

# Interactive webinars and virtual discussions

# GEO VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2020

## 15 - 19 JUNE 2020

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Version published 12 June 2020

### Monday, 15 June

Time	Topic
<b>13:00-13:30 CEST</b> <b>7:00-7:30 EDT</b> <b>21:00-21:30 AEST</b>	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Andiswa Mlisa</p> <p>Welcome Remarks - Andiswa Mlisa</p> <p>Opening Remarks – Gilberto Camara</p> <p>Introduction to the Symposium Week – Kerry Sawyer</p> <p>Symposium Logistics Instructions - Wenbo Chu</p> <p>Launch of the GEO Individual Excellence Award - Kathy Fontaine</p>
<b>13:30-15:00 CEST</b> <b>7:30-9:00 EDT</b> <b>21:30-23:00 AEST</b>	<p><b>Earth Observations for COVID-19 Response and Recovery</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <p>Earth observations offer real-time information that can advance scientific inquiry, inform health decision-making, and enhance interventions to address emerging global health challenges. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the GEO Health Community of Practice has taken action to leverage global expertise, share resources, and discuss priorities and challenges across geographic regions. This session will highlight the value of this global network, present scientific approaches and preliminary findings, and provide recommendations that support Earth observations for public health applications.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> John Haynes, Juli Trtanj, Astrid-Christina Koch, Helena Chapman</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p>Introduction to the GEO Health Community Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic – Facilitators</p> <p>Examples of GEO Health Community Research on COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hydrometeorological Sensitivities of COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Earth Observation – Ben Zaitchik</li> <li>● Exploring COVID-19 Seasonality in South Africa – Francois Engelbrecht</li> <li>● JAXA’s Earth Observation Activities on COVID-19 – Osamu Ochiai</li> <li>● Geospatial Information Systems in Central America and the Regional Response to COVID-19 - Jorge Cabrera Hidalgo</li> </ul>

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	<p>Products and Resources for Decision Makers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Copernicus Activities in Support of Investigating COVID-19, Air Quality and Climate Connections – Vincent-Henri Peuch &amp; Carlo Buontempo</li> <li>● COVID-19 Response Powered by Shared Geospatial Resource Hub and Collaboration – Este Geraghty</li> </ul> <p>Resources for the Community – Facilitators Q&amp;A Session Conclusion &amp; Next Steps</p>
<p><b>15:30-17:00 CEST</b> <b>9:30-11:00 EDT</b> <b>23:30-1:00(+1) AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Engaging UN Agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The GEO engagement priorities guide a number of GEO Work Programme activities. The policy aspects of the engagement priorities are driven and supported by UN agencies and international organisations, such as UNFCCC, UNDRR, UNCCD, UN-HABITAT, UN FAO, UNDP and UNEP. These UN bodies are not only developing and shaping international policy, but in many cases they are the custodian or lead agencies for topics that are fundamental to the success of the GEO Work Programme. Understanding whom, how and when to engage these agencies and other international organisations is important to help GEO support UN Member States. It cuts across many of GEO’s activities from capacity development to resource mobilisation, as well as outreach and international policy development. Speakers will present concrete examples of collaboration from the GEO Work Programme.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Sara Venturini</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> Introduction of speakers and agenda Presentations and Q&amp;A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How the GEO community can support the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement - Joanna Post</li> <li>● GFOI approaches in engaging with custodian agencies for REDD+ - Tom Harvey</li> <li>● Collaborating with UN Agencies to Deliver on the SDGs: Challenges and Enabling Factors - Argyro Kavvada</li> <li>● How the GEO community can support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR - Rhea Katsanakis</li> <li>● GOS4M approaches in engaging with the UNEP Minamata Convention on Mercury - Nicola Pirrone</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>

