

Draft Criteria and Process for GEO Awards 2023

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

1. BACKGROUND

The annual GEO Awards were established by the Programme Board via the GEO Awards Subgroup in 2019 to individuals in the GEO community who have demonstrated remarkable personal commitment to the GEO mission and vision. Over the years, the Awards have been successfully implemented four times, honoring a total of 14 outstanding individuals. Recipients of these awards have not only contributed significantly to the GEO community but have also served as inspiring role models, encouraging others to actively participate in GEO's mission.

However, some concerns have been raised regarding the inclusivity of the Awards. With only three awardees chosen each year, the selection jury has faced significant challenges in achieving a balanced representation regarding gender, generation, and geography. In response, the Awards subgroup/Awards jury has made exceptional decisions twice, selecting four awardees to enhance inclusivity and diversity within the GEO Awards.

Furthermore, it is widely acknowledged that the GEO Work Programme activities are collaborative team efforts that derive value from global collaboration and joint contributions. While recognizing outstanding individuals through these awards is important, it may not fully capture the collective impact and value derived from collaborative efforts within the global community.

To address these concerns and promote inclusivity and collaboration, two new award categories were proposed and approved for the 2023 GEO Awards during the 25th meeting of the Programme Board. These categories are the Emerging Leader Award, which recognizes young individuals who have demonstrated exceptional potential and leadership in advancing GEO's mission, and the Team Impact Award, which honors teams that have made substantial contributions to GEO's objectives. The Programme Board will thoroughly review the experience with these new award categories and utilize the insights gained to refine the strategy for future GEO Awards in 2024 and beyond.

This document aims to outline the criteria for the two new award categories and present the updated selection process for the GEO Awards in 2023. By incorporating these changes, the GEO Awards will strive to acknowledge and celebrate both outstanding individuals and impactful teams, ensuring a fair and inclusive recognition process that better captures the value of collaboration and collective contributions within the GEO community.

2. AWARD CRITERIA

In 2023, the awards will be allocated across two categories, with a maximum of two awardees per category. The criteria for these awards include elements from the Individual Excellence

Award criteria by the Programme Board in 2019. However, specific modifications have been made to ensure that the unique characteristics of each category are adequately represented.

2.1. Emerging Leader Award

The Emerging Leader Award is dedicated to recognizing young leaders. The criteria for selection are:

- **Leadership Role and Impact:** The nominee must have held a leadership role that resulted in a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the past five (5) years. This impact should be clearly demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or advocacy efforts that have made a tangible difference.
- **Effective Communication and Advocacy:** The nominee must have demonstrated exceptional ability in effectively communicating and advocating for youth perspectives and concerns in the field of EO. This criterion acknowledges the importance of amplifying the voices of young leaders and their contributions to the GEO community.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** The nominee should have demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively with others and work as part of a team in advancing Earth Observations initiatives. This criterion highlights the importance of teamwork and collaboration skills, which are crucial for achieving collective goals within the GEO community.
- **Innovation:** The nominee should have shown innovation in their style or approach to tackling challenges and driving positive changes in the field of EO. This criterion recognizes individuals who have displayed creativity, originality, and forward-thinking in their work.
- **Age Limit:** The nominee must be under (including) 35 years old, reflecting the goal of acknowledging emerging leaders and promoting opportunities for the younger generation within the GEO community.
- **Alignment with GEO's Core Values:** The nominee's efforts should be consistent with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of open data, collaboration, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data for societal benefits.
- **Regional and Gender Balance:** The awards jury will consider regional and gender balance among the awardees to ensure diverse representation and inclusivity within the Emerging Leader Award category.

2.2. Team Impact Award

The Team Impact Award is specifically designed to recognize team efforts. The criteria for selection are:

- **Accomplishment and Measurable Impact:** The team's efforts must have led to a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the last five (5) years. This impact should be demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or actions that have resulted in social, economic, or environmental benefits. assessment of impact will be determined by the below illustrative examples:
 - Establishing sustained communities focused on Earth observation.

- Generating social and economic benefits for citizens and countries through the use of Earth observations.
 - Influencing policies through Earth observations-related discussions and driving policy changes.
 - Fostering the adoption and sustainability of specific Earth Observations language in new fora.
 - Increasing involvement in EO-related initiatives with specific attention to diverse representation, including youth, gender, and geographic inclusion.
 - Advancing the development of new products, procedures, or policy-relevant research through Flagships, Initiatives, Pilot Initiatives, or communities.
- **Active Global or Regional Network:** The team should have a proven track record of active engagement and collaboration within a global or regional community, working towards the advancement of Earth Observation use for decision-making processes.
 - **Originality and Innovation:** The team should have demonstrated originality and innovation in the use of Earth Observations to address challenges and drive positive changes. This criterion acknowledges teams that have gone beyond conventional approaches and have introduced novel solutions or methodologies.
 - **Alignment with GEO's Core Values:** The team's efforts should align with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of collaboration, open data sharing, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data.
 - **Regional Balance:** The awards jury will consider regional balance among the awardees, ensuring representation from different regions and acknowledging the global nature of the GEO community.

