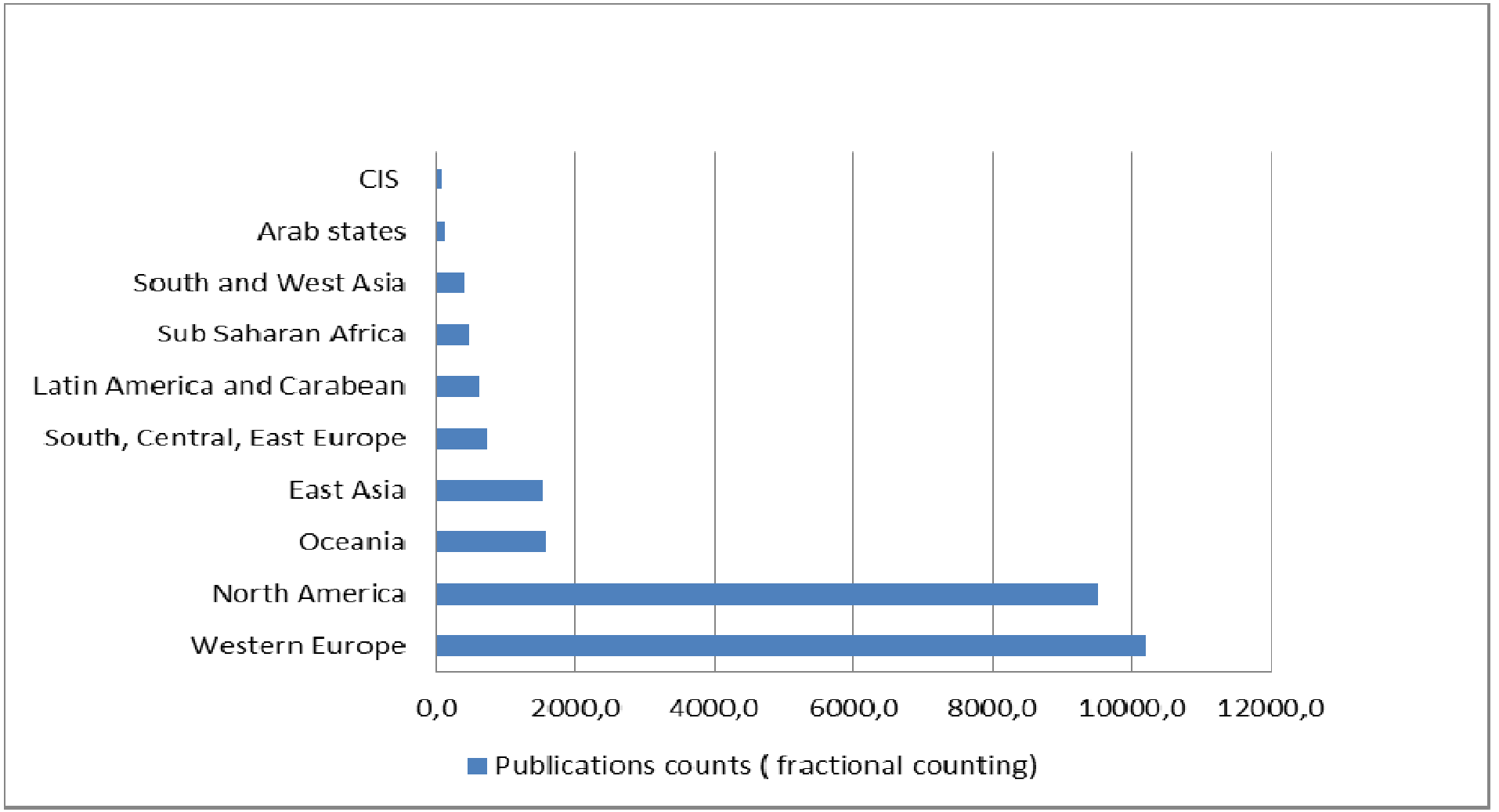
- Ethical approaches and concerns about justice in developing policy solutions
- New approaches to governance and decision-making

