



WDS response to the Draft GEO Strategy Implementation Plan - Feedback

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This response has been submitted - Jan 31, 2025

Overview

We invite you to provide feedback on the draft GEO Strategy Implementation Plan, which outlines the activities GEO will undertake in collaboration with the community over the next five years. Your insights are crucial to ensuring the plan is clear, relevant, and actionable. Feedback can be submitted via this short online questionnaire between **Tuesday, 21 January 2025, and Monday, 31 January 2025.**

The SIP builds on GEO's Post-2025 Strategy: Earth Intelligence for All, published in 2023. This strategy sets a vision for advancing Earth Observation to address critical global challenges such as climate change, pollution, land degradation, and biodiversity loss.

<https://geosec.limequery.com/114534?lang=en>

The strategy is anchored by five goals:

- # Co-produce transformative programmes to deliver trusted Earth Intelligence;
- # Increase global equity by making Earth Intelligence more accessible;
- # Integrate new technologies and innovation into Earth Intelligence services;
- # Engage young people in the development of Earth Intelligence;
- # Invest in communication and advocacy to raise awareness and secure resources for Earth Intelligence.

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Thank you in advance for contributing to this important process. Your feedback will help shape a stronger and more impactful GEO for the future.

Response

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Organisation: World Data System (WDS)

Role: Associate Director, WDS International Technology Office

I am completing this survey on behalf of:

- GEO Member state
- GEO Observer
- GEO Participating Organisation
- GEO Associate
- Current or potential partner
- Other:

Please indicate which group you belong to (select all that apply).

Select all that apply

- User of EO
- Provider of EO
- GWP Initiative
- Regional GEO
- Government official
- Scientist / academic
- Private sector
- International organization
- Non-governmental organization
- Other:

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The aims and proposed activities within the Strategy Implementation Plan (SIP) are clear.

- very much agree
- agree to some extent
- no strong opinion
- disagree

The MAIN DOCUMENT information is at the correct level of detail

- very much agree
- agree to some extent
- no strong opinion
- disagree

The Annex A - PRELIMINARY ACTION TABLES provide useful additional detail.

- very much agree
- agree to some extent
- no strong opinion
- disagree

Please feel free to elaborate on any of your responses about the Strategy Implementation Plan Documents Overall. (Please note: the next section provides the opportunity to comment on the actions).

It would be advised to provide references to key external documents, such as the GEO Data Management Principles. Additionally, there are some very detailed items in the main text that are unclear and may be better suited to the annexe with additional context/rationale, such as mentions of multi-user licenses and generic licenses.

Do you agree with the proposed actions for Goal 1 - Co-produce transformative programmes to deliver trusted Earth Intelligence?

- I agree with the proposed actions
- I agree with most of the proposed actions
- I agree with some of the proposed actions
- Don't know

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Please share your views on the actions proposed in Goal 1 - Co-produce transformative programmes to deliver trusted Earth Intelligence.

For Objective 4, the promotion and implementation of the GEO Data Management Principles should include at least one review and revision of the Implementation Guidelines (<https://doi.org/10.60566/v56md-kqg97>) in this 5 year time-frame, as best practices/expectations are rapidly maturing. In particular, we can expect practices to fulfill AI-readiness and Indigenous data governance principles to be a major area of development.

Do you agree with the proposed actions for GOAL 2: Increase global equity through accessible Earth Intelligence?

- I agree with the proposed actions
- I agree with most of the proposed actions
- I agree with some of the proposed actions
- Don't know

Please share your views on the actions proposed in GOAL 2: Increase global equity through accessible Earth Intelligence?

For NEIRA, it would be helpful to provide a link to the readiness matrix and define criteria for country selection. In Objective 7 for Indigenous engagement, we'd suggest rewording of "implement an indigenous-led" project to "support" or "co-design" the project, as the Indigenous community are likely to be doing most of the implementation. Some additional context regarding the multi-user licenses would be helpful to understand this action. We support translation services with the six official UN languages for key GEO resources and events.

Do you agree with the proposed actions for GOAL 3: Integrate new technologies and innovations into Earth intelligence services?

- I agree with the proposed actions
- I agree with most of the proposed actions
- I agree with some of the proposed actions
- Don't know



Please share your views on the actions proposed in GOAL 3: Integrate new technologies and innovations into Earth intelligence services.

Not surprisingly, there is a substantive focus on AI-related activities. Collaboration opportunities with the World Data System could be explored, since there are numerous parallel interests, such as AI data readiness and dataset alignment with AI applications. It may be worthwhile to further examine how geospatial bias or other forms of bias in data influences AI-generated outcomes, and ways to mitigate or at least indicate known bias. Notably, the efforts to increase VHR and UAV data are a geospatial bias mitigation measure.

Digital twins and cloud computing are briefly mentioned in the high-level description, but not the objectives. There is one action in the annex about cloud computing, but none that mention digital twins. Perhaps those topics need a bit more substance, at least in terms of scoping work.

Do you agree with the proposed actions for GOAL 4: Increase participation of young people in the development of Earth Intelligence?

- ~~I agree with the proposed actions~~
- I agree with most of the proposed actions
- I agree with some of the proposed actions
- Don't know

Please share views on the actions proposed in GOAL 4: Increase participation of young people in the development of Earth Intelligence.

Note that the World Data System has an Early Career Research Network. Joint activities could be considered.

Do you agree with the proposed actions for GOAL 5: Invest in integrated communication and advocacy activities to raise awareness and resources for Earth Intelligence?

- ~~I agree with the proposed actions~~
- I agree with most of the proposed actions
- I agree with some of the proposed actions
- Don't know



Please share your views on the actions proposed in GOAL 5: Invest in integrated communication and advocacy activities to raise awareness and resources for Earth Intelligence?

It may be helpful to ensure that the communication and advocacy activities span the new focus areas (including cross-cutting ones).

Please let us know if there is anything further you wish to mention about the draft Strategy Implementation Plan.

No additional comments.