

GEO Secretariat Update

Architecture & Data Committee - 10

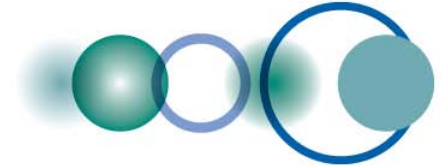
May 7, 2009

Palazzo dei Congressi

Stresa, Italy

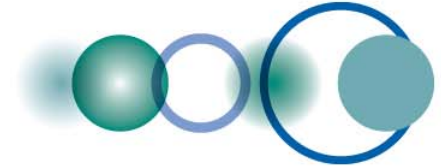
Michael Tanner
GEO Secretariat





Topics for Discussion

- **Overarching Task (OAT) Coordination**
- **Letter of Intent for Task Leads**
- **2010 Ministerial Summit Preparation Process**
- **Plenary activities**
- **Upcoming ADC meetings**

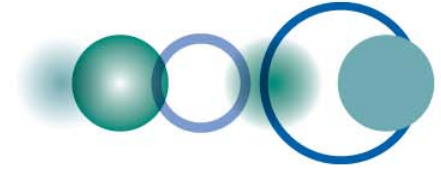


Overarching Tasks

GEO-IV Recommendations

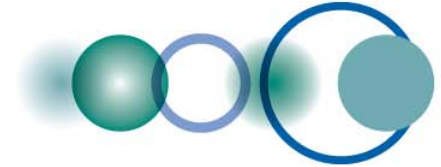
Consolidate Work Plan Tasks into smaller number of
strategic tasks to:

- **Improve coordination**
- **Foster linkages**
- **Ensure continuity**



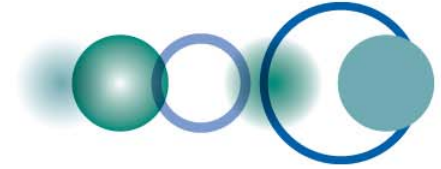
Overarching Tasks Rationale

- Move GEO Work Plan to **higher level**
- Identify **key lines** of GEOSS implementation
- Provide GEO **communication** material:
 - Ministerial and Plenary
 - Work Plan Progress reports
 - Newsletter, etc
- Inputs for **monitoring & evaluating** GEOSS progress



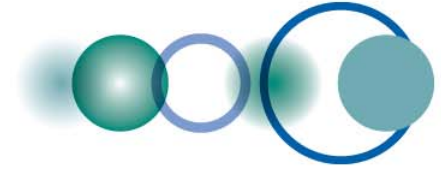
OAT Coordination Objectives

- Ensuring that Overarching Tasks move forward in a **coherent** manner
- Promote **synergies** and **cross-fertilization** among underlying sub-tasks
- Enhance **convergence** of activities
- Contribute to a more **focused** GEOSS implementation



OAT Coordination Support

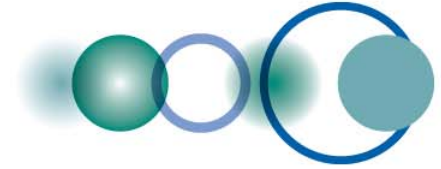
- Committees
- Communities of Practice
- GEO Secretariat



OAT Coordination ADC

Architecture & Data Tasks

- Introduce sherpas at OAT level
(in addition to sherpas and PoCs at sub-task level)
- Report on progress at OAT level
- Use ADC Meetings to foster interactions between
sub-task PoCs



Community of Practice **SBA** Support

Disasters – Geohazards, Coastal Zone

Health – Air Quality and Health, Atm Chemistry

Energy – Energy

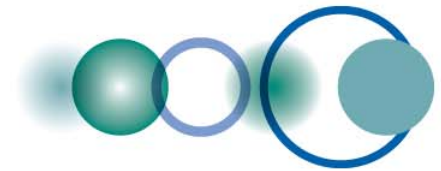
Climate – Carbon Cycle

Water – Water Cycle incl. water quality group

Ecosystems – Forest, Coastal

Agriculture – Agricultural Monitoring, Coastal Zone

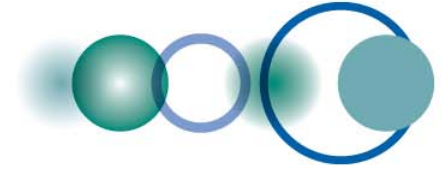
Biodiversity – Biodiversity



OAT Coordination

GEO Secretariat

- Facilitates information exchange across sub-tasks
- Encourage Points of Contacts, Leads and contributors of sub-tasks to interact,
 - Build upon synergies and connect each other's work
- Organizing teleconferences, dedicated meetings, informal side meetings
- Maintain list-serves of Leads and contributors email addresses for each OAT
 - Facilitate discussion and document exchange
- Reports on Work Plan implementation progress
- Provides syntheses of outcomes at the EXCOM and Plenary



OAT Coordination Recommendations

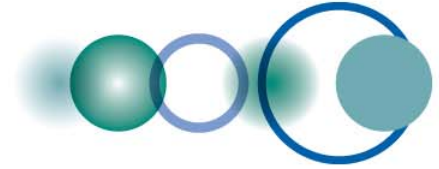
European Commission

For each OAT, identify a Steering Group comprising a coordinator, a deputy coordinator and the leads of each sub-task, or develop national champions to also support the coordinator.

