

Progress Report on GEOSS Gap Analysis Strategy

(for information and decision)

1 BACKGROUND

At its 21st meeting in March 2011, the GEO Executive Committee requested that the Gap Analysis Strategy Team develop detailed methodology and resourcing plans for the 5 proposed activities making up the GEOSS Gap Analysis Strategy for consideration at the 22nd meeting in July 2011. While significant progress has been made in scoping of the methodology in the intervening time, a number of important issues remain to be resolved before a clear methodology can be proposed.

The Gap Analysis Strategy team respectfully submits this progress report to Executive Committee and requests further guidance in the development of these methodologies. We also propose below a new timeline for resolution of these issues prior to the GEO-VIII Plenary in November 2011.

2 PROGRESS SINCE 21ST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- We have received a generous offer of resources to help scope this detailed methodology from the EC FP7 EGIDA project. This is because of the close alignment of EGIDA deliverables to the aims of the Gap Analysis development process;
- Unfortunately the process of documenting and agreeing upon detailed methodologies has been slowed by a lack of availability of key staff. Thus, the development of a detailed methodology and additional required resources will take longer than previously anticipated;
- Strong support from the GEO community for the Gap Analysis concept and development of a gap analysis process was highlighted at the recent GEO Work Plan Symposium;
- Clarity from the Executive Committee about the positioning of Gap Analysis within the GEO Work Plan is requested. More specifically, guidance as to whether Gap Analysis is intended to be included as a Task in its own right, a Task component, a process, or a group (committee/taskforce/working group) would help narrow down methodology options in the lead up to Plenary.

3 PROPOSED TIMELINE

We propose bringing the Gap Analysis Strategy with scoped methodology and resource requirements to the Joint GEO Committee Meetings in September 2011 for scrutiny by the Committees, with an out-of-session (email) discussion by the Executive Committee prior to a final status paper being prepared for Executive Committee and GEO-VIII Plenary in Turkey.

4 RECOMMENDATION:

That Executive Committee **agrees** to the revised timeline for delivery of detailed methodology and resource requirements for the 5 activities making up the GEOSS Gap Analysis Strategy

That Executive Committee, in its deliberations over the Version 1 of the GEO 2012-2015 Work Plan, **provides specific guidance** on the positioning of the GEOSS Gap Analysis as a Task, process or group activity of GEO.