

Outcomes of GEO Symposium 2023

PB-26: 15-16 June 2023
Geneva, Switzerland

W. Chu
GEO Secretariat

GEO Family Reunion

- 150 in-person participants; 50 online participants
- 61 speakers: 10 Africa, 10 America, 12 Asia-Oceania, 14 Europe, 15 International
- 24 GWP activities
- 11 Sessions



Week2023 #Biodiversity
ndset #LeaveNoOneBehind #SDGs
ALL #EarlyWarningForAll #E04Impa
#odok2023 #GeoSymposium #AU2063
GEO Symposium #GEO
imate #EarthObservation #biodivers
#climate #E04Mountains #scaling4impa
#GEOPost2025 #NOAAKnaussFellow #AfriGEO
#EarthIntelligence



HOP ON FOR GEO'S NEW DIRECTION!

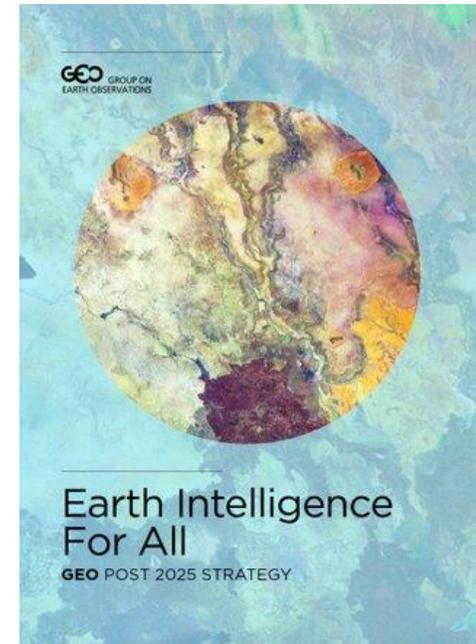
Session 1: Opening

- Set the scene of the symposium – a major step toward Post-2025 strategy and the Ministerial Summit in Cape Town
- Inspiration from AI for Good: how do we harness transformative technologies to achieve GEO's mission and vision
- A pitch on the ODOK Workshop - Open data and open knowledge continues as a backbone in GEO's future direction

Session 2: Interactive Dialogue on Post-2025

Factors that contribute to equity for GEO post-2025:

- **Political will, global thinking** (leaving no one behind), a user-based approach and connecting with the UN System are **necessary**.
- The **integration and synthesis of data** from **all knowledge bases** (scientific, social economic, indigenous, citizen science) are crucial for **effective program development and effective decision making**.
- Manage expectations of what is achievable with Earth intelligence, our "niche" and value proposition for GEO needs to be very clear and complementary.
- Acknowledge and support the **people** behind GEO WP activities, empower their **agency** and capabilities to see equity values enacted and embodied in the GEO WP.
- **Engagement and utilization of youth as catalysts for transformative impact** and economic transformation, esp. in regions with young growing populations, while considering mechanisms to engage them in dialogues and decision-making processes.
- Recognition and respect for Indigenous **Data Sovereignty** and the **GEO Indigenous Alliance** as well as **dedicated funding mechanism** for the GEO Indigenous Alliance is necessary to ensure meaningful collaboration and benefit sharing; whilst considering their knowledge inputs, protecting their interests, culture and environment.
- Enable meaningful private sector / small business involvement.
- Capacity building, knowledge retention and knowledge exchange are essential to access and utilize Earth observation data.



