

GEO Work Programme Monitoring

Report on Findings from the 2017 Baseline Data Collection

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Introduction

Information was collected from Work Programme activities in 2 rounds: the first in July-August and the second in November-December of 2017. Status of data provision is shown below.

Initial contact with the Work Programme activities was either made directly to the Activity Leads as listed in the GEO Work Programme or with the assistance of the Secretariat experts assigned to liaise with those activities. In some instances, the Secretariat experts also assisted in compiling the requested information.

Activity Leads were invited to participate in a series of teleconferences to explain the process. During the teleconferences, the data entry tables and the various fields in each table were explained to participants. Leads were also invited to ask questions by email or by telephone call and to send preliminary versions of their tables for review, if they wished.

Information from each activity was entered into a set of eight worksheets. The worksheets were on three themes, as follows:

- Work Programme contributions: 1. Individual contributors, 2. Work Programme contributions, 3. Commercial sector participation.
- User engagement: 4. User organizations, 5. User engagement methods, 6. End user products and services.
- Capacity Building: 7. Capacity building activities, 8. Capacity building resources.

Many of the fields of the worksheets contained drop-down menus to simplify data entry and to maximize consistency between activities. An explanatory guide was also provided to Activity Leads. The guide explained the nature of the information being requested and definitions of the applicable categories.

Caveats

Apart from the lack of complete information received from the Work Programme activities, which will be discussed on the next page, the results presented in this report are subject to several additional limitations, some of which are identified below.

- The information reported to the Secretariat by Activity Leads was itself gathered through processes that may have been incomplete and are not within the control or detailed knowledge of the Secretariat. Thus, there may be gaps or inaccuracies in this information.
- Interpretation of some of the categories used in the worksheets may have differed between activities or between individual respondents.
- Quantitative estimates, especially of financial values, may be subject to considerable uncertainties and differences in assumptions between organizations and individual respondents.

Section 1 – Status of Information Provision by Work Programme Activities

As of the date of preparation of this report, the status of information provision by the Work Programme activities is as follows:

	Number of activities	Summary Status				Inactive
		Complete	Partial	In Progress	No Response	
Flagship	4	2	2	0	0	0
Initiative	24	16	0	3	5	0
Community Activity	35	17	1	8	6	3
Foundational Task	7	0	2	5	0	0
	70	35	5	16	11	3
		50%	7%	23%	16%	4%

An activity is listed as “Complete” where it appears that all relevant tables have been completed and to a reasonable degree of consistency with the required format. In some cases, there may be a few entries where some additional clarification may be needed.

Activities are shown as “Partial” when some tables have been completed, but not others that are known to be applicable. Additional time may be required to gather the remaining information.

Activities shown as “In Progress” are those that have not yet submitted their information but have been in contact with the Secretariat to confirm that they are working on entering the information.

A “No Response” status is given for activities that have been contacted but have neither submitted their completed tables nor have informed the Secretariat on their progress.

Activities listed as “Inactive” are those that have reported that the activity has not been actively implemented during 2016-2017.

GEO Flagships	GEO BON	GEOGLAM	GFOI	GOS4M		
	AFRIGEOSS	AMERIGEOSS	AOGEOSS	AQUAWATCH	BLUE PLANET	EO4EA
	EO4SDG	EUROGEOSS	GDIS	GEO CARBON	CCIOACZ	GEO CRI
	GEO DARMA	GEO ECO	GEOGLOWS	GEO GNOME	GEOSS EVOLVE	GEO VENER
GEO Initiatives	GEO WETLANDS	GOS4POPS	GSNL	GUOI	GWIS	HUMAN PLANET
	CAPACITY BUILDING	DATA SHARING	GCI OPERATIONS	GEONETCAST	GEOSS IN-SITU	GEOSS SAT
	USER NEEDS					
	AFRICA GEOCHEM	AIRNOW	C3S	CAMS	CITIZEN OBS	CLIMDATA ACCESS
	COMM NETWORKS	CTMS	DIAS	EARTH2OBSERVE	EO4DRM	EO4HEALTH
	EO4MINERALS	EO4MWF	FOREST BIODIV	GEOARC	GEO CRADLE	GEOHAZARDS
Community Activities	GEO HERITAGE	GEOMUSEUM	GFC3-GEO	GLO AGRIDROUGHT	GLOFAS	GLO FLOODRISK
	GLO MANGROVE	HAB EWS	HIMALAYAN GEOSS	INSITU WATER	LANDCOVER	MUSYQ
	RESEARCH SCHOOLS	RESILIENCE-IO	SOCIOECO BENEFITS	SPACE & SECURITY	TIGGE	

Green -- Monitoring data are complete or mostly complete

Yellow -- Partial monitoring data have been provided or preparation of monitoring data is underway.

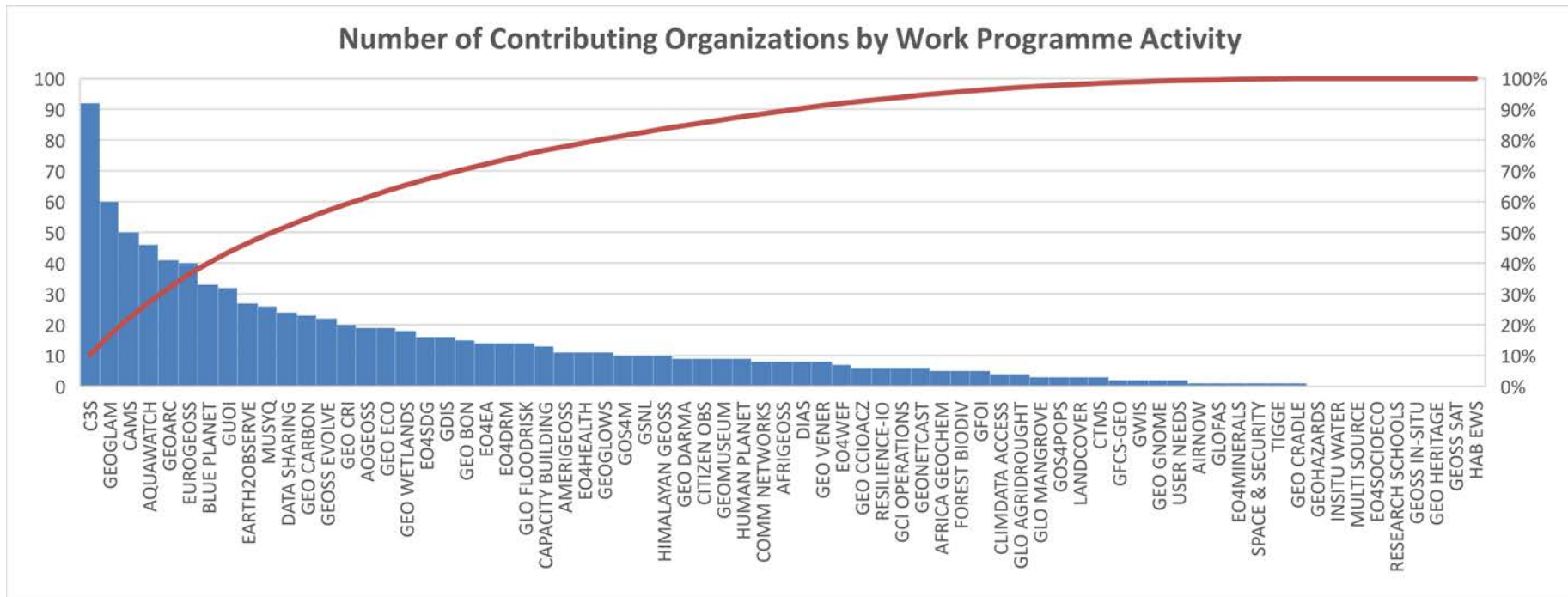
Red -- No response to requests for monitoring data have been received.

