



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-IV

28-29 November 2007

Report from Capacity Building Committee

Document 11

This document is submitted to GEO-IV for acceptance.

Report from Capacity Building Committee

1 MEMBERSHIP

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, **Brazil (co-chair)**, Canada, China, Croatia, Egypt, **European Commission (co-chair)**, France, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Korea, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Portugal, Russia, **South Africa (co-chair)**, **Spain (co-chair)**, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan.

AARSE, APN, CEOS, EEA, EIS-Africa, EUMETSAT, EuroGeoSurveys, FDSN, GCOS, IAG, IEEE, IGBP, IOC, ITC, ISCGM, ISPRS, POGO, UNEP, **UNESCO (co-chair)**, UNOOSA, WCRP (START), WMO

2 MEETINGS

- **3rd Capacity Building Committee Meeting** – 31 January – 1 February 2007, Tenerife, Spain
- **4th Capacity Building Committee Meeting** – 31 May -1 June 2007, Geneva, Switzerland
- **1st GEO – Donor Capacity Building Symposium: Linking strengths for sustainable Earth observation – 10-11 September 2007, Seville, Spain**
- **5th Capacity Building Committee Meeting – 12-13 September 2007, Seville, Spain**

3 MAIN ACTIVITIES

Implementation of GEO Capacity Building Strategy

Capacity Building Committee members have been active in the implementation of the Capacity Building Strategy and the associated tasks in the 2007-2009 GEO work plan.

Steady progress has been made under the Work Plan on capacity building. Although some Tasks started off slowly, leads have now been identified for each one and tasks are now making advances. Capacity building activities have been identified in the water, weather, energy, ecosystems and disasters Societal Benefit Areas. Key remaining challenges include integrating capacity building into all GEO Tasks, broadening participation in existing Tasks, and identifying cross linkages between Tasks.

During the reporting period, the Capacity Building Committee members and the Task teams:

- **Organized a Capacity Building Donor's Symposium.** Hosted by Spain in September 2007 in Seville, the Symposium did not succeed in attracting as many donor representatives as had been hoped. Nevertheless, the strong showing from the Earth observation community, particularly from developing countries, provided an opportunity for exchanging ideas on how better to engage donors. A key outcome was the development of a road map for engaging donors in the work of GEO that includes the elaboration of a work plan to implement this road map.
 - **Developed a series of capacity building workshops.** The UN Environment Programme is organizing workshops in Latin America with CATHALAC (Centro del Agua del Trópico
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Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe), in Albania with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, in Georgia for the Southern Caucasus region with the Center for Monitoring and Prognostication of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resource and in Mozambique with the Ministry for Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs. These workshops focus on improving in-country coordination amongst national environmental authorities and organisations, remote sensing agencies and programmes, and other relevant entities. They establish priorities for improving access to and management of environmental observing data and networking. They also improve coordination amongst national statistical organisations; remote sensing agencies; and Ministries responsible for issues such as environment, forests, wildlife and water.

- **Organized a regional seminar on national capacity building.** Organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Spain and held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 26-28 September. The participants elaborated some conclusions as the need of creating national GEO groups and to make the most of the existing capacities of the region and other structures (as the WMO system).
- **Held a workshop on Knowledge Sharing for Improved Disaster Management and Emergency Response.** The event was organized with the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) on 29-31 October in Bonn, Germany. The next step is to continue working on the concept of a Disaster Knowledge Portal as a means of increasing the flow of existing knowledge to end users will be completed.
- **Set up the Chlorophyll Global Integrated Network (ChloroGIN).** Established through the Partnership for Observations of the Global Ocean (POGO), ChloroGIN links participating centres around the globe committed to promoting in situ measurements of chlorophyll and combining them with satellite-derived estimates. It seeks to ensure its own sustainability by promoting the development of physical infrastructure and human capacity (for example via a workshop in Mombasa, Kenya from 24 September - 4 October 2007). Possible linkages with the HARON Task have been identified.
- **Organized a numerical prediction workshop.** Led by the Korean Meteorological Agency, this event, **held in Seoul from 9-13 April 2007**, attracted participants from 15 countries across the globe.
- **Developed the 2nd edition of the “Use and exploitation of the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecast (ECMWF) products”:** Organized by the ECMWF, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Spain in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on 26-30 November 2007, and aimed at forecasters in the Latin-American region.
- **Developed the Committee’s requirements for the capacity building component of the GEO web portal.**
- **Initiated the work of the Performance Indicators Task Force:** this task is led by Morocco, Germany and UNESCO-IOC.

Development of the The Seville Roadmap: Mobilizing resources for implementing GEOSS

The *Seville Roadmap*, an outcome **GEO – Donor Capacity Building Symposium**, is to support the GEO Capacity Building Strategy in identifying and channelling more financial and human resources into building capacity for Earth observations at the global, regional and national levels. The road map aims to position GEO as an efficient coordinator of resource mobilization activities and an honest broker serving EO users and potential resource providers. It is presented to the plenary for information.

4 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Participation in the GEO Capacity Building Committee and its activities

Despite the active participation of existing members and advances in broadening its participation base, particularly from developing countries, the committee recognises that it lacks the participation and inputs from a wider range of Members and Participating organisations. To address this situation the Capacity Building Committee will continue to:

- engage routinely in outreach activities, at relevant meetings and conferences;
- use GEO Secretariat publicity materials, with the development of specific materials related to capacity building as appropriate;
- address the specific concerns and challenges of developing countries in outreach messages;
- encourage continued support for the travel expenses of those countries that could not otherwise participate in Capacity Building Committee meetings.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS TO GEO-IV PLENARY MEETING

- A continued emphasis on capacity development as a key issue in the implementation of all aspects of GEOSS should be maintained. All GEO committees should develop, in conjunction with the CBC and in accordance with GEO's capacity building principals, capacity building elements in the tasks under their responsibility.
- The development of the Seville Road Map to involve the international "donor" community in GEOSS should be noted. In this regard GEO Member Countries should encourage their national cooperation agencies and organizations to assist in the implementation of the Seville Road Map.
- Good practices and experiences with respect to establishing national GEOs should be compiled and shared.