

The Road to Post-2025: Next steps for the 2023-25 GEO Work Programme

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

The objectives of the 2023-25 GEO Work Programme (GWP) emphasized integration and collaboration, open knowledge, operationalization, and user orientation. An analysis of the 2023-25 GWP Implementation Plans revealed that a substantial improvement in efficiency, effectiveness and impact are observed when activities embrace integrated approaches across the Earth observation (EO) value chain.

However, the review process of the 2023-25 GWP, as managed by the Programme Board (PB) engagement teams and the GEO Secretariat, is nearing its completion and it is already evident that these objectives will not be entirely addressed in the GWP by the time of its approval by the PB in early September.

Hence, it is important that these objectives continue to be emphasized through a coordinated process over the course of the next three years to feed into the post-2025 GWP design and development process. This is also in line with the PB directions: at its 23rd meeting on 21-22 June 2022, the Board welcomed the continued integration of the GWP through a co-created nexus and experimental incubator approach and provided specific guidance on the pathways. This feedback has been incorporated into the next coordination and integration steps for the 2023-25 GWP including as reflected in this document.¹

The proposed way forward is to convene a series of coordination workshops, to facilitate integration between the GWP activities along the Earth observations (EO) value chain and for the purpose of identifying incubator(s) for a resilient and fit-for-purpose project(s) that will be co-designed with partners and users.

This process will benefit from the support of EuroGEO through the e-shape project, which will be providing the methodology and guiding the co-design phase through an already successful experience developing different co-design actions experimented with e-shape pilots.

1 COORDINATION WORKSHOPS

To advance the 2023-25 GWP objectives, the PB endorsed plans for the integration of the GWP starting with a series of coordination workshops. The themes for the workshops will be identified on the basis of nexus areas as well as mapping of activities that are complementary to each other or have indicated the desire to work together (in their 2023-25 Implementation Plans). Overlaps between workshops is most likely unavoidable. See Annex A for possible nexus areas and Annex B for draft agendas for the workshop sessions, which will be further defined with the GWP activities.

¹ See PB-23-04 “Proposed strategy for the development of the post-2025 GEO Work Programme”

The purpose of the workshops will be to exchange information, to build relationships and find synergies between GEO Flagships, Initiatives and pilots and to serve as a catalyst for integrated GWP activities along the EO value chain, advancing the efforts by the PB engagement teams during the 2023-25 GWP development process. This is expected to lead to the identification and development of the post-2025 incubators.

Session 1: The first workshop sessions will be organized to bring together relevant GWP activities that are working under a nexus area to get to know each other and explore a few priority topics with a view towards finding synergies and complementarities. At the end of this session, the idea would be to have identified a few possible joint projects, their end-users and the participants to these projects, one of which will be explored in the subsequent workshop, outlined below.

Session 2: The second workshop sessions will be organized for participants to build the elements to construct a diagnosis on the joint project(s), that would have been identified under Session 1, to identify more precisely the users interests and work experimentally on a joint project. At this point, this co-creation approach may also bring in external interested partners, such as GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates and beyond.

Once the diagnosis is established, e-shape support in terms of co-design actions will be set-up and will associate the end users and the different actors of the joint project to plan a series of activities that will lead to a Prototype or a first Minimum Viable Product/Service demonstrating the benefits of the integrated approach and of the co-design support. This will also receive dedicated fundraising, communications, and partnerships development support from the GEO Secretariat, as part of a post-2025 Incubator.

2 POST-2025 INCUBATOR

Through the first set of workshops under a nexus area, the GWP activities will co-identify joint projects, one of which will become a post-2025 incubator that will receive design support from e-shape and subsequent partnership development, communications and fundraising support by the GEO Secretariat to secure their operationalization. Among other benefits, this will feed into the development of the post-2025 GWP, of the synergies between GEO activities and will help gaining the interest of the different types of users including decisions makers in the GWP.

After the first session, the GWP activities will have identified the joint project, e-shape will work during session 2 on a critical “diagnosis process” to identify the co-design needs, i.e. the different blocking points occurring in the growth of the ecosystem over time.

