

GEO Ministerial segment, 5 November 2010, Beijing, China

Participating organisations

Statement by DIVERSITAS

Your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

DIVERSITAS, the international programme for biodiversity science of ICSU and UNESCO, has been co-leading the planning phase of the biodiversity component of GEOSS, which we call GEO BON. DIVERSITAS has done this together with US NASA, GBIF, the EBONE project of the European Commission, and many countries and organisations.

Today, we are happy to briefly mention a few important developments for GEO BON, which have just taken place in 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity.

From a scientific point of view, GEO BON released its implementation plan this past May at the SBSTTA of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in June, established a small secretariat, hosted and funded by S-Africa.

COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the CBD, which finished last week in Nagoya, Japan, gave for the first time in one of its decisions, a specific mandate to GEO BON, requesting GEO BON to prepare an evaluation of existing observation capabilities relevant to the new 20 targets for 2020 adopted in Nagoya.

GEO BON is now increasingly recognised as the observation pillar of the science policy interface for biodiversity, and will thus play a major role in organising the collection and sharing of observations to assess progress against the 20 targets for 2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and also support the work of the future IPCC like mechanism for biodiversity, called IPBES, if established.

DIVERSITAS and the entire GEO BON community are proud of these achievements made possible thanks to GEO and GEOSS.

We call upon governments and organisations to become fully engaged in the implementation of GEO BON and to support this important initiative for the future of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We thank you for your attention.