Our World

Is a Complex . . .
and Highly Interdependent
Ecosystem

Fragile

Rich in Biodiversity

. . . Not Well-Known

. . . And Even Less Understood

The World We Live In
Rapidly Changing & Evolving

Increasingly Dominated by Human Activities

The Central Problem of Our Time

Lack of *Understanding* . . .
and Failure to *Collaborate* . . .

We Must Address This Problem
. . . ***Urgently***

The Geographic Approach

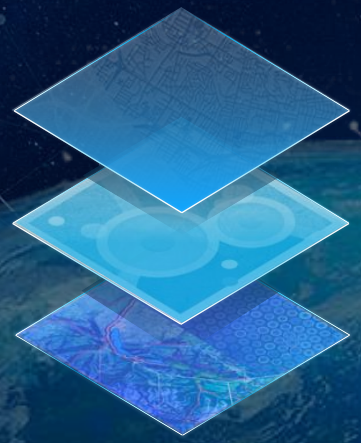
A Way of Thinking and Problem Solving
That Integrates Geographic Science & Information

An Inclusive and
Multidisciplinary Process

Science Based

Holistic

Integrated



Collaborative

Understandable

Providing a Framework for
Understanding and Applying
Our Knowledge

Impacting Every
Sector of Our Society

Mapping

. . . and The Geographic Approach

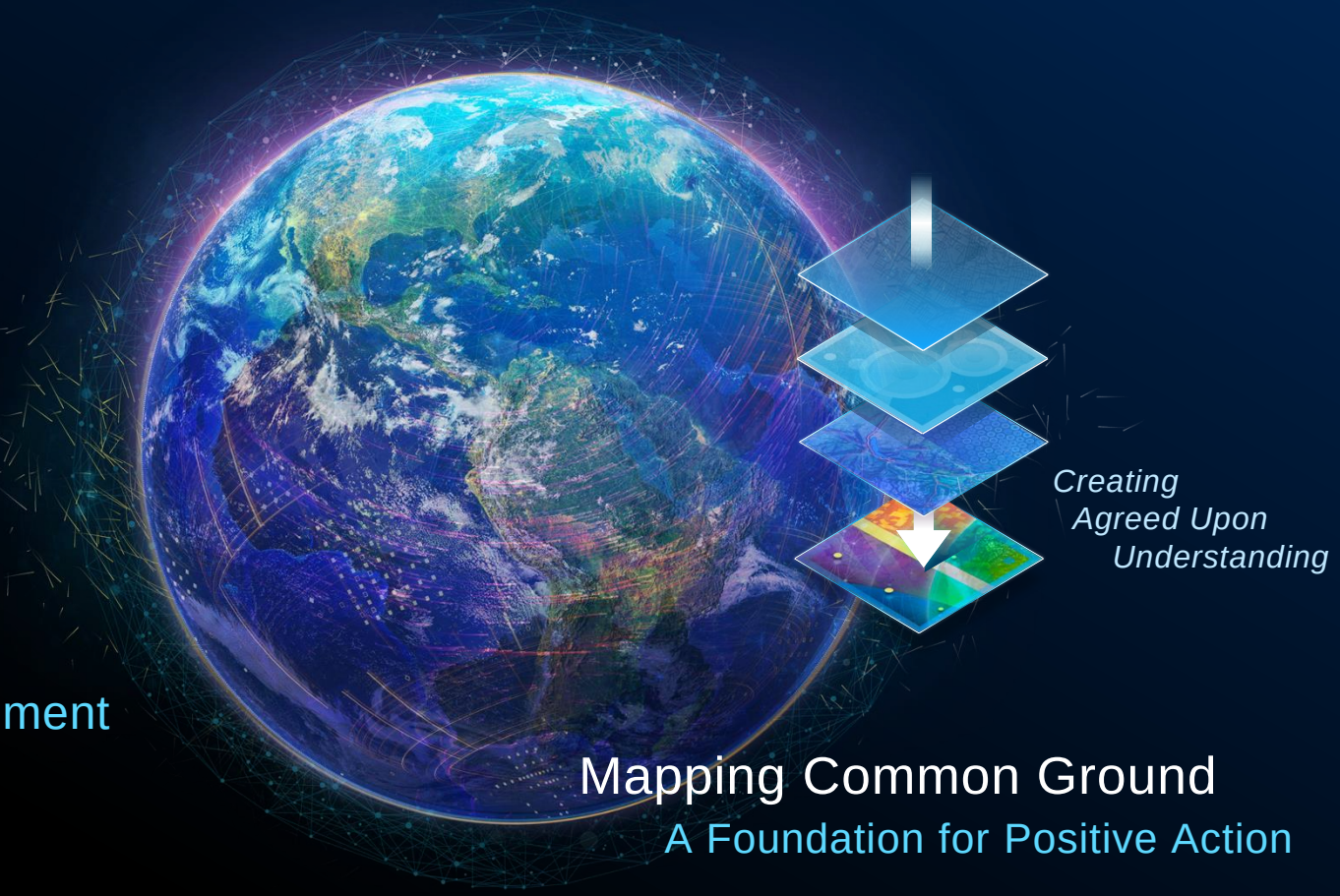
Are Powerful Means for . . .