Following this, the GWP activities will be supported by e-shape and the GEO secretariat in dedicated follow-up meetings in the implementation of co-design actions to unlock these blocking points, that aim at creating a ‘resilient fit’ between stakeholders. This process will take place according to the plan laid out below.

3 PLAN

Coordination clusters: See Annex A for coordination themes that can be convened under nexus areas. These also reflect inputs by PB members at their 23rd meeting in June 2022.

The Annex reflects an initial compilation of GWP activities, but there are many cross-cutting activities (and others that are missing). Not all nexus areas will be immediately convened.

Timetable for 2022/23:

Sept 22:	Finalize GWP Coordination Workshops Strategy and send out doodle polls for dates
Sept-Oct 22:	Organize the first workshop under one nexus area. The participants will have to do preparatory work to identify precursors of the joint project(s)
Oct 22 – Nov 22:	Organize the second workshop for the identified project(s)
Nov 22-Dec 23:	A diagnosis will be built by the co-design team on the proposed project. It will be followed by a diagnosis meeting dedicated to validation of the diagnosis with the project team and by co-design actions meeting to support the development of the activity.
Dec 22 – April 23:	Co-design diagnosis and co-design actions meetings. In parallel, test/development of prototype(s)
At GEO WPS 23:	Reflection on lessons learned
Apr-Sept 23:	Fundraising, communications and submission of potential IP for GWP

After the first pilot integration process and its lessons learned reflection is complete, the same process can be replicated for other incubators. However, other coordination exercises with nexus areas will be undertaken in parallel.

Lead: The GWP activity teams will facilitate the workshops in coordination with GEO Secretariat staff, e-shape staff, PB engagement teams and GWP stakeholders.

Stakeholders: The main stakeholders in the first workshop session will be team leads of GWP activities plus their team members as appropriate. The participants should prepare the workshop by identifying in their community potential project(s) and the interest of end-users for the potential results and their willingness for participation to co-design. Future workshops series will involve relevant or possible partners, including in countries where operational services could be delivered (national/local stakeholders).

ANNEX A

Possible Coordination Workshop Themes

Below is a proposed mapping of GWP activities under nexus areas. The workshops and incubator may involve a subset of these activities depending on the topic(s) identified.

Nature-based Solutions	
EO4EA	EO for Ecosystem Accounting
GEOGLAM	GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
GEO-Wetlands	GEO Wetlands
GEO-BON	GEO Biodiversity Observation Network
GFOI	Global Forest Observations Initiative
GEO-LDN	GEO Land Degradation Neutrality
GWIS	Global Wildfire Information System
GEOARC	Global Ecosystem and Environment Observation Analysis Research Cooperation
GEO-Mountains	GEO Mountains
DE Africa	Digital Earth Africa
EO4SDG	EO for Sustainable Development Goals
Blue Planet	GEO Blue Planet
AquaWatch	GEO Aqua Watch
EO4KARST	Earth Observations for Global Typical Karst
GEO-CITSCI	GEO Citizen Science
Regional GEOs	
Food-water security/Agri-resilience	
GEOGLAM	GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
GEOGloWS	GEO Global Water Sustainability
GEO-LDN	GEO Land Degradation Neutrality
GDIS	Global Drought Information System
DE Africa	Digital Earth Africa
EO4SDG	Earth Observation for Sustainable Development Goals
GEO-PDRS	Global Vegetation Pest and Disease Dynamic Remote Sensing Monitoring & Forecasting
AGRI-DROUGHT	Global Agricultural Drought Monitoring
Regional GEOs	
Ocean-Climate-Biodiversity	
Blue Planet	GEO Blue Planet

