



TIAS @ 20:

Welcome and  
thoughts on relevance

TIAS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium

April 15, 2024

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# Outline

- Welcome to CEU
- Who needs IA?
- Why?
- Why now?
- What else?

# Excerpt from Mission Statement, Environmental Sciences and Policy

- “Our department is a site of inspired learning, scholarly research, and compassionate and free exchange of ideas regarding the environment, a cornerstone of well-being from the global to the local level. [...]”

# Who needs IA?

- Science – policy – society interface(s)
  - Global goals (SDGs, SDG+)
  - Thematic / problem-oriented assessments (GEO, GSDR, IPCC, IPBES, other synthetic outlooks etc.)
  - Area-based assessments (countries, cities, ecosystems)
  - 'ESG'

# Why?

- Polycris<sup>es</sup>
- Decision making under extreme risk and uncertainty
- Recognize and avoid maladaptation and lock-in
- Reduce the societal / political risk of doing the right thing (A. Cropper, paraphrased)
- “We are acutely aware that achieving significant, though greatly fragmented societal progress has come at a great cost to the planet and its fabric of life, and that on balance, our current collective trajectory is unsustainable. [...]” (Excerpt from departmental mission statement)

# Why now?

- Complexity
- Uncertainty
- Catastrophic and cascading risk
- Tipping points
- Foresight
- Knowledge contestation

# What else?

- Safe and open knowledge exchange
- Guidance and principles
- Knowledge validation
- Applications
- Experimentation
- Capacity building
- Outreach