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**Tuesday, 16 June**

Time	Topic
<p><b>13:00-14:30 CEST</b>  <b>7:00-8:30 EDT</b>  <b>21:00-22:30 AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Contributing to Reproducible Knowledge</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> Flagships and Initiatives of the GEO Work Programme are in a central position to provide reproducible knowledge to achieve a results-oriented GEOSS. Learn how they are amplifying EO-based solutions at the local/national level to scale up for implementation in other regions around the world, thus allowing these solutions to “go global.” In this session, the GWP activity leads are invited to demonstrate their experience in sharing data, codes and other materials that are essential to reproduce knowledge through various platforms including the GEO Knowledge Hub.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Paola De Salvo</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b> The Sen2Agri Example: Benefits and challenges of reproducibility in the cloud - the path to enable the knowledge to be reproducible (Moderator: Ian Jarvis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sen2Agri: Operational system for Agricultural products: Description the system - Sophie Bontemps</li> <li>● Sen2Agri Stories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sen2Agri “Click and Go” version - Challenges and Benefits of Sen2Agri in the AWS Cloud: The bucket concept - Benjamin Goffart</li> <li>○ South Africa experience, Nosiseko Mashiya</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Live Discussion</li> </ul> <p>Evolving GEOSS to Support Reproducible Knowledge (Moderator: Gregory Giuliani)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GEO Knowledge Hub - Douglas Cripe</li> <li>● GEOSS Infrastructure Architecture aligning the GEO Knowledge Hub - Ivan DeLoatch, Stefano Nativi</li> <li>● Live Discussion: How GEO WP activities can be involved and contribute to the GKH</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:00-15:30 CEST</b>  <b>09:00-09:30 EDT</b>  <b>23:00-23:30 AEST</b></p>	<p><b>GEO Programme Board Co-Chairs: Ask them Anything</b></p> <p>In the form of a Reddit Ask Me Anything (AMA), this session will answer questions that are submitted to the GEO Programme Board Co-Chair members via Slido chat. Specifically, this session will provide guidance to GEO Work Programme leads to ensure the successful delivery of the 2020-2022 GEO Work Programme.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Craig Larlee, Theadora Mills</p>

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<p><b>15:30-17:00 CEST</b> <b>09:30-11:00 EDT</b> <b>23:30-01:00(+1)</b> <b>AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Leveraging Advanced Technologies - Focusing on Data Cubes</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The wide availability and accessibility of open data, coupled with new technologies related to data processing systems and services, provides a great opportunity for the GEO community to transform data and information into decision-supporting knowledge in a most efficient way. Speakers will demonstrate how Data cubes are applied to produce results.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Paola De Salvo</p> <p><b>Session Moderators:</b> Marie Francoise Voidrot, Thierry Ranchin</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● "Data Cubes: Benefits and Challenges," Intervention from Gilberto Camara</li><li>● The Swiss Data Cube - A Step Towards Digital Switzerland - Gregory Giuliani</li><li>● Open Data Cube and Open Earth Alliance - Brian Killough</li><li>● Brazilian EO Earth Cubes for Brazil - Gilberto Queiroz, Karine Ferreira</li><li>● Enabling Innovation at Continental Scale - Case Studies Over Australia and Africa - Yuan Fang</li><li>● Euro Data Cube - Grega Milcinski</li></ul> <p>Live discussion</p>
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**Wednesday, 17 June**

