

Draft Programme Board Plan of Work 2021

This document is submitted by the Secretariat to the Programme Board for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Programme Board Plan of Work was originally proposed by the co-chairs at the 16th Programme Board meeting (February 2020). It listed all key work items and issues that the Programme Board has taken up, discussed, and considered for future work during the meetings of 2019, as well as items stemming from observations of the co-chairs. It was used by the Programme Board in 2020 to facilitate discussion and agreement on the key priorities for the year and which groups would be responsible for leading them. Progress against the items in the Plan of Work 2020 was reviewed at the 18th Programme Board meeting.

Annex A provides an updated version of the plan for consideration by Programme Board members. Items may be added, removed, or amended as required.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Programme Board discuss and agree on the list of work items for 2021.

Annex A – Programme Board Plan of Work 2021

#	Work Item Title	Work Item Description	Lead Entity	Decisions and Actions in 2020	Outstanding Issues
1	Engagement and monitoring of GEO Flagships and Initiatives	Promote cross-interaction among related GEO Work Programme (GWP) activities to facilitate horizontal collaboration and integration and to facilitate growth and successful implementation.	Programme Board (PB) Engagement Teams (ETs)	ETs established by the 16 th PB meeting (PB-16). ETs held videoconferences with most Flagships and Initiatives in 2020.	Confirm whether to continue the ET process in 2021 and, if so, the structure of the ETs. Renew membership of ETs. See agenda item 1.6
2	Engagement of Regional GEOs	Promote interaction and sharing of lessons learned among Regional GEOs and collaboration between Regional GEOs and other GWP activities.	Secretariat	A Regional ET was established as part of the overall ET structure, but no calls were held with Regional GEOs in 2020 due to Secretariat time/resource constraints.	A new approach is required, which will be formulated following the transition to the new Director.
3	Diversity in GEO and the GWP	Develop and implement a strategy to promote diversity (3G's: Gender, Generation, Geography) within GEO	PB Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion subgroup (EDI-SG)	The EDI-SG terms of reference approved by PB-16. The EDI-SG has produced a first report on diversity in GEO and has proposed a GEO EDI statement.	Provide guidance to the EDI-SG on further steps. Decide whether to approve the EDI statement for presentation to the GEO Executive Committee (ExCom). See agenda item 2.2
4	Private Sector engagement in the GWP	Identify opportunities for mutual benefit through private sector (principally SMME) involvement in GWP activities and private sector use of GWP outputs.	PB Private Sector subgroup (PS-SG)	The PS-SG was established by PB-16, which also serves as an advisory body to ExCom.	Review of the draft PS workplan. See agenda item 2.5
5	Urban Resilience	Respond to the outcomes of the 2019 PB special session with UN-Habitat.	PB Urban Resilience subgroup (UR-SG)	An Urban Resilience Task Force was set up following the 2019 special session, which was then formalized in 2020 as a PB subgroup. The UR-SG proposed that urban resilience be recognized as a fourth GEO engagement priority at PB-18 and then at ExCom-53. ExCom requested that the PB and UR-SG prepare an engagement plan on urban resilience for presentation to ExCom-54.	Review of the draft engagement plan. See agenda item 2.1
6	GEO Awards	Recognize outstanding contributions to GEO, in particular to the GWP.	Awards subgroup (Awards-SG)	The second annual awards process was conducted by the Awards-SG in 2020. PB requested that the Awards-SG document the criteria and process for the awards and consider adding a new category for teams.	Review the criteria and process document. Discuss next steps for a new award category. Renew SG membership. See agenda item 2.4

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7	GEO Symposium	Plan GEO Symposium 2021	Symposium SG	Organization of GEO Symposia is undertaken jointly by the Secretariat and the PB through the mechanism of a Symposium SG.	Review the terms of reference for a 2021 Symposium SG. Call for nominations to the SG. See agenda item 2.3
8	Foundational Task Working Groups (WGs)	Provide advice and oversight to the WGs.	WGs	Four WGs were established in 2020 to support Foundational Tasks in the GWP. These were: Capacity Development WG (CD-WG), the Climate Change WG (CC-WG), the Data-WG, and the Disaster Risk Reduction WG (DRR-WG). Membership and governance of the WGs was sorted out in 2020 and the WGs turned to preparing detailed work plans.	Review WG work plans. See agenda items 3.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5.
9	GEOSS Development Foundational Task	Promote integration of the various components of the GEOSS infrastructure (including the GEOSS Platform, GEO Knowledge Hub (GKH), and GEONETCast, among others) and monitor their implementation.	GEOSS Infrastructure Development Task Team (GIDTT)	The PB and the ExCom approved a one-year implementation plan for the GKH in 2020. Plans for the other components have not yet come forward to the PB.	Review progress in work planning within the GID Foundational Task and the operations of the GIDTT. See agenda item 3.6
10	GEO cloud services programmes	Explore the potential for cloud computing in support of GWP activities and to advance the GEO mission.	Secretariat	Three programmes providing credits, licenses, and/or funds to GEO projects were launched in 2019 and 2020, with a fourth planned for 2021. These programmes have been supported by donations from Amazon Web Services, Google Earth Engine, and Microsoft Azure. PB members have participated in the selection committees for all of the programmes.	Review of the selection process and identification of PB members of the selection panel. See agenda item 3.2 The longer-term results of the programmes are as yet unclear. Concerns have been raised about privacy and access to personal data.
11	Implications for GEO of Open Science and the reproducibility crisis	Understand the implications for GEO of recent discussions in the broader community about Open Science.	CD-WG	The CD-WG offered to take the lead on this item due to its connections with capacity development and GEO support to developing countries. ITC offered the assistance of their Open Science Officer, Markus Konkol, to advise the CD-WG.	Review the draft GEO statement on Open Science. See agenda item 3.1
12	Canberra Ministerial Declaration: Translating Declaration into Action for GEO	Ensure alignment of the GWP and the PB with the Canberra Declaration.	PB	An initial review in 2020 determined that the PB and the GWP were addressing many of the Canberra Declaration commitments. Some additional actions were taken, including establishment of the PS-SG. The Secretariat was tasked with overall reporting to ExCom.	Periodically revisit the commitments in the Canberra Declaration to determine if further actions are needed.