

# Update on the Engagement Teams

**18<sup>th</sup> GEO Programme Board Meeting**  
**Agenda Item 2.5**

**GEO Secretariat**  
**W.Chu**

1-3 September 2020

# PB Interaction with Work Programme Activities

- PB agreed to a strategy (PB-16)
  - Secretariat to work with GWP activities to identify key objectives for 2020-2022
  - Eight “engagement teams” created to assist, and monitor progress of, a small set of Flagships and Initiatives
  - Teams based on review teams, with some changes
- **PB asked for a list of discussion topics to be prepared (PB-17)**
- Roles of the teams:
  - Participate in calls with Flagship / Initiative leads
  - Assist in furthering the identified objectives
  - Assist in preparing / reviewing status reports to PB

# Discussion Topics for the Calls

1. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your activity? Has the pandemic led you to change plans or directions for the activity in future, including to pursue new opportunities?
2. What key achievements or areas of progress have been realized over the last year?
3. Are the proposed objectives listed below still relevant? Would you like to make any additions or modifications to these objectives? What progress, if any, has been realized toward these objectives (if relevant)?
4. Have you established any new connections with other GEO Flagships, Initiatives, Community Activities, Foundational Tasks or Regional GEOs? Are there other activities with which you would like to collaborate and would like help in doing so?
5. Do you have any key data needs which have been difficult to fill? To what extent do you currently use non-EO data (e.g. statistics, mobile phone, etc.)? What benefits might be realized by advancing the integration of non-EO data in your activities?
6. Do you require assistance from the GEO Secretariat and/or the Programme Board in any of the following areas? (Alignment of activities with the GEO Engagement Priorities; Connection with UN agencies or other policy organizations; Contribution to the GEO Knowledge Hub; Access to technical resources such as cloud computing; Resource mobilization; Co-design of capacity development activities; Others)

# Progress

Team	Completed	Scheduled	In scheduling
Biodiversity	GEOBON, EO4EA	GEO-WETLANDS	
Climate			GFOI, GEO-CRADLE, GEO-GNOME, GEO-VENER
DRR	GEO-DARMA , GWIS		DIAS, GSNL
Health		GOS4M	GOS4POPS, EO4HEALTH
Land	GEOGLAM	GEO-LDN	GDIS
Region			AFRIGEO, AMERIGEO, AOGEO, EUROGEO
Urban		GUOI, HUMAN-PLANET	EO4SDG
Water		GEOGLOWS	AQUAWATCH, BLUE-PLANET
	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>

# PB and GEO Secretariat Participation

- EO4EA
  - Andreia Siqueira, Anthony Milne, Francisco Chavez, Lucia Perugini; Steven Ramage, Craig Larlee, Wenbo Chu
- GEOGLAM
  - Andiswa Mlisa, Andreia Siqueira, Carten Dettmann, Charles Mwangi, Kathy Fontaine, Suchith Anand; Gilberto Camara, Steven Ramage, Craig Larlee, Wenbo Chu
- GEO-DARMA
  - Stuart Marsh; Steven Ramage, Craig Larlee, Wenbo Chu
- GEO BON
  - Andreia Siqueira, Anthony Milne, Petteri Vihervaara , Hiroyuki Muraoka; Gilberto Camara, Steven Ramage, Craig Larlee, Wenbo Chu
- GWIS
  - Stuart Marsh, Kerry Sawyer, Krystal Azelton, Andrew Nyawade; Steven Ramage, Craig Larlee, Wenbo Chu

# Observations on the process

- **Great appreciation from GWP activity leads**
  - Circulation of discussion topics beforehand helped
  - Shifted/shifting relationship from reporting to collaboration
  - Some suggest more than a call per year as necessary
- **Active participation by the ET members**
  - Linking the activities within the ET and across the entire GWP
  - Providing expertise
- **Mutually beneficial two-way conversation**
  - Frank discussion focusing on where actions are needed and how
  - For ETs, to understand the implementation status of GWP activities
  - For GWP activities, to understand what's happening in GEO and how to leverage efforts

# Highlights from the five completed calls

- Impact of COVID-19
  - Most activities have not experienced direct impacts, though the long-term impacts are yet to emerge
  - Activities were able to organize regular work and big conferences, and reach out to partners across the globe
  - Some activities experienced serious disruption
  - Opportunities to re-think the strategy and the way of work
- Achievements (selected)
  - EO4EA: developed Ecosystem Extent Accounting pilots in 15 countries
  - GEOGLAM: ingested Sen2Agri into AWS; drafting white papers on GEO Engagement priorities
  - GEO-DARMA: engaged regional and national stakeholders
  - GEO BON: GEO BON and Microsoft grants for EBVs; selection of the new Secretariat
  - GWIS: near-operational; provided monitoring services for wildfires in Australia

# Highlights from the five completed calls

- Engagement Objectives
  - Designed to be dynamic
  - Most proposed objectives are still valid
  - Actions for realizing the objectives emerged
- Areas of assistance needed
  - In all listed areas, with each activity having different focus
  - Most importantly, **help get the message out**
    - EO4EA: need hard-core EO experts to develop EO-based products
    - GEOGLAM: GEO Members should fund a stable GEOGLAM Secretariat



# Proposed Next Steps

- Continue setting up calls with Flagships, Initiatives and Regional GEOs (Sept/Oct)
  - Confirm engagement objectives and actions
  - Provide inputs to GEO Highlight Report
  - Draft status reports for individual activities
- Launch the similar process for Community Activities (Nov/Dec)
  - Confirm engagement objectives and actions
  - Draft status reports for individual Community Activities
  - Draft summary GWP status report

# Thank You

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Communicate and Collaborate with GEO:

