GEO Community of Practice
Guidance
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Ellsworth F. LeDrew
– ells@uwaterloo.ca

Kathleen S Fontaine
– kathleen.s.fontaine@nasa.gov
Guidance Goals

• Provide a place where Community of Practice (CoP) representatives can go who are interested in
  – Forming a new CoP to fill a perceived gap
  – Leveraging the GEO network to assist in reaching their goals
  – Adding value to the existing GEO network
  – Revising an existing CoP to highlight emerging work
Process

• Go to http://www.earthobservations.org/cop.shtml and download the guidance document

• Fill out the information, working with UIC Co-Chairs and/or members, and/or GEO Secretariat experts as needed.

• Return the form to the designated contact.
What is a GEO Community of Practice?

• A GEO CoP is a self-organized group of people who commit to working together to apply/foster application of Earth observations for societal benefit in their shared field of interest and expertise.

• GEO CoPs form when a critical mass of interest and commitment coalesces. Currently, GEO has ten active CoPs. Some have recently formed; others have been active for several years.

• Work of GEO CoPs is funded by voluntary contributions from host organizations and by the in-kind contributions their members.
Principles

– Unless otherwise agreed, any costs arising from activities under a Community of Practice will be borne by the Member or participant that incurs them, and will be subject to the availability of funds, personnel, and other resources.

– CoPs must be open to all who wish to participate and their activities must be transparent.

– The objectives of the CoPs must address one or more of the GEOSS societal benefit areas and one or more of the tasks articulated in the annual work plan.

– CoP Leaders are responsible for communicating/liaising with the UIC, including the preparation of quarterly progress reports for submission to GEO Secretariat.

– A co-chair of the UIC will be assigned to act as a point of contact for each CoP.
Template for CP Proposals

• Community of Practice Objectives – What societal benefit area will the CoP address?
  – Each CoP will have slightly different objectives but of necessity there will be common objectives such as:
    • To identify, gather, and seek agreement on their particular user community requirements;
    • To provide a forum for cooperation for activities where GEOSS adds value to existing initiatives, to identify linkages and opportunities for collaborative strategic and technical projects and to coordinate the delivery of some GEOSS targets to enable the realization of societal benefits.
    • To report on progress and provide updates to the User Interface Committee, GEO and other stakeholder communities as appropriate;
    • To advise the User Interface Committee, other CoPs and GEO on matters relating to their particular area of interest or societal benefit, and on cross-cutting issues of interest to the CoP.
    • To provide an informal point of contact for members or other jurisdictions on the specific benefit or interest area that affect more than one organization;
Template for CP Proposals 2

• Justification – what value will the CoP add over existing collaborative activities?
  – *Improvement to or creation of a global mechanism to bring together actual users, potential users, researchers, producers and distributors of Earth Observation data and information;*
  – *Increased or improved coordination and consistent global approach to remove impediments to information sharing and duplication of effort; and*
  – *Elevated importance of the particular societal benefit area(s).*
Membership – outline the key partners required for the CoP to be successful:

– *Each Community of Practice would include representatives from GEO member states, participating international organizations and any other stakeholders/organisations that have similar interests, goals, and or objectives, working closely together to create a forum for efficient and effective intelligence and advice to be provided to GEO for the successful implementation of GEOSS. Both developing and developed countries will be represented.*
Template for CP Proposals 4

• Working Methods – how will the CoP operate
  – *This section should detail how the CoP will operate, who will act as the lead and how business will be conducted (by email, tele-conferences, regional meetings……).*

• Plan of Activities to contribute to delivering GEOSS Work Plan Targets
  – *This section should detail, including timescales, the activities the CoP plans to undertake and which targets in the 2006 or 2007-09 GEO work plan they support. The Annual GEO Work Plan can be downloaded from the Document Library on the GEO web page http://www.earthobservations.org*
Related CoP Activities

• Regular opportunities to speak to the GEO community via meeting and workshops.
• Opportunities to be featured at exhibitions.
• Possible Community of Practice symposium or large joint meeting.
• Opportunities to achieve the goals of the CFP projects.
For More Information

• http://www.earthobservations.org/cop.shtml

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  – ells@uwaterloo.ca

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