3. AWARD PROCESS

The 2023 GEO Award process, will be similar to the process that was approved by the Programme Board in 2022.:

- GEO Secretariat will prepare the text of Call for nominations following the overall text provided in Annex A.
- GEO Secretariat will place the call on the GEO website on **19th June**, with the nomination deadline set as **31 July**.
- GEO Secretariat will hold a webinar to provide guidance to potential nominees on how to prepare the nomination package in **early July**.
- GEO Secretariat will convene a diverse and representative jury from available previous awardees, the Programme Board and the GEO community at large by the **end of July**.
- GEO Secretariat will first screen the nominations for compliance and then recommend a shortlist for the jury to score in **mid-August**. All nominations will be placed in a shared folder for the jury to access.

- Upon receiving the shortlist, the jury members will assess any potential conflict of interest and notify the GEO Secretariat of any such conflict. The jury will use the review sheet to be approved by the Programme Board, for evaluating the nomination packages. (see Annex B)
- GEO Secretariat will convene a teleconference of the jury in **early September**. The jury will decide the finalists, assuring the review criteria have been applied consistently and fairly, and the principles of GEO's EDI statement of "gender, geographic, and generational" representation is reached.
- Once consensus is reached, the GEO Secretariat will notify the Programme Board co-chairs and inform the winners to prepare for the announcement at **GEO Week 2023**.

Annex A

Proposed Award Call Text

Nominations open for GEO Awards 2023

Nominations are now open for the GEO Awards 2023. This year, the awards are open to both individuals and teams in the GEO community who have demonstrated remarkable commitment to the GEO mission and vision.

The awards celebrate achievements such as generating social impact, influencing policies, and advancing a diverse and inclusive GEO. Learn more about last year's Individual Excellence Awards winners and their achievements [here](#).

Nominations, including self-nominations and nominations by sponsors, should be submitted by 31 July 2023. The award winners will be honored at a ceremony on 8 November during GEO Week 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The GEO Secretariat will be hosting webinars in July to provide insights on writing a good application and will be answering questions about the awards.

Selection criteria

Up to two awardees will be selected per award. The submission should be for a project or achievement that has been implemented within the last five (5) years.

The jury will use the following criteria to select **Emerging Leader Award** winners:

- **Leadership Role and Impact:** The nominee must have held a leadership role that resulted in a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the past five (5) years. This impact should be clearly demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or advocacy efforts that have made a tangible difference.
- **Effective Communication and Advocacy:** The nominee must have demonstrated exceptional ability in effectively communicating and advocating for youth perspectives and concerns in the field of EO. This criterion acknowledges the importance of amplifying the voices of young leaders and their contributions to the GEO community.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:** Assess the nominee's ability to collaborate effectively with others and work as part of a team in advancing Earth Observations initiatives. This criterion highlights the importance of teamwork and collaboration skills, which are crucial for achieving collective goals within the GEO community.
- **Innovation:** The nominee should have shown innovation in their style or approach to tackling challenges and driving positive changes in the field of EO. This criterion recognizes individuals who have displayed creativity, originality, and forward-thinking in their work.
- **Age Limit:** The nominee must be under (including) 35 years old, reflecting the goal of acknowledging emerging leaders and promoting opportunities for the younger generation within the GEO community.

- **Alignment with GEO's Core Values:** The nominee's efforts should be consistent with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of open data, collaboration, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data for societal benefits.
- **Regional and Gender Balance:** The awards jury will consider regional and gender balance among the awardees to ensure diverse representation and inclusivity within the Emerging Leader Award category.