  Example 4: Role of environmental movements in changing policy at national level

- Social science capacities to undertake research on global environmental change

Social Science knowledge is not there where it is most needed

Number of social science publications on GEC per region, 1990-2011



Key messages

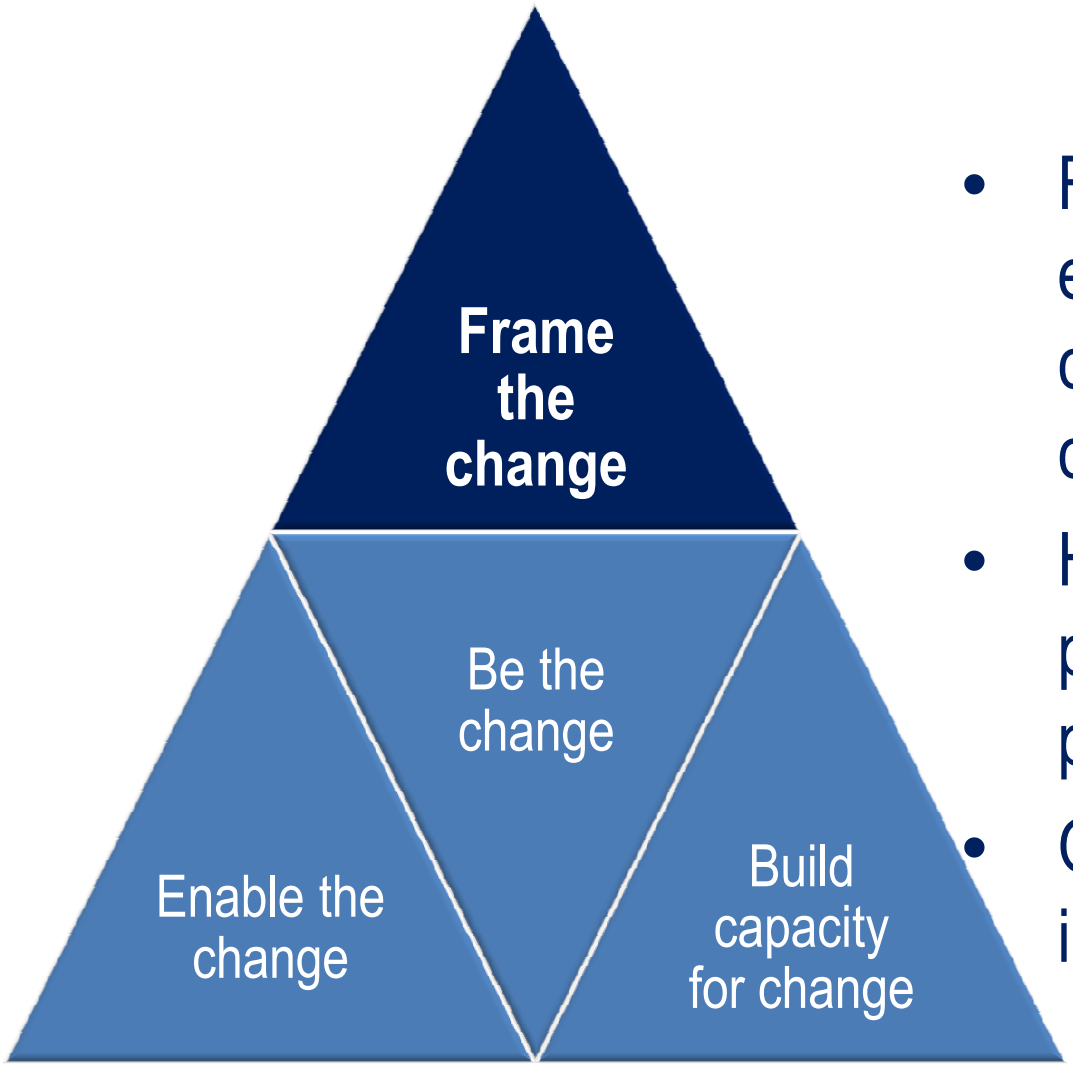


Call for a new social science for sustainability



