

# Foreword

Today, our world is increasingly challenged. Issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, loss of biodiversity, and strained social services are taking a toll on our planet and our societies. There is a growing awareness that our future is progressively uncertain. To achieve a more sustainable future, we collectively need a different approach, one that helps us better understand our challenges and create holistic solutions.

Geodesign is an emerging discipline that shows promise. It provides a framework and process for integrating geographic sciences into how we plan and design human settlement. Users can create alternative designs based on environmental and social factors and rapidly evaluate their impacts. Geodesign uses analysis to visualize, integrate, and model these factors. It is helping designers collaborate and create better plans, and then assess what the future will look like should certain decisions be made. Geodesign enables scientists, design professionals, students, government leaders, and stakeholders to work together using a common visual language of maps and spatial analysis methods to address global challenges at many scales.

I believe that the visual modeling and analytic tools inherent in this methodology enables taking environmental, social, and other considerations into account and help us create a more sustainable future.

In the following pages, you will see how the International Geodesign Collaboration (IGC) and its members have convened to contribute to this work. These experts come from a wide variety of geographic and subject matter domains, and yet they applied the same geodesign framework organized by IGC. Their work applies scientific rigor and design thinking to tackle the big crises faced today by communities and regions around the world. Their work provides evidence that it is possible to develop systematic geographic knowledge into a means for designing and planning the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Dangermond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Jack Dangermond  
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