Grey -- Activities are currently inactive.

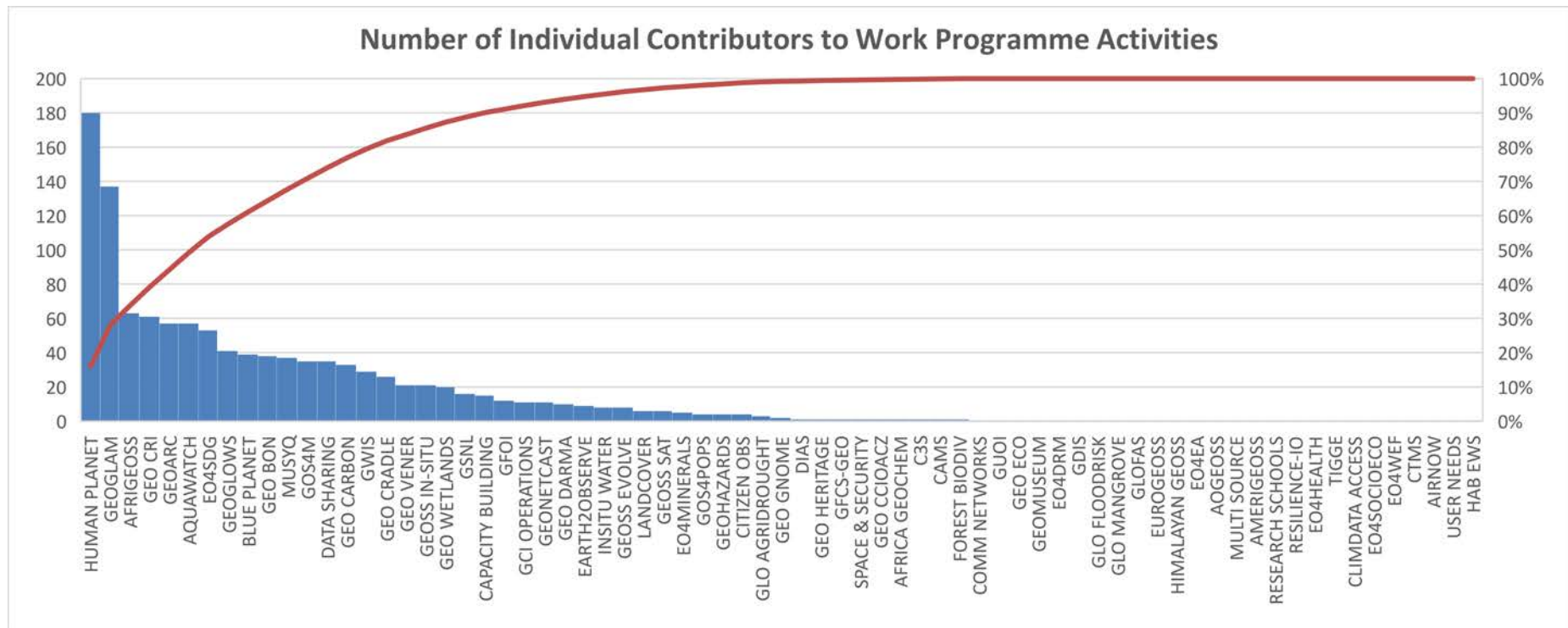
Section 2 – Contributions to Work Programme Activities

The number of contributing organizations is affected not only by the general degree of completeness of reporting, but also by the kinds of organizations that may be included as contributors. A key example of this may be seen with Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), which appears in the graph below as having the largest number of contributing organizations, despite being a Community Activity. The large number of contributors is based on the inclusion of organizations who have been contracted to implement some portion of the activity.

If the definition of “contributors” were restricted to only those organizations providing funding, this would result in a much smaller set of contributors and would not be truly reflective of the spirit of encouraging in-kind contributions from a broad range of GEO Members and organizations. To now, the definition of “contributor” has been kept relatively broad, although some further refinement may be needed and would benefit from Programme Board discussion.



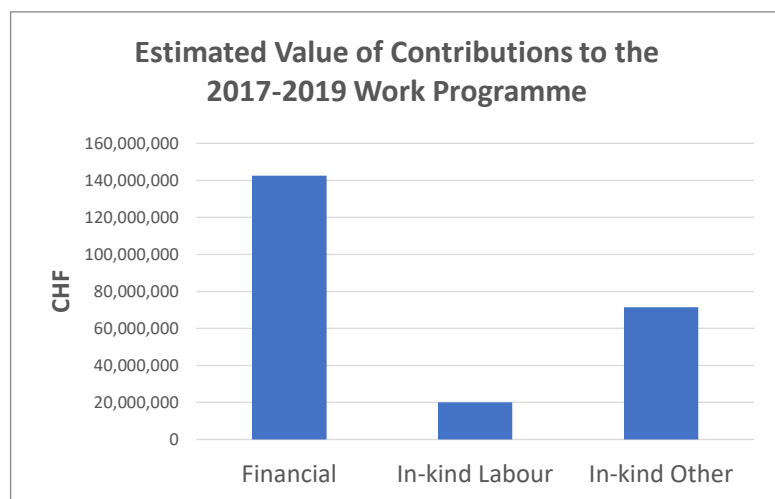
A different sort issue arises with individual contributors (or participants). In this case, the difficulty is not with defining an individual contributor, but with the numbers of contributors in some activities. Some of the Flagships and large Initiatives may involve hundreds of individuals. The Activity Leads may not maintain comprehensive records of all of these contributors, nor are the lists they do have always kept up to date. This may not be a critical issue for managing the Work Programme, but it does affect our monitoring of Member / PO involvement and the relative scale of the various activities. An example of this may be seen in the chart below, which shows the Global Forest Observation Initiative (GFOI) as having fewer than 20 individual contributors, which is a dramatic underestimate of the actual scale of individual contributions. Many other activities are shown at zero or at very low numbers, as the submitted information included only the Activity Leads (or no information may have been submitted at all).