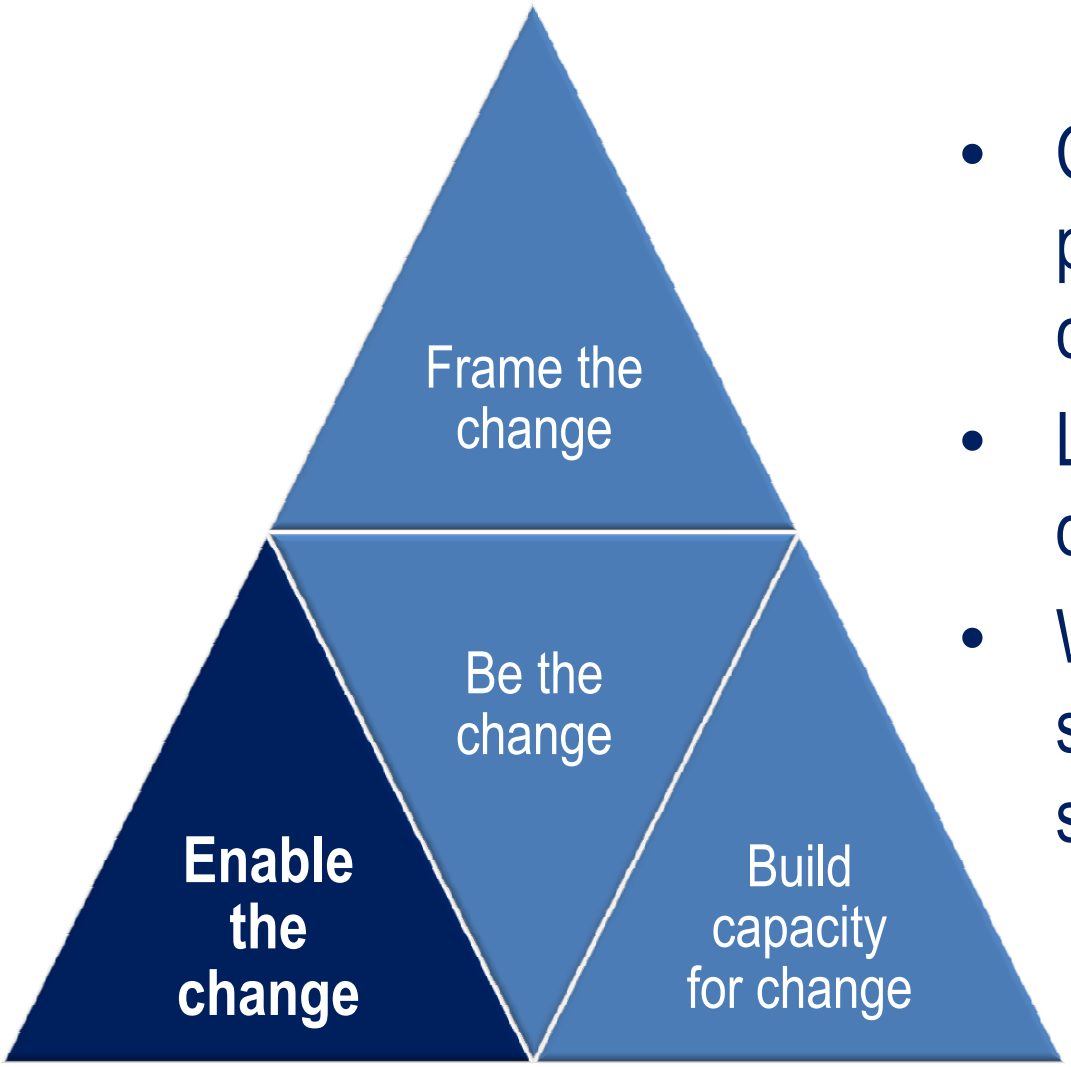
- **Bolder** in reframing global environmental change as a social process
- **Better** at infusing social science knowledge into real-world problem-solving
- **Bigger** in terms of having more social scientists working on these issues
- **Different** in terms of how we think about, produce and deliver our knowledge

