“Development of a GEOSS Gap Analysis Strategy”

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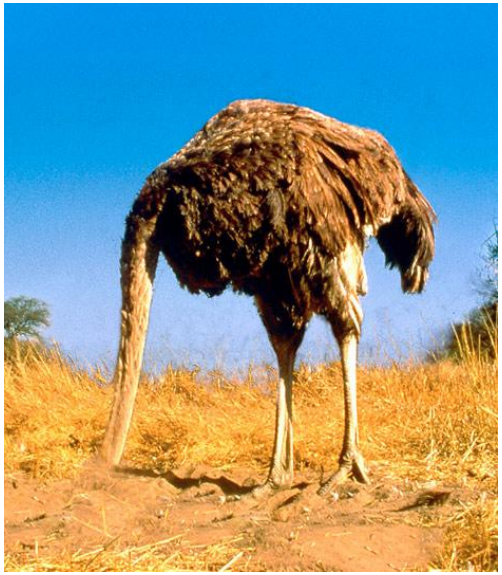
Why undertake a gap analysis?

- Because we said we would!
- We are in a unique position to identify and address gaps across domains and societal benefit areas.
- Important to understand our weaknesses
- Will allow us to articulate opportunities to GEO community
- We can’t afford to have our head in the sand



Issues identified and explored by group

- Significant activity across the GEO community either completed or proposed, but relatively uncoordinated
- There are a range of gaps important to GEO (geographic, temporal, observational, structural, qualitative/quantitative and capacity)
- Timing of analyses an issue, not all are needed at same time
- There is value in identifying duplication or overlaps as well as gaps
- The need to view gaps as opportunities, not threats.
- The need to agree on some common prioritization principles (as a GEO community) which can be used for prioritization.

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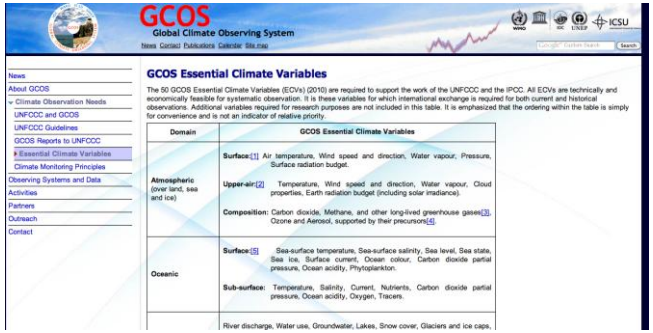
Proposed approach- 5 Actions

- SBA- or Domain-focused gap analysis (existing, with some gaps);
- Structural gap analysis (proposed);
- Observational gap analysis (partly existing/proposed);
- Periodic meta-analysis of gaps (proposed);
- Development of GEOSS Prioritization Principles (proposed).

SBA or Domain Focused Analyses

- Lots of existing activity in some domains/SBAs
- Many areas where this has not been done
- Timing dependent on domains or Communities of Practice
- Majority of activity across GEO is this style of assessment to date.

- GEO should encourage this activity to continue and perhaps catalyze activity to undertake SBA analyses where these don't already exist.



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