The jury will use the following criteria to select **Team Impact Award** winners:

- **Accomplishment and Measurable Impact:** The team's efforts must have led to a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the last five (5) years. This impact should be demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or actions that have resulted in social, economic, or environmental benefits. Assessment of impact will be determined by the below illustrative examples:
 - Establishing sustained communities focused on Earth observation.
 - Generating social and economic benefits for citizens and countries through the use of EO.
 - Influencing policies through EO-related discussions and driving policy changes.
 - Fostering the adoption and sustainability of specific Earth Observations language in new fora.
 - Increasing involvement in EO-related initiatives with specific attention to diverse representation, including youth, gender, and geographic inclusion.
 - Advancing the development of new products, procedures, or policy-relevant research through flagship initiatives, pilot initiatives, or communities.
- **Active Global or Regional Network:** The team should have a proven track record of active engagement and collaboration within a global or regional community, working towards the advancement of Earth Observation use for decision-making processes.
- **Alignment with GEO's Core Values:** The team's efforts should align with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of collaboration, open data sharing, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data.
- **Originality and Innovation:** The team should have demonstrated originality and innovation in the use of Earth Observations to address challenges and drive positive changes. This criterion acknowledges teams that have gone beyond conventional approaches and have introduced novel solutions or methodologies.
- **Regional Balance:** The awards jury will consider regional balance among the awardees, ensuring representation from different regions and acknowledging the global nature of the GEO community.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES:

- Nominations will be made using a nomination form accessed in Annex C.
- The main element of the nomination is a maximum 2-page write-up detailing why the candidate(s) deserves this recognition and the importance of the nominee's effort against the relevant criteria. Nominations for the Emerging Leader Awards should include a brief CV and nominations for the team impact can include supporting

information, such as impact stories, reports etc. The nomination should address as many selection criteria as possible, as substantively as possible.

- For the Emerging Leader Award, the primary nominator will secure support from at least one other additional reference. Self-nominations will also need to include two references. These references may be contacted by the Secretariat on behalf of the awards jury, during the review process to seek clarification and other necessary auxiliary information related to the nomination.
- Nominations for GEO awards are not automatically renewed for the subsequent year. Nominees who do not get selected can be re-nominated in the next year.
- To increase diversity in the group of GEO awardees, we encourage sponsors to consider gender, geographical and generational representation when nominating candidates for the Emerging Leader Award.
- Nominations must be submitted electronically to awards@geosec.org and must include the following documents to be eligible: 1. Completed Nomination Form and 2. Full CV of the nominee (only applicable for Emerging Leader Award).

WHO CAN NOMINATE?

Anyone in the GEO community can nominate individuals/teams for the awards.

WHO CANNOT NOMINATE?

To avoid conflict of interest, members of the Award Jury cannot submit nominations or act as co-sponsors.

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?

For the Emerging Leader Award, individuals currently involved in a GEO Work Programme activity, or past contributors with no other conflict of interest, may be nominated.

Only nominations from the GEO Work Programme activities are eligible for the Team Impact Award.

WHO CANNOT BE NOMINATED?

- Awards Jury
- GEO Secretariat
- GEO Executive Committee members
- Programme Board members

FREQUENCY OF AWARDS

Individuals /Team can only win an award in a given category once every 3 years.

TIMELINE

- Call for nominations will be published on GEO website on June 19, 2023

- Webinars on GEO Awards will take place in June and July 2023 and recordings will be made available on the website.
- Nominations Submission Deadline – 31 July, 2023
- Finalists selected and notified – September 2023
- Award Ceremony – 8 November 2023 at the GEO Week in Cape Town, South Africa.

Annex B

Review Sheet – Emerging Leader Award

Nominee: _____

Criteria: Please rate the effectiveness of the criteria on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being least effective and 5 being most effective.

1. Leadership Role and Impact: The nominee must have held a leadership role that resulted in a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the past five (5) years. This impact should be clearly demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or advocacy efforts that have made a tangible difference.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

2. Effective Communication and Advocacy: The nominee must have demonstrated exceptional ability in effectively communicating and advocating for youth perspectives and concerns in the field of EO. This criterion acknowledges the importance of amplifying the voices of young leaders and their contributions to the GEO community.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

3. Collaboration and Teamwork: Assess the nominee’s ability to collaborate effectively with others and work as part of a team in advancing Earth Observations initiatives. This criterion highlights the importance of teamwork and collaboration skills, which are crucial for achieving collective goals within the GEO community.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

4. Innovation: The nominee should have shown innovation in their style or approach to tackling challenges and driving positive changes in the field of EO. This criterion recognizes individuals who have displayed creativity, originality, and forward-thinking in their work.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

5. Age Limit: The nominee must be under (including) 35 years old, reflecting the goal of acknowledging emerging leaders and promoting opportunities for the younger generation within the GEO community.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

6. Alignment with GEO's Core Values: The nominee's efforts should be consistent with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of open data, collaboration, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data for societal benefits.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

Total Rating: Please add the ratings for items 1 through 5. _____

Reviewer: _____

Date completed: _____

Review Sheet – Team Impact Award

Nominees/Team: _____

Criteria: Please rate the effectiveness of the criteria on a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being least effective and 5 being most effective.