Creating Understanding . . .

Exploring Alternatives . . .

Finding Solutions . . .

and Reaching Agreement



Creating Agreed Upon Understanding

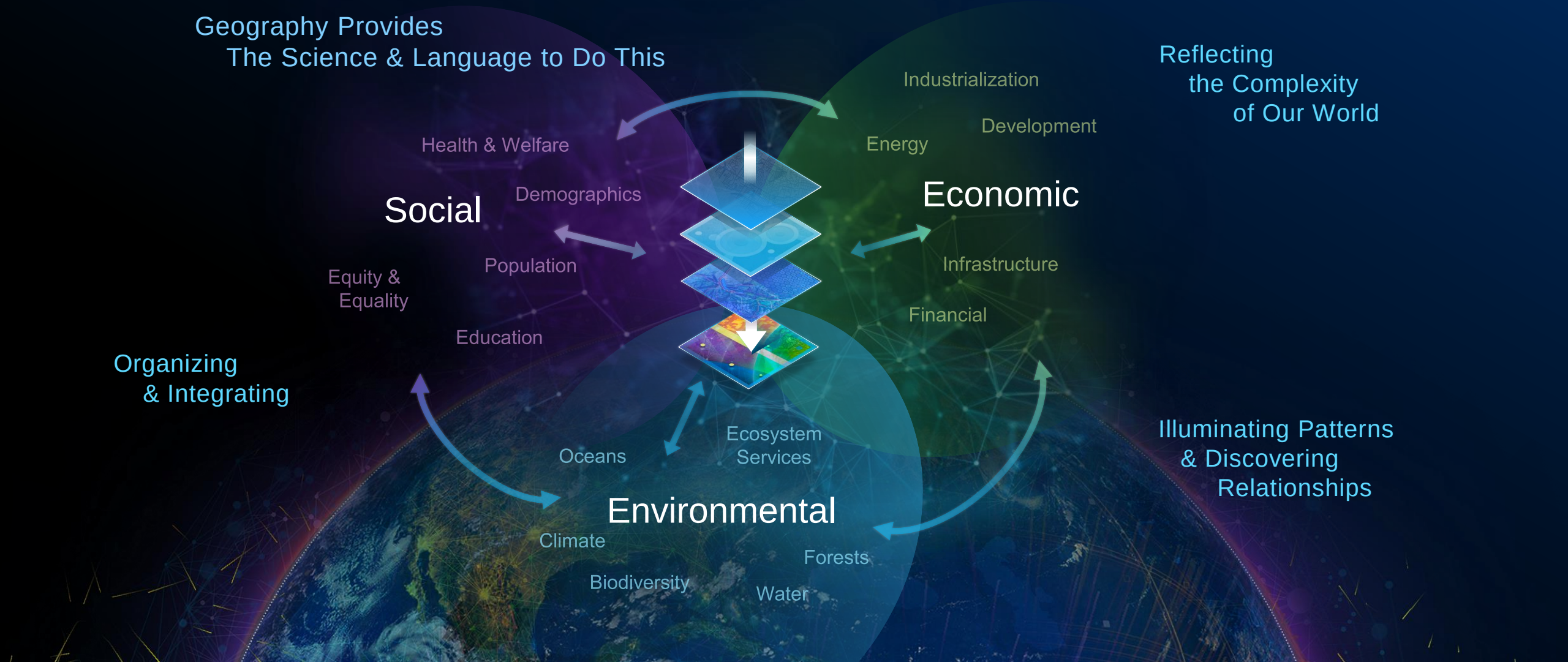
Mapping Common Ground

A Foundation for Positive Action

Mapping Common Ground
Requires We Consider All the Factors

Geography Provides
The Science & Language to Do This

Reflecting
the Complexity
of Our World



Organizing
& Integrating

Illuminating Patterns
