



Call for Proposals (CFP): *Earth Observations in Decision Support*

**Joint Effort of GEO Capacity Building Committee
and User Interface Committee**

CFP Management Team:

Lawrence Friedl (UIC)

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***Status Report at UIC 13th Meeting
Washington, DC USA • 16-November-2009***



**GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS**



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CFP for Decision Support Projects

Overview

CFP seeks proposals for projects to apply Earth observations to improve policy decisions and management decisions.

CFP seeks to identify and enable practical applications of Earth obs.

Strong focus on Developing Countries and supporting end-users

Showcase the value and benefits of Earth obs. and GEOSS through successful applications examples.

Topics & GEO Tasks

Focus on 4 SBAs:

- Agriculture (*including Forests*)
- Energy
- Health (*including Air Quality*)
- Water

CFP supports GEO Tasks:

- CB-09-01 (Mobilising Resources)
- US-09-01b (Communities of Practice)



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Call for Proposals – Main Stages

Stage 1: Concept Proposals – Development & Review

Teams prepare brief proposals (approx. 5 pages). UIC/CBC form expert panels to review proposals. UIC/CBC recommend which projects for Full Proposals.

Stage 2: Full Proposals – Development & Review

Teams prepare Full Proposals. UIC/CBC re-form expert panels to review proposals. UIC/CBC recommend which projects to select & ways to support the selected projects.

Stage 3: Project Initiation

UIC/CBC work with project teams to start projects, including introductions to resource-providing organizations. GEO will conduct a kick-off meeting & training sessions.

Stage 4: Project Reviews & Development

GEO will review projects periodically to assess progress. Hold workshops/trainings if needed.

Stage 5: Project Demonstrations and Applications Showcases

Project teams will conduct demonstrations and announce project results. GEO will organize “Applications Showcases” to highlight the projects and demonstrate societal benefits.



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Call for Proposals – Three Types of Projects & Advisors

Type I: New Applications Projects

For organizations with limited experience, capacity, resources in applying Earth observations to decision making. *These projects are primarily focused at supporting developing countries.*

Type II: Applications Improvements

For organizations with some experience applying Earth observations to decision making; For those needing assistance with new types of Earth observations.

Type III: Applications Examples

For organizations that have successfully applied Earth observations to their decision making. Want to demonstrate their application and help other organizations adopt the application.

Encourage these orgs. to record their application in GEO registries.



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Current Status

- GEO received 136 submissions in June 2009
 - 110 Type I & II Proposals
 - 3 Advisors proposals
 - 19 Type III Proposals
 - 4 erroneous proposals
- Notices to Type I & II Concept Proposal teams
 - Initial notice: *Accept, Accept with Concerns, Decline*
 - Detailed comments followed
 - Included as many proposals as possible (declined only 3)

CFP Website:

http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_call_dsp.shtml



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Current Status

Instructions on how to design a Full Proposal have been distributed by GEO Sec

New deadline for Full Proposal: 1-May-2010

Focus:

Encourage project proposals to be results-oriented and that appeal to possible donors.



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Current Status – Focus on Review Process

Effort to organize for the 4 SBAs review panels to read and evaluate each Full Proposal. Review panels composed of experts in:

- Earth observations and models (scientific and technical perspectives);
- GEOSS and/or Earth observation data products and access;
- The particular SBA (preferably from a Community of Practice);
- Project management and Earth observations applications;
- Management and policy issues related to the SBA;
- Resource mobilization;
- Decision-support and applications aspects of Earth obs; and,
- Capacity building.



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Current Status – Focus on Review Process

Coordinators to organize review panels for each SBA.

One from UIC or CBC and one from GEO Sec

Responsibilities:

- i) organize the respective review panel, and
- ii) define a common evaluation procedure.

Coordinators not expected to evaluate the proposals by themselves. They coordinate the reviewing process, ensure its fairness, and that it remains on schedule.



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SBA Coordinators (proposed by Fernando Ramos)

Water:

Kathy Fontaine (UIC) and Doug Cripe (GEO Sec)

Agriculture:

Andiswa Mlisi (CBC) and Jinlong Fan (GEO Sec)

Health:

TBD (CBC) and Masami Onoda (GEO Sec)

Energy:

Thierry Ranchin (UIC) and Fernando Ramos (GEO Sec)

General Coordination:

Ana Casals (CBC) and Fernando Ramos



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Review Process (details in CFP Management Plan)

Numeric rating on a 7-point scale:

7	Exceptional	<i>A major contribution; no/minimal changes</i>
6	Excellent	<i>Well conceived and high likelihood of success; minor changes</i>
5	Very Good	<i>Likely success; some guidance and changes needed</i>
4	Good	<i>Sound project idea & probable success; guidance and revisions required</i>
3	Acceptable	<i>Worthwhile idea; significant guidance & revisions required</i>
2	Fair	<i>Lower likelihood of success; some flaws that may be correctable</i>
1	Poor	<i>Minimal likelihood of success; major flaws that are uncorrectable</i>



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Important Items to Remember

1. Proposal teams can submit directly to Full Proposal
 - A Concept Proposal was preferred yet is not mandatory
2. GEO will attempt to arrange funding for the selected projects
 - This approach is consistent with CB-09-01
3. Advisors Proposals are accepted at any time
 - June deadline did not apply to Advisors Proposals
 - Desire to received Advisor Proposals by Full Proposal deadline
4. Need for more reviewers for Final Proposals
 - Special request for reviewers from European region



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Additional Request

1. Contacts & Brokering.

CBC/UIC request contacts for people in Resource Providing Orgs.

