

2026 Interim GEO Secretariat Budget

This document is submitted to Plenary for decision.

1 INTRODUCTION

The GEO Secretariat Budget supports the operations of the GEO Secretariat, which plays an essential role coordinating and facilitating GEO activities, engaging diverse stakeholders, advocating for recognition of the importance and value of Earth observations, communicating about the successes and activities of the GEO Work Programme (GWP), negotiating in-kind contributions to the GWP, and facilitating cooperation amongst organizations throughout the GEO community.

The Budget is designed to allocate the Secretariat's financial resources in order that it can best support future delivery on the GEO Post 2025 Strategy and the associated GEO Strategy Implementation Plan.

The 2026 Draft Interim GEO Secretariat Budget comes at a time of uncertainty relating to over 25% of the GEO Secretariat's funding. The role of GEO Members in stepping up to resource the operations of the Secretariat is more critical than ever.

2 CASH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GEO TRUST FUND 2023-2026 (CHF)

Member	2023	2024 Projected Received ¹	2025 Projected Received ¹	2026 Projected ²
Australia	128'401	160'438	147'728	147'728
Cambodia	1'000	1'000	1'000	1'000
Canada	66'378	66'378	61'632	57'503
China	245'054	228'183	214'640	215'367
European Union	1'176'342	1'138'225	1'401'773 ³	1'602'583
Germany	191'837	187'852	186'869	186'869
Japan	259'100	514'300	514'300 ⁴	514'300
Republic of Korea	58'075	51'863	52'856	52'856
Madagascar	1'000	1'000	1'000	1'000
Mexico	10'848	-	-	-
South Africa	91'549	94'680	183'614	182'745
Sweden	110'000	110'000	110'000	110'000
Switzerland	73'100	73'100	73'100 ⁵	73'100
United Kingdom	126'693	126'769	126'769	126'769
United States - NOAA		869'133	757'150	-
United States - NASA	2'013'754	310'094	274'879	280'376
United States - Department of State		850'000	797'000	797'000
Participating Organizations/Others				
Space Climate Observatory (SCO)			37'680	
ESA (+ATLANTIC)			7'447	16'818
Extrabudgetary contributions⁶			131'508	144'361
Total	4'553'131	4'783'015	5'080'945	4'510'375

¹ Status as of 15 September 2025

² Based on UN Operational Rates of Exchange as of 15 September 2025, for members paying in currencies other than CHF.

³ Note that the EU's contribution includes earmarked contributions towards the iClimateAction project and the Regional GEO Liaison Officer position.

⁴ Note that Japan's contribution includes earmarked contributions towards a DRR secondee and the AOGEO 2026 Symposium.

⁵ Note that Switzerland's 2025 contribution includes earmarked contributions towards Member Services.

⁶ Contributions by extrabudgetary projects towards Secretariat staff costs and administration.

3 PLANNED EXPENDITURES GEO TRUST FUND 2026 (CHF)

3.1 GEO Work Programme Support

GEO Work Programme	1'481'635
Staff Costs	1'206'509
Interns	28'800
GEO Infrastructure	88'434
Interns	4'164
SSA: GEO Knowledge Hub (GKH) Content Curator	35'520
GKH Maintenance Services	48'750
iClimateAction - non staff related implementation costs	157'892

3.2 Member Services

Member Services	522'537
Staff Costs	503'337
Intern	19'200

3.3 Operations

Operations	1'311'771
Staff Costs	1'058'494
Intern	19'200
Operating Expenses	234'077
<i>WMO Enterprise IT Support</i>	87'000
<i>WMO Rent and Utilities</i>	105'077
<i>GEO IT licenses and hardware</i>	35'000
<i>Bank Charges and Audit costs</i>	5'000
<i>Publications and Printing</i>	0
<i>Training</i>	0
<i>Incidentals</i>	2'000

3.4 Communications and Partnerships

Communications & Partnerships	225'250
Staff Costs	0
Intern	0
SSA: Communications Support	86'000
SSA: Design Support	50'004
SSA: Website Improvement Support	41'202
SSA: Social Media Support	43'044
Social Media campaigns	5'000

