

11th CBC Meeting Minutes

(actions are in boldface)

Thursday, 21 January 2010

1. Yolanda Berenguer (UNESCO) opened the meeting.

2. M. Molenaar (The Netherlands) addressed the participants with welcome words: ITC has been involved with GEO/CBC since its beginning and many initiatives are now starting to mature; he announced that he is stepping down from the committee and will be replaced by Mark Noort.

3. Capacity Building in the GEO Regions presentations

3.1 Presentation by Gordon Bridge (EumetSat): overview of CEOS WGEdu activities since the last meeting and plans for 2010; major improvements to the WGEdu Portal during 2009; a remote sensing workshop was held in Bangkok, 4-6 February 2009; WGEdu has been actively supporting the CEOS data democracy activities; 03 new co-chairs elected; next annual meeting in Argentina in May 2010; remote sensing workshop on disaster management in Latin America to be organized in Brazil, in March; support of GEONetCast training channel and of EduFlow project for WGEdu.

3.2 Noasilalao Rasolondraibe (Madagascar): quick overview of CB activities undertaken in Madagascar since September 2009; asked for support from GEO members for projects developed in the island. Alan Edwards said that the European Commission might help Madagascar and requested an outline / clarification of the assistance required; Yolanda Berenguer proposed to set the ROSELT in Madagascar.

3.3 Tânia Sausen (Brazil): overview of recent activities undertaken by the Regional Center for Space Science and Technology Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (CRECTEALC); core curricula to be updated this year; CRECTEALC has already graduated 220 students, 90% are still working in the area of remote sensing; CRECTEALC node to be installed in Ecuador; workshop on natural disaster monitoring to be held on May, in Puerto Iguassú, Argentina.

3.4 Johnson Owaro (Uganda): outlook on capacity building for agriculture monitoring in developing countries; workshop on biomass energy modeling with GIS and remote sensing was held on October 2009, in Kampala, Uganda.

3.5 Hilcéa Ferreira (Brazil): overview of INPE's new regional center in Belém, in the Amazon region; it is meant to become a world reference in the monitoring of tropical forests; cooperation agreements with IRD, JICA, Ibama, Kosmo, Skymed, Embrapa and FAO; four-week course on tropical forest monitoring will take place in July 2010, for Spanish-speaking students, and in November 2010, for English-speaking students.

3.6 Norberto Fernandez (UNEP): briefly described UNEP activities on EO during the last two years; networking and partnerships project document (within new UNEP Programme of Work 2010-11) expected to be approved with a strong focus on CB; GEO is one of the five external partners mentioned in this document for global and regional networks.

3.7 Nouredine Filali Boubrahmi (Morocco): presented an overview of the Moroccan National Directorate of Meteorology with focus on the activities of the National Center for Meteorological Research and of some success stories on capacity building in Northern Africa in the Weather and Climate SBAs: i) organization of a workshop on remote sensing capacity building for North Africa, held in May 2009 with the contribution of EUMETSAT, ii) development and implementation of an area-limited weather forecasting model for North Africa, and iii) assistance to Burkina Faso and Senegal governments on weather modification for precipitation enhancement.

4. Alan Edwards (EC): overview of the outcomes of the GEO-VI Plenary; for the first time GEO-added value is becoming evident; GEOSS Strategic Targets, meant to guide and facilitate the implementation of the GEO Work Plan, have been adopted; M & E framework approved, in which the GEO Secretariat monitors WP progress and an Evaluation Team evaluates targets achievement; Plenary recommended the convergence towards one single GEO Portal and the creation of a GCI Coordination team; GEO-VI accepted the GEOSS data sharing implementation guidelines; AIP-3 will focus on data and promote content; CBC members are invited to contribute to AIP-3; 2010 GEO Ministerial Summit essential elements will be mid-term assessments, data sharing action plan, ministerial declaration and showcasing GEO achievements (one in CB); there is a strong need of a CB Pavilion in the GEO Ministerial Exhibition.

