

# **Subgroup 2 - Foundational Tasks structure review and recommendations for the 2017-2019 WP**

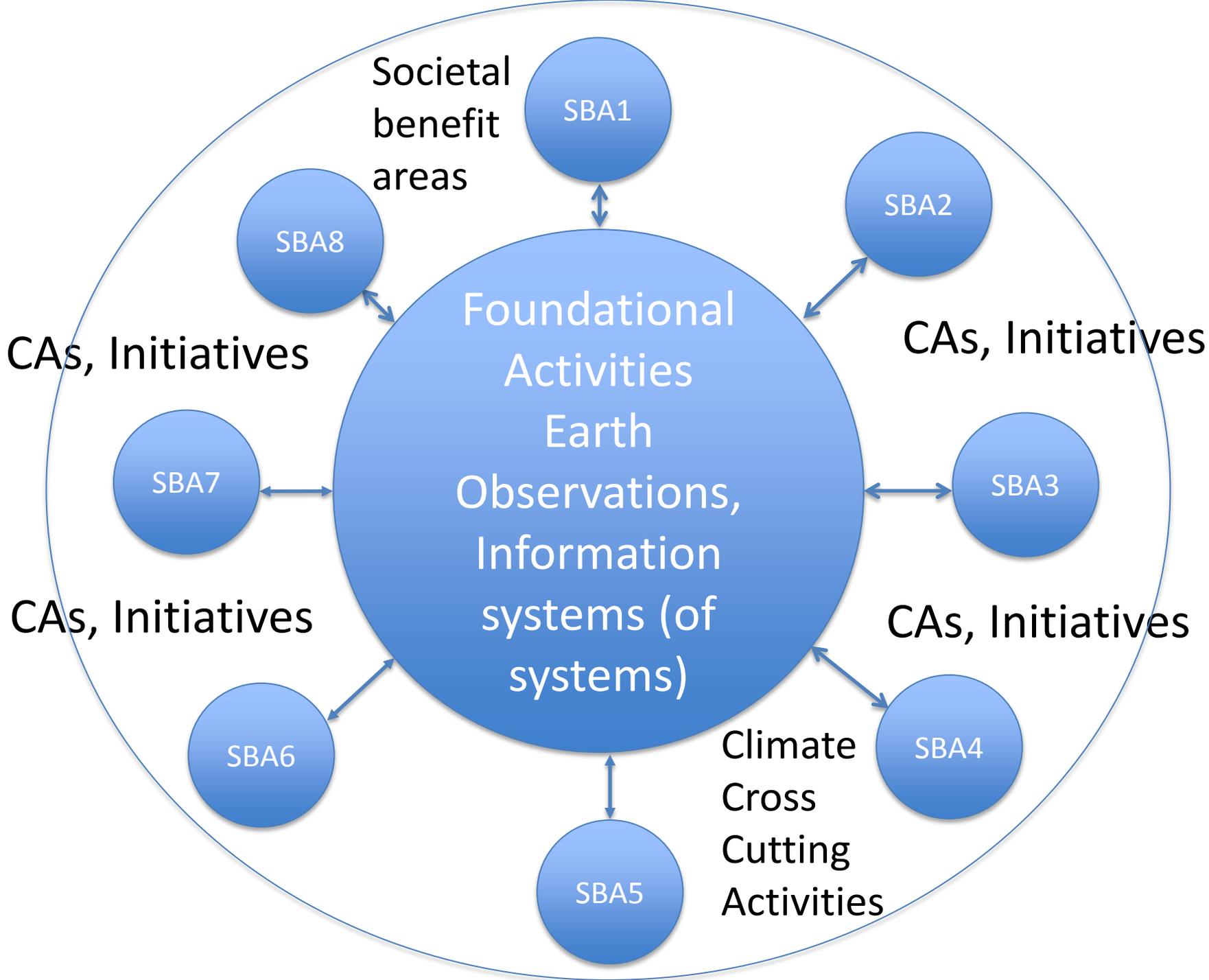
Francisco Chavez (POGO, lead), Ivan Petiteville (CEOS), David Halpern (COSPAR), John Matuszak (USA), Mark Reichardt (OGC), Jonathon Ross (CEOS), Siri Jodha Khalsa (IEEE), Max Craglia (European Commission), Arona Diedhiou (WDS), Marie-Josée Bourassa (Canada), Lars Peter Riishojgaard (WMO) with support from Douglas Cripe and Giovanni Rum (GEO Secretariat)

