Panel Discussion
CB Strategy Development

São José dos Campos – 30 May 2006

Requirements for the GEO Capacity Building Strategy

A legible and attractive document that should:

1. Provide **principles, an overall framework and specific mechanisms** for co-ordination, contributions to and benefits from global EO capacity building efforts
2. Acknowledge and **embrace the CB efforts of all** main global and national organisations
3. **Make clear the gains for users and contributors** (incl donors and decision-makers) e.g.:
   - Access to information, resources and tools
   - Identification of needs and priorities (better targeting of effort)
   - Means to enhance co-ordination and synergy (and avoid unnecessary overlaps)
   - Identification of lessons learned
   - Publicity for existing and planned activities
   - Transparency
4. Address **"why"** and **"how"** as well as **"what"** to do
5. Address needs for **balanced development of infrastructure, institutions & education and training**

6. Start with existing initiatives
7. Focus on **People, Data & Tools and Infrastructure**
8. Take account of the particular **needs of developing countries**
9. Include a focus on opportunities and **mechanisms for user input** (incl. through GEO User Interface Committee)
10. Provide for the development of **specific activities** and partnerships to address specific SBAs and particular needs (one size won't fit all)
11. Include all main aspects of geo-information production, analysis, management and use
12. Address integration of data and information into **decision-making and governance processes**

13. Include **short-term** as well as longer-term achievements
14. Include real examples/illustrations of successful CB activities
15. Include means of **assessment, evaluation** and identification of successful activities (incl. success criteria/indicators)
16. Address aspects such as:
    - Research
    - Socio-economic effects
    - Links between infrastucture, institutional and education/training
    - Distinction/ balance between remotely sensed and in situ observations
    - Mobility of actors
17. Maintain a clear relationship to:
    - GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan and GEO Work Plans and Tasks
    - Outputs of the other GEO committees/working groups

Some Outstanding Issues

1. Data access policies: **free access** to data and tools **vs "pay for a say"**/having something at stake? (Existing policies are starting point of Impl Plan; "Free" is distinct from "open" access)

2. Focus on **national, regional or global** implementation? (regional level)

3. Role/use of regional centres, **UN centres**? (use existing organisations/initiatives)

4. Focus on **established excellence, inadequately met needs** or areas of **highest potential** for added value

5. Focus on areas of maximum synergy with other GEO activities?
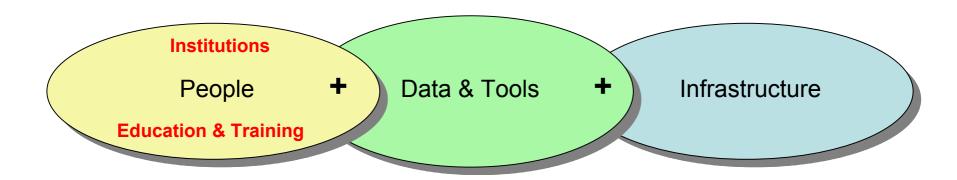
Some Specific Examples of Possible Activities

- Database of GEO CB activities and organisations (using existing survey as basis)
- Web-based portal ("one-stop shops") for:
  - Data, information and tools
  - Infrastructure projects
  - Institutional development activities
  - Education and training initiatives
  - Appeals and offers of services/exchanges?
- Harmonisation of data access policies
- Mutual recognition of qualifications and accreditation
- GEO affiliation or "accreditation" mechanisms (GEO badge)
- Twinning and grouping of institution and activities
- Development of standards / adoption of best practice
- Creation of publicity/outreach materials for successful activities

GEO CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

"LOWERING THE BARRIERS"

Institutions

People **+** Data & Tools **+** Infrastructure

Education & Training

"LIVE TOGETHER, TALK AND CONVERGE"

Suggested Timetable

- June/July 2006 – Initial development by small core team (based on subset of CB task lead organisations; 5-10 persons?

- Early Sept 2006 - 1st draft (to be discussed by CB Committee at meeting and/or by e-mail exchange)

- Mid Oct 2006 - 2nd draft submitted to GEO community with other GEO-III plenary documents

- Early Feb - CB Symposium, Granada, Spain

- Reviews – annual/biennial (tied to GEO Work Plans)