

**Task Number:** DA-06-01

**Task Title:** GEOSS Data Sharing Principles

**Area:** DATA MANAGEMENT

**Relevant Committee:** ADC

**Related Targets:** (to be included in 2009)

**Task Definition:**

Identify steps required to further the practical application of the agreed GEOSS Data Sharing Principles: (1) There will be full and open exchange of data, metadata, and products shared within GEOSS, recognizing relevant international instruments and national policies and legislation; (2) All shared data, metadata, and products will be made available with minimum time delay and at minimum cost; (3) All shared data, metadata, and products being free of charge or no more than cost of reproduction will be encouraged for research and education.

Define near-term milestones needed to come to consensus on *Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles* and move expeditiously towards the development of working data sharing policies and procedures for GEOSS. This requires an iterative process, whereby initial experience with data sharing policies and procedures provide important lessons. Throughout this process, ensure data access for capacity building and work in close connection with DA-09-02a (GEOSS Quality Assurance Strategy).

**Leads** (GEO Member or PO, Entity carrying out the work, Contact: e-mail):

ICSU (CODATA), Point of contact: Kathleen Cass, Executive Director, codata@dial.oleane.com

ICSU (CODATA), Robert Chen, bchen@ciesin.columbia.edu

**Motivation/Background:**

GEOSS is envisioned as a “system of systems,” built upon existing observational systems and incorporating new systems for Earth observation and modelling that are offered as GEOSS components by Member countries and Participating Organizations. Developing technical interoperability between such diverse systems is clearly a major challenge, but an equally important challenge is the coordination and harmonization of data policies and procedures to facilitate the sharing and use of GEOSS data to maximize societal benefits for the widest possible range of users...

**Outputs:**

A Task Force plans to further define and assess the Implementation Guidelines for approval by GEO Members and Participating Organizations at the 2010 GEO Ministerial. As the next major milestone, the newly revised Implementation Guidelines will be submitted to the GEO-VI Plenary meeting in November 2009 for discussion. The revised Process Paper will then be submitted for information and distribution to the GEO community. A schedule of the Implementation Guidelines has also been developed which lays out the steps needed to achieve consensus on the proposed Guidelines and to move expeditiously towards the development of working data sharing principles and procedures for GEOSS. It is expected that this process will be an iterative one, in which initial experience with data sharing principles and procedures will provide important lessons for the guidelines.

**Produced** (current status):

In 2006, the GEO Secretariat requested the Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA), an interdisciplinary committee of the International Council for Science (ICSU), to take the lead on Task DA-06-01 and to recommend implementation guidelines and draft a background white paper on the agreed GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. Since then CODATA in consultation with many experts and GEO members produced these documents. A special side event on this task was organized on 18<sup>th</sup> November in conjunction with the GEO-V Plenary in Bucharest in November 2008 (see: <http://www.earthobservations.org/meetings/geo5.html>). More than 30 people attended from the GEO

community. The event focused on the draft Implementation Guidelines of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles ([http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss\\_dsp.shtml](http://www.earthobservations.org/geoss_dsp.shtml)). An overview of the process leading to these Guidelines was presented by Bob Chen, Secretary General, CODATA, including detailed reviews by GEO Members and Participating Organizations. This was followed by a discussion panel with four representatives from the GEO [Architecture and Data](#), [Science and Technology](#), [User Interface](#), and [Capacity Building](#) Committees. The panel was chaired by Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, a member of the core author team. Topics such as public/private concerns, data quality issues, educational access, and the importance of minimum costs and time delay in making research data available were discussed in the session. The Guidelines were presented to the GEO delegates by Joanne during the Plenary Session on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

**Planned:** Following discussions by delegates at the GEO V Plenary in Bucharest in 2008 and given the importance of this issue within the GEO System of Systems, it was agreed by the delegates that a Data Sharing Principles Task Force comprising of GEO Members and including the current Task team should be appointed.

#### **Activities planned:**

*January 2009:* GEO secretariat circulated a request to all Participating Organizations and Members of GEO to submit names for membership on the Task Force.

*February 2009:* Over 20 names have been submitted.

*April/May 2009:* The first meeting of the Task Force and Task Team members is scheduled to take place in Geneva at GEO headquarters. It will commence discussions on defining near-term milestones needed to come to consensus on *Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles* and move expeditiously towards the development of working data sharing policies and procedures for GEOSS.

**Resources** (indication of resources – e.g. financial, human – contributed by GEO Members or Participating Organizations to produce outputs)

To date the work of the Task Team is dependant on the voluntary contributions of the expertise and time of the Task Team members. To date travel and participation at all meetings related to this task is borne by the participating organizations the Task Team members represent...

#### **Capacity Building Component**

(capacity building is defined to include the development of capacity related to: (i) Infrastructure and technology transfer (Hardware, Software and other technology required to develop, access and use EO); (ii) Individuals (education and training of individuals to be aware of, access, use and develop EO) and (iii) Institutions – building policies, programs & organizational structures to enhance the value of EO data and products).

1) In accordance with the above definition does this Task have a capacity-building component? If so, please provide a short description of this component including a description of end users.

2) Have any additional CB needs for this Task been identified? Please provide a short description.

#### **User Engagement Component**

(please briefly describe to what extent end users are engaged in this Task and influence the nature of the outputs produced)

#### **Science and Technology (S&T) Component**

1) Please briefly describe the elements of scientific research or technological development contained in this Task

2) In relation to the S&T component(s) of this task, please describe gaps, priorities, continuity needs, barriers, scientific expertise and additional resource needs (this information will be used for developing a gaps and needs assessment in Task ST-09-01)

**Members and POs' Contributions to Outputs and Activities above:**

*(Input is optional. This section gives the chance to Members and POs to provide more details (3-5 lines) on their individual activities, making a clear connection with the outputs and activities outlined above).*

**Japan**

JAXA: To contribute implementing the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles.

**UNOOSA**

Assess synergies with ongoing discussions on geo-spatial data in UNCOPUOS. Coordinate with the work of the UNGIWG.

**Participation (Table to be filled in 2009):**

Type	Member or PO	Representing	Contact Name	EmailAddress
Lead(PoC)	ICSU	CODATA	Kathleen Cass	codata@dial.oleane.com
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