1. Accomplishment and Measurable Impact: The team's efforts must have led to a concrete and measurable impact in the field of Earth Observations within the last five (5) years. This impact should be demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or actions that have resulted in social, economic, or environmental benefits. assessment of impact will be determined by the below illustrative examples: Establishing sustained communities focused on Earth observation; generating social and economic benefits for citizens and countries through the use of EO; influencing policies through EO-related discussions and driving policy changes; fostering the adoption and sustainability of specific Earth Observations language in new for a; increasing involvement in EO-related initiatives with specific attention to diverse representation, including youth, gender, and geographic inclusion; and advancing the development of new products, procedures, or policy-relevant research through flagship initiatives, pilot initiatives, or communities.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

2. Active Global or Regional Network: The team should have a proven track record of active engagement and collaboration within a global or regional community, working towards the advancement of Earth Observation use for decision-making processes.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

3. Originality and Innovation: The team should have demonstrated originality and innovation in the use of Earth Observations to address challenges and drive positive changes. This criterion acknowledges teams that have gone beyond conventional approaches and have introduced novel solutions or methodologies.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

4. Alignment with GEO's Core Values: The team's efforts should align with GEO's core values and principles, including the promotion of collaboration, open data sharing, and the sustainable use of Earth Observation data.

Rating (1 - 5): _____

Please provide supporting commentary for your rating.

Total Rating: Please add the ratings for items 1 through 5. _____

Reviewer: _____

Date completed: _____

Annex C

Award Nomination Form

Which Award is this person/group of people being nominated for?

Emerging Leader Award

Team Impact Award

Part 1: Nominee(s)

Nominees full name(s):
Nominees email address(es):
Nominee's GEO Member, Participating Organization or Associate:
Nominee's association with GEO (GEO Work Programme activity, Working Group, etc. List all that apply):
Basis for nomination (Brief two or three sentence summary):
Does the nominee identify as (optional, for self-nominations) & leave blank for groups: Man <input type="checkbox"/> Woman <input type="checkbox"/> Non-binary <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
In which country does the nominee(s) currently reside?

Part 2: Nominator and References

If this is a self-nomination, the name of the nominee should appear in the nominator’s name field and other information for the nominator may be left blank. Two references must be provided for self-nominations.

If the nomination is by a person other than the nominee, only the nominator and first reference must be provided. The second reference may be left blank.

Nominator’s full name:

Nominator’s email address:

Nominator’s organization:

Nominator’s relationship to the nominee:

Reference #1 full name:

Reference #1 email address:

Reference #1 organization:

Reference #1 relationship to the nominee:

Reference #2 full name:

Reference #2 email address:

Reference #2 organization:

Reference #2 relationship to the nominee:

Part 3a: Evidence Supporting the Nomination – The Emerging Leader Award. (Please leave blank if nomination is for the Team Impact Award)

Please describe the nominee’s leadership role in achieving key accomplishments and concrete, measurable impacts on the field of Earth Observations. This impact should be clearly demonstrated through successful projects, initiatives, or advocacy efforts that have made a tangible difference.

Please describe how the nominee demonstrates effective communication and advocacy for youth perspectives and concerns in the field of Earth observations.

Please describe the nominee’s ability to collaborate effectively with others and work as part of a team in advancing Earth Observations initiatives.

Please describe how the nominee has shown innovation in their style and approach to tackling challenges and driving positive change in the field of EO. For example, individuals who have displayed creativity, originality, and forward thinking in their work.

Please describe how the nominee’s efforts were consistent with GEO’s Core Values.

Part 3b: Evidence Supporting the Nomination – The Team Impact

Award. (Please leave blank if nomination is for the Emerging Leader Award)

Please describe the nominees' key accomplishments in the last three (5) years and how these have led to concrete impacts for the GEO community. For example: Generating social and economic benefits for citizens and countries through the use of EO; influencing policies through EO-related discussions and driving policy changes; fostering the adoption and sustainability of specific Earth Observations language in new for a; increasing involvement in EO-related initiatives with specific attention to diverse representation, including youth, gender, and geographic inclusion; and advancing the development of new products, procedures, or policy-relevant research through flagship initiatives, pilot initiatives, or communities.

Please describe how the nominated team have displayed active engagement and collaboration within a global or regional community.

Please describe how the nominated team have demonstrated originality and innovation in the use of Earth Observations to address challenges and drive positive changes.

Please describe how the nominated team's efforts are consistent with GEO's strategic vision and mission.