5. Fernando Ramos (GEO Sec): overview of the status of the GEO CBC-UIC Call for Proposals; CFP management team needs to re-staffed; **Ana Casals and Andiswa Mlisa volunteered to be part of the CFP Management Team, Johnson Owaro and Peter Zeil want to act as advisers; guidance on how to prepare a full proposal which meets fund providers requirements was proposed by M. Noort.**

6. Alan: CB OAT implementation; discussion on the opportunity of reducing the number of sub-Tasks: participants agreed that it is too early to engage into this process.

6.1 Mark Noort (The Netherlands): overview of CB-09-01; the task team needs to be re-staffed (departs of Imraan and Marta); replacement of GEOCards by CB Announcement & GEO Facebook has been proposed; **Ana Casals will update the task sheet.**

6.2 Yolanda presented short overview of CB-09-02

CB-09-02a: Chris Mannaerts (The Netherlands) announced the mid-term symposium "ISPRS Commission VI – Cross-Border Education for Global Geo-Information", to be held in Enschede, The Netherlands, from 2 to 4 June 2010.

CB-09-02b: a new course on Climate Information for Public Health to be held on May 2010, in Palisades, New York, USA.

CB-09-02c: Tânia reported on this sub-task; a series of workshops on the use of EO on disasters forecast/mitigation is being organized; the first dealt with flooding and happened in

2008, in Brazil; a workshop on drought and desertification is to be held this year, in Argentina; the last one will cover landslides in a date and place to be defined (Peru or Ecuador).

CB-09-02d: Hilcéa reported that due to lack of funding nothing new happened last year under this sub-task.

CB-09-02e: Tyra Brown (USA) stressed the importance to the CB community of the GEONetCast Training Channel (already operational); Tyra Brown (USA) and Guan Hong (China) reported several improvements on FengYunCast, EumetCast and GEONETCast Americas that will be available to users in 2010.

6.3 CB-09-03: Alan introduced this task

CB-09-03a: Norberto Fernandez (UNEP) proposed a new focus to this sub-task with the support of new contributors; **Peter Zeil (Austria) has offered to cooperate and co-lead the task, provided he receives the green light from the Austrian government; possible synergies with GEONetCab also to be considered.**

CB-09-03b: Chris Mannaerts (The Netherlands) presented current activities such as development of distant education courses using GEOSS components; the ITC GEONetCast Toolbox has been highlighted with regard to its networking capabilities and open access policy; several training courses and training workshops are planned to happen in 2010 in different regions of the world; ITC GEONetCast Toolbox on-line support to be available this year.

CB-09-03d: Alan reported that a global network of operational oceanography, focused on capacity building, is taking shape; much has been accomplished but much remains to be done mainly on coastal zones; other recent outcomes have been reported by Jun She (Denmark) via email.

6.4 CB-10-01: Andiswa quickly presented the status of this task; **Tyra volunteered to coordinate this initiative.**

6.5 CB-09-04: Andiswa overviewed this task together with sub-tasks CB-09-04a and CB-09-04b; activities of CB-09-04a will be supported by GeoNetCab project and clarification on sub-task lead will be made by ITC as Mark Noort may take over from Chris Mannaerts; need to contact PoCs to get more info on CB activities; **Haman Unusa (Cameroon), Issoufou Wata Sama (Niger) and Peter Zeil volunteered to support sub-task CB-09-04b (CB Performance Indicators).**

6.6 CB-09-05: Hilcéa reviewed current status of this task together with sub-tasks CB-09-05a and b; outcomes include new releases of SPRING and a French-version developed by IRD; Terra 3.3.1 has also been released; technical problems with CBERS-2b have been reported although progress has been made with ground stations in Africa.

CB-09-05c: Carrie Stokes (USA) reported on current SERVIR activities; two nodes are now operational in Panama and Kenya; Central America node responded to more than 37 extreme events, during the last two and a half years, including a very quick response to the recent Haiti earthquake (less than 30 hours); the African node is providing ecosystem maps, risk

assessment maps and other products, developed with RCMRD and other partners such as USGS; SERVIR-Himalaya node to be installed in ICIMOD headquarters, in Katmandu, Nepal.

