



GEO News (Issue #18, 7 March 2012)

IMPLEMENTING GEOSS

WMO Information System (WIS) now operational

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) [announced on 31 January](#) that its new weather and climate information system has now become operational. Thanks to this important advance, the [WMO Information System \(WIS\)](#) promises to make a critical contribution to international cooperation on Earth observation and to serve as an exemplar component of GEOSS. [Continued...](#)

Preparing for improbable, high-impact events

The European Science Foundation (ESF)/Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) conference on *Understanding Extreme Geohazards: The Science of the Disaster Risk Management Cycle* reviewed our knowledge of extreme geohazards and identified the scientific and societal challenges posed by high-impact geohazards. [Continued...](#)

Next steps for African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative

The 3rd Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) African Water Cycle Symposium, hosted by the Gabonese Agency for Space Study and Observations (AGEOS), identified river basins and activities for inclusion in the initial phase of the African Water Cycle Coordination Initiative (AfWCCI). [Continued...](#)

GFOI and FCT advance GEO's forest activities

The Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) established by the GEO-VIII Plenary last November is building upon and continuing the activities of Forest Carbon Tracking (FCT), thus ensuring the close coordination of GEO's forest-related activities. This coordination was further advanced during the week of 6-10 February when the 3rd GEO FCT Science and Data Summit (SDS) was held in Arusha, Tanzania, back-to-back with the 1st GEO GFOI Workshop: Interaction with countries. [Continued...](#)

BalkanGEONet and OBSERVE promote coordination in the Balkans

Recognising that countries in the Balkans coordinate their Earth observation activities at the national level but not across borders, the European Commission decided in 2009 to fund a "Coordination Action" to review the status of Earth observation facilities and related research in the region. [Continued...](#)

CEOS adopts work plan to support GEOSS

Following its November 2011 Plenary meeting in Lucca, Italy, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) adopted a comprehensive work plan to support further development and implementation of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). [Continued...](#)

GEOGLAM develops governance structure and draft work plan

Leaders of the [GEO Agricultural Task](#) met in Geneva from 18 to 20 January 2012 to advance the work plan for the G20 initiative on food security and transparency. The discussions focused on the deliverables, benefits, stakeholders, building blocks, and implementation structure of the GEO Global Agriculture Monitoring (GEOGLAM) initiative. [Continued...](#)

Improving Earth observations for African river basins

A [GEO-UNESCO Joint Workshop on Earth Observations and Capacity Development for Integrated Water Resources Management \(IWRM\) for River Basins in Africa](#) was held at the Nairobi offices of the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization from 12-14 January. [Continued...](#)

GEO UPDATE

Cote d'Ivoire becomes newest GEO Member

The GEO Secretariat received today the request of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for Côte d'Ivoire to become a GEO Member. The total GEO membership now includes 88 countries -- of which 15 are from Africa -- plus the European Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tokyo to host 5th Asia-Pacific Symposium from 2-4 April

The Symposium is being organized by the GEO Secretariat and GEO Japan, with the support of Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). It will address the theme of "GEO Initiatives towards Green Growth in the Asia-Pacific Region," promote societal benefits from GEOSS and discuss how GEOSS can contribute to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). For more information please visit the [Symposium website](#).

Next GEO Work Plan Symposium to be held 30 April to 2 May in Geneva

The Symposium will bring together Task Leads and contributors from all Work Plan Tasks (including Task Coordinators and Points of Contact) as well as members of the new Implementation Boards. [Continued...](#)

2nd GEOSS Science and Technology Stakeholder Network Workshop

Entitled "GEOSS: Supporting Science for the Millennium Development Goals and Beyond," the workshop will take place on 28-31 August 2012 in Bonn, Germany. It will review the science questions and research topics that need to be addressed in order to support progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and to identify Earth observations needed to facilitate the research. It will explore the relationship between the MDGs and GEO's strategic targets. The full announcement will be posted on the GEO website shortly.

4th WCRP International Conference on Reanalyses

The next World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) conference on reanalyses will take place from 7-11 May in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States. It will provide an opportunity for the modeling community to review and discuss the major observations and modeling research associated with reanalyses. For more information please visit the [conference website](#).

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