

GEO News (Issue #17, 13 December 2011)

IMPLEMENTING GEOSS

GEO promotes forest carbon activities at Durban climate conference

The GEO Secretariat and South Africa's Department of Science and Technology (DST) organized a side event on 2 December at the annual meeting of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) in Durban, South Africa. Entitled "[The Forest and Carbon initiatives of the Group on Earth Observations](#)", the event presented the Global Carbon Observation and Analysis System, the Forest Carbon Tracking Task and its operational evolution, and the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) to interested delegates. [Continued...](#)

How SEOCA builds capacity in Central Asia

The GEO [Capacity Building in Central Asia \(SEOCA\) project](#) aims to foster cooperation between five Central Asia countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the European Union on the development and application of Earth Observation technologies for effective environmental monitoring. [Continued...](#)

The GEOSS African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative

To respond to the many water-related challenges facing Africa, GEO is promoting the convergence and harmonization of the region's activities on water observation and data management. The GEOSS African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative (AfWCCI) is developing a "workbench" whereby scientists and professionals can collaborate on elaborating and validating tools and subsequently make them freely available to experts and decision makers for informed planning and decision-making on water resources. [Continued...](#)

GEO UPDATE

GEO-VIII Plenary sets scene for 2012-2015 and beyond

The GEO-VIII Plenary was hosted in Istanbul by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) on 16 and 17 November. The nearly 400 participants reviewed recent progress on implementing GEOSS, accepted the new 2012-2015 Work Plan and its associated management structure, welcomed the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) and the GEO Global Agriculture Monitoring initiative (GEO GLAM), established a Working Group to consider how GEO and GEOSS should develop beyond the year 2015, and agreed how to further advance the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) and GEOSS Data-CORE (Collection of Resources for Everyone). [Continued...](#)

Colombia hosts 2nd Water Cycle Capacity Building Workshop

The Hydrological and Space network of Information for Latin American and the Caribbean (CIEHLYC) held its second Water Cycle Capacity Building workshop in Cartagena, Colombia, from 28 November to 2 December 2011. The event was hosted by the Naval Academy of Colombia. [Continued...](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th Asia-Pacific Symposium scheduled for April 2012

The next Asia-Pacific Symposium will now take place in Japan next April. Further details about the themes and logistical arrangements will be distributed early next year.

Take the 'Business Value of OGC Standards' Survey

The OGC survey is an opportunity for technical and commercial colleagues to work together to highlight their business needs and requirements around open standards. OGC membership is not a requirement for participating. For more information, please see the [OGC press release](#).

EuroGEOSS: Advancing the vision of GEOSS

EuroGEOSS is hosting a conference in Madrid from 25 to 27 January 2012 with tutorials on 24 January. The conference, entitled "EuroGEOSS, advancing the vision of GEOSS," will focus on facilitating and demonstrating multi-disciplinary solutions to environmental issues facing humanity. Keynote speakers will include Alan Edwards from the EC; Gilberto Camara from INPE, Brazil; Ivan Deloatch from FGDC/USGS, United States; and Ian Jackson from OneGeology, United Kingdom. For more information and to register for the conference, please visit the [EuroGEOSS website](#).

COSPAR announces 2012 Scientific Assembly

The 39th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and Associated Events "COSPAR 2012" will take place from 14 to 22 July 2012 in Mysore, India. For more information please visit the [Assembly's website](#).

Cologne to host International Geographical Congress in August 2012

Entitled "Down to Earth", the Congress will take place from 26 to 30 August 2012 in Cologne, Germany. The IGC has served as a central platform for scientific exchange and debate in geography for over 135 years. The 2012 meeting will attract a broad scientific community focused on environment-society interactions and issues related to global change. For more information please visit the [IGC website](#).

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