CB-09-05d: Alan and Hilcéa gave an update on latest developments; first step towards a pan-African infrastructure of interoperable data and user-oriented services; good example of added-value of GEO bringing different partners together; CBC to be informed on the series of meetings that are taken place and planned on this project; a workshop on CB programs related to AEGOS happened in Germany in 2009 and other will take place this year in England and China; AEGOS using GEONetCast was proposed as a possible showcase for the Summit.

7. Rik Leemans (The Netherlands) gave a presentation on the START (Global Change System for Analysis, Research, and Training) project, coordinated by the Earth System Science Partnership; START comprises a series of research-driven capacity building activities to engage scientific community in developing countries; the project includes fellowship programs, a scientific journal and several outreach activities; possible synergies with GEO/CBC have been discussed; contact: Martin Rice, ESSP Coordinator, mrice@essp.org.

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8. CB-09-05e: Hilcéa reviewed the background and main goals of this CEOS-led task, originally proposed by CSIR; actions completed last year comprise a seminar in Bangkok, a South-Asian user's survey, and a concept proposal submitted to the CBC-UIC GEO CFP; 2010 planned activities include a training workshop, to be held in Bangkok, and a concentrated effort of all CEOS space agencies to increase the volume of registered resources in the GEO Portal; discussion among participants on how to implement this sub-task with remarks from Gordon, Norberto and Alan.

9. Alan introduced the topic "CBC Participation on the Ministerial Summit". The roadmap to the 2010 summit and the essential elements to be showcased in Beijing have been reviewed (see also point 4); the proposal is **to develop a CBC showcase linking capacity building initiatives to data dissemination/delivery systems such as GEONetCast, SERVIR, CBERS and others (focus on services and products rather than on infrastructure); CBC also proposes to create a stand/pavilion in Beijing, organized around themes like disasters, food chain, climate change, in a highly visible and interactive way, with information being displayed and distributed in different languages (such as the six UN languages).**

Peter Zeil highlighted the need for coordination with other GEO committees. Norberto suggested the use in Beijing some of current hot issues that immediately attract the attention of politicians (climate change, REDD process, etc). Mark reminded that CB videos tend to be boring and that focus should be on people, presented through personal testimonials. Elina Piesca (Moldova) suggested the focus on disasters. CB outcomes showcased in Beijing must be very concrete and readily reproducible in developing countries, stressed Haman. Tyra agreed with Mark: CBC should tell a story showing how GEO is concretely helping people all over the world, (example SERVIR in Haiti). **Yolanda suggested inviting some donors to the ministerial. Alan proposes to bring this issue to the Ministerial Task Force Meeting in February.**

A “CBC ministerial task force” to be created. Volunteers to help the CBC co-chairs in this task force: Tyra, Carrie, Tânia, Guan Hong (China), Lieven Bydekerke (Belgium)

Key Words: focus on people; concrete actions; to tell a story; global coverage; high-profile longstanding issues; synergies among tasks; coordination with other committees

An email from GEO Sec (prepared by Alan) will be sent to all CBC members with instructions on how to submit proposals to the CBC stand in Beijing.

10. Fernando made a quick presentation on the features of the new Work Plan Management System and on how it can be used to update the task sheets. **PoCs to update task sheets following this approach ASAP.**

11. Andiswa announced the dates and venue of the next CBC meeting (co-located with the other committees) to be held on Pretoria, in South Africa, from 17 to 21 May 2010. The GEO WP Symposium will take place on the same week. **Brazil volunteered to host the first 2011 CBC meeting. A request of proposals to host the 2011 co-located meeting has been made.**

12. Yolanda and Fernando reviewed the meeting actions.

13. Mark and all the CBC co-chairs closed the meeting.