

Data Management Task DA-06-01

Task Number	GEOSS Data Sharing Principles
DA-06-01	Invite experts to identify steps required to further the practical application of the agreed GEOSS data sharing principles. This Task will be coordinated with the Capacity Building Committee to ensure data access for Capacity Building.
Area	
Data Management	
Relevant Committee	
ADC	

Description of the Work to be Performed

1. 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,...)
2. 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
3. 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
4. Report to the GEO Plenary on findings and recommendations

Output & Deliverables

As at 27th May 2008:

1. White Paper on the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles;
2. A stand alone document on the Draft Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles

Calendar (incl. milestones)

Start: 2nd Quarter 2006

Ministerial 2010

Financial Contributions (from GEO Operations Budget)

none

Current Status

September 08

A short document on Milestones for GEO Approval of the Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by Task Group Participants. The Milestones document provides the schedule and actions that need to be completed with regard to this GEO Task prior to the 2010 Ministerial meeting, at which time the Implementation Guidelines will be considered for approval. The White Paper, which describes the changes made in response to each review or provides the reason for not making the suggested change, will be sent to the GEO Committees on 15 September, together with any further revisions to the Implementation Guidelines and Milestones documents. The updated documents will be presented and discussed at the ADC meeting in Boulder later in September

We expect to complete all the revisions by the end of September for dissemination to the GEO community in advance of the GEO Plenary in Bucharest this November, where these documents will be discussed for the first time.

July-Aug 08

Comments received from Members, Participating Organizations of GEO and GEO Committees on the White Paper on the Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and on the Implementation

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Guidelines are currently being reviewed by the Core-Group and the documents are being updated accordingly to reflect these comments..

May 08

The document was again updated based on the comments received from the Task Participants and Reviewers. The document has now been divided into two separate documents. 1. The White Paper on the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. 2. A stand alone document on the Draft Implementation Guidelines for the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. An overview of the activities of the Group since the ADC meeting in ISPRA, was presented by CODATA at the ADC meeting in Geneva in May. By the end of May the documents will be circulated to the Members and Principal Organizations of GEO and GEO Data Committees for their input.

February 08

Following the ADC meeting in ISPRA the document was again updated and sent to the Reviewers and Task Participants for their comment. Appendix E was added to the White Paper highlighting the comments received, the organizations they came from and how and where the comments were addressed within the document.

January 08

The White Paper was updated to incorporate the comments of the Delegates at the meetings in Capetown. The Lead Author, Paul Uhlir, presented an overview of the document at the Architecture and Data Committee meeting in ISPRA.

Sept 07-Dec 07

The White paper was the focus of discussions at a number of events at the GEO Summit and Ministerial meetings that took place in Cape Town South Africa on the 28-30 November 2007. A special side-event was organized and hosted by CODATA on the 29th November focusing specifically on the White Paper. Approximately 30 people attended. Among the organizations present were- GBIF; WMO; IISA; US/NOAA; EEA; GOOS; OGC; ERSI; UNEP; INPE; IASA; CAS; GSI; USGS; NASA; CSA; ICSU and the GEO Secretariat. CODATA Vice-President Steve Rossouw opened the event and it was followed by short interventions from Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director, ICSU; Michael Rast, GEO Secretariat and GUO Huadong, Director General, Centre for Earth Observation and Digital Earth and member of the CODATA Executive Committee. Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, Director, National Centre for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law, University of Mississippi, who is one of the international team of authors who drafted the document, presented an outline of the document and the events leading to the current draft.

This White Paper was highlighted at the GEO Plenary meeting on the 29th of November as an information document. Professor Gabrynowicz, in her capacity as one of the authors, gave a short presentation to the Plenary Members. Thomas Rosswall, Executive Director of ICSU, highlighted the document during his intervention at the Ministerial meeting on the 30th December. The document was subsequently discussed at the Architecture and Data Committee meeting of GEO which was held following the Ministerial meeting.

The document is currently being updated to reflect the discussions and comments received from the meetings in Washington in September and Cape Town in November. The document and the follow up process will be discussed at the next ADC meeting in ISPRA, February 2008.

Feb 07- Sept. 07: In March 2007 representatives of CODATA and WDC met with GEO Secretariat staff in Geneva to discuss the possible white paper on the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. In April 2007, CODATA appointed Paul F. Uhlir, Director of International S&T Information Programs at the US National Academy of Sciences, as lead author on the White Paper: "Furthering the Practical Application of the Agreed GEOSS Data Sharing Principles: *Recommended Guidelines for GEOSS Data Policies*"

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CODATA also appointed five core drafters who were responsible for drafting specific chapters and who coordinated with Paul in bringing the complete document together. These are Robert Chen, Secretary General of CODATA and Director of CIESIN, Center for International Earth Science Information Network; Katleen Janssen Legal researcher, K.U. Leuven, Belgium; Joanne Irene Gabrynowicz, Director National Center for Remote Sensing, University of Mississippi, Charles Barton, President of the International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy, Australia. and Bernard Minster, Chair of ICSU, WDC panel.

