

Short report on presentation of GEO BON at GEO VI (Washington, DC, 17-18 Nov 2009)

GEO BON was represented by Bob Scholes (Chair SC-GEO BON), Anne Larigauderie (DIVERSITAS), and Woody Turner (NASA). Doug Muchoney and Michael Williams, from GEO Sec, were in attendance.

A-B Scholes gave a plenary presentation on progress of GEO BON in the afternoon of the first day of the plenary (17 Nov 2009), for information. Delegates were also presented with Document 9, on GEO BON. See Doct 9 and ppt presentation attached.

The presentation was very well received by delegates, and there was a sense that GEO BON could be considered as a proof of the added value of GEOSS, since GEO BON did not exist before GEOSS, and had been initiated thanks to the GEOSS framework.

Given the tight schedule, only 3 delegations were given the floor to react.

Italy thanked for the presentation, and the efforts made in GEO BON, but observed that the implementation plan focused too much on pressure and impact, and did not place enough emphasis on drivers (eg illegal logging, wildlife trade).

Switzerland was pleased with GEO BON overall, and thought that early products were crucial. Switzerland welcomed Document 9, and especially the work on the early product on protected areas, which Switzerland supported.

The European Commission (EC) welcomed the report, and expressed satisfaction. The EC was happy to contribute to GEO BON, and drew attention to the EBONE project, and to the EC stand where projects were featured.

B-During the plenary session dedicated to GEO work plan progress, A Larigauderie made a statement, on behalf of DIVERSITAS, explaining that:

1-NASA, EBONE, together with DIVERSITAS had continued, since GEO V, to co-lead the development of an implementation plan for GEO BON. A report on this would be given in the afternoon by the Chair of the newly assembled SC of GEO BON, R Scholes.

2-DIVERSITAS had made an effort since GEO V to promote awareness and benefits of GEOSS, and GEO BON, in line with recommendations of the GEO S&T Committee.

Examples included one half day symposium on GEO BON at the DIVERSITAS Open Science Conference, which had just taken place in Cape Town, S-Africa (Oct 2009) and attracted 700 scientists and policy makers, and several sessions dedicated to biodiversity monitoring.

Another example of promotion of awareness was the preCOP10 event of the CBD, which the government of Japan was organising end of March 2010 (Nagoya, Japan), together with DIVERSITAS, which included GEO BON as one of its 3 main themes.

3-Discussions on an "IPCC-like mechanism" called IPBES, had progressed since GEO V, since two intergovernmental meetings had been held under the auspices of UNEP, and an agreement might be reached by April 2010. DIVERSITAS, which represented the views of the scientific community at these meetings, together with ICSU, had underlined how crucial GEOSS, and GEO BON, would be for IPBES.

GEO BON, the observation mechanism, would complement IPBES, the assessment mechanism, since it would provide the observation data on which future IPBES assessments would be based. An analogy could be drawn with the climate situation, where IPCC and GCOS complemented each other, and worked hand in hand.

C-GEO VII and Ministerial segment

GEO-VII will take place 3-4 Nov 2010, and the Ministerial segment on 5 Nov.

A list of early achievements is being assembled for presentation at the Ministerial segment. GEO BON has been proposed, and is in this list. A final selection will be made early 2010.

See also:

- [Presentation by B Scholes](#)
- [Agenda GEO VI](#)
- [Doc 9 on GEO BON presented at GEO VI](#)