



## **GEO News (Issue #6, 17 December 2009)**

---

### **IMPLEMENTING GEOSS**

#### **ESA member states approve full and open Sentinel data policy principles**

The member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) recently approved the new principles for the Sentinel Data Policy. These principles establish full and open access to data acquired by the upcoming Sentinel satellite missions. [More...](#)

#### **Registered GEOSS components reach 200**

As of today, 203 approved components – including data sets, systems, portals and more – have been registered in GEOSS. But while the total number of registered components continues to rise, there are still major gaps and many missing data sets. It remains vital for all GEO Members and Participating Organizations to register their components with sufficiently detailed metadata. Please visit <http://geossregistries.info/holdings.htm>.

#### **GOSIC works with GEO Portal to provide climate information**

The [Global Observing Systems Information Center \(GOSIC\)](#) is an on-line data portal established in response to the global climate observing community's need for better access to observational climate data and information. [More...](#)

#### **Towards a global soil information system**

Recognizing the critical importance of soil observations to GEOSS, the global soil survey community is uniting to contribute to GEO. The European Commission, represented by [ISRIC-World Soil Information](#) (point of contact) and the EC's [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#), will facilitate the formation of this platform with the support of various institutions with national and international mandates. [More...](#)

## **Plankton Survey contributed as "early product" to GEO BON**

The [Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey](#), which has been contributed to GEO BON as an "Early Product", has demonstrated major changes to Atlantic plankton communities, including the northerly displacement of major communities by approximately 1,000 km. The survey has also shown that Pacific plankton have transferred to the Atlantic for the first time in 800,000 years, with unknown consequences for the native ecosystem. Read more about the survey results [here](#).

## **GEO Forest Carbon Tracking portal goes live**

The portal for the GEO FCT Task was launched at GEO-VI in Washington and can now be viewed on-line at [www.geo-fct.org](http://www.geo-fct.org). The portal allows users to visualize the FCT National Demonstrators, the relevant Validation Sites and the inventory of the coordinated acquisitions of satellite and in-situ data; maps and information resulting from the processing of the data will also be posted here when available. The portal is contributed to the Task by Google, which described the launch in its [blog](#).

## **GEO UPDATE**

### **GEO-VI Plenary paves the way for mid-term achievements**

The Sixth Plenary meeting of the Group on Earth Observations was held in Washington DC from 17 to 18 November. Some 320 delegates from 45 Members and 34 Participating Organizations attended the Plenary and related meetings during the week. [More...](#)

### **Visit the GEO Facebook Page**

In preparation for the GEO-VI Plenary meeting in Washington DC, the GEO Secretariat and the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) launched a [GEO Facebook Fan Page](#). This page has been created to help the GEO community stay connected and to access information about GEO through RSS feeds, discussion boards, photo albums and links to information from participating GEO members and organizations. Please visit and contribute to the [GEO Facebook Page](#).

### **SAR workshop supports agricultural monitoring**

Canada hosted an international GEO workshop and training course in

Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada on the use of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to support agricultural monitoring from 31 October 31 – 5 November. [Continued...](#)

## **THE SECRETARIAT**

### **Interactive GEO Work Plan Information Management System**

The GEO Secretariat has launched a [new web-based system](#) offering various browsing and querying capabilities to retrieve information from, and contribute information to, the GEO Work Plan. This tool will allow users to search across all of the Task Sheets to collate information on a particular organization, country or theme. It will also allow Task contributors to access, exchange and report information relating to the GEO Work Plan. In this way, it supports Task implementation and promotes the flow of information both within and between Task teams. [Continued...](#)

### **Subscribe / Unsubscribe**

To subscribe or unsubscribe, please contact the GEO Secretariat at [secretariat@geosec.org](mailto:secretariat@geosec.org).