While the numbers of organizations listed in the top graph on this page almost certainly understate the true numbers of contributing organizations, the proportions across the various categories are likely reasonable representative.

One point to note is that the category of “Research institution” was added during the second round of data collection based on the large numbers of organizations that were neither truly governmental, nor academic. These institutions, often established by governments but not involved in policy or service delivery, are typically research focused, obtain funding from a wide range of sources, and have a high degree of autonomy in their operations. While some previously-submitted information was revised to reflect this new category, further review is likely required to ensure the categorizations are consistent across Work Programme activities and between Member countries.

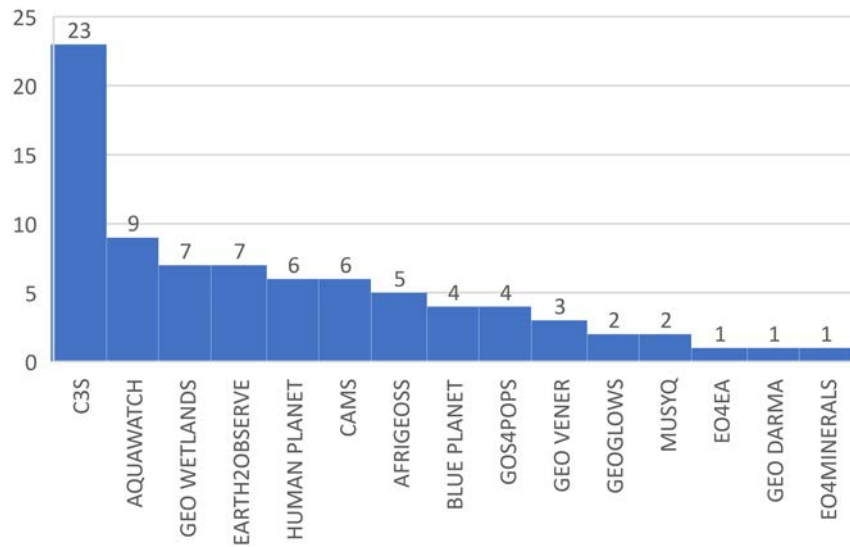


Estimation of the value of contributions to Work Programme activities was likely the most difficult challenge for Activity Leads. Financial contributions were usually the easiest to record, as most of these are based on grants. Generally, the only difficult aspect was in pro-rating the contributions to match the GEO Work Program period (2016-2019).

In-kind labour contributions, i.e. volunteer time of individual contributors, makes up the largest number of contributions, but since many of these are for a small number of days per year, the value of many were not estimated (as per the guidance). However, it is likely that some of the larger in-kind labour contributions were also not estimated, making the total shown here less than the true amount.

In-kind other contributions are quite heterogeneous and also difficult to estimate in some cases. Much of the reported value is for satellite data for which customary fees have been waived by the providers.

Involvement of Commercial Sector Organizations

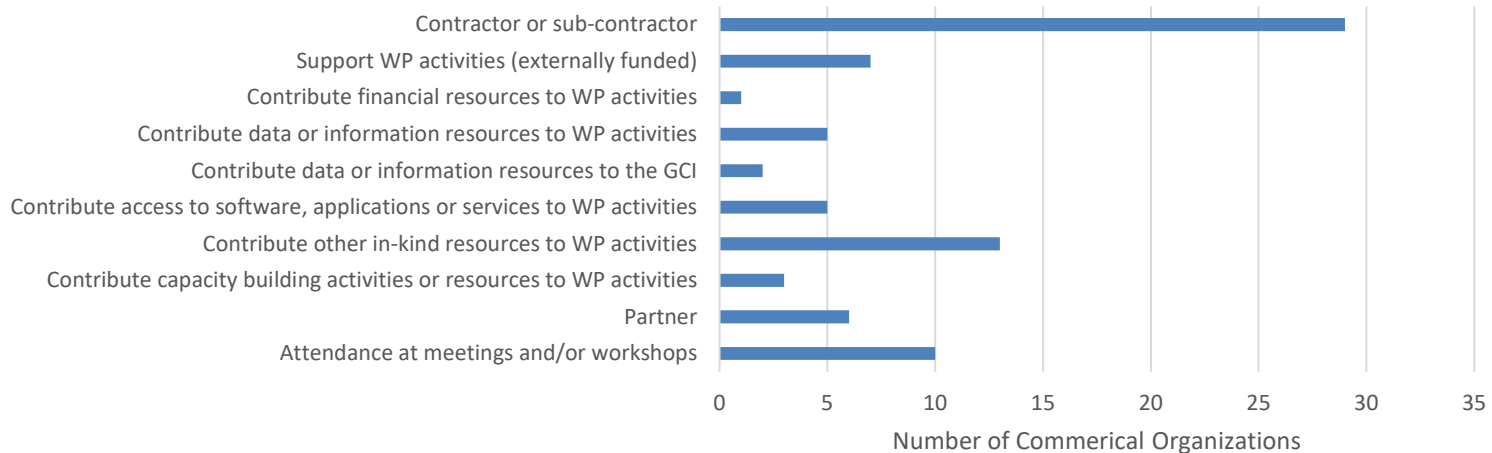


Information on current involvement of Commercial Sector (for-profit) organizations in Work Programme activities was sought during this monitoring process given the relatively high priority given to this by the GEO Executive Committee and Plenary. In part, the purpose is to use this information as a baseline for comparison to determine if efforts now being directed at increasing such involvement are effective.

