

## Report of the Capacity Development Working Group

*This document is submitted by the Capacity Development Working Group to the Programme Board for information.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In May 2020, the GEO Secretariat requested nominations for the four Foundational Task Working Groups. For the Capacity Development Working Group (CD-WG), over 54 candidates were nominated by either a GEO Member, a Participating Organization, or a GEO Associate. Currently, the CD-WG has 59 members representing governmental, intergovernmental, research, commercial sector, and non-governmental organizations in the Americas, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Nancy Searby, Allison Craddock, and Hanna Albrecht were elected as co-chairs. Unfortunately, Hanna Albrecht had to resign by the end of 2020.

A part-time Capacity Development officer, seconded by the University of Twente/ITC for one day per week to the GEO Secretariat, coordinates the CD-WG.

The purpose of the CD-WG is to facilitate GEO's efforts on capacity development, promoting the principle of co-creation and providing conceptual support to the design, development, implementation, and evaluation of capacity development activities at various levels of intervention.

The main duties are:

- Support GEO Flagships, Initiatives and Regional GEOs, on request, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of capacity development interventions.
- Develop, improve, and provide capacity development tools for use by the GEO community.
- Collect, document, and share good practices for capacity development related to Earth observations.
- Promote, facilitate, and analyze the inclusion of capacity development data, information and knowledge through the GEO Knowledge Hub.
- Organize seminars, teleconferences, side-events, and other means for disseminating information related to capacity development for Earth observations;
- Support the planning and implementation of impact assessments for capacity development activities within GEO.

The Working Group established 3 subgroups to assist in fulfilling its duties:

Subgroup 1: GEO mapping and needs assessment

Subgroup 2: Collecting, sharing, and developing CD tools

Subgroup 3: Organizing dissemination events, M&E and impact assessment

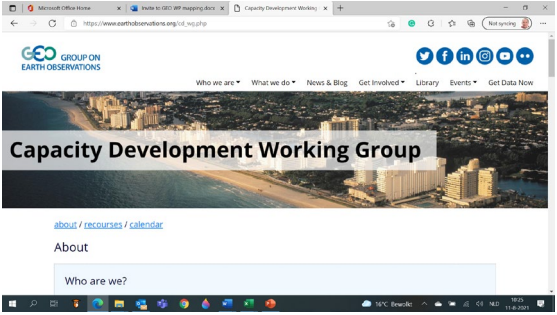
An Action Plan 2020-2022 has been co-developed with the CD-WG members.


## 2 ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020-2021

Monthly co-chair meetings have taken place to coordinate the CD-WG activities and to lead the subgroups. Co-chairs represent the WG to other groups within GEO and to outside organizations.

Regular plenary and subgroup meetings have taken place in 2020 and 2021.

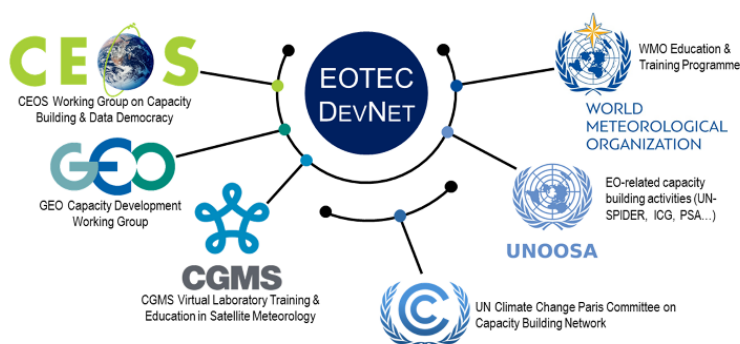
The following primary achievements of the three subgroups can be mentioned:

Subgroup 1	Achievements
Mapping of GEO WP activities linked to capacity development	A CD-WG member engagement survey has been conducted to understand the contributions of the members to the GWP and to identify liaisons between the CD-WG and GWP activities,
Understand the needs of the GEO Flagships, Initiatives, and Regional GEOs to strengthen their CD activities (design, implementation, evaluation)	A GWP survey has been developed collaboratively by WG Co-Chairs of the Climate Change, DRR, and CD WGs, with support and coordination from the Secretariat. The survey is intended to improved understanding of the existing GEO Flagships, Initiatives, Community Activities and Regional GEOs climate action, DRR, and capacity development activities. It is being implemented at the time of preparation of this report.
Organize demand-driven advisory support to the GEO work programme activities	<p>Targeted CD support has been provided to GEO Flagships and Initiatives upon request. For example, CD-WG met with members of GEO Blue Planet to discuss their existing CD resources and future needs. GEO flagships and initiatives are encouraged to contact the CD-WG for consultation and collaborations as appropriate.</p> <p>The CD-WG coordinated, at the request of the former GEO Director, the co-design of the GEO statement on Open Science. This statement was drafted to ensure the integrity of research and accelerate scientific progress, while advocating transparency, diversity, collaboration, and sustainability. This effort included input from members of the PB EDI Subgroup.</p>
SUBGROUP 2	Achievements
Collect, document, and share good practices for capacity development related to Earth observations.	<p>The CD-WG webpage has been launched (under the GEO website), which provides a collection of capacity development resources, a training calendar, and outcomes of the CD-WG webinar series.</p> 
Develop, improve, and provide capacity development tools for use by the GEO community.	Several capacity development tools have been developed by CD-WG members due to their involvement in EO related projects; many of these tools were presented and discussed at WG meetings, seminars, and symposium sessions (and are available on the CD-WG webpage).

SUBGROUP 3	Achievements
<p>Organize seminars, teleconferences, side-events, and other means for disseminating information related to capacity development for Earth observations</p>	<p>The CD-WG initiated the CD webinar series to present and share best CD practices among the members. Two seminars have been conducted and the videos are available on the CD Website.</p>  <p>During the GEO Virtual Symposia in 2020 and 2021, the CD-WG organized sessions to share CD best practices with the GEO community.</p> <p>When organizing seminars and webinars, special attention was paid to ensuring a diverse and inclusive panel whenever possible.</p>
<p>Organize and support the planning and implementation of an M&amp;E system and impact assessments for capacity development activities within GEO.</p>	<p>Scheduled for second half 2021 (see under ambitions)</p>

In addition to the subgroup activities, the CD-WG is represented in the Earth Observation Training, Education and Capacity Development Network (EOTecDevNet). This network aims at filling an existing gap in the coordination of capacity building efforts related to the use and application of Earth observations (EO) in solving development challenges and fostering sustainable development. Its goals are to:

- Improve coordination and cooperation among capacity building providers and users to meet existing needs and fill gaps
- Foster information sharing and exchange access to and increase uptake of capacity building resources
- Promote effective assessment of capacity development needs, particularly at regional and national levels



### 3 AMBITIONS FOR 2021-2022

For the period 2021-2022, the CD-WG seeks to establish a more substantial alignment with the GEO WG's, Regional GEO's and GEO Work Programme (GWP) activities through the appointment of CD-WG liaisons.

We will complement the existing subgroups with smaller support/task teams with a specific mandate to develop and support capacity development efforts of the GWP with engagement from CD-WG members. This support can be both supply-driven as demand-driven. Some concrete examples are: (i) a task team to contribute to the EOTecDevNet; (ii) a task team to contribute to the further uptake of the urban tool kit; (iii) task teams for the different GEO Flagships to advise on additional CD approaches, outreach events etc.; (iv) a task team to organize joint events with the CEOS Capacity Development Working Group (WGCapD).

We will develop and expand the uptake of GWP results by relevant user/stakeholder communities, liaise with representatives of GWP activities and the GEO Secretariat to develop and analyze the results of community mapping exercises to identify and develop resources that are both “fit-for-purpose” and “fit-for-audience”.

We will structurally support the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the GWP capacity development activities, using findings to adjust and improve the capacity development work plan continuously.

To provide state-of-the-art CD support to the GWP and GEO Secretariat activities, we will also continue strengthening the CD capacities of the CD-WG members through the CD-WG webinar series and other opportunities for exchange and learning. We will endeavour to create a diverse and inclusive community of practice for current and emerging capacity developers throughout the GEO community.

An expressed need exists within the Secretariat to develop a GEO Impact & Monitoring Strategy to define, monitor and evaluate the societal benefits of the GEO Work Programme and Regional GEOs, in alignment with GEO’s global engagement priorities. Since impact is achieved by strengthening the capacities of the different stakeholders involved, this GEO coordinated activity should ideally be supported by a small team of CD-WG members.

Successful achievement of future ambitions will be greatly impacted by the availability of a full-time Capacity Development Coordinator, scheduled to be hired by the Secretariat by late 2021.