

GEO 2009-2011 Work Plan Development Guidelines and Schedule

1 GUIDELINES

In making proposals and recommendations for the 2009-2011 Work Plan, GEO Members and Participating Organisations are invited to follow the guidelines and recommendations made by the GEO Committees.

Work Plan Contents

Tasks in the 2009-2011 Work Plan should help:

- Build upon the cross-cutting dimension of GEO across:
 - a) societal benefit areas (Disasters, Health, Energy, Climate, Water, Weather, Ecosystems, Agriculture, Biodiversity);
 - b) transverse areas (Architecture, Data Management, User Engagement, Capacity Building);
 - c) system-type (observing, processing, data-assimilation, modelling, dissemination, information).
- Enhance data sharing and data distribution;
- Take benefit of the transition of IGOS Themes (Cryosphere, Global Carbon Cycle, Geohazards, Ocean, Water Cycle IGWCO, Atmospheric Chemistry IGACO, Coastal observations, Land IGOL) into GEO;
- Realize the potential of the Communities of Practice (Coastal Zone, Air and Health, Energy, Geohazards, Water and Health, Forest);
- Reflect the First 100 Steps to GEOSS (presented in the Annex of Early Achievements to the GEO Report on Progress, 2007) in the progressive implementation of GEOSS and ensure continued development of these activities;
- Foster the development of GEOSS information (products, services) and the delivery of benefits to society.

Work Plan Structure

The 2009-2011 Work Plan should help consolidate 2007-2009 Work Plan Tasks (and activities) into overarching strategic Tasks to:

- Improve the coordination and integration of similar functions;
- Foster linkages between related Tasks;
- Ensure the continuity of relevant GEO activities.

(please note that the GEO 2007-2009 Work Plan Version 6 is available at:
<http://www.earthobservations.org/documents.shtml>)

In addition to consolidated overarching Tasks, new Tasks may be considered in the framework of the 2009-2011 Work Plan however under the following conditions: (i) strong Task Lead and Point of Contact identified; (ii) solid team of contributors identified; and (iii) funding source clearly identified.

For new Tasks that would not have a funding source clearly identified (however would be recognized as a key contribution to GEOSS implementation), an inclusion in the Work Plan could still be considered on the basis of GEO's potential to leverage resources with funding agencies and governments.

Capacity Building Area (*input from the GEO Capacity Building Committee*)

Points to consider in defining overarching Tasks:

- The Capacity Building strategy has been developed to cover a 5-year period, ending 2011, which will coincide with the end of the 2009-2011 Work Plan. The objectives outlined in the Capacity Building strategy, therefore, need to be the driver of the 2009-2011 Work Plan Capacity Building activities;
- The 2009-2011 Work Plan should include, realign and possibly redefine priority actions identified in the strategy;
- The 2009-2011 Work Plan should address the I³ of Capacity Building namely Infrastructure, Institutional and Individual;
- The current Work Plan largely focuses on developing the cross-cutting dimension of capacity building; a bigger focus is required in the 2009-2011 Work Plan, through sub-tasks, on developing societal-benefit-area specific capacity building activities.

Suggested overarching Tasks:

Resource mobilization

The objective of this Task would be to collectively identify priorities and resources to address human, institutional and infrastructural capacity in Earth observations and to implement the necessary tools to bring the GEO user community into contact with the requisite resource providers.

In accordance with the Seville Roadmap, this Task will:

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the needs and operations of resource providers, including their project cycles, methodologies, terms of reference, and priorities;
- Focus on understanding the full range of user communities and networks, including their needs and priorities;
- Strengthen links between the user and resource provider communities;
- Sensitize resource providers to the value of Earth observation and the benefits that building greater capacity for producing and using Earth observations can bring to a variety of users;
- Mobilize resources for building the capacity of the three key contributors to Earth observations: individuals, institutions and infrastructure;
- Identify likely resource providers for each social benefit area and geographic region;
- Coordinate resource mobilization in order to promote efficiencies and capacity;
- Market capacity building for Earth observation as a worthwhile investment and not merely as a cost;
- Engage and establish mutually beneficial relations with the private sector and establish private-public partnerships.

Promoting education, training and certification

The objective of this Task would be to identify education and training opportunities across GEO societal benefit areas. A further objective would be to develop synergies across education and training programmes, encourage cross-fertilization and to address common challenges. Methods for both certifying and recognising the qualifications of personnel working in Earth observation will also be addressed.

Strengthening and building networks

The objective of this Task would be to coordinate, strengthen and sustain existing networks within Earth observation communities as well as facilitate the construction of new networks in order to enhance capacity building. Networking is a cost-effective means of coordination for existing capacity building efforts and would allow for:

- Facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices;
- Promoting in-person and virtual collaborative opportunities;
- Encouraging personnel exchange for training purposes;
- Maintaining rosters of experts in particular areas of Earth observation;
- Facilitating the sharing of human and technical resources;
- Enabling standardisation of methods; and
- Promoting the sharing of data, information, reports and articles.

Advancing Earth observation through infrastructure development

The objective of this Task would be to identify hardware, software and other technology required to access, use and develop Earth observation data, information and products for decision making. The focus will be on promoting technology transfer (in its very broadest sense), and advancing infrastructure and information sharing.

Outreach and institutional reinforcement

The objective of this Task would be to engage the user community in identifying their capacity building needs for accessing, using and producing earth observations for societal benefit and to fully develop the operational capacity building presence within the GEO Information Service with capacity building resources, materials, registries, etc to fill those gaps. A further objective would be reinforce national and regional institutional capacities to advocate the use of Earth observations in decision making processes and provide a mechanism for capacity building information exchange.

2 PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

April The GEO community is invited to make proposals on the next Work Plan following the above guidelines and recommendations. All comments are due to the Secretariat **by 9 May**.

May-June Committees review proposals from the GEO community and provide recommendations.

Note: due to an early meeting date -6-8 May- only these comments received prior to 2 May will be reviewed by the User Interface Committee.

The Secretariat prepares a first version of the Work Plan (V1) based on GEO community's suggestions and Committees' recommendations.

- 1 July The Secretariat issues **Work Plan V1** for technical review.
- July Work Plan V1 is reviewed by the Executive Committee and Committees.
The GEO community is invited to provide individual comments and to circulate the document to additional experts as appropriate. All comments are due to the Secretariat **by 8 August.**
- 1 Sept The Secretariat issues **Work Plan V2** for official comments by GEO Members and Participating Organizations.
- Sept Work Plan V2 is reviewed by GEO Members and Participating Organizations, Executive Committee and Committees. All comments and recommendations on V2 are due to the Secretariat **by 3 October.**
- Mid Oct The Secretariat issues **Work Plan V3.**
- 25-26 Nov GEO-V Plenary reviews and considers the Work Plan for acceptance as a living document.