& Discovering
Relationships

Integrated Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure

Expanding SDI beyond data to knowledge and understanding

Metadata catalogs

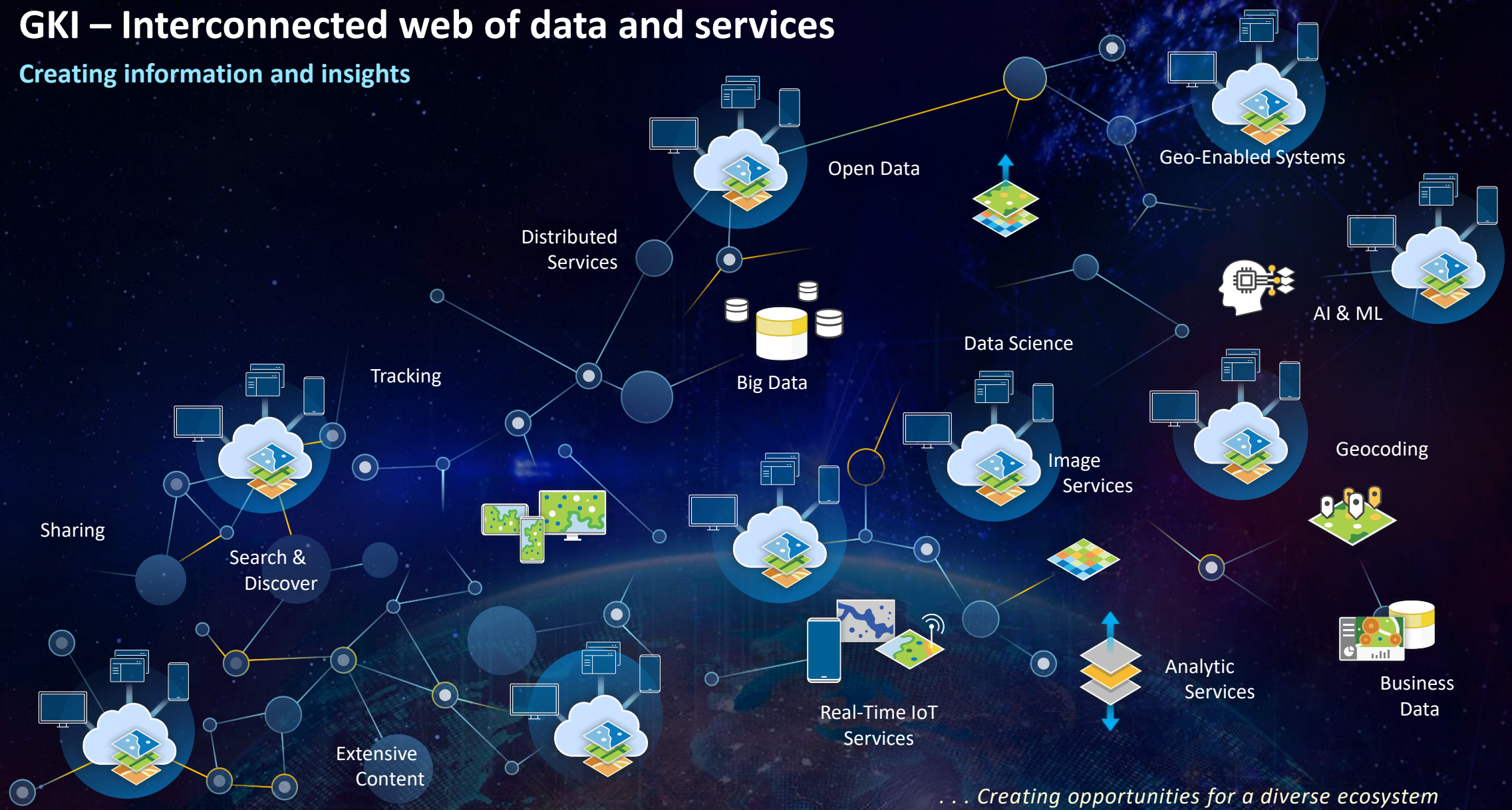
Federated portals

Digital ecosystems

Search & Discovery → Integration & Use

GKI – Interconnected web of data and services

Creating information and insights



. . . Creating opportunities for a diverse ecosystem