DATA, TOOLS & KNOWLEDGE FOR OUR CHANGING PLANET

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is an intergovernmental partnership that improves the availability, access and use of Earth observations for a sustainable planet.

GEO promotes open, coordinated and sustained data sharing and infrastructure for better research, policy making, decisions and action across many disciplines, focusing on three global priority engagement areas: the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

What are Earth observations?

Earth observations are measurements of our planet and how it is changing: its land, atmosphere and oceans; its cities, towns and villages. This data is collected by satellites, aircraft, ships and observatories on the ground.

Coordinated and open Earth observations enable decision makers around the world to better understand the issues they face, in order to shape more effective policies.

What does GEO offer?

The GEO Work Programme family of initiatives and activities drive action and deliver against global policy frameworks and our most pressing challenges.

Billions of dollars have already been invested in Earth observation-based decision making globally, and GEO is helping to ensure that relevant data, tools and knowledge are integrated into processes that support sustainable development.

To ensure long term sustainability of our impact, we support capacity development at the individual and institutional levels.

What has GEO accomplished so far?

Open data policy has gone from the exception to the global norm since the inception of GEO, and following work by organizations including the G20 and the OECD. This is reinforced as a growing number of GEO Member governments adopt and pursue broad open data sharing practices.

With the corresponding increase in available open Earth observations, end-user oriented initiatives developed through the GEO Work Programme are creating real impact on a wide range of global challenges.

What topics does GEO work on?

GEO works across all areas where Earth observations play a key role in decision making. The efforts of our community are helping to tackle major global challenges, including food security, water resources management, land use change, climate change, disaster risk reduction and much more.

How can you get involved?

There are many ways that nations, organizations and individuals can contribute to the success of GEO and the development of GEOSS. Contact us to learn more.

- Become a Member or Participating Organization;
- Contribute data, knowledge, tools or resources;
- Provide a seconded expert to the GEO Secretariat;
- Propose a new GEO activity;
- Become a commercial sector contributor;
- Contribute to the GEO Trust Fund;
- Sponsor or participate in GEO events.

The GEO community is also building the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and has already made more than 400 million data and information resources accessible via www.geoportal.org.

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