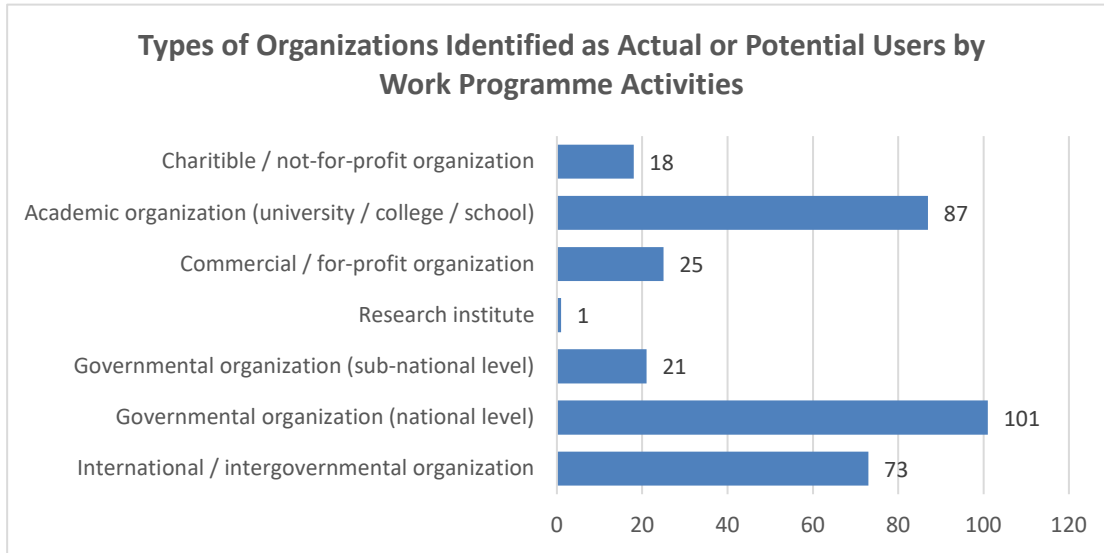
One early finding is that there is already substantial involvement by commercial firms in several activities and that this involvement takes a range of forms.

It should be noted that the total number of commercial organizations involved is less than the sum across the activities, as some firms are involved in more than one GEO Work Programme activity.

Types of Commercial Sector Involvement in Work Programme Activities



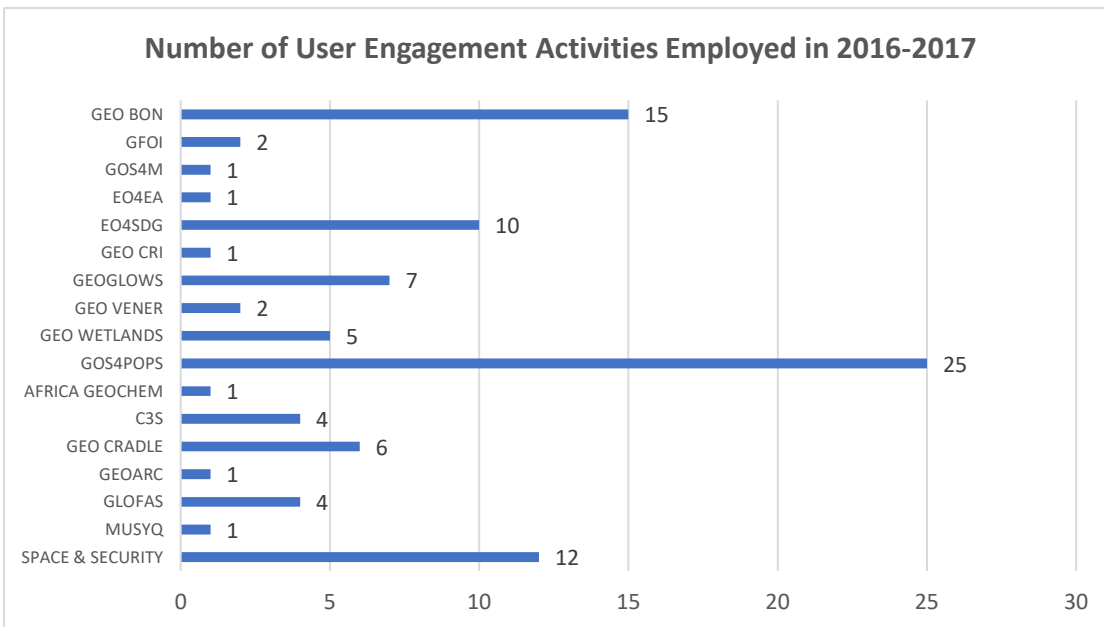
Section 3 – User Engagement and End-User Products and Services



Who are the users of the products and/or services being developed by GEO Work Programme activities?

One approach to answer this question is to look at the organizations that have been engaged by Work Programme activities to understand user needs (see chart to the left).

However, this does not necessarily mean that these organizations are the intended end users themselves. In at least some cases, these organizations may be consulted for their knowledge of end-user communities, perhaps due to the difficulty in directly consulting with individual end users.

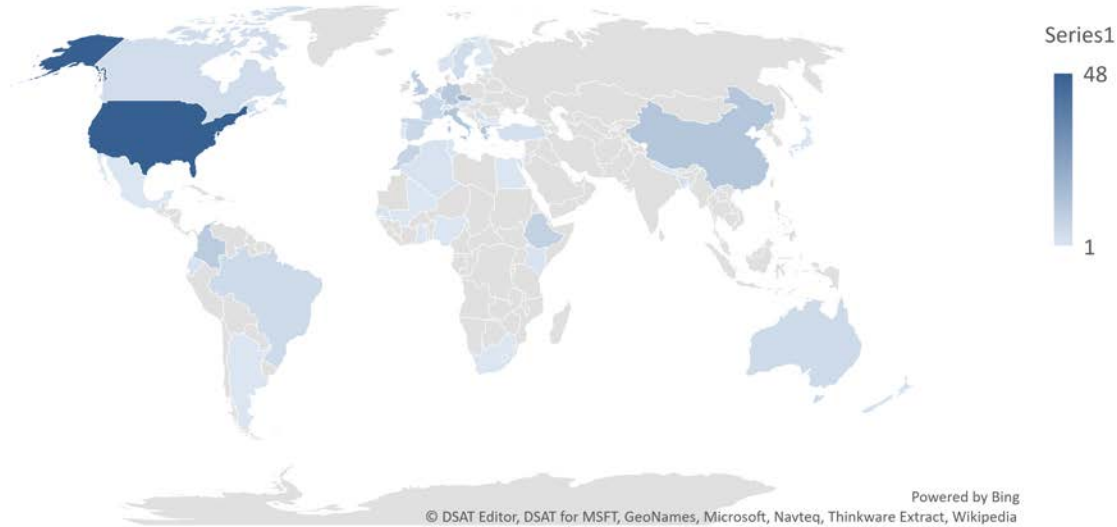


The chart to the left shows which Work Programme activities reported having conducted user engagement activities in 2016 or 2017.

Since the methods used range from single workshops to ongoing engagement, the numbers themselves may not be indicative of the degree of engagement of users. Many of the Work Programme activities reported using full participation of users and/or co-development of products and services, although it is unclear whether there is a common understanding of what these imply.