They are supported by a team of advisors of eight people, with an expertise in the relevant areas and representing different geographical regions i.e. India, China, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Canada, Colombia.

The document is now in draft format. It was discussed by the Architecture and Data Committee who met in Washington on the 12th and 13th of September 2007. A three hour workshop focused on the document took place on September 13th in the afternoon.

The document is now before the GEO Executive Committee for discussion. It will be further reviewed by experts and updated accordingly. It will be highlighted at the GEO Plenary meeting on the 29th and at the Ministerial Summit on the 30th of November in South Africa.

Oct 06 - mid Feb 07: Following the meeting in October, a number of teleconferences were held between the GEO Secretariat and CODATA. Discussions are currently under way on the development of a "white paper" or "non paper" that will identify options for implementing the agreed GEOSS data sharing principles, review case studies on data sharing covering multiple societal benefit areas, and propose a course of actions and associated steps for the practical application of the principles. The aim is to appoint a core group to work on producing the first draft of this paper over the coming months. A planning meeting is tentatively expected in May in conjunction with the World Data Center Director's meeting in Bremen. Inputs will also be solicited from various groups as opportunities arise. In September 2007, depending on resources available, CODATA and the GEO Secretariat plan to organize another meeting of data experts to discuss the draft paper with the aim of having the updated paper ready for circulation at the Fourth Plenary session of GEO in November 2007.

22 Oct 06: On 22nd of October, CODATA in collaboration with GEO organized a meeting focussing specifically on Task DA-06-01. The meeting included more than 35 data experts from around the world. It aimed at identifying challenges to further application of the principles, options for addressing these challenges, and possible next steps for this GEO task. A report on the meeting can be found <http://www.codata.org/GEOSS/DA-06-01MeetingBeijingOct2006review.pdf>

4 Oct 06: CODATA has accepted to co-lead the task with the GEO secretariat. CODATA's Kathleen Cass (codata@dial.oleane.com) has accepted to act as Task Point of Contact.

The Workshop, which is being organized by CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology for GEO, has been confirmed for the 22nd of October to take place at the China Resources Hotel Beijing. It will focus specifically on Task DA-06-01: Furthering the practical application of the agreed GEOSS data sharing principles:

There will be full and open exchange of data, metadata, and products shared within GEOSS, while 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 for use in education and research will be encouraged to be made available free of charge or at no more than the cost of reproduction.

A background Document has been produced as input to the Workshop.

Jun 06: The GEO secretariat has contacted CODATA, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology <http://www.codata.org> and discussed with them the possibility of being a co-lead with the GEO secretariat on this task.

A meeting is currently being planned around the 25th CODATA International Conference in Beijing in October later this year, to discuss the implementation of this particular task. The Contributing Organizations

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will be invited to send a representative to this meeting. The date of the meeting will be confirmed within the next two weeks.

The deliverable coming from the meeting in October will be short report reflecting the discussions and feed back of the experts on the following:

- Barriers that they see to further the application of the principles
- Possible options for improvements/relaxation of these constraints.
- The next steps required to further implement the task.

This short report will be presented at the GEO plenary in November 2006. A decision will then be made on the next phase of the implementation of the Task.

Coordination with other tasks of committees

GEO Member Potential Contributions Reported to date

Japan

JAXA to consider a nomination of a specialist in the required field and study to make a future data policy.

MEXT to contribute to the study through the Architecture & Data committee and input from relevant national committees.

NICT: discussion of NICT policy for data sharing

Australia

The federal system of government in Australia has thrown up many examples of barriers to data sharing over the years. Australia also shares the government-private sector and inter-agency tensions common to other nations. While significant barriers still exist, various mechanisms have been endeavouring to reduce them. At the national level, these have included ANZLIC-the Spatial Information Council (<http://www.anzlic.org.au/>) and a plethora of thematic coordinating agencies and committees. At the federal government level, the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO, <http://www.agimo.gov.au/index.htm>) and the Office of Spatial Data Management (OSDM, <http://www.osdm.gov.au/>) are focussing on data sharing principles, along with equivalent coordinating agencies and committees in the Australian States and Territories. There is an extensive body of knowledge and experience in relation to barriers to data sharing which can be contributed to this project.

WMO

WCP through CCL is involved in issues related to data exchange policies and mechanisms. Issues are increasingly rising during constituent bodies on how to maintain free data exchange between Members and archiving centres and institutions in the world as well as in bilateral framework. Some work should be done within CCL working groups/Expert teams to address this issue. Therefore the outcomes from this Groups/ET would be an input into the assigned task DA-O6-01

Relevant EC Projects

DG-ENTR, VGT4AFRICA, Eric Gontier, VITO, Belgium, Eric.gontier@vito.be

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