



Ref.: SCBD/OES/DC/RH/85940

2 September 2016

NOTIFICATION

Group on Earth Observations establishes National Contact Points for Data Sharing

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention a notification, through which the Secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) invites its member governments to nominate national contact points for data sharing in support of the GEO Data Sharing Working Group (attached herewith).

This work stream under GEO parallels and supports similar efforts under the Convention to “provide free and open access to all past, present and future public-good research results, assessments, maps and databases on biodiversity, in accordance with national and international legislation” (paragraph 3 of decision VIII/11 <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=11025>) and more recently “to further promote open access to biodiversity-related data and transparency in the development of derived metrics” (SBSTTA 19 recommendation XIX/2) which is supported by voluntary guidance to improve the accessibility of biodiversity-related data and information (see <https://www.cbd.int/recommendation/sbstta/default.shtml?id=13422>).

Parties that are GEO members are encouraged to liaise with their GEO counterparts (see <http://www.earthobservations.org/members.php>) to promote alignment and ensure synergies in the implementation of these efforts under the two instruments with a view to maximizing benefits for data mobilization, biodiversity monitoring and informed decision-making.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD and SBSTTA Focal Points



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Our Ref: 2016-108/GEO/DSWG
WC/sm

GEO Principals

Geneva, 25 August 2016

**Subject: Request To Establish National Contact Points for Data Sharing Within
GEO Member Governments**

Dear GEO Principal,

During the Mexico City Ministerial Summit, the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) adopted a new set of Data Sharing Principles that promote 'Open Data by default':

- Data, metadata and products will be shared as Open Data by default, by making them available as part of the GEOSS Data Collection of Open Resources for Everyone (Data-CORE) without charge or restrictions on reuse, subject to the conditions of registration and attribution when the data are reused;
- Where international instruments, national policies or legislation preclude the sharing of data as Open Data, data should be made available with minimal restrictions on use and at no more than the cost of reproduction and distribution; and
- All shared data, products and metadata will be made available with minimum time delay.

To adhere to, and implement, these principles, we need your support to identify and nominate an active national focal point, who would be critical to promote, implement, and monitor data sharing within your government.

We envisage that this national focal point will:

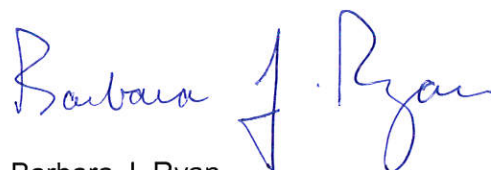
- Report on data sharing activities occurring within your government and support the GEO Data Sharing Working Group (DSWG) in preparing an annual report on national data sharing activities; and
- Work with the DSWG to distribute information on matters related to the benefits of broad, open data sharing.

The DSWG considers the amount of time for a national data-sharing focal point to be less than a few hours per month. The national focal point could be a DSWG member, or otherwise would be welcome to join the GEO DSWG, which has a monthly teleconference meeting. The minimum request, however, is that the national contact point responds to the relatively infrequent requests of the DSWG in assembling the annual report.

We would be grateful if you would provide the name and contact information of your national focal point to Ms Wenbo Chu (wchu@geosec.org) by 30 September 2016.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this request. The success of GEO has always depended on broad, open data sharing, and by working together on this issue we can achieve even more progress.

Yours sincerely,



Barbara J. Ryan
Secretariat Director