

## The Group on Earth Observations Data Sharing Activities for 2014-2015

This document presents the Data Sharing Working Group's (DSWG) proposed Activities for the 2014-2015 period. The full DSWG approved the document at its conference call on 19 June 2013. It is still in draft form for consultation by the GEO Executive Committee at its July 2013 meeting, however, with a view to finalizing it for presentation at the 2013 Plenary.

The document is a compilation of the Activities proposed by the following four subgroups of the DSWG: (1) GEOSS Data-CORE and GCI (DCS), (2) Data Documentation and Quality (DDQ), (3) Legal Interoperability (LIS), and (4) Capacity Building (CBS). It is organized according to the 8 main Actions in the GEOSS Data Sharing Action Plan accepted at the GEO-VII Plenary in November 2010. The 2014-2015 Activities are a continuation of the DSWG's current 5-year action plan and also should be read as leading to the DSWG's post-2015 strategy. The DSWG proposes the following Activities to be pursued during 2014-2015, in support of Actions 1-8 of the GEOSS Data Sharing Action Plan:

**Action 1. Create the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (GEOSS Data-CORE) to address GEO Societal Benefit Areas. The GEOSS Data-CORE is a distributed pool of documented datasets, contributed by the GEO community on the basis of full and open exchange (at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution) and unrestricted access.**

**Proposed Activities:** It is understood that the GEOSS Data-CORE has been formed, but the GEO Members and Participating Organizations are still contributing to it. Therefore, the actions below are intended to promote the continuing development of the GEOSS Data-CORE:

- a. The LIS will complete a background paper that justifies the legal interoperability summary white paper for the GEOSS Data-CORE by the 2013 GEO Plenary, and publish it independently in 2014.
- b. The DCS will assist in the implementation of the GEOSS Data-CORE, including user registration and data provider attribution capabilities, and support the efforts of the Infrastructure tasks to enable discovery of and access to the resources in the GEOSS Data-CORE. The DCS will continue to work with data providers to ensure the registration of GEOSS Data-CORE resources and their subsequent discovery and access using the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI).
- c. The DDQ will continue to refine data quality guidelines, particularly for the GEOSS Data-CORE.

**Action 2. Establish a Task Force (now Working Group) within GEO to:**

- a. Monitor the use and impact of resources made available with full and open access;
- b. Promote the efficacy of the Data Sharing Principles in delivering societal benefits;
- c. Evaluate the outcomes of this Action Plan and recommend further actions, including any mechanisms needed to further enhance the ability of the GEOSS architecture to provide access to data, metadata and products.

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The LIS will review and update, if necessary, the legal interoperability summary white paper approved by the 2011 GEO Plenary and for the 2013 GEO Plenary.
- b. The DCS will work with the relevant Infrastructure tasks to enable the use of metrics to monitor and report on the outcomes of the Action Plan.
- c. The DDQ will continue to coordinate with other GEO and non-GEO groups on the topic of data quality.
- d. The DSWG will explore and assess effective methods of promoting the GEOSS data sharing approach to new user communities.
- e. The DSWG will liaise with relevant open data access projects, groups, and initiatives around the world related or based on GEOSS (e.g. GEOWOW)

**Action 3. Maintain the GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) as the architectural framework essential to implementing the Data Sharing Principles.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The DCS will continue to work with the relevant Infrastructure tasks to ensure the necessary functionality required to support the Data Sharing Principles and Action Plan are developed and integrated into the GCI. The DCS also will work to expand the availability of detailed metadata (standardised descriptive information), to facilitate data and service discovery, assessment, access, and integration for decision support.
- b. The LIS, together with the GEO Discovery and Access Broker, will compile a list of open access licenses and waivers, as well as restricted licenses, used within GEOSS and their key characteristics by the 2013 GEO Plenary, and update it before the 2014 and 2015 Plenaries.
- c. The DDQ will continue to work on discovering and making available relevant work on data standards, including those on data quality and metadata.

**Action 4. Integrate implementation of the Data Sharing Principles, as appropriate, into the activities of GEO Work Plan Tasks and GEO Implementation Boards.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The DSWG will work to ensure the uptake of the Data Sharing Principles and Action Plan within the various GEO tasks.

**Action 5. Take leadership to establish national coordinating mechanisms to promote and monitor engagement with the implementation of the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and provide feedback to GEO.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The CBS will continue working with those GEO Members who have already established a national coordinating mechanism, to draw out the lessons and best practices from these GEO Members that will be of use to other GEO Members. Building on initial work in

2013, the CBS will develop a comprehensive package that can be used to support GEO Members looking to establish a national coordinating mechanism.

- b. The CBS will monitor and report the lessons and best practices from GEO Members with national coordinating mechanisms.
- c. Where necessary LIS will provide assessment as to the success of implementation by weighing them against existing best practices in this regard (e.g. based on the research for the background paper).

**Action 6. Develop flexible policy frameworks to ensure that a more open data environment is implemented.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The CBS will continue working with those GEO Members who developed flexible policy frameworks, to draw out the lessons and best practices from these GEO Members that will be of use to other GEO Members. Building on initial work in 2013, the CBS will develop a comprehensive package that can be used to support GEO Members looking to develop flexible policy frameworks. The CB will monitor and report the lessons and best practices from GEO Members with flexible policy frameworks.
- b. The LIS will document and analyze the “data commons” approach of one or more Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs).

**Action 7. Maximise the number of documented datasets made available on the basis of full and open access;**

**a. When no information about use rights and restrictions is provided, the presumption within GEOSS will be that the data are fully and openly available with no restrictions on use and dissemination.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The LIS, together with the GEO Discovery and Access Broker, will compile a list of open access licenses and waivers, as well as restricted licenses, used within GEOSS and their key characteristics by the 2013 GEO Plenary, and update it before the 2014 and 2015 Plenaries.
- b. The DCS will work to promote the registration in the GEOSS of data contributions and associated documentation by GEO Members and Participating Organizations.

**Action 8. Promote with data providers within their territories the benefits of full and open access to data.**

**Proposed Activities:**

- a. The DCS will work with data providers to promote the continued growth in the number of datasets made available on the basis of full and open access.

- b. The CBS will develop, refine and implement a strategy to promote with data providers the benefits of full and open access to data.
- c. The LIS will produce educational and training materials on open access licenses and waivers for data providers and users, and other related issues, e.g., best practices for data citation and attribution (2014-15), where necessary in conjunction with other GEO tasks.