Despite its limitations, the chart does identify activities that are actively seeking to engage users.

Locations of User Organizations Engaged



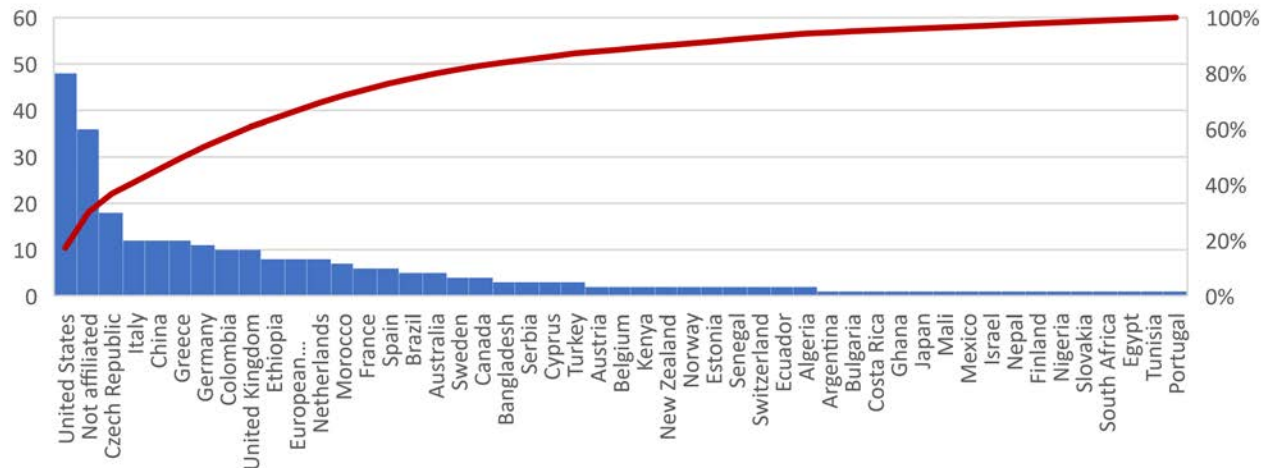
Where are users located?

The data provided by the monitoring process does not answer this question directly, but it does provide some information on the locations of the organizations engaged to determine user needs and preferences. These locations are shown to the left.

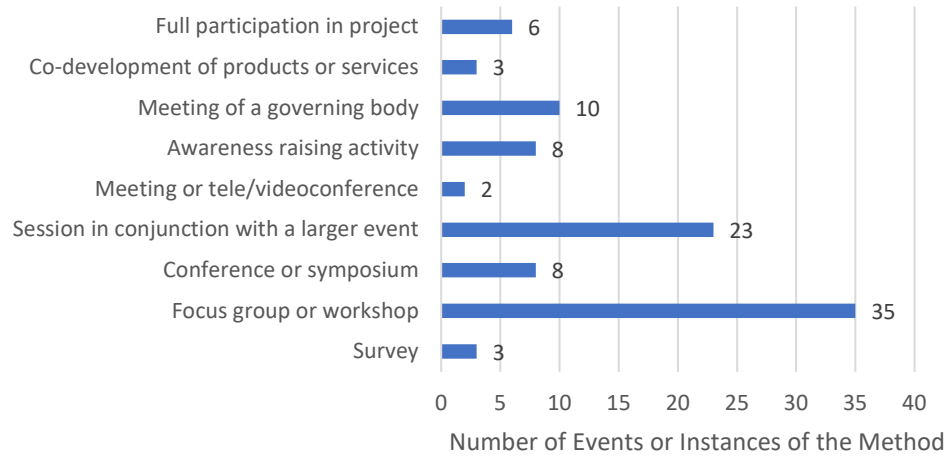
Listed below are organizations engaged as user organizations by Work Programme activities that are not formally affiliated with GEO as Members or Participating Organizations:

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- Albania Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
- Albania National Agency of Protected Areas
- Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines
- iMMAP
- International Committee for Documentation of Cultural Heritage
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro
- Ramsar Convention
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan)
- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- WaterLex

User Organizations Engaged by GEO Member



Methods of User Engagement in 2016-2017

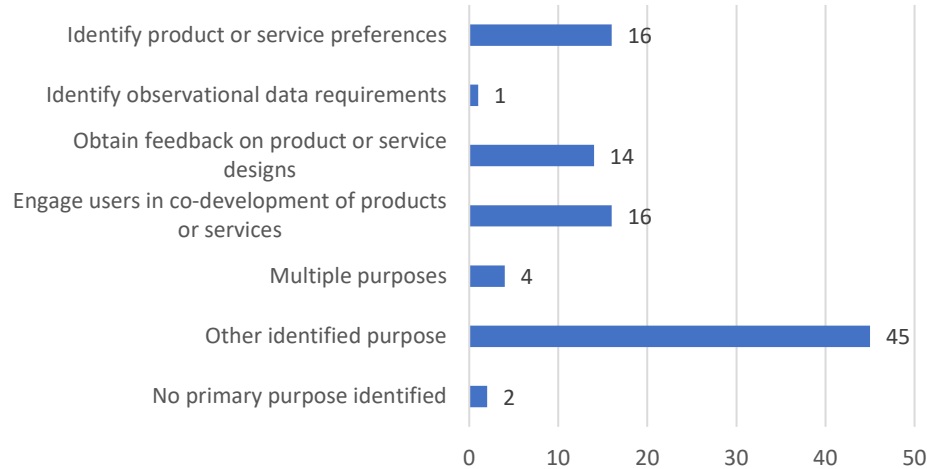


How do Work Programme activities engage their users or potential users?

A broad range of methods is employed, with individual activities having their own preferences. Workshops and side events at larger events are the most preferred means.

While generally viewed as the ideal, full participation of users or co-development of products and services are only used by a minority of Work Programme activities currently.

Primary Purpose of User Engagement

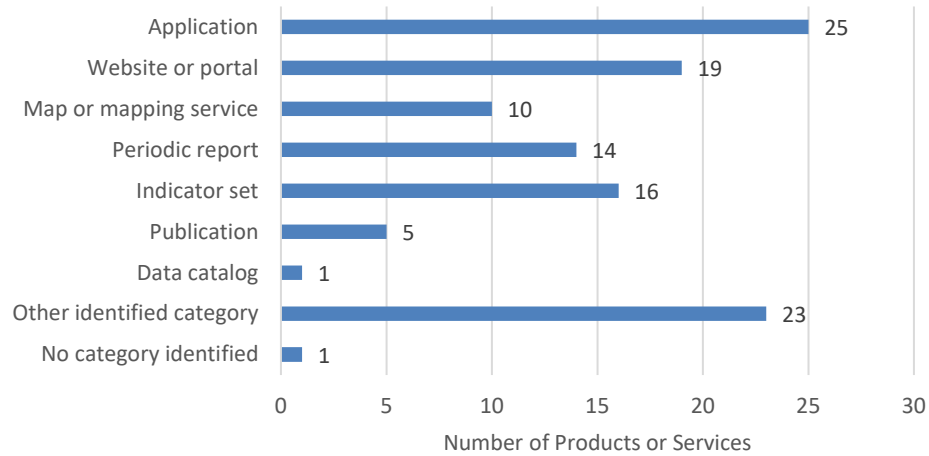


Work Programme activities engaged users for a variety of purposes, most often with respect to their preferences for products or services, to provide feedback on specific designs, or to participate in co-development of products and services.

