

## **Outreach and communications of Regional GEOSS toward inter-regional collaborations and development of GEO Work Programme.**

30 April, 2018  
GEO Programme Board Subgroup

Dear Leads of Regional GEOSS,  
(AfriGEOSS, AmeriGEOSS, AOGEOSS, EuroGEOSS)

The Work Programme Symposium (Pretoria, 2017) showed that much is happening within the Regional GEOSS's (RGs) that is not reflected in the GEO Work Programme (WP) and that there is low (or lack of) synergy between RG activities and WP activities addressing similar topics and issues. RGs have been working, in some cases for many years, within specific frameworks; connections are being made and synergies are being formed, that many times go beyond the WP.

With the launch of the 2017-2019 WP and the announcement of GEO Priorities, the GEO Programme Board (PB) would like to: (i) understand how GEO WP priorities are reflected in current activities of the RGs, (ii) develop an insight into RG plans to address these priorities, (iii) identify the relevant adaptations that need to be made to both RGs and the GEO WP and (iv) foster cooperation between the RG groups, as well as with the WP tasks teams, whenever relevant. Thus, the PB Subgroup on "Outreach to Regional GEOSS" was launched at the 8<sup>th</sup> PB meeting in January 2018 to interact with RGs in support of ongoing implementation of the GEO WP and RGs' programs in GEO priorities, GEO Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs), as well as capacity building. Specifically, the subgroup works to:

- ensure RGs' awareness and alignment with GEO priorities, to the extent possible;
- promote greater coordination between activities of the WP related to the GEO priorities and the agendas and priorities of RGs;
- align the WP to regional priorities, potentially via seeding of new activities for the WP from a regional GEOSS perspective;
- identify collaboration opportunities between RGs and GEO Flagships and Initiatives (including Community Activities, when relevant) to achieve the common target of realizing the GEO priorities, given the broader base of context and engagement that RGs may provide. Foster inter-regional GEOSS collaboration/coordination;
- understand the positioning of RGs within the GEO Work Programme (not necessarily same category as more 'thematic' Initiatives);
- improve/leverage communication channels with broader GEO community; and
- develop a definition of what constitutes a "Regional GEOSS", including the added-value of a regional approach.

The PB subgroup wishes to launch an initial survey to learn more about the achievements, outcomes and gaps of the Regional GEOSS's, and then identify the challenges and opportunities of RGs in terms of developments and collaborations. As part of this effort, the PB subgroup would like to plan dedicated Teleconference(s) with the Leads of each RG during the first week of May 2018. The subgroup survey will focus on the following topics;

- Key achievements of each RG at the regional level, and how it contributes to the WP;
- Identification of Gaps;
- Discussion of contributions to SBAs;
- The added-value of working as an RG; and
- Interoperability under GEOSS.