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Endorsement of the Flagship candidate project ExtremeEarth (CSA proposal)

To the Coordinator of the ExtremeEarth CSA project proposal

On behalf of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, we are expressing our strongest support for the CSA proposal to develop a FET Flagship Project Extreme Earth.

The UFZ develops strategies and instruments that ensure the persistence of various ecosystem services and the resilience of ecosystems in times of global change and increasing pressure. We develop and apply smart models and monitoring systems in order to analyze complex environmental systems and to make reliable predictions about how environmental systems will react to anthropogenic disturbance. To achieve a sustainable use of natural resources for the well-being of humans and the environment, we aim at understanding how stakeholders from the political arena, the economy and society will react to certain environmental issues and which basic conditions and interests propel them to act in the way that they do. Against this background, the UFZ develops and provides science-based options for political and societal decision-making processes.

The joint activity of the climate and earth system science communities to develop an FET Flagship candidate project is a most timely and appropriate measure for the future of Europe. It will drastically enhance Europe's capability to predict and monitor environmental extremes and their impacts on society enabled by the imaginative integration of edge and exascale computing and beyond, and the real-time exploitation of pervasive environmental data.

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Understanding and advancing our ability to predict the frequency of occurrence and intensity of extremes reliably is of paramount importance for efforts to make society more resilient to the environmental impacts of the present and changing climate, and it will allow European governments and businesses to plan more effectively for current and changing climate risks. ExtremeEarth brings together Earth-system scientists and associated down-stream science and application communities, joining forces with those pushing the envelope in digital technology, to realize in the next five to ten years what seems unfeasible today. ExtremeEarth will greatly enhance our capacity to observe and monitor the state of the Earth, predict extremes, understand their underlying drivers, and characterize their societal impact.

The ExtremeEarth project aims to reflect the views and requirements of scientific, technological and service oriented communities that are included in the project for realizing a step-change enhancement of their capabilities in the future. The representation of these communities will be developed throughout the evolution of ExtremeEarth, from preparatory action to Flagship project, through endorsements, consultations and formal project partnership. The endorsement of the Flagship candidate project ExtremeEarth implies that the endorsing entity supports the scientific, technological and programmatic objectives of ExtremeEarth.

With our research background in the fields of monitoring and prediction of trends and extremes, modeling of landscapes and hydrosystems, as well as the interactions of society and environment, we see strong links to the aims of the proposed project ExtremeEarth. Therefore, we strongly support this proposal and we are looking forward to further intense involvement in this joint European activity.

This endorsement does not imply any legal or financial commitments towards the ExtremeEarth project. Support will imply that statements and logos of supporters may be shown on the ExtremeEarth website

With kind regards,



Prof. Dr. Georg Teutsch
Scientific Managing Director



Prof. Dr. Heike Graßman
Administrative Managing Director