# GEO's Core Functions

- Identifying user needs and addressing gaps in the information chain
- Sustaining foundational observations and data
- Fostering partnerships and mobilize resources
- Advancing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and best practice in data management and sharing
- Implementing sustained global and regional services
- Cultivating awareness, building capacity and promoting innovation

# Implementation Mechanisms for GEO activities

- Foundational tasks (Obs, GEOSS, CB, Secretariat)
- Community activities (Develop concepts, applications)
- GEO Initiatives (Develops prototype services, Member/POs coordinate)
- GEO Flagships (Develops pre-operational services, Member/POs operate)



# Background - Synthesis

- The Programme Board (PB) has been asked to review the Foundational Tasks (FT), one of the mechanisms for implementation of GEO Strategic Objectives
- Subgroup 2 of the PB was formed after the first PB meeting in Geneva, February 2-3, 2016 to start the FT review process with a preliminary report due in April.
- A review of this magnitude requires careful consideration of the criteria used to develop recommendations and the process to reach consensus. The report prepared proposes a list of criteria to be used and **starts** the review process.

# Criteria

- Streamline use of secretariat resources, with focus on highest priorities
- Optimize Member and PO engagement to drive outcomes
- Efficient management with focus on implementation feasibility of Foundational Task
- Support the success of GEO CAs, Initiatives and Flagships
- Build GEOSS with greater efficiency and effectiveness
- Enhance the visibility and use of GEO resources
- Identify and prioritize the gaps and critical elements that GEO should pursue
- Increase synergy and reduce duplication/overlap between Foundational Tasks

# Background - Synthesis

- The report provides initial observations regarding FT priorities, the means to streamline secretariat resources and revised ways to implement the GEO Strategic Objectives.
- Secretariat Operations (SO) tasks dominate GEOSEC staff time; aligning GEOSEC resource utilization ignoring the SO tasks would be very difficult. **Additional information** will be required to carefully review SO tasks.

# Foundational Task list

## **GD**

### **GEOSS Development and GCI Operations**

- GD-01 Advancing GEOSS Data Sharing principles
- GD-02 GCI Operations
- GD-03 Global Observing and Information Systems
- GD-04 GEONETCast Development and Operations
- GD-05 GEOSS satellite Earth Observation Resources
- GD-06 GEOSS non-space based Earth Observation Resources
- GD-07 GCI Development
- GD-08 SBAs process: Systematic determination of user needs / observational gaps
- GD-09 Knowledge Base development
- GD-10 Radio-frequency protection
- GD-11 Communications Networks

## **CD**

### **Community Development**

- CD-01 Capacity Building coordination
- CD-02 Reinforcing engagement at national and regional level
- CD-03 Assess the benefits from EOs and of their socio-economic value

