

Overview of GEO Task US-09-01a:***Identify Critical Earth Observation Priorities for Societal Benefit Areas***

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) promotes the coordination of Earth observations across its member organizations and encourages the use of the observations for societal benefits. The intergovernmental GEO includes over 75 Member Countries and 55 Participating Organizations working together to establish a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEOSS builds on national, regional, and international observation systems to provide coordinated Earth observations from thousands of ground, airborne, and space-based instruments. GEO has organized its efforts around nine Societal Benefit Areas (SBA): Agriculture, Biodiversity, Climate, Disasters, Ecosystems, Energy, Health, Water, and Weather.

GEO Task US-09-01a is identifying critical Earth observation priorities within each Societal Benefit Area and those common to the nine SBAs. GEO will use the results of this task to determine priority investment opportunities.

For many of the SBAs, the GEO Members Countries and Participating Organizations have already conducted activities, held workshops, and written reports that identify their particular Earth observation needs. Task US-09-01a focuses on compiling and analyzing the results and observation needs expressed in those *existing* documents. Task US-09-01a does not involve new, original research on needs or requirements gathering. Instead, the task will harvest information identified in existing, publicly-available documents. This process should be viewed as a meta-analysis exercise across a representative sampling of documents.

GEO is especially interested in ensuring an international breadth of Earth observations priorities in this meta-analysis. Thus, a key tenet of Task US-09-01a is to gather information from a broad distribution of international, regional, and national documents, including significant representation from developing countries.

For each SBA, there will be an Analyst and an Advisory Group to conduct the meta-analysis. The Analyst will serve as the point of contact to manage the activity. The Advisory Group will assist the Analyst to identify documents, assess analyses, and review findings. The Analysts and Advisory Groups are *ad hoc* – they exist only for Task US-09-01a and will expire at the end of the task. Wherever possible, the Advisory Groups involve members of the GEO Communities of Practice.

The User Interface Committee (UIC) is one of four GEO committees. The UIC engages users to help develop Earth observation systems and apply the observations for societal benefit. The UIC is responsible for managing GEO Task US-09-01a. The UIC invites people to recommend documents, reports, workshop summaries, etc. for this task.

For more information, contact the GEO UIC US-09-01a Task Lead:

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