



The Global Foundation
Together, we strive for the global common good

Update, September 2026

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature'

Our global alliance further mobilises, under the guidance of our leadership group



Steve Howard

Secretary General, the Global Foundation

Over recent months, thanks to the ongoing guidance of our **leadership group**, there has been some good progress on the key issues being addressed through responsible business leadership and partnership across our expanding **Global Alliance**, namely:

1. **Global Governance** – towards global guardrails for AI
2. **Climate change** - accelerating and linking up the energy transition
3. **Care for nature** - saving tropical forests from destruction



1 Global Governance: towards global guardrails for AI, to benefit humanity

Artificial Intelligence has become the hottest topic in recent global conversations and is well and truly on the Foundation's agenda, with our continuing engagement and advocacy.

On one hand, AI promises to boost productivity and open doors to a brighter future. Massive investments are underway across the globe for the infrastructure and services required to underpin the growth of AI. Proper planning for the effective and balanced development of data centres which underpin AI is now a central focus of governments, business and communities worldwide.

See Energy Transition, below for more details.

On the other hand, AI has the potential to dominate humanity. This is existential. Pope Leo was among the first to [call for concerted global action to govern the downsides of AI](#). Soon after, Foundation member, Sister Adele Howard rsm OAM, [endorsed this call in the Vatican journal](#), L'Osservatore Romano.

Recently, many other global leaders have also called for greater care about AI, including [Bill Gates](#), [central bankers](#) and now even AI industry leaders themselves.

This week, at the United Nations in New York, an alliance of 22 middle power States has called for the formation of a [global AI governance entity](#), under the United Nations.

Australian Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has been at the forefront, while at the same time indicating that Australia can be a significant player with the [development of AI for economic benefit](#).

Over many months, the Foundation has engaged with and encouraged advisors to Pope Leo at the Vatican and the office of the Australian Prime Minister and, as a consequence, AI and its global governance will be high on the agenda our next *Rome Roundtable*.

See Rome Roundtable below for more details.



2

Climate Change – accelerating and linking up the energy transition, beyond borders



At a time when the planet is heating and some official ambitions to lower global greenhouse gas emissions have softened, there has been a huge step-up in practical and planned action to address climate change and accelerate the energy transition.

Responsible business within our alliance is playing the key role that we have encouraged.

Great news: one of our most important supporters, Alinta Energy, has recently agreed to step up its engagement with the Foundation to the highest level, that of Key Partner.



Alinta Energy CEO, Jeff Dimery, is leading our work on the energy transition, both in Australia and also now with two-way links into Asia (Singapore, Malaysia and China, in the first instance) and also the Pacific.

The announcement coincides with the recent news that Alinta Energy has recently been acquired by Singaporean energy utility, [Sembcorp Industries](#), whose CEO, Kim Yin Wong, has an already deep understanding of the Australian energy landscape and has also engaged with the Foundation.

Under Jeff's leadership, our energy transition group, with its expanding mandate, will meet in Australia, in the first instance, with planning for subsequent discussions in Singapore and elsewhere in the region. It is hoped that the Governments of both Australia and Singapore will endorse this strategic initiative in due course.

One of the central themes of the work will be to encourage effective planning and execution for the proper development of data centres which underpin AI, including for social licence, for balancing energy and water needs. The Foundation will respond to the [Australian Prime Minister's consultation paper](#), just issued on the subject.

Meanwhile, Foundation Partner, [TotalEnergies](#), is leading the global oil and gas majors in the energy transition, reflected in its investment commitments and projections for the future. TotalEnergies is also leading a collective global effort to achieve dramatic reductions in emissions of methane, a gas which has serious impacts on climate change.



3

Care for Nature and good progress with preserving tropical forests worldwide

Central to the Foundation's ongoing work is the role of the enlightened private sector in ensuring the care for nature, by working in partnership with civil society organisations, including those also affiliated with the Foundation, such as the [Nature Positive Initiative](#).

The leadership of Brazilian miner, Vale, a Key Partner of the Foundation in preserving the Amazon forest remains an outstanding example of this.

"It is urgent to keep the forest standing and to value and promote sustainable development opportunities for local populations. Vale has been in the Amazon for more than 30 years helping ICMBio protect approximately 800,000 hectares of forest, an area equivalent to five cities of São Paulo."

Read more about Vale's [conservation work on its website](#).



Supporters will also recall that the Foundation was one of the first global voices to advocate support for the creation of the [Tropical Forests Forever Facility \(TFFF\)](#), a Brazilian Government initiative.

Designed to generate a huge, global investment fund that would ensure some of the investment proceeds would flow back to support the preservation of tropical rainforests at local level, worldwide, the fund is closing in on its sovereign capital raising target of US\$10 billion, having generated US\$7.3 billion to date.

I agreed to join an informal international advisory body, 'Friends of TFFF', which continues to advocate in support of the TFFF.



4 Welcoming new connections



New Chinese Ambassador to Australia: Building upon the Foundation's effective working relationship with China and with his predecessor, His Excellency Ambassador Xiao Qian, I was pleased to enjoy one of the first meetings with China's new Ambassador to Australia, Mr Liu Jinsong, at his residence in Canberra on 10 September.

We enjoyed a wide-ranging, informal discussion and the Ambassador expressed his enthusiasm to work closely with the Foundation, particularly on the energy transition initiative. Ambassador Liu accepted our offer to host him for a dinner with members at an early date.

Welcome also to new civil society members of our Global Alliance:



Ms Sarah Gillard
Chief Executive Officer

A Blueprint for Better Business is an independent charity based in the United Kingdom that encourages companies to be a force for good—especially in the AI era—by guiding leaders toward more human-centered, purpose-led business.



Ms Libby Sandbrook
Business & Nature Director

Fauna & Flora is a 120+ year-old international wildlife charity that works with partners in 48 countries to protect nature by saving species, restoring habitats, and supporting sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

Read more about our [**Global Alliance on our website.**](#)



A reminder to register for our Rome Roundtable, being held in late January 2027



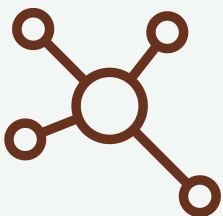
As mentioned earlier, planning is well underway for the Foundation's most important global meeting for the period ahead, our 2027 *Rome Roundtable*, to be held at and in conjunction with the Vatican, in late January, with exact dates to be advised shortly.

As indicated in our call for registrations of interest, this will be a high-level, small-scale meeting of global leaders, including the Foundation's major supporters, along with representatives and invitees of the Vatican, other faith leaders and contributors from across the Foundation's Global Alliance.

The Foundation has proposed [an agenda for the roundtable](#), which is in under discussion with the Vatican at present, framed around the major topic of **global 'sustainability'** – economic, environmental, social and also, with the rapid rise of AI, 'technological sustainability'.

This will be an unusual opportunity to showcase responsible business leadership on great issues affecting the planet, working with leaders from faiths, civil society and institutions.

Should you be interested, and have not already done so, please be sure to register your interest in participating at the Rome Roundtable by emailing me at your soonest convenience.



Join the conversation

Contact the Global Foundation's Chief of Staff, Ms Natalia Cikorska at natalia.cikorska@globalfoundation.earth

Find out more about our work at globalfoundation.earth

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