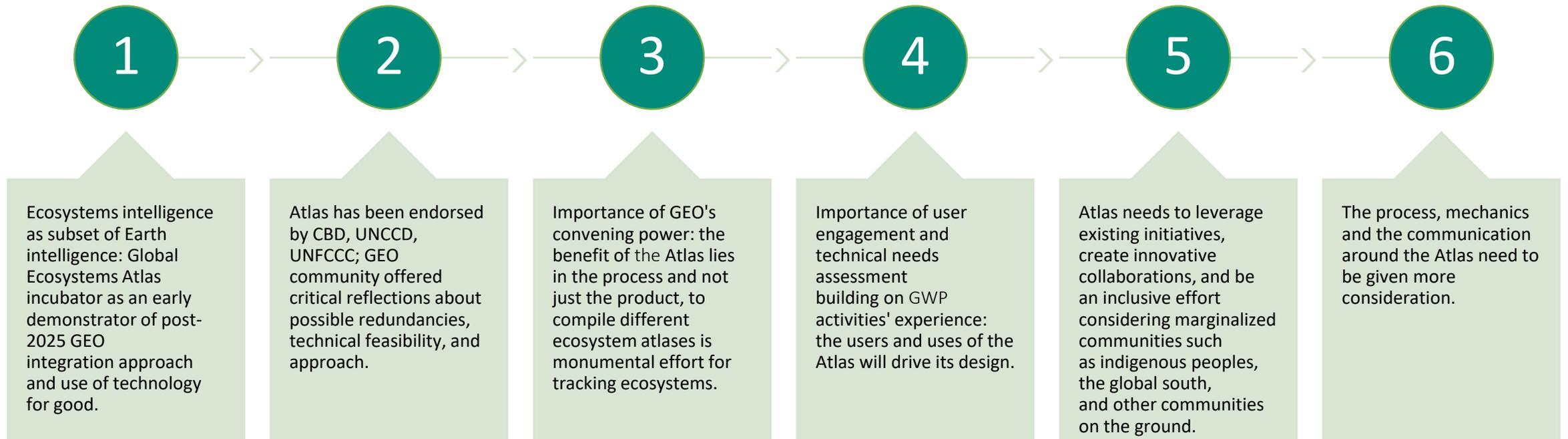
Session 3: Ministerial Update

A graphic for GEO Week 2023 #TheEarthTalks. The background features a satellite in space on the left and the Earth from space on the right. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion, with days 1-3 on the top row and days 4-5 on the bottom row. Each day's activities and access level are listed in white text on a dark background.

GEO Week 2023
#TheEarthTalks

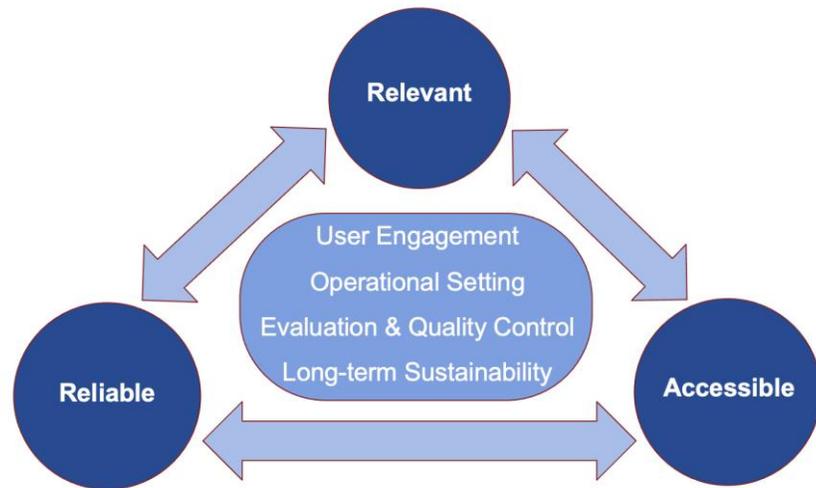
Day 1 Flash talks workshops OPEN	Day 2 Showcase sessions OPEN	Day 3 GEO Plenary sessions OPEN
Day 4 GEO Plenary sessions and business DELEGATES ONLY	Day 5 Ministerial Summit Adoption of Ministerial Declaration on GEO Post-2025 DELEGATES ONLY	