3.5 Secretariat Activities

Secretariat Activities	153'000
Secretariat Staff Mission Travel	60'000
Invitational Travel	70'000
Support for GEO Meetings	23'000
GEO Symposium/Plenary	16'000
Others	7'000

3.6 Totals*

GEO Work Programme (including Japan earmarked support for DRR secondee)	1'481'635
Member Services (including EU earmarked support for Regional GEO Liaison Officer)	522'537
Operations	1'311'771
Communications and Partnerships	225'250
Secretariat Activities	153'000
Support for AOGEO (Japan) - earmarked	123'936
WMO Project Support Cost **	267'269
TOTAL	4'085'398

* For details on associated staff see the staffing table in Annex 1

** 7% charged against all direct costs, including staff costs

The Regional GEO Liaison Officer is fully funded by EU earmarked contributions. The Work Programme Coordinator – Disasters and MultiHazards (P4) secondee is fully funded by Japan earmarked contributions. The Work Programme Coordinator - Climate & Biodiversity (P4) is funded 60% by the Global Ecosystems Atlas project. Remaining staff costs under the Work Programme Unit are funded 20% by the iClimateAction project.

4 UNFUNDED ACTIVITIES

This section represents GEO activities that cannot be resourced under the current estimated contribution level found in Section 2.

GEO-YOUTH is a dynamic network of 250+ young professionals from 40+ countries, driving Goal 4 of the Post-2025 Strategy by engaging youth in Earth Intelligence. To scale this impact, the Secretariat proposes a mentorship programme with GWP initiatives, related internships within the GEO Secretariat, and a dedicated Secretariat staff role for coordination.

GEO-YOUTH	Funding required (CHF)
Mentorship programme with GWP, and Secretariat internships for Youth	100'000
Coordination, strategic partnership and outreach (one P1 staff within GEO Secretariat)	100'000

5 EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDING 2026 – FOR INFORMATION

GEOGLAM		
Donor	2025 Projected Received	2026 Projected
European Union	280'304	280'304
United Kingdom	142'603	
University of Twente	48'924	
Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO)	50'454	

GEO-LDN		
Donor	2025 Projected Received	2026 Projected
Germany	56'060	

GLOBAL ECOSYSTEMS ATLAS		
Donor	2025 Projected Received	2026 Projected
United Kingdom	171'075	
Norway		664'300
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	44'150	
Fondation Hoffmann		635'250
InTent	9'450 13'950	

ANNEX 1

GEO SECRETARIAT STAFF TABLE FOR 2026

Secretariat Staff Positions		Status on 1 October 2025
Director (D2)	Yana Gevorgyan	Staff
GEO Work Programme		
Chief, Work Programme Coordinator (P5)	Madeeha Bajwa	Staff
GEO Work Programme Officer (P3)	Wenbo Chu	Staff
Work Programme Coordinator – Urban (P4)	Martyn Clark	Staff
Work Programme Coordinator - Climate & Biodiversity (P4)	David Patterson	Staff
Work Programme Coordinator – Disasters and MultiHazards (P4)	Rui Kotani	Secondment
GEO Infrastructure Coordinator (P3)	Paola De Salvo	Staff
Member Services		
Chief, Member Services (P5)	Sara Venturini	Staff
Regional GEO Liaison Officer (P3)	Vacant	Staff
Member Services Associate (P2)	Vacant	Staff
Operations		
Chief of Staff (P5)	Steven Parkinson	Staff
Associate Finance Officer (P2)*	Samuel Amos	Staff
IT Officer (P3)	Hendrik Baeyens	Staff
Senior Administrator (G5)	Chloé Tiberghien	Staff
Communications and Partnerships		
No staff positions		

*Recruitment of P3 Finance Officer and abolishment of P2 Associate Finance Officer planned in 2026, due to a significant increase in the complexity of the Secretariat's financial planning, management and reporting.

Project Staff Positions (Extra-Budgetary)		
Flagships and Initiatives		
Programme Coordinator - GEOGLAM (P5)	Sven Gilliams	Staff
Programme Analyst - GEOGLAM (P2)	Esther Makabe	Staff
Programme Analyst - Global Ecosystems Atlas (P2)	Lela Gomersall	Staff

Staffing adjustments may be proposed in 2026 linked to project-specific funding.