



GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

GEO-VII

3-4 November 2010

2011 GEOSS Evaluation Planning

Document 11

For information.

2011 GEOSS Evaluation Planning

1 INTRODUCTION

The document summarizes the lessons learned from the 2010 Evaluation as well as the preparations for the 2011 Evaluation.

2 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE MID-TERM EVALUATION

On top of the findings and recommendations contained in the Report of the Mid-term Evaluation of GEOSS Implementation (Document 6), a number of lessons were learned while conducting the first evaluation and communicated by the Evaluation Team to the M&E Working Group and the GEO Secretariat.

Major points identified include:

- i. Schedule of successive evaluations from 2011 to 2015
Considering the efforts spent for the 2010 Evaluation, the original schedule developed by the M&E Working Group, as part of the M&E Framework Document, was deemed too ambitious and a more realistic phased approach is recommended to allow for in-depth evaluation of critical GEOSS components;
- ii. Composition of Future Evaluation Teams
Team composition should have broad geographic representation and include different skill sets, including knowledge of the target area, evaluation practices, computer applications and analysis techniques.
- iii. GEO bodies support to the Evaluation Team
The support that the Evaluation Team has received from the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group and from the GEO Secretariat was deemed not fully satisfactory, especially in consideration of the limited time available to perform the Evaluation. In particular the Team was expecting more detailed guidelines from the M&E Working Group and better support by the GEO Secretariat in using existing distribution lists to reach out individuals and in preparing the GEO Community to the upcoming evaluation.
- iv. Evaluation Outreach and promotion
Due to limited resources and not adequate preparations, many GEO community members were not aware of the Evaluation. The Team recommends that planning of the Evaluation outreach activities should take place upfront, in parallel with the appointment of the Evaluation Team, addressing also issues like unreliable web access.

3 2011 EVALUATION CONTENT AND PLANS

The M&E Working Group has already addressed the first lesson learned and has proposed to change from the original schedule, planning the following evaluations

- 2011 – 1 SBA and 1 Transverse Area;

- 2012-2014 – 3 SBAs and 2 Transverse Areas;
- 2015 – final comprehensive evaluation (all transverse areas and SBA's).

to a revised, more realistic evaluation schedule, including:

- 2011 – 2 Transverse Areas;
- 2012-2014 – 3 SBAs and 1 Transverse Area;
- 2015 – final comprehensive evaluation.

All other lessons are being considered and they will be addressed in due time in the definition and implementation of the 2011 evaluation.

According to this new evaluation schedule, the second evaluation, to be performed in 2011, will assess progress in two Transverse Areas: Architecture and Data Management. The reference for the evaluation will be constituted by the GEOSS Strategic Targets for Architecture and Data Management.

In agreement with the M&E Working Group, and to allow more time to the Evaluation Team to perform its work, the call for nominations for the Evaluation Team has been issued by the GEO Secretariat at the end of July 2010. The call was made through a letter to GEO Principals and it was addressing the lessons learned concerning Evaluation Team composition and resources.

The plan is to begin the second evaluation in November 2010, by means of a joint meeting of the M&E Working Group and the Evaluation Team already scheduled for 17-19 November, and to submit the final evaluation report to the Executive Committee in June 2011. This will provide seven months to complete the process compared to the four that were available to conduct the 2010 evaluation.

At the time of issuing this document, the GEO Secretariat has received 7 nominations for the Evaluation Team, from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan and Pakistan. An update on nominations will be provided at GEO VII.