Time	Topic
<b>13:00-14:30 CEST</b> <b>07:00-08:30 EDT</b> <b>21:00-22:30 AEST</b>	<p><b>GEOSS Infrastructure Development Task Team (GIDTT) Session</b></p> <p>This session will provide a comprehensive look at the various components of the GEOSS Infrastructure and their evolution.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Douglas Cripe</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction to the GIDTT - Ivan DeLoatch, Stefano Nativi</li> <li>● GIDTT–Evolving GEOSS - Stefano Nativi</li> <li>● GIDTT–GEOSS Platform Evolution - Paolo Mazzetti &amp; Joost van Bemmelen</li> <li>● GIDTT–GEONETCast Evolution, Natalia Donoho</li> </ul> <p>Session Wrap-up and Q&amp;A</p>
<b>15:00-15:30 CEST</b> <b>09:00-09:30 EDT</b> <b>23:00-23:30 AEST</b>	<p><b>GEO Mid-term Evaluation Session</b></p> <p>The Group on Earth Observations is undertaking a Mid-Term Evaluation to assess the progress in achieving the aims of the GEO Strategic Plan 2016-2025. Members from the MTE Team will present their approach and preliminary results from their review. They will be available to answer questions from participants and the discussion will provide the evaluation team with inputs directly from the GEO community.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Craig Larlee</p>
<b>15:30-17:00 CEST</b> <b>09:30-11:00 EDT</b> <b>23:30-01:00(+1)</b> <b>AEST</b>	<p><b>Co-designing Capacity Development</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> In order to ensure that a demand-driven and impact-oriented Capacity Development methodology is applied within the GEO Work Programme, there is an expressed need to also strengthen the capacities and capabilities. This session is aimed to share examples on how the GEO Flagships, Initiatives and Regional GEO's organise and develop their capacity development programme in a co-design process and how this contributes to a results-oriented GEOSS.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Joost Teuben</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction: GEO approach and the GEO Working Group CD - Facilitator</li> <li>● Capacity Development in GEOGLAM: Strategies, activities, impacts and lessons learned - Andy Nelson and Alyssa Whitcraft</li> <li>● Capacity development approaches in GEO Blue Planet and coordination across the ocean observing community -Sophie Seeyave</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Capacity development approach for utilizing Earth observation data in Hindu Kush Himalaya - Rajesh Bahadur Thapa</li><li>● Tools and Approaches for Positive Capacity Building Outcomes - Anastasia Wahome</li><li>● Capacity Development is more than trainings - best practices in capacity building for a long-term strategy in Earth Observations - Hanna Albrecht</li></ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
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**Thursday, 18 June**

Time	Topic
<p><b>13:00-14:30 CEST</b>  <b>07:00-08:30 EDT</b>  <b>21:00-22:30 AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Focus on Impact: Regional GEOs</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> The Regional GEOs, evolving from the Regional GEOSS Initiatives, have been expected to play a strong role in user engagement, resource mobilization, as well as scaling GEO global activities to a regional level. This session will review some examples of mutually-beneficial interaction between Regional GEOs and GEO Flagships, Initiatives or Community Activities, with the aim of identifying good practices for other activities that may be interested in expanding their impact in new regions. This session aims at discussing how to joint effort between GEO flagships and initiatives and the four regional GEOs. The four regional GEOs will start their presentations with an outline of each of them and illustrate with concrete examples some of the mutually beneficial interactions they have established with the GEO activities. They should as well cover the question “Why Regional?” and the unique benefits of acting regionally. Those interactions can go in both directions, including GEO activities in specific regions and contexts or bringing local and regional knowledge to the attention of the GEO community. In addition to examples stemming from the GEO flagships, initiatives and community activities, there will be additional examples covering the GEOSS infrastructure and how regional GEOs can integrate themselves in its architecture.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Jean Dusart, Wenbo Chu</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p>Session Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AfriGEO Initiative from Global to Local - Phoebe Oduor</li> <li>● AmeriGEO - From Data to Decisions: Empowering the National GEOs, Angélica Gutiérrez</li> <li>● AOGEO - from observations to knowledge development, integration, and contribution to three engagement priorities - Hiroyuki Muraoka</li> <li>● EuroGEO: Evolution of the GEOSS Platform to make regional capabilities globally available - Jean Dusart and Joost Van Bemmelen</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A and Session Wrap-up</p>
<p><b>15:30-17:00 CEST</b>  <b>09:30-11:00 EDT</b></p>	<p><b>Integrating Water and Coastal Datasets</b></p>