## **SO**

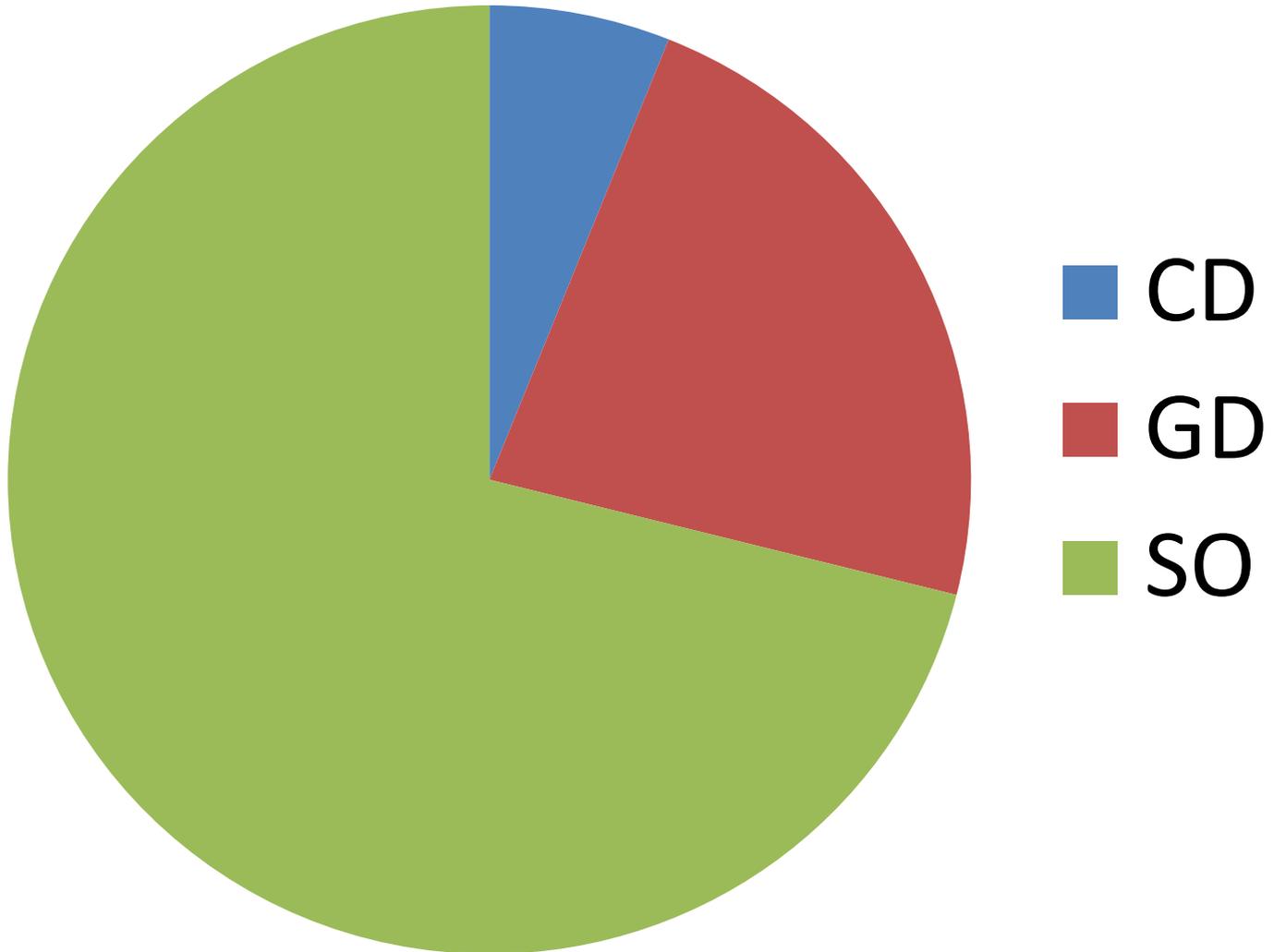
### **Secretariat Operations**

- SO-01 Management and Support
- SO-02 Communication and Engagement
- SO-03 Monitoring and Evaluation
- SO-04 Resource Mobilization

