



Group on
Earth Observations

The Data Sharing Principles for GEOSS

GEOSS Global Agricultural Monitoring Workshop

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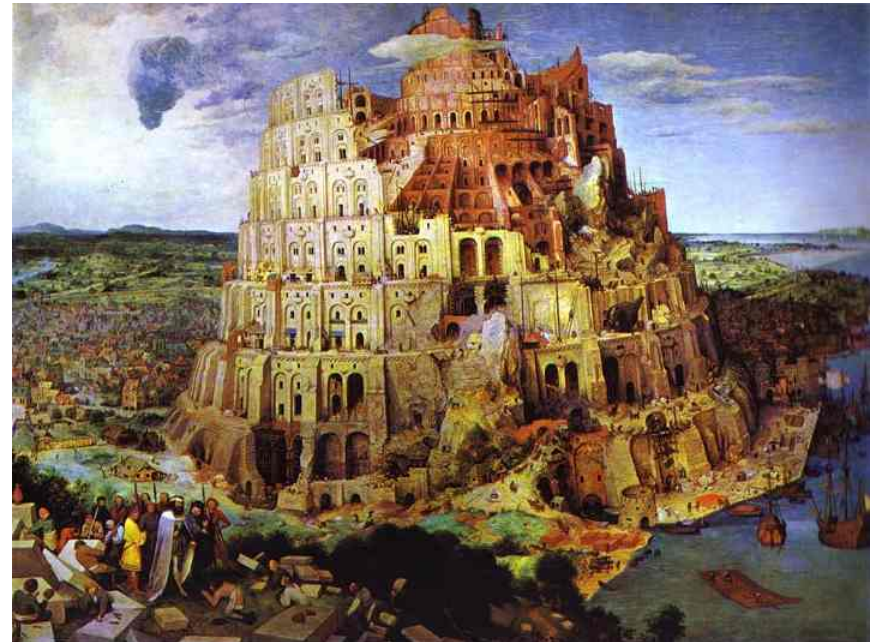


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The Tower of Babel Problem!



**There is a Need for a
System which Provides
Access to all Earth
Observation Data in
Standard Interoperable
Formats**





The GEOSS Data Sharing Principles

- **There will be full and open exchange of data, metadata, and products shared within GEOSS, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation.**
- **All shared data, metadata, and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost.**
- **All shared data, metadata, and products free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction will be encouraged for research and education**



- **“WHITE PAPER AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE GEOSS DATA SHARING PRINCIPLES”** has been provided by the ICSU-CODATA Team as part of GEO Task DA-06-01 to support the GEO ministerial “Cape town declaration”:

Invite experts to identify steps required to further the practical application of the agreed GEOSS data sharing principles.



Description of the Work to be Performed

- Invite, for each Societal Benefit Area (SBA), experts on data sharing and exchange (including data providers and users, experts in ethics, socio-economics, legal aspects , national policies,...)
- Ask experts to perform a comprehensive assessment, for each SBA, of the current specific barriers and obstacles (e.g. socio-economic, political, ethical, legal aspects ...etc) to the open access, exchange and sharing of data, metadata and products
- Ask experts to identify, for each SBA, possible options for improvements/relaxation of these constraints and the associated course of actions and necessary steps for the practical application of the GEOSS data sharing principles
- Report to the GEO Plenary on findings and recommendations



- 1) GEOSS, must provide access to data, products, or services—and associated metadata—in compliance with the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and with other technical requirements established by GEO.
- 2) For GEOSS to realize its full potential, it is essential that the “full and open exchange of data” called for in the Data Sharing Principles apply to GEOSS data, metadata, and products even after such data are disseminated to users. Users need to be able to reuse, re-disseminate, and revise data and information with minimal restrictions in order to achieve maximum benefits.
- 3) In accordance with the Data Sharing Principles, GEOSS needs to allow for appropriate restrictions on data use and dissemination based on international instruments and national policies and legislation. Such restrictions pertain mainly to concerns regarding the protection of: national security, intellectual property, privacy, confidentiality, indigenous rights, and conservation and protection of sensitive ecological, archaeological, or cultural resources.



- 4) GEO should set **standards for “minimum cost,”** ranging from the cost of reproduction for research and education activities to no more than the recovery of the cost of the data system operations.
- 5) GEO should set **standards for “minimal time delay”** within GEOSS, depending on the type of data and application and the need for appropriate quality control.
- 6) GEO should develop and adopt **clear definitions of “research” and “education,”** preferably focused on the planned use of data rather than the status of the user.
- 7) GEO should develop **minimum standards for data attribution and usage metrics** to ensure that the overall utility and impact of GEOSS data, products, and services can be objectively documented.



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