

The First Assessment Report on the State of Global Earth Observation (FAR-GEO)

Proposal prepared by
Hans-Peter Plag for the STC

Motivation

Earth observations are critical for informed decision and policy making.

Informing decisions has to account for the fact that ...



... Earth is a very complicated system.

Do the decision makers have the information to keep planet Earth on a sustainable trajectory ...

Motivation

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Do we have all instruments we need in the cockpit of planet Earth so that our 'pilots' can make informed decisions?

Motivation

Earth observations are critical input for decision and policy making.

Designing a “sufficient” Earth observation system implies several iterative processes:

- * identification of key variables;
- * determination of spatial and temporal resolution, accuracy, latency, ...;
- * designing, implementing, operation observation infrastructure.

Iterations should be informed by coordinated assessments.

Current assessments of Earth observations needs and status within silos of science disciplines or societal benefit areas.

No comprehensive overall assessment of the state of Earth observations is available.

With GEO, a framework for a first comprehensive assessment is finally available.

The Proposal

GEO establishes the Intergovernmental Panel on Earth Observations (IPEO)

Mission of the IPEO: Organize the first assessment of Earth observations, and produce a “First Assessment Report on the State of Global Earth Observation (FAR-GEO)”

Model for the IPEO: IPCC (appropriately modified)

Produce the FAR-GEO based on published material, and have the FAR-GEO reviewed and agreed-upon by a wide scientific, technological, and end-user community.

Cover at least the nine SBAs of Earth observations as defined by the Second Earth Observation Summit (EOS)

Cover availability and versatility of observations, products, services, and information to end-users.

Schedule

Formal establishment of the IPEO through the EOS in 2010

FAR-GEO available for the next subsequent EOS, most likely in 2013

First draft of the report including an agreed-upon structure of the report should be available for the GEO Plenary in 2011

Complete draft report should be made available after review by selected groups of reviewers, representing the GEO Member Countries and the Participating Organizations for GEO Plenary in 2012

Wider review and a final agreement procedure between Plenaries in 2012 and 2013

Oversight of the process could rest with the Science and Technology Committee (STC). The IPEO should report to each of the STC meetings and the annual GEO Plenary meetings.



GOAL: FAR-GEO BY 2013

Potential Impact: Provision of international funds for closure of major gaps in Earth's cockpit ...
(as requested by Roy Gibson, IGOS-GEO Symposium, 20 Nov., 2009, Washington)