Session 4: Thematic Session 1: Biodiversity and Climate

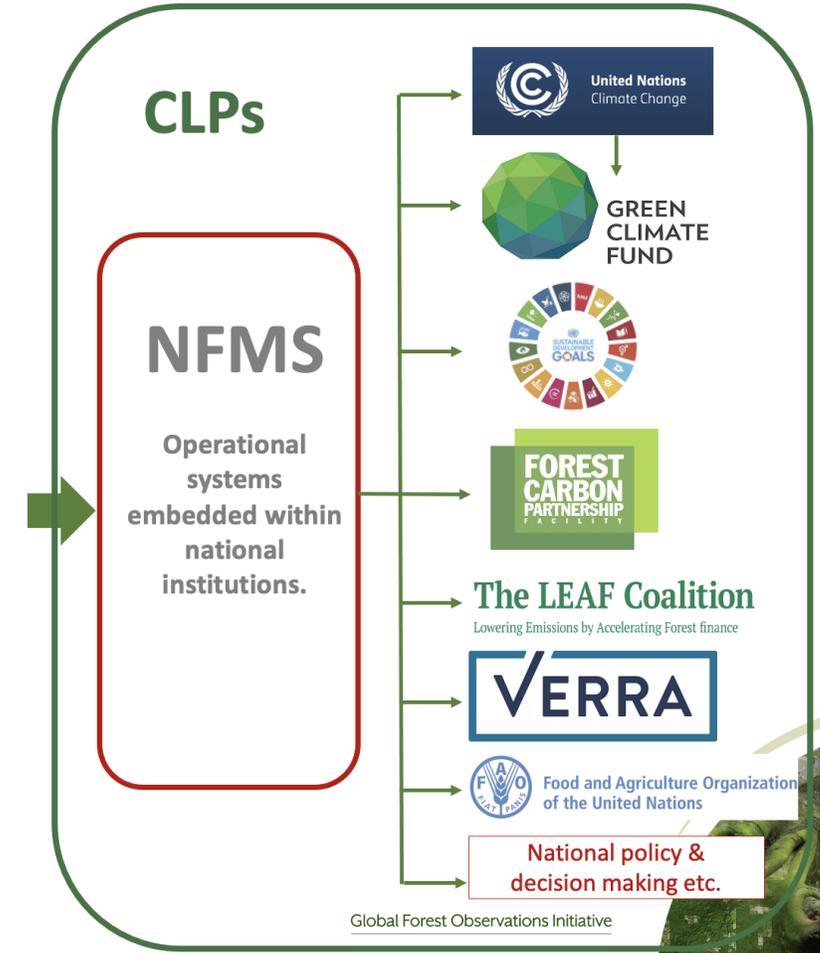


**GLOBAL
ECOSYSTEMS
ATLAS**

Session 5: Operational Services via GEO Work Program



- WORKSHOPS
- HACKATHONS
- COURSES & MENTORING

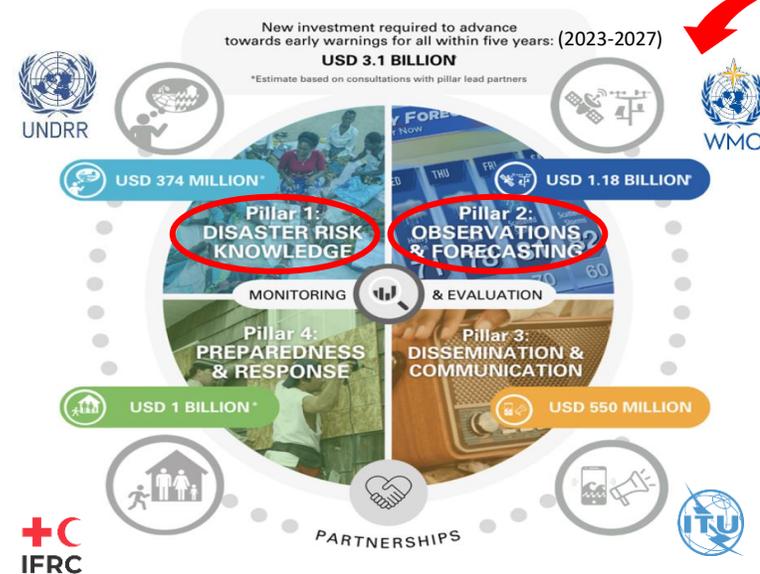


Session 6: Flash Talks: Enablers for scaling the impact of the GEO Work Programme