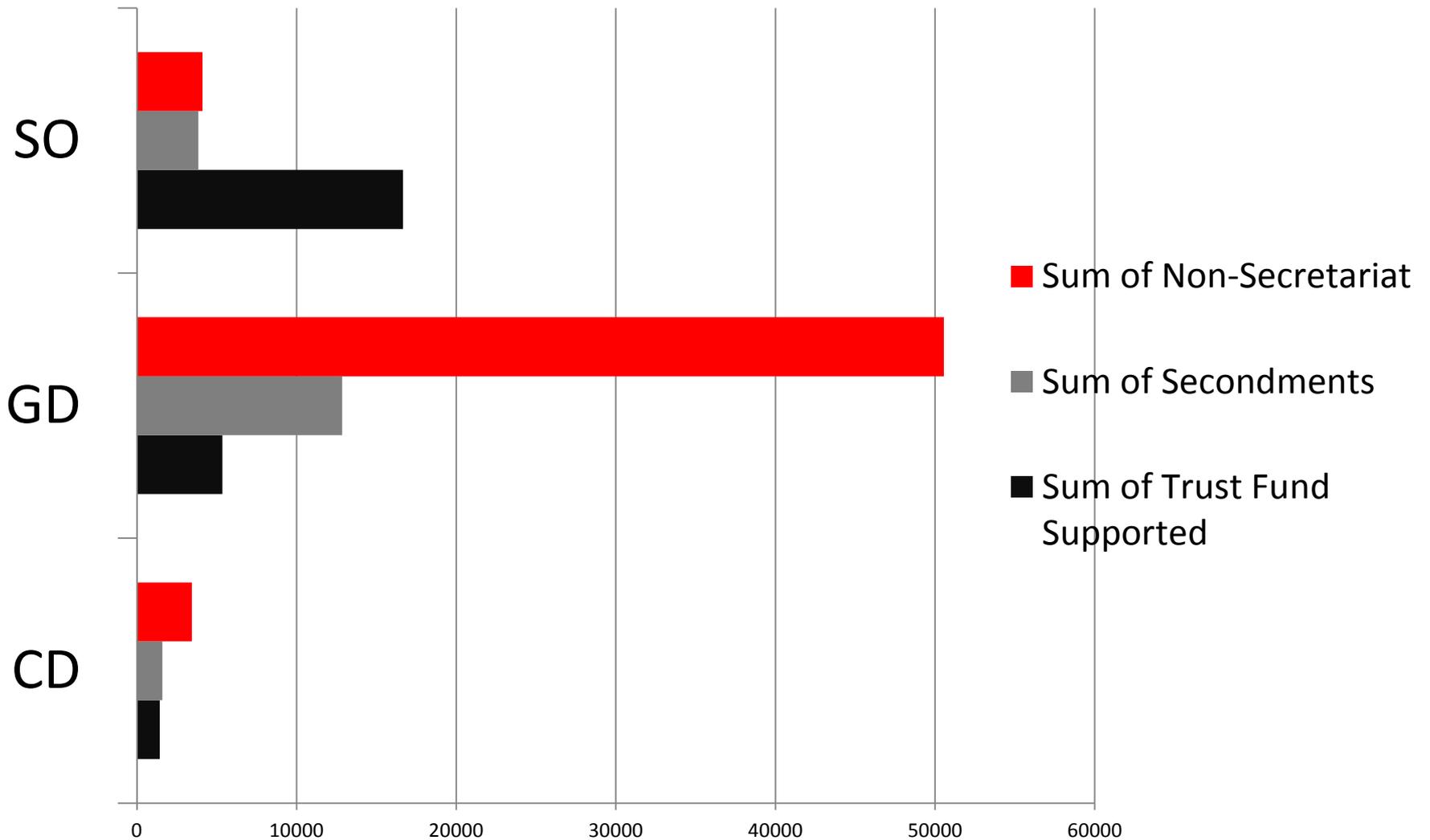
# Foundational tasks and effort

- Secretariat Operations (SO) - 71.2% of Secretariat time, 65.9% of total effort
- Community Development (CD) - 6.1% of Secretariat time, 22% of total effort
- GEOSS Development and GCI Operations (GD) – 22.7% of Secretariat time, 7.7% of total effort

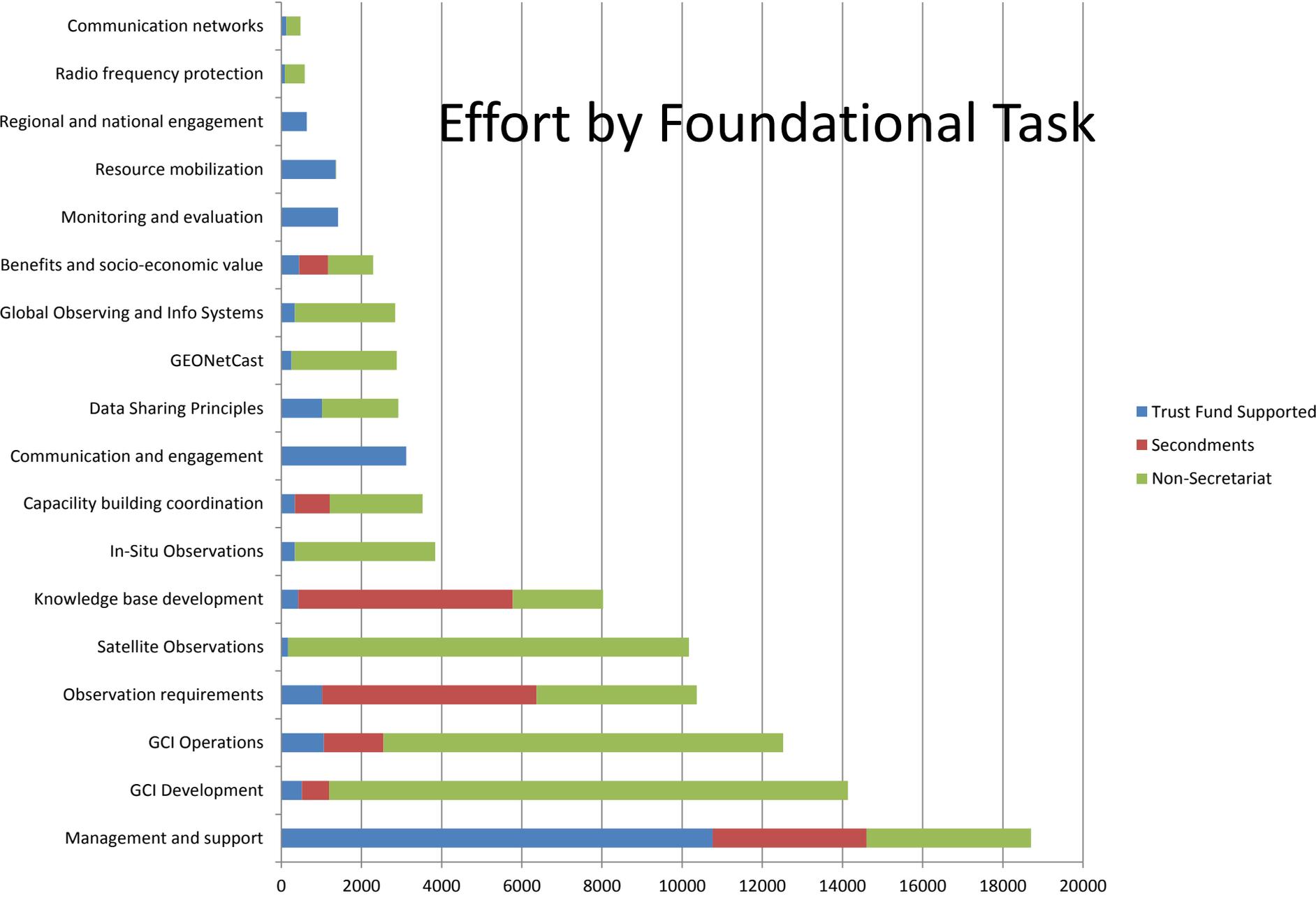
# Where the Trust Fund Goes (Hours)



