



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-V

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Report on Data Sharing Principles Process Paper
and Implementation Guidelines

Document 6

This document is submitted to GEO-V for information.

Report on Data Sharing Principles Process Paper and Implementation Guidelines

Following an initial review at GEO-IV in November 2007, the GEOSS Data Sharing Principles Process Paper and Implementation Guidelines have undergone extensive review by an international group of data experts, by GEO Members and Participating Organizations and by all four GEO Committees. Several workshops have been held and the guidelines have been presented at international meetings, including the 10th Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association conference and a data sharing session at the 25th CODATA International Conference, held in Kiev in coordination with the World Data Centers meeting.

The GEOSS Data Sharing Principles Process Paper and Implementation Guidelines have been updated based on the comments received. All written review comments received to date, together with the Task Team's responses to these comments and suggestions have been logged and are available on request to the Task Lead (DA-06-01).

As the next major milestone, the newly revised Implementation Guidelines are being submitted to GEO-V Plenary for discussion; in addition, the Task Team will provide a status report and organize a side event during the GEO-V Plenary meeting. The revised Process Paper will then be submitted for information and distribution to the entire GEO community. A schedule for the Implementation Guidelines has also been developed which lays out the steps needed to achieve consensus on the proposed Guidelines and to move expeditiously towards the development of working data sharing principles and procedures for GEOSS. It is expected that this process will be an iterative one, in which initial experience with data sharing principles and procedures will provide important lessons for the guidelines. The Task Team plans to continue defining and assessing the Implementation Guidelines for approval at GEO-VII and the consideration of the 2010 GEO Ministerial Summit.

Until then, it is important for ongoing GEOSS activities that the various contributors to and users of GEOSS begin developing data sharing principles and procedures that are consistent with the emerging GEOSS Data Sharing Principles. Although such working principles and procedures are entirely voluntary in nature, they can nevertheless help both providers and users of GEOSS data products and services to understand their rights and expectations with regard to data dissemination, access, use, and reuse. Some GEOSS user communities are likely to have somewhat different procedures for data sharing and may face constraints on data dissemination, access, and use due to national security concerns or proprietary interests. Therefore, data sharing principles and procedures at the working level may differ to some extent for different communities.

The main recommendation of the Task Team is that major GEO initiatives such as GEONETCast, the Global Digital Elevation Model (DEM), China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite (CBERS) data distribution, the GEO Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), Global Agricultural Monitoring (GAM), and others need to begin formalizing their data sharing principles and procedures, taking into account the proposed GEOSS Data Sharing Principles and Implementation Guidelines. This will help ensure consistency in principles and procedures across GEOSS communities, which is important for enabling cross-disciplinary, cross-community data use. The GEOSS Common Infrastructure (GCI) and its Initial Operating Capability (IOC) should also begin to incorporate tools to implement data sharing principles and procedures for digital rights management, development of metrics, and acknowledgement of data provider and user rights and responsibilities. Early experience in these activities will provide important feedback from GEOSS providers and users regarding practical and appropriate implementation approaches for GEOSS data sharing principles and procedures.

The schedule for GEO approval of the GEOSS Data Sharing Guidelines is as follows:

- November 2008: Discussion of the draft guidelines at GEO-V Plenary. Submission of the Process Paper to the GEO community.
- November 2008-June 2009: Additional revisions to the draft guidelines. Assessment of the potential impact of the Data Sharing Guidelines on Members' and Participating Organization's current national data policies. Discussion and consensus-building activities to clarify to what degree value-added data and services contributed to GEOSS (e.g., model outputs, data processing to higher levels for application/analysis/decision making) are subject to the Data Sharing Principles. Discussion of possible additions to the guidelines.
- November 2009: Discussion of the draft guidelines at GEO-VI Plenary. Reports by GEO Members and Participating Organizations on their national data policies in relationship to the proposed guidelines and associated implementation issues and plans.
- Mid-2009 to Mid-2010: Additional revisions to the draft guidelines. Identification and implementation of specific actions and plans to improve consistency with the principles.
- November 2010: Guidelines considered for adoption at GEO-VII and Ministerial Summit.