UIC Report to the GEO-VI Plenary: 17-18 November, 2009

The UIC Co-Chairs

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UIC Objectives

- Address the needs and concerns of a broad range of user communities
- Engage a continuum of users.
- Facilitate linkages and partnerships between ongoing and new GEO partners.
UIC Objectives (continued)

- To oversee and manage:
  
  **US-09-01**: User Engagement
  
  **US-09-02**: Socio-Economic Indicators
  
  **US-09-03**: Cross-Cutting Products and Services

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**CLIMATE AND DENGUE’S FEVER**

*(after Martens et al., 1995)*
UIC Activity Plan

- Formulated in early 2009 for 2009-2010
- Major progress in this plan – a success.

Specific Activities:
- Support of GEO Work Plan, Targets, and Events
- GEOSS Applications and Societal Benefits
- Engagement Strategies
- Communities of Practice
- Earth Observations Priorities Project
- Work Plan Analysis
- Cross-Committee Collaboration
  - GCI Usability Testing (with ADC)
  - Call for Proposals on “Earth Observations for Decision Support” (with CBC)
Highlights

- Our focus remains on user engagement and increasing participation in targeted regions

- User engagement needs improvement within the GEO tasks
  - UIC has conducted an analysis of the role of the UIC in GEO tasks and has developed a proactive strategy to improve the User engagement role.
The UIC has been working to **acquire and provide feedback** on collaboration, user engagement, Work Plan content, and communication throughout all aspects of GEO.

The UIC embraces significant activity; indeed **with more activity than it has volunteers at present**.

The UIC has developed an organized, structured approach to address the **significant user engagement opportunities and expectations within GEO**.
Communities of Practice

- **New Communities of Practice:**
  - Carbon Community of Practice
  - Global Agricultural Monitoring Community of Practice
  - Health and Environment Community of Practice
  - Integrated Global Water Cycle (IGWCO) Community of Practice

- There are emerging Communities of Practice that include Health and Air Quality
Earth Observations Priorities Project

Identify critical Earth Observations Priorities common to many Societal Benefit Areas

- Analyze existing publically-available documents, published by GEO Members and Participating Organizations from 2000-present, that specify observation needs from the User’s perspective.
- Performing a meta-analysis across the available documents.
- Analysts and Advisory Group members originate from various GEO Members and Participating Organizations:

Red: GEO members
Blue: Non-GEO members
### Earth Observation Priorities (Task US-09-01a)

*Documents Reviewed & ad hoc Advisory Groups Members, by SBA*
*(figures as of 4-August-2009)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEO Societal Benefit Area</th>
<th>Advisory Group Members</th>
<th>Documents in Meta-Analysis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>Biodiversity</td>
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<td>Weather</td>
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**Total** 121 676
Earth Observations Priorities Project

- Final reports for five SBAs:
  - Climate, Disasters, Ecosystems, Energy, and Weather.

- Preliminary reports for four SBAs:
  - Agriculture, Biodiversity, Health, Water.

- Website (http://sbageotask.larc.nasa.gov).
Call for Proposals
In Collaboration with the CBC
“Earth Observations for Decision Support”

- 136 concept proposals received in four invited SBA’s
- UIC and CBC have involved the relevant Communities of Practice in the review
- Will broker connections between project teams and resource providing organizations
- These projects clearly represent activities that will occur because of GEO.
Objectives:
- Assess the user-engagement component in all 114 task sheets
- Identify opportunities for UIC support to task teams.

Observations:
- Need to improve the user-engagement activities in many tasks.
- Identified 20 tasks of strong interest to the UIC in which the UIC is not currently involved.
UIC Support from Plenary

- We need to expand participation within UIC by GEO members. (35 in Monday’s meeting)
  - By designating points-of-contact, Geo Members:
    - Contribute to the development and population of the databases for User requirements and Best Practices
    - Achieve increased access to decision makers.
    - Achieve increased participation in demonstration projects
  
- Identify and Sponsor participants on CoP and UIC activities from developing countries: Many reports identify participation from developing country scientists and decision makers as critical and not sufficient.
(A) The geo-wiki.org – volunteers have the ability to view both cropland and forest disagreement maps derived from three recent global land cover datasets, (B) select with the help of Google Earth available high resolution images as well as upload or view geo-tagged pictures (e.g. Panoramio.com, Confluence.org ), and (C) determine which land cover type is found on the ground and decide which dataset is correct. Results are recorded in a spatial database.