



GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

## GEO-IX

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Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Proposal

Document 8

As accepted at GEO-IX



## **Monitoring & Evaluation Working Group Proposal on Tracking the Implementation of Recommendations of GEOSS Evaluations**

*The Plenary is requested to discuss and approve the proposal brought forward by the M&E Working Group.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The Executive Committee, during its 25th meeting in July 2012, requested that a process be established to track the implementation of recommendations from evaluations. This note provides an outline of a proposed process to meet this requirement.

### **2 GEO EVALUATION PROCESS**

The overall approach to evaluation within GEO is described in the “GEOSS Monitoring and Evaluation Framework Document”. It foresees the performance of yearly evaluations, each one conducted by an Evaluation Team specially convened for that purpose. The Monitoring & Evaluation Working Group (M&E WG) recruits the Evaluation Team, prepares the initial evaluation plan (terms of reference for the evaluation), and oversees the execution of the evaluation. The Evaluation Teams are wholly responsible for the content of the evaluation reports.

The first (Mid-Term) evaluation was completed in 2010; it assessed the entire scope of GEOSS implementation to that time. The second evaluation, addressing Architecture and Data Management, was completed in 2011 and the third evaluation, dealing with the Agriculture, Biodiversity and Ecosystems Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs), was completed earlier this year. The process is expected to continue through two more SBA-focused evaluations, wrapping up with the final, comprehensive evaluation planned for 2015.

The framework document also indicates the actions and the timeline for each evaluation:

- June            The Evaluation Team completes the report;
- July            The M&E WG presents the Report to the Executive Committee, for discussion and preparation of the Committee’s managerial response to the findings and recommendations;
- November    The M&E WG presents the Report to Plenary, together with the Executive Committee’s managerial response;  
  
                    The Plenary discusses and defines the actions to respond to the findings and recommendations;

The timelines above indicate that decisions on what actions, if any, are required to address the recommendations are ultimately taken by Plenary.

### 3 M&E WG PROPOSAL

The M&E WG recognizes that tracking and reporting on the extent of implementation of evaluation recommendations is a good practice and may provide valuable information to the GEO community.

For a follow-up report to be effective, it should be available at a time that would support taking necessary corrective actions. As it is expected that the impact of recommendations would result in changes of the GEO Work Plan, the M&E WG proposes to issue a yearly report, tentatively called “Progress in the Implementation of the Recommendations from GEOSS Evaluations“ in February each year, so that it could be discussed by the Executive Committee at its March meeting and would then become a key input to the GEO Work Plan Symposium, usually held in the end of April-beginning of May time frame.

The bulk of the report will consist of a table that will summarize the progress in the implementation of the recommendations and will have the following structure:

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Executive Committee Response</b>	<b>Accepted by Plenary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>M&amp;E WG comments and recommendations</b>

Remarks:

Column A will include the recommendations provided by all the Evaluations performed.

Column C will refer to column B, the Executive Committee response.

Column D will indicate CLOSED or OPEN and explanatory statements.

The M&E WG will compile the table based on the inputs of the GEO Secretariat and on the content of the Work Plan and the Implementation Boards reports. The M&E WG reserves the right to request direct advice from the Boards on specific issues.

The report will also contain a short introduction and a set of conclusions highlighting the most critical issues.

The first report will be issued in February 2013 and will include the assessment of the implementation status of the recommendations from the first three Evaluations.