Framing environmental change as social change



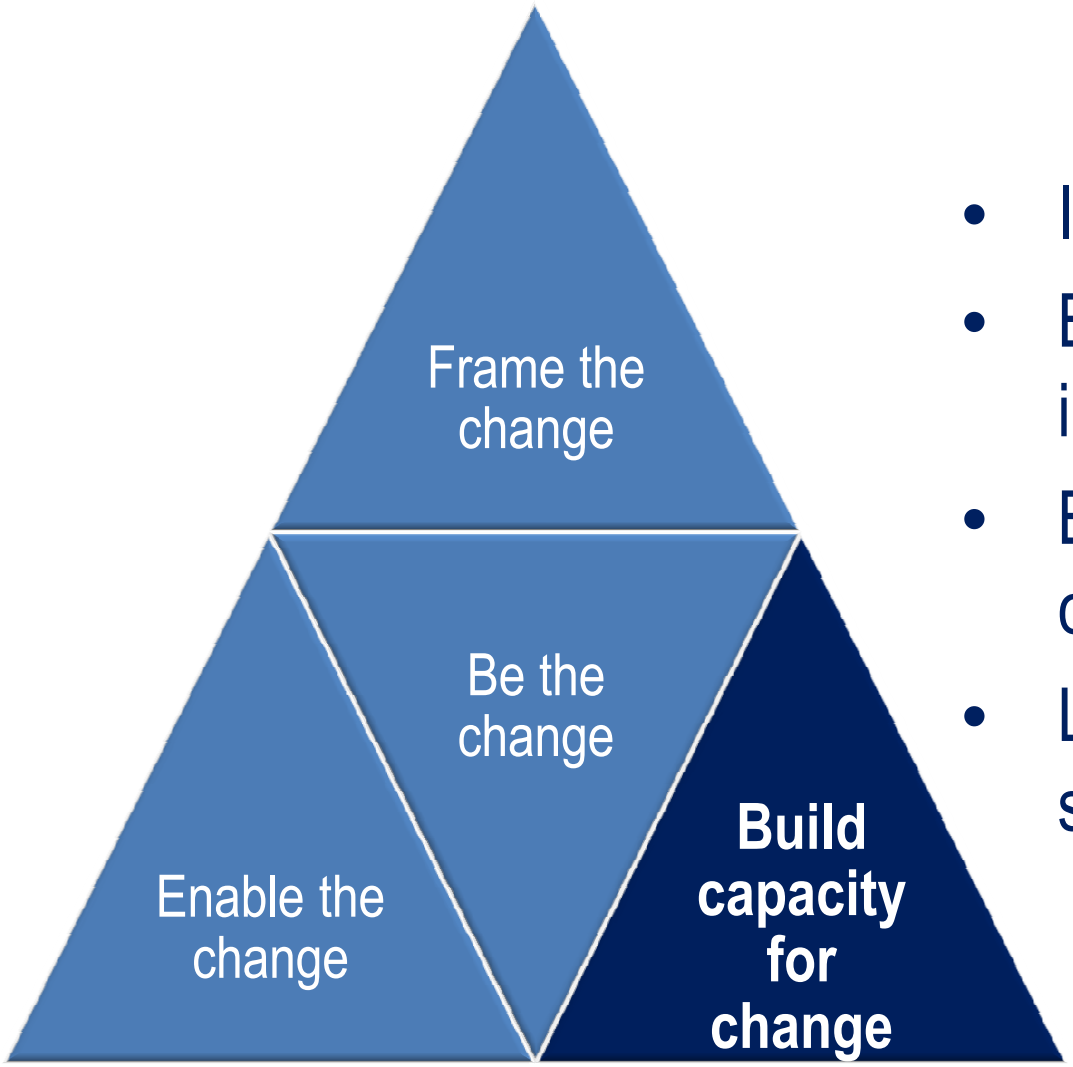
- Revealing the social, economic, political and cultural nature of the challenge
- Highlighting the role of people, behaviours, practices, institutions
- Open space for social innovations