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<p><b>23:30-01:00(+1)</b> <b>AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Description:</b> Earth Observation (EO) data has proven to contain powerful information for the monitoring of the Earth's surface and atmosphere on a global, regional, and local scale, in particular by providing significant information on coastal regions. The exploitation of EO data combined with in-situ data for water and coastal applications has significantly increased in recent years and has been the topic of various international publications. This session will aim to highlight the integration and applicability of these datasets to address coastal issues including the demonstration of tangible examples on how it has been utilized by GEO initiatives.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Andreia Siqueira, Kerry Sawyer, Thierry Ranchin</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p>Session Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Integration of ocean and coastal data in support of the Sendai Framework and 2030 Agenda - Leah Segui</li><li>● Striving to Ensure Confidence in EO Water Quality Data - Steven Greb</li><li>● DEA CoastLines: A 30yr history of coastal change in Australia using earth observation data - Stephen Sagar</li><li>● Waters and Coasts in Africa - Amos Kabo-bah</li></ul> <p>Q&amp;A Session Wrap-up</p>
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**Friday, 19 June**

Time	Topic
<p><b>13:00-14:30 CEST</b>  <b>07:00-08:30 EDT</b>  <b>21:00-22:30 AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Monitoring Essential Variables</b></p> <p>Description: The concept of Essential Variables (EVs) has been increasingly used in Earth observation communities to identify those variables that correspond to high impact on the Earth system and should be a priority for monitoring. This session is aimed to take a horizontal perspective on the good practices and lessons learned on how the various sets of EVs are developed, accepted and used by their respective communities.</p> <p><b>Facilitator:</b> Kerry Sawyer, Thierry Ranchin, Andreia Siqueira</p> <p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p>Session Introduction</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GCOS and Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) - Simon Eggleston</li> <li>● Monitoring Global Biodiversity Change with Essential Biodiversity Variables - Laetitia Navarro</li> <li>● Essential Ocean Variables for Sustained Observations of Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems - Gabrielle Canonico and Frank Muller-Karger</li> <li>● Towards integrated Essential Variables for sustainability - the work done in the GEO Essential Variables Community Activity - Anthony Lehman, Joan Masó</li> </ul> <p>Questions and comments</p> <p>Session Wrap-up</p>
<p><b>15:00-16:30 CEST</b>  <b>09:00-10:30 EDT</b>  <b>23:00-00:30(+1)</b>  <b>AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Resource Mobilization and Sustainable Funding</b></p> <p><b>Description:</b> GEO's ability to support global environmental and sustainable development agendas requires continuous funding to ensure long term results for GWP activities. Participants will learn about the GEO Resource Mobilization Strategy, and will hear from GWP activities and their experiences in obtaining funding and in-kind resources, including lessons learned and good practice to follow. The session will also cover different funding sources, steps in contacting funders, how to align with topics most likely to be funded, and other practical advice.</p> <p><b>Facilitators:</b> Theadora Mills and Kathy Fontaine</p>

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	<p><b>Agenda:</b></p> <p>Overview of GEO’s RM Strategy and approach - Justyna Nicinska</p> <p>Fundraising challenges and successes in GEO Work Programme activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GEOGLAM - effective collaboration with countries: Canada, Germany and UK - Ian Jarvis</li> <li>● GEO Land Degradation Neutrality - Antje Hecheltjen</li> <li>● Mobilizing European resources to strengthen the development of the GEO Blue Planet Initiative - Pierre Yves Le Traon</li> <li>● GEOGLOWS and World Bank partner for regional applications of a global model - Nagaraja Harshadeep</li> <li>● Digital Earth Africa - \$20m for continental open data products from mixed funding - Adam Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Invited guest: External fundraising experts to discuss sustainable funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● International Labor Organization - Casper Edmonds</li> <li>● Identifying needs of the community - Discussion and interactive poll to identify top impact opportunities</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
<p><b>16:30-17:00 CEST</b>  <b>10:30-11:00 EDT</b>  <b>00:30(+1)-01:00(+1) AEST</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <p>Highlights of the week - Kathy Fontaine</p> <p>Closing remarks - Gilberto Camara</p> <p>Closing remarks - Ivan Petiteville</p>