AquaWatch	GEO AquaWatch
GEO-BON	GEO Biodiversity Observation Network
GEO-Wetlands	GEO Wetlands
DE Africa	Digital Earth Africa
EO4SDG	EO for Sustainable Development Goals
Global Cold-Water Coral Distribution System	
Regional GEOs	
Climate-Urban-Health	
GOS ⁴ M	Global Observation System for Mercury
EO4HEALTH	EO for Health
HPI	Human Planet Initiative
EO4SDG	EO for Sustainable Development Goals
GUOI	Global Urban Observation and Information
GSNL	Geohazard Supersites and Natural Laboratories
GWIS	Global Wildfire Information System
EO4DRM	EO for Disaster Risk Management
UHCO	Urban Heritage Climate Observatory
GOS4POPS	Global Observation System for Persistent Organic Pollutants
CHEMICAL-EARTH	Global Geochemical Observation Network and Digital Chemical Earth
GEO-VENER	GEO Vision for Energy
Regional GEOs	
Systemic Risk / DRR	
SSCA	Space and Security Community Activity
EO4DRM	EO for Disaster Risk Management
EO4Health	EO for Health
GUOI	Global Urban Observation and Information
HPI	Human Planet Initiative
GSNL	Geohazard Supersites and Natural Laboratories
GWIS	Global Wildfire Information System
DIAS	Data Integration and Analysis System
GEOGLAM	GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring
GEOGloWS	GEO Global Water Sustainability
GEODESY4SENDAI	Geodesy for the Sendai Framework

DE Africa	Digital Earth Africa
Regional GEOs	
Cryosphere	
Arctic GEOSS	
GEO-Mountains	GEO Observing Mountain Environments
GEO-CRI	GEO Cold Regions Initiative
AIS- MONITORING	Antarctic Ice Sheet Monitoring
Regional GEOs	

ANNEX B

Example Agenda

 GWP Coordination Workshop on TBC– **Session 1**

Videoconference –XX Sept/Oct 2022, 14h00-17h15 CEST

Session 1: Strategic priorities 2023-25			
14:00 –14:05	1.	Welcome and opening	GEO Secretariat Director 0:05
14:05 – 14:15	2.	Icebreaker <i>Word cloud in slide: What outcomes do you want out of better coordination between GWP activities?</i>	Facilitator: GEO Secretariat 0:05
14:15 – 14:45	3.	Lightening talk <i>Using one ppt slide, GWP activities introduce their focus areas for the next three years.</i>	
14:45 – 15:05	4.	What is the policy context and relevant EO trends/needs Discussion in the Plenary on the basis of guiding questions on a miro board using the preliminary information sent by participants. The objective is to gain trends insights from the perspective of the GWP activities and their organizations.	Facilitator: TBC 0:20
15:05 – 16:35	5.	XX in the GWP Discussion will be held in three break-out groups on the basis of guiding questions using a miro board. Groups rotate after 30 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A: TBC • Group B: TBC • Group C: TBC The objective is to develop a set of integrated focus areas with a view to identifying a pilot project, which will be exploited in Session 2 .	Document? 1:30 Introduction: GEO Secretariat Facilitator Group A: TBC Facilitator Group B: TBC Facilitator Group C: TBC
16:35 – 17:05	6.	Feedback from Groups and discussion in plenary	Facilitator: TBC 0:30

	The expected outcome of this discussion is that participants will have identified possible joint projects that will be explored in the next session.		
17:05 – 17:15	7. Wrapping-up of the first session	Facilitator: TBC	0:15
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Example Agenda

GWP Coordination Workshop on XX – **Session 2**

Videoconference –XX Nov 2022, 14h00-17h00 CEST

Session 2: Exploring joint programming			
14:00 – 14:15	1. Feedback from the first session	TBC	0:15
14:15 – 14:30	2. Introduction to an exploratory joint programme <i>Expected Outcome: Attendees are introduced to a joint project identified in session 1 and open questions are resolved.</i>	Outcome document of session 1 Presentation: GEO Secretariat	0:15
14:30– 16:00	3. Co-creating an exploratory project strategy Discussion in break out groups on the basis of guiding questions and miro board graphics. Groups rotate after 30 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A: Project design and intended impact • Group B: Needs of users / stakeholders • Group C: Partners and donors 	Introduction: GEO Secretariat Facilitator Group A: TBC Facilitator Group B: TBC Facilitator Group C: TBC	1:30
16:00 – 16:45	4. Feedback from Groups and discussion in plenary	Facilitator: TBC	0:30
16:45 – 17:00	5. Wrapping-up of the 2nd session	Facilitator: TBC	0:15
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