Propose solutions that work for people and the planet



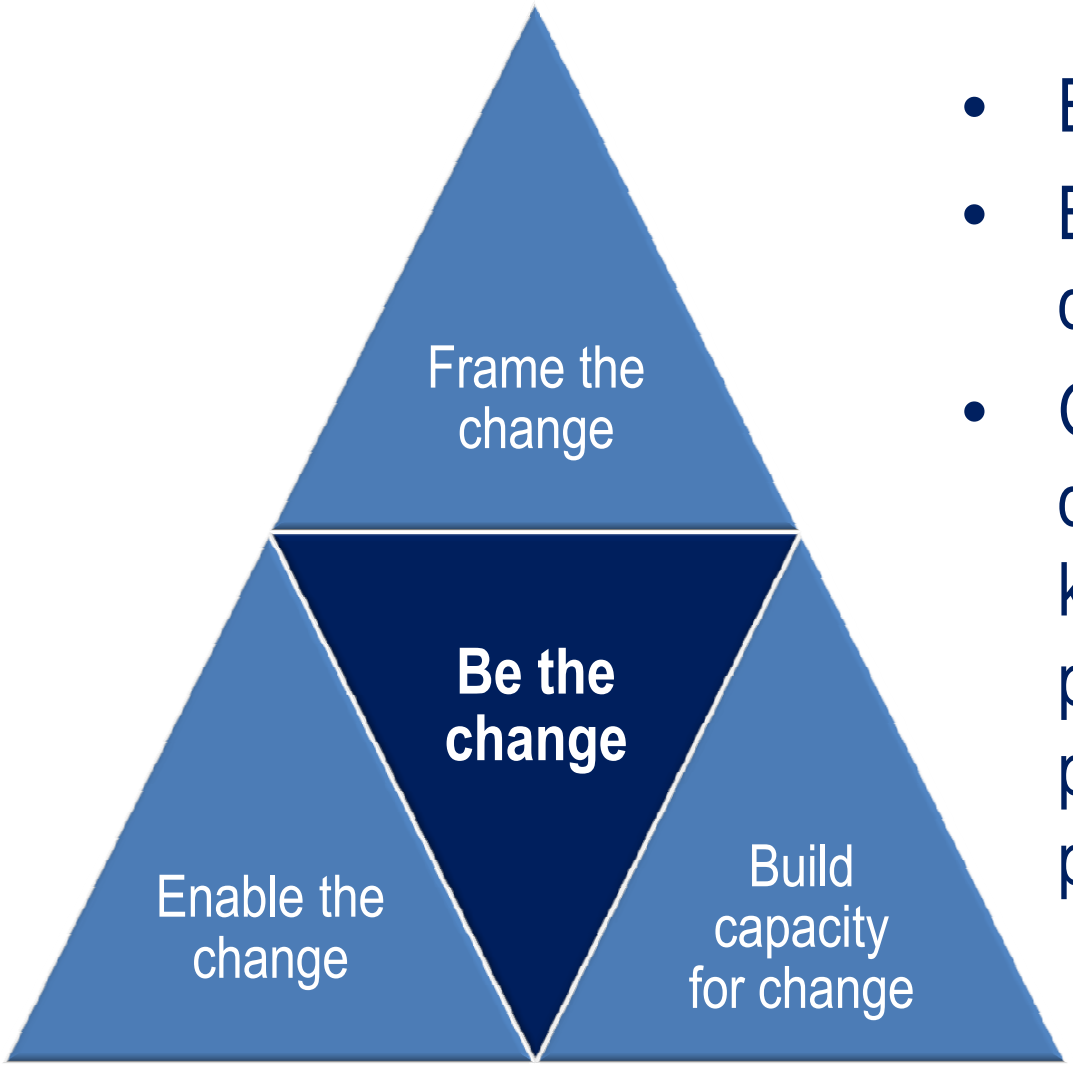
- Closing the gap between the pace of global environmental change and social responses
- Leading engagement with decision makers
- Working with societies in specific social-ecological settings

Build capacity for Change



- Increasing research production
- Building human capital and institutional resources
- Building critical mass and communities of practice
- Leading in integrated, solutions-oriented research

Transforming knowledge production and use



- Embracing interdisciplinarity
- Building bridges across different forms of knowledge
- Getting serious about the co-design and co-production of knowledge and action with policy makers and practitioners, civil society and private sector actors

The 2013 World Social Science Report



- A starting point for rallying further social science engagement
- A basis for discussion and the development of mobilisation and resource strategies



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