Request support to broker relationships between projects and Earth obs. experts; brokering with potential resource/funding organizations

2. Adoption.

Organizations & CoPs can adopt projects and nurture them.

Organizations & CoPs can work directly with a proposal team to develop a project that aligns with their objectives and funding criteria

3. In-Kind and *Pro Bono* Funding.

Organizations can contribute by supporting Project Advisors (e.g., travel costs and salary for small portion of employees time)



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General Request

1. Distribute & circulate the CFP to GEO organizations and interested parties for their broader distribution (*especially for energy projects*)
2. Propose and/or participate in projects
 - Encourage submission or participation in Type I projects with developing countries
 - Encourage submission of Type II & III projects
3. Encourage people to be project Advisors
 - Submit a Advisor nomination/proposal (*CFP Section 4.4*)
4. Encourage experts to be reviewers for Full Proposal review panels
 - Great way to learn how people/users want to apply Earth obs.
 - Nominate potential reviewers to *CFPreview@geosec.org*



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Looking Ahead to Review Results

Since we are looking to include as many projects as possible yet have limited time and resources to find funding, UIC/CBC may have to set priorities on which projects to pursue.

Proposed priority setting approach

1. Ask CoPs to play active role in nurturing projects (some already done)

2. Establish tiers of projects to pursue for funding
 - Take a set amount of projects to focus on for certain time period
 - Proposal: Quintile approach (with minimum # per SBA)
 - After certain time, move on to next 20%

Alternative approach

Could bring all minimally-acceptable projects in a SBA to the attention of possible funders



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Looking Ahead to Review Results

Type III proposals

- Need to arrange opportunities for Applications Showcases
- General opportunities
 - conference venues
 - GEO website
- GEO opportunities
 - November 2010 Plenary
 - GEO workshops & plenaries



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Ahead to Step 3

Arranging resources and funding for acceptable projects will be large undertaking

Possible need for person(s) to focus on this effort full-time for 1-2 years

For Discussion:

- UIC propose to CBC for a joint-funded person(s) to focus on this
- Other methods to arrange & coordinate resources, Advisors, user engagement, etc.



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Committee

Discussion and Decisions



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Call for Proposals – Topic Areas

Agriculture

Examples of topics:

Crop production

Forests

Aquaculture and fishery statistics

Food security & drought
projections

Nutrient balances

Extent and severity of land
degradation and desertification

Poverty and food monitoring

Irrigation

Energy

Examples of topics:

Renewable energy projects
(solar siting, wind projects, hydro-
power, biofuels, etc.)

Environmentally responsible and
equitable energy management

Matching energy supply & demand

Reduction of risks to energy
infrastructure

Inventories of greenhouse gases
and pollutants



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Call for Proposals – Topic Areas

Health

Examples of topics:

Air Quality

Airborne, marine, and water pollution

Ozone depletion

Persistent organic pollutants

Nutrition

Infectious diseases

Disease vectors, especially related to weather, climate, and environmental factors.

Water

Examples of topics:

Water resource management

Reservoir management

Water quality

Water quantity, use, and allocation

Flood & flow forecasting

Irrigation

Drought management

Precipitation, soil moisture, lake and reservoir levels, streamflow, snow cover, glaciers and ice, evaporation



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**After receiving the proposals,
GEO will broker connections to match Type 1 Projects with Advisors**

Type I Project

Project A

Needs support from an expert in Earth observations data for agriculture

Project Advisors

Expert 1 in Earth observations data in water

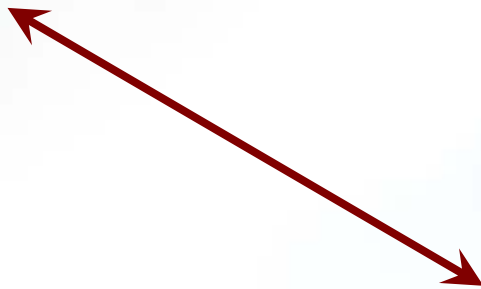
Expert 2 in Project Management

Expert 3 in Decision Support

Expert 4 in Training/Capacity Building

Expert 5 in Earth observations for agriculture

Expert 6 in Earth observations for health





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**After receiving the proposals,
GEO will broker connections to match Type 1 Projects with Advisors**

Type I Project

Project Advisors

Project B

Needs support from one expert in Project Management, one expert in training, and one expert in applying Earth observations for water

Expert 1 in Earth observations data in water

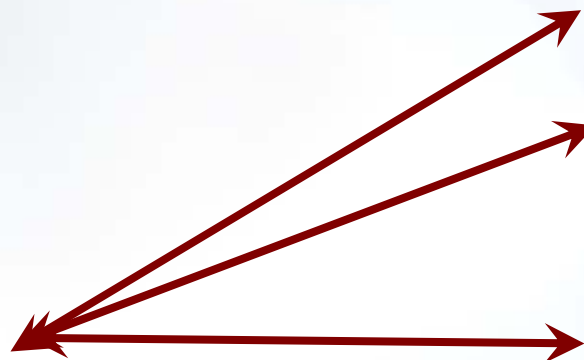
Expert 2 in Project Management

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Expert 4 in Training/Capacity Building

Expert 5 in Earth observations for agriculture

Expert 6 in Earth observations for health





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Call for Proposals – Funding

GEO will not directly provide funding for projects identified through this CFP.

GEO is not in a position to directly offer funding for projects.

GEO CBC/UIC will attempt to mobilise resources for identified projects by engaging relevant resource-providing organizations.

GEO's connections and familiarity with multiple resource-providing organizations provides a network for potential project funding.

The specific organizations GEO will approach depends on the topics of the proposed projects.