The coordinator would act as a communication link with all relevant entities, (e.g. GEOSec, Committees, sub-task leads, CoPs, other OAT leads, Task Forces);

The coordinator must also ensure that the role of the Communities of Practice (CoPs) is acknowledged (...)

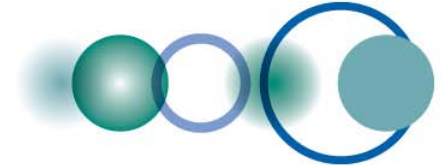
A management plan should then be developed for each OAT/SBA: a kick-off meeting should be organised for each of the OATs/SBAs to develop this management plan



OAT Coordination Recommendations

C4

Overarching Tasks should be coordinated by either a Co-Chair of a related Committee or a volunteer coordinator who provides status to the related Committee on a basis determined by that Committee, but no less frequently than semi-annually

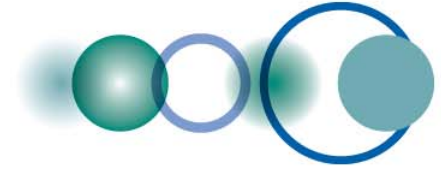


OAT Coordination Recommendations

C4

The overarching Task coordinator shall:

- Provide a single point of communication for all those involved in the overarching Task and serve as a liaison with GEO Committees, Communities of Practices and the Secretariat for the Task
- In the framework of the semi-annual Task Sheet update, report on progress to the GEO community (including input from sub-task Points of Contact and contributors)
- Support monitoring and evaluation of relevant progress toward GEOSS target outcomes and report this to the committee, either in person or through electronic means

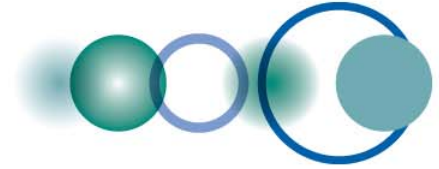


OAT Coordination Recommendations

C4

The overarching Task coordinator shall (cont'):

- As feasible, participate in at least one meeting per year of the relevant GEO Committee (self financed, with possible exceptions for developing countries)
- Abide by the GEO letter of intent for Tasks and subtasks;
- Bring any issue requiring guidance or information to the attention of the relevant Committee
- Where synergies exist, foster interactions and encourage cross-fertilization between overarching Tasks and sub-tasks;
- Notify the appropriate GEO Committee through the GEO Secretariat of any changes in the overarching or subtask leadership

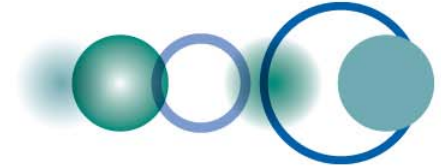


OAT Coordination Recommendations

STC

Develop an approach that would:

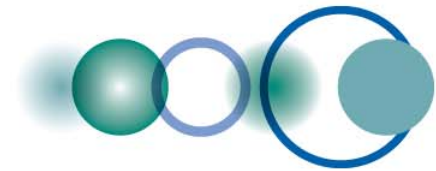
- Facilitate coordination & communication across sub-tasks
- Create teams of sub-task Leads that meet regularly to implement OAT leadership
- Be supported by GEO Secretariat
- Avoid introducing additional bureaucracy and burdensome layers of oversight and reporting



OAT Coordination Recommendations

WMO

The 10-year Implementation Plan clearly stated the “the Earth observing systems that participate in GEOSS retain their existing mandates and governance arrangements, supplemented by their involvement in GEOSS”. The proposed introduction of overarching Tasks and subordinate of sub-tasks leads to the WMO concern that the new Task Management structure might violate the principle stated above. Whereas in the previous Work Plan most Tasks had clear Leads from Participating Organizations of Members and the responsibility for achieving the milestones was also clear. The introduction of overarching Tasks adds a new level of governance in fact almost a new hierarchy of management. It will be important that the Task Leads and the organizations they represent clearly understand this governance”



OAT Next Steps

Late April:

- Secretariat releases draft paper to all Committee members and GEO community

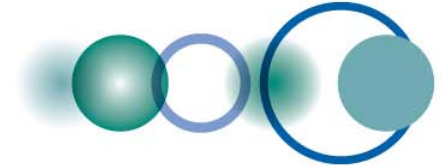
Late May:

- Committee input consolidated in a proposal presented to Executive Committee in June



November Plenary Activities

- Monday 16: EXCOM
 - ADC Co-chair
- Tuesday 17: GEO-VI Plenary
 - Reception at Smithsonian Natural History Museum
- Wednesday 18: GEO-VI Plenary
 - IGOS Reception
- Thursday 19: GEO IGOS/CoP Symposium
- Friday 20: GEOSS in the Americas Symposium



Upcoming ADC Meetings

- 14-18 September 2009 – Melbourne, Australia
- 23-26 February 2010 – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- May 2010 – Istanbul, Turkey
- September 2010 – South Africa
- November 2010 – Ministerial (China or Korea)

Thank you!

<http://www.earthobservations.org>

