



Outcomes and Actions from the 20th Programme Board Meeting

20th GEO Programme Board Meeting

GEO Secretariat

Videoconference
18-20 May 2021

www.earthobservations.org
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Session 1: GEO Priorities and GEO Work Programme

1.1 Opening Remarks

- The PB co-chairs welcomed the GEO Lead Co-Chair, Patrick Child, to the meeting.
- Yana Gevorgyan announced that this would be her last PB meeting as PB member.

1.2 Adoption of the Agenda

- PB approved the Agenda, revision 1, as distributed.

1.3 GEO Priorities

- PB noted that many of the LCC priorities are being addressed in the PB work plan and by PB subgroups.
- Agreed that the PB should closely follow developments related to an in situ data strategy and its implications for the GWP.
- Requested that the Secretariat take note of the request for greater communication to GEO Members and POs, especially regarding decisions and guidance at the GEO executive level.
- Noted the ongoing challenge of engaging developing countries in the GWP.

Session 1: GEO Priorities and GEO Work Programme

1.5 Digital Earth Africa

- PB accepted the Review Team recommendation to approve Digital Earth Africa as a GEO Initiative.

1.6 Programme Board Engagement with the GWP

- PB stated that the ET process was valuable and a core part of their role as PB members.
- Agreed that the ET process should be continued this year, subject to Secretariat capacity to support the process, and should be renewed following development of the 2023-2025 GWP.
- Suggested that brief calls with ET members should be held either directly after the calls with GWP activities or in the following days to agree on follow-up actions.
- Offered that PB members could assist the process by scheduling some of the calls.
- **Action 20-01: Secretariat to prepare a document summarizing lessons learned from the 2020-2021 ET process. Due: PB-21.**

Session 2: GEOSS Infrastructure

2.1 GEO Knowledge Hub

- PB endorsed the continued development of the GKH toward operational status, subject to ExCom approval of the allocation of Secretariat resources for this purpose.
- PB advised that the document for the July ExCom be developed taking into account the comments and questions raised by the PB.

Action 20-02: Secretariat to prepare a plan for usability testing and collection of metrics related to usage and user satisfaction with the GKH. Due: PB-21.

2.2 GEOSS Platform

- PB thanked the GEOSS Platform team for preparing the document.
- PB members requested that additional analytics / metrics be provided, focused on users, which would be relevant to assessing the fitness for use of the Platform.

Action 20-03: GEOSS Platform team to prepare, in consultation with the GIDTT and other stakeholders, a list of proposed metrics of usage of the GEOSS Platform, including of the extent to which GEOSS Portal searches yield useful results and of user satisfaction. Due: PB-21.

Session 2: GEOSS Infrastructure

2.3 GEOSS Infrastructure Evolution

- PB took note of Objective (2.1) of the 2021 Lead Co-Chair Goals and Objectives: “Further development of GEOSS infrastructure implementation, including integration of the GKH and Regional GEO platforms with the GEOSS infrastructure” and the indicator “Agreement of the GEO community and GEO Plenary on an infrastructure evolution roadmap”.
- PB observed that planning for GEOSS infrastructure evolution was still at an early stage, lacking clear definition of intended users and uses and that there appeared not to be an agreed concept for integration of the GEOSS Platform and the GKH.
- PB emphasized that any future governance structure for GEOSS should be enabling and supportive of the GWP activities.

Action 20-04: GIDTT to prepare a document describing the proposed concept for the next phase of the GEOSS infrastructure, including a timeline and resource estimate for its implementation. Due: PB-21.

Session 3: PB Subgroups and Working Groups

3.1 Data Working Group

- PB thanked Anastasia Wahome and the Data WG co-chairs for their update.
- Noted the challenges with regional imbalance in the Data WG and its subgroups.
- Recommended that:
 - The Data WG consider addressing identification of data gaps and barriers to data sharing and issues of data democracy.
 - The planned survey include more of a user focus.
 - The Data WG consult with the Regional GEOs regarding their perspectives on its work including, but not limited to, barriers to data sharing, in situ data, data ethics, and data democracy.

3.2 Awards Subgroup

- PB agreed to proceed with the individual awards for 2021.
- PB recommended that the Awards SG involve the EDI SG and Regional GEOs to help increase the number and diversity of nominations.

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3.3 Climate Change, DRR and CapDev Working Groups

- PB thanked Dave Borges and the Cross-WG team for their presentation and for their work on the mapping exercise.
- PB looked forward to seeing the results of the mapping exercise.

3.4 2021 GEO Symposium Subgroup

- PB endorsed the proposed Symposium structure and thanked the Symposium Subgroup for the update and for their work on organizing the Symposium.

3.6 Closing Remarks

- PB noted that this was the final PB meeting with Gilberto Camara as Secretariat Director and with Yana Gevorgyan as PB co-chair.
- PB thanked Gilberto Camara and Yana Gevorgyan for their leadership and contributions to GEO.