- Six flashtalks on impact presented; impact design **focuses on long-term achievements** (societal changes) instead of short-term actions and deliverables
- The (under development) **Capacity Development Toolkit** will support GEO's impact-driven way of working
- Focus on designing, achieving and demonstrating impact is key for **reporting, accountability and resource mobilization**
- **Co-design, end-user needs assessment and stakeholder engagement** are crucial for defining the long-term impact of GEO's GWP activities
- **Time allocation and resource availabilities** to achieve and measure the impact of the GWP activities is challenging due to the voluntary work of the GWP participants
- The need exists to **showcase the socio-economic and/or environmental impact** (changes in society) of the GWP activities during the ministerial

Session 7: Early Warning for All

- There is a huge political momentum for this new global initiative launched by UNSG at COP27
- GEO is an important supporting implementing partner, supporting Pillar 1 and 2
- Lead agencies rely on GEO to help achieve its ambitious goal in the tight timeframe available
- There are already a lot of great work by the GWP activities (e.g. GEOGLAM, DIAS, GEOGLoWS, Cloud Credit Programme, POs., HPI) in the 30 initial focus countries to be leveraged and scaled up
- WGs & CoP (e.g. Data WG, CapD WG/National GEO, Indigenous GEO) and H&H incubator also have a lot to offer
- Need to create synergies and complementarities among GWP activities and with other EW4ALL implementing partners
- Sustainability is a critical issue



GEO GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

in close collaboration with the 4 leads and other implementing partners such as:



Figure 1: Budget overview for the four Pillars of the Early Warnings for All Initiative

Session 8: Urban Resilience



First opportunity to present the Global Heat Resilience incubator concept to the wider GEO community



GEO and WMO co-presented the incubator highlighting the commitment to date in advancing the project concept, and alignment with the EW4ALL global initiative



Six flash-talks were given to elaborate on various design considerations, existing initiatives



Audience provided some useful reflections around the need to demonstrate the added-value of this initiative, working with partners to establish demand for the service, linking with existing services i.e., Copernicus Climate Hub



Next steps were set-out including identifying partners, developing the technical concept, further socialising the concept a relevant events, working towards a convening meeting in Q1 of 2024

Session 9: Interactive Dialogue on strengthening the operating model of GEO for Post-2025

How can the operating model of GEO be made fit-for-purpose?

- GEO to ensure quality and standards, for example on interoperability (standards for data sharing). GEO to become the benchmark-setter for EO, akin to IPCC and IPBES.
- The five points on the operating model in the draft GEO Post-2025 strategy are all important and interconnected.
- Monitoring and evaluation GEO's work: Working towards tangible measures of success to increase accountability with a combination of voluntary approach and framework metrics.
- Building GEO as a brand requires good products and communication (increase visibility) Prioritizing the GEO Work Programme will help to focus and improve with demonstrating impact.
- Opportunities for overcoming barriers are multilingualism, funding, better cooperation/partnership and integration; We need to evolve the current operating model and build on our strengths

Session 10: Mobilizing resources for the GEO Work Programme

- Success stories and challenges in RM presented by 4 GWP activities; RM approaches presented by GEOSEC
- What resources: funding, data, mentorship...
- Resources for what: operationalization; user engagement; diversity and inclusion; basic infrastructures; scientific capacity; multilingualism; opportunity for participation...
- How:
 - Ask the GEO principals to identify national funding lines targeted to the GEO initiatives, either acting in their country or elsewhere
 - Establish a funding platform to match possible donors with the needs from the GEO initiatives, at different levels, from institutional to crowd funding
 - Streamline a procedure for GEO initiatives to submit funding requests to international donors
 - Connect the initiatives with the regional GEOs to identify additional in-kind resources at the regional scale
- Debate: Are our GWP well-resourced? Is GEO well-positioned to mobilize resources for GWP?

