



## ***Klima 2-2013*** **Foresight intelligence**

They want to create and implement strategies for shifting human cultures and institutions towards sustainable practices and an equitable and satisfying future. They are The Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere.

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Comprehensive assessments of Planet Earth have shown the wide variety of severe environmental problems that humanity has created, with climate change at the top of the list. Despite the physical science knowledge establishing the current state of the globe, concerted action on this knowledge is lacking.

A difficulty in making sense of the scientific evidence, and moving towards action based on it, is the large degree of disciplinarity pervading science on sustainability, including climate change. Much more is needed to join physical sciences, social sciences, and humanities for understanding how to enact the action which is known to be needed.

One such initiative is the [Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere \(MAHB\)](#). MAHB is pronounced “mob”, referring to the English word for a group of people. It seeks to develop more comprehensive definitions of, and solutions to, sustainability challenges. It does that through integrating physical sciences, technological knowledge, social sciences, and the humanities in order to use that knowledge for action.

MAHB’s mission is to foster, fuel, and inspire global conversations and actions in order to shift human cultures and institutions towards sustainable practices yielding an equitable and satisfying future. MAHB continues to grow an international network of social scientists, physical scientists, humanists, academics from professions, and other engaged scholars, alongside members of business, political, and civic communities who stimulate a global dialogue on guiding human cultures and institutions towards sustainable practices.

MAHB’s research topics cover what human and societal goals should be for sustainability, how to achieve those goals, and how cultural and institutional changes can and should be orientated towards solving climate change and other sustainability challenges. Physical science forms one necessary basis, but MAHB integrates that with the two other bases of social science and humanities.

The key is not just generating new knowledge through science, but is also moving beyond scientific publication to determine how to use and apply existing knowledge to understand how to influence sustainability-related behaviour and values. That ranges from individual decisions on transportation choices to organisational decisions about how environmentally friendly services offered should be to governance decisions on which industries to subsidise.

To understand pathways towards sustainability, MAHB specifically adopts use-inspired / problem-driven research and application. That does not rely on a single discipline or single set of disciplines. Instead, the research involves curiosity, but also more because it identifies a practical problem facing society, such as dependence on private cars. It then works out how to solve that problem, irrespective of the academic origins of the research approaches selected.

This also means that anyone is welcome to join and contribute to MAHB. Just see [the website](#) for instructions on participating. Academics, practitioners, and the general public are welcome.

All that is required is a commitment to tackling climate change and other sustainability challenges, through integrating all sciences, the humanities, and professional disciplines. To achieve the change in behaviour and social values necessary, everyone must be fully engaged in addressing the challenges to the planet and to humanity through combining research and action.

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