



GEO - AMAZON EARTH OBSERVATION CLOUD CREDIT PROGRAMME

FAQ

What is GEO?

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. Three global priority engagement areas provide focus for the community around the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. For more information, visit www.earthobservations.org

How can national governments work with GEO?

GEO is open to all UN Member States. Countries join by sending a letter of application signed by a Minister. The letter is designed to cover the requirements and opportunities for national Earth observations, not to represent one single agency in the country.

What is GEOSS?

A central part of GEO's mission is to build the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS): a set of coordinated, independent Earth observation information and processing systems that interact and provide access to diverse information for a broad range of users in both public and commercial sectors. GEOSS links these systems to strengthen the monitoring of the state of the Earth.

It consists of 182 open data catalogues from 7000+ data providers, 45 million data sets and more than 414 million data and information resources in 35 languages.

What is the relationship between Amazon and GEO?

Amazon has been providing cloud services to the GEO community through an existing arrangement with the National Research Centre (CNR) in Italy and the European Space Agency (ESA), which hosts the GEOSS Platform.

What is the Cloud Credit programme that Amazon and GEO are offering?

We face numerous planetary challenges relating to disaster risk reduction, resilience and sustainability that GEO is addressing through its engagement priorities: Earth observations for the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Cloud Credit programme will provide cloud services to help host, process and analyse large geospatial data sets for non-commercial purposes.

How can national government agency and research organizations apply for cloud credits?

In order to qualify for the Programme, countries must be designated as a low or middle income (according to [World Bank indicators](#)). Applicants can find the application form [here](#), and must submit their proposal by 31 March 2019. Grants will be reviewed by the GEO Secretariat and will be allocated based on the strength of the project proposal.

Who owns the data I submit to the cloud?

Amazon also has a [series of FAQs](#) on data privacy and security, which clearly outline that submitted data does not belong to Amazon, but belongs to the originator of the data.

How can commercial sector organizations work with GEO?

Commercial sector organizations participate in GEO in various capacities, based on the recognition of common interests and mutual benefit. GEO welcomes contributions from the commercial sector that support its mission and vision. Avenues of engagement include participation in and sponsorship of GEO events, contributions to the GEO Work Programme and providing open data or free software and services to the GEO community.