# Contribution to FTs (Hours)



# Effort by Foundational Task



# Considerations

- Prioritization of the FTs;
- Merging of the FTs;
- Streamlining organizational activities to reduce dependency on GEOSEC staff;
- New or revised implementation mechanisms.

General agreement on priorities, less consensus on merging, a few proposals (not recommendations) for streamlining and new implementation mechanisms

# Priorities - SO

- High – but unclear on appropriateness of resource levels
- SO-01 (Management and Support) uses 46% of Secretariat time
- Reduce SO-02 (Communication and Engagement) by increasing participation by members and POs
- Suggestion to outsource SO-03 Monitoring and Evaluation
- Provide support only for SO-04

# Priorities - CD

- CD-01 and CD-02 (Capacity Building Coordination and Reinforcing engagement at national and regional level), high importance, reduce staff in CD-02 with contributions from members and POs
- CD-03 (Assess the benefits from EOs and their socio-economic value) was considered a lower **immediate** priority.

# Priorities - GD

- Highest priority for GD-02, *GD-05*, GD-06, GD-07, GD-08
- Lowest priority for GD-10, GD-11
- Others (i.e. GD-01) do not require significant staff support, others are important but are of lower **immediate** priority (i.e. GD-09 Knowledge base)

*GD-05 in good hands, does not require secretariat support*

# Suggestion

- Structure the technical activities (GD) around four core tasks: Needs, Data, Infrastructure and Coordination. Development of needs to be carried out by the Community Activities (CAs), Initiatives and Flagships with minimal Secretariat support. Practically this could be done using 2 to 3 CAs or Initiatives at a time. Utilizing the CA, initiative and flagship needs to drive system development resonated among the subgroup members since lessons learned can be more rapidly assimilated with a smaller up front investment.

# Merging Tasks

- Example, should in-situ and satellite **observations** be merged. No consensus but subgroup agreed that priority should be given to in-situ observations because they are more complex, unevenly distributed in space and time, heterogeneous and less organized. Given that in-situ and satellite observations are intimately related and dependent, a **suggestion** was put forth for GEO to consider the formation of a new oversight committee with 4 co-leads from Participating Organizations (POs) with expertise in satellite (2) and in-situ (2).

# Data

- A **suggestion** was put forth for an overarching new FT on “data which would include essential elements of GD-01, GD-03, GD-04, GD-07 and GD-11. The FT would be governed by co-leads from data sharing, dynamic data storage, data preservation and data transmission. Once developed the GCI would be subsumed into the data FT.

# Background - Synthesis

- To complete its task, Subgroup 2 also requires **additional information** regarding GEOSEC staff allocations for GD and CD tasks. Discussion with the task leads regarding their needs can be started during the GEO Symposium in early May.
- Understanding the needs of Community Activities (CAs), Initiatives and Flagships from GEOSS is critical. It is important to determine how they can support the FTs and what FTs are critical for their success. Discussion with the CA and Initiative leads can be started during the GEO Symposium in early May.

# Personal observations after WPS

- A bit of chaos, understandable given this was the first WPS of the new strategic plan
- Subgroup 2 was looking for information from FT leads regarding their needs, same with CAs and Initiatives – not much progress at WPS
- Suggest that the PB play a role in developing the agenda for the next WPS