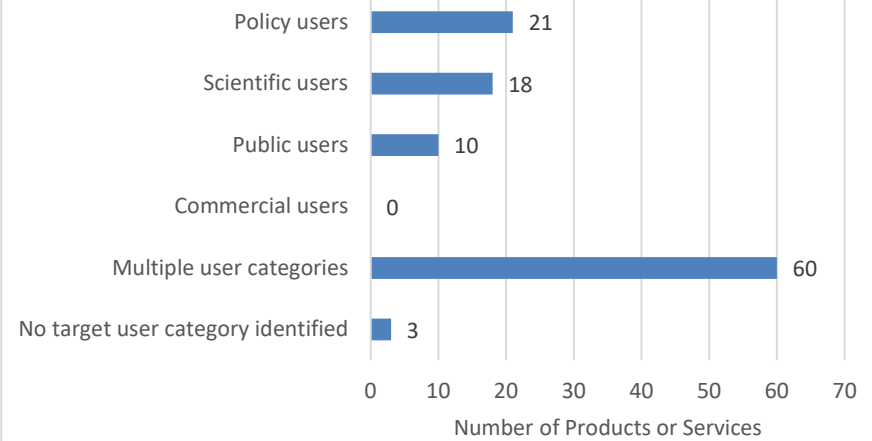
The identification of observational data requirements was only identified as the primary purpose by one activity.

Other identified purposes tended to be specific to the activity. Further analysis of the responses is required to determine if there are commonalities that might apply across activities.

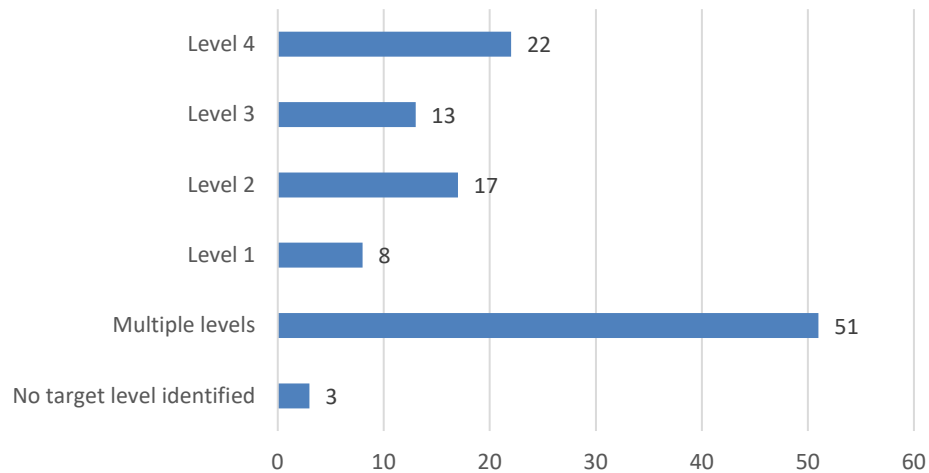
Categories of End User Products and Services



Intended Users of Products and Services



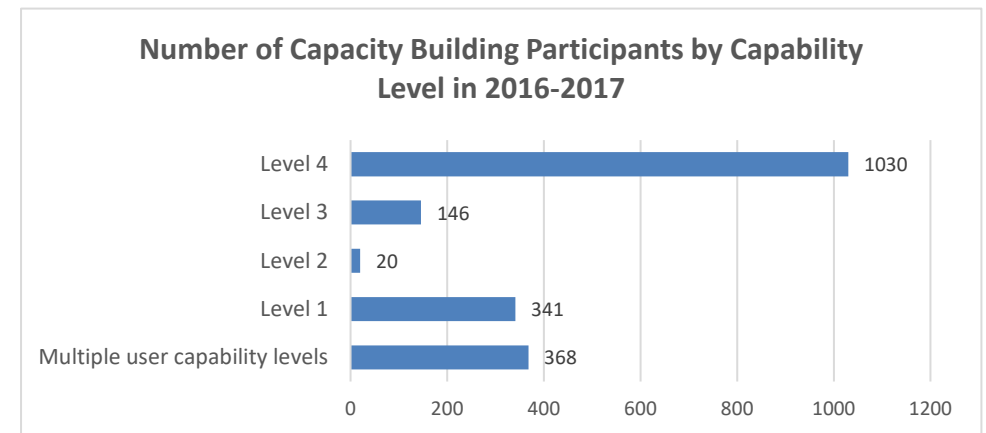
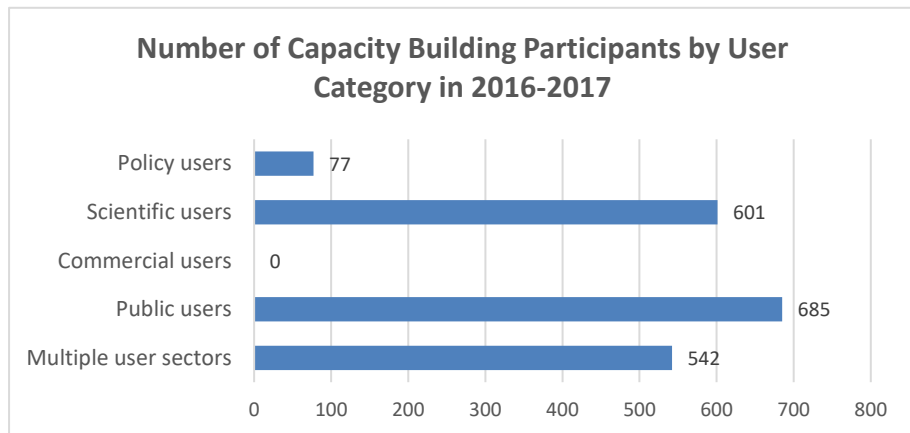
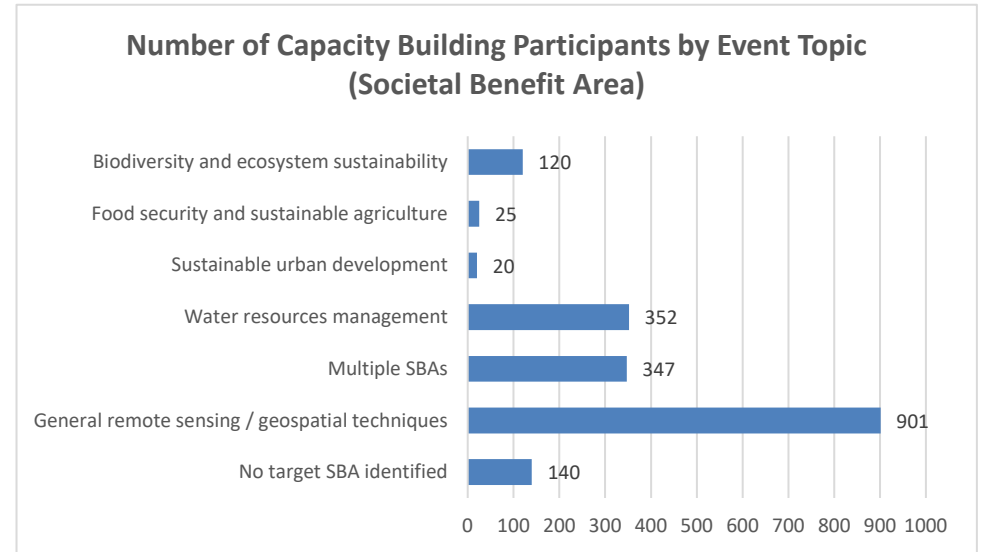
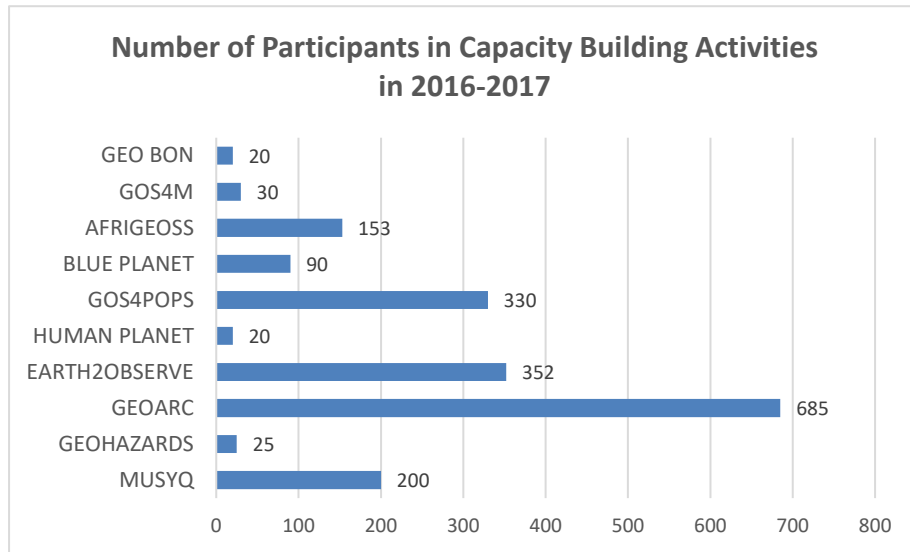
Target User Capability Level



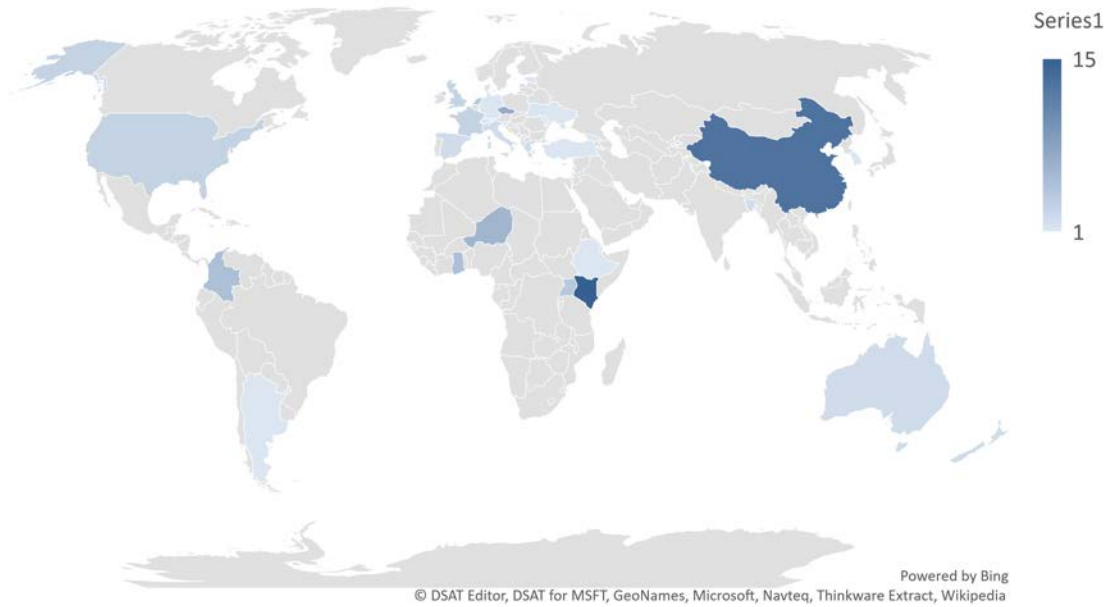
User capability levels were defined for the purposes of the monitoring process as follows:

- Level 4 – Highly technically competent organization with extensive capability in earth observation, modeling and research.
- Level 3 – Current regular operational user of earth observations, but with limited capability in remote sensing or in development of new applications or services in-house.
- Level 2 – Organization with modest capacity to use earth observations in regular operations. Use is mainly limited to scientific or other specialized users.
- Level 1 – Organization with limited or no in-house technical capacity in earth observations but which could benefit from targeted information products or services.

Part 4 – Capacity Building Activities and Resources



Locations of Capacity Building Activities, by Number of Events

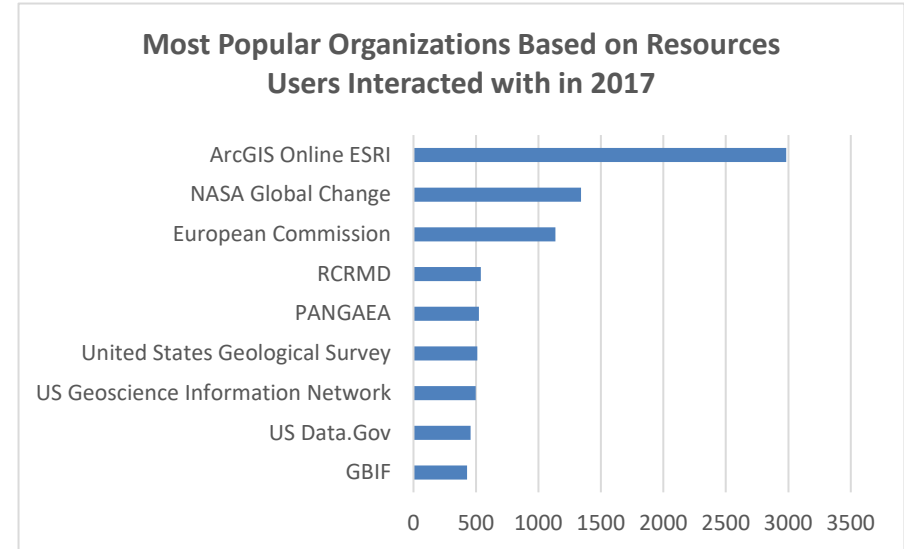
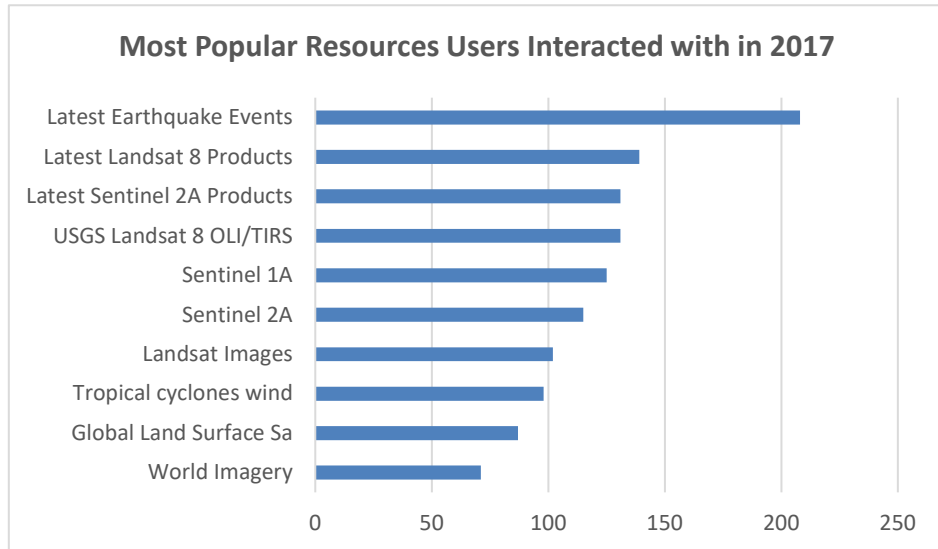
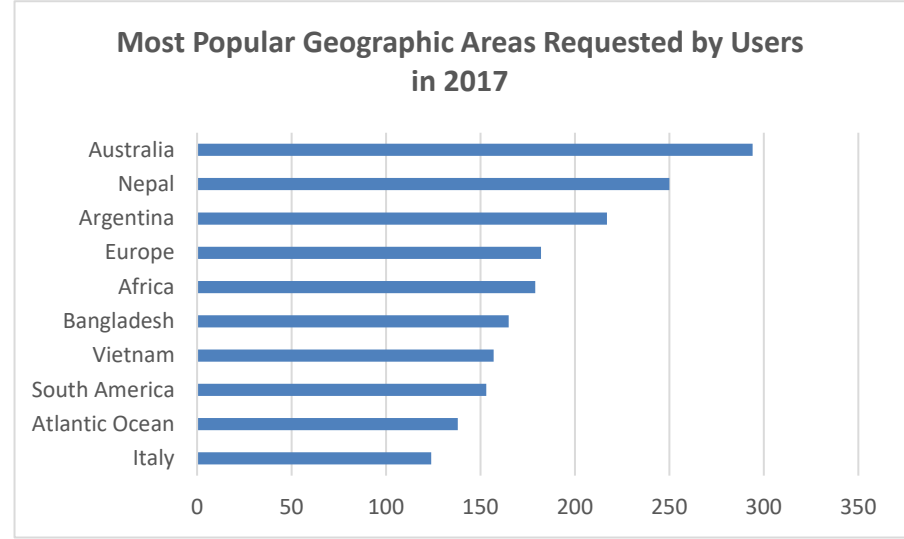
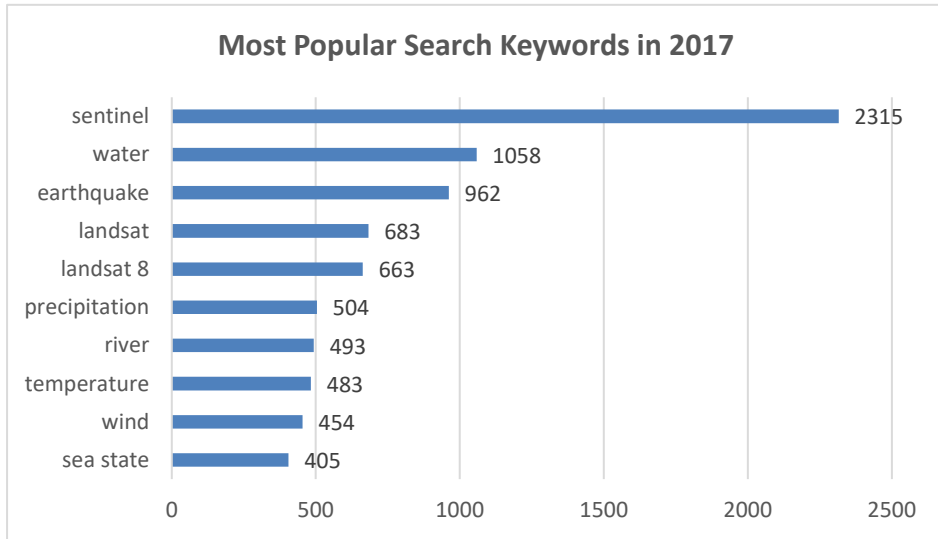


The map does not show activities that were mobile, e.g. ship-based data collection, or activities that took place in multiple countries.

It should also be noted that the country in which the event occurred does not necessarily reflect the country of origin of the participants.

Part 5 – Usage of the GEOSS Portal in 2017

The following charts were obtained from the GEOSS Portal and are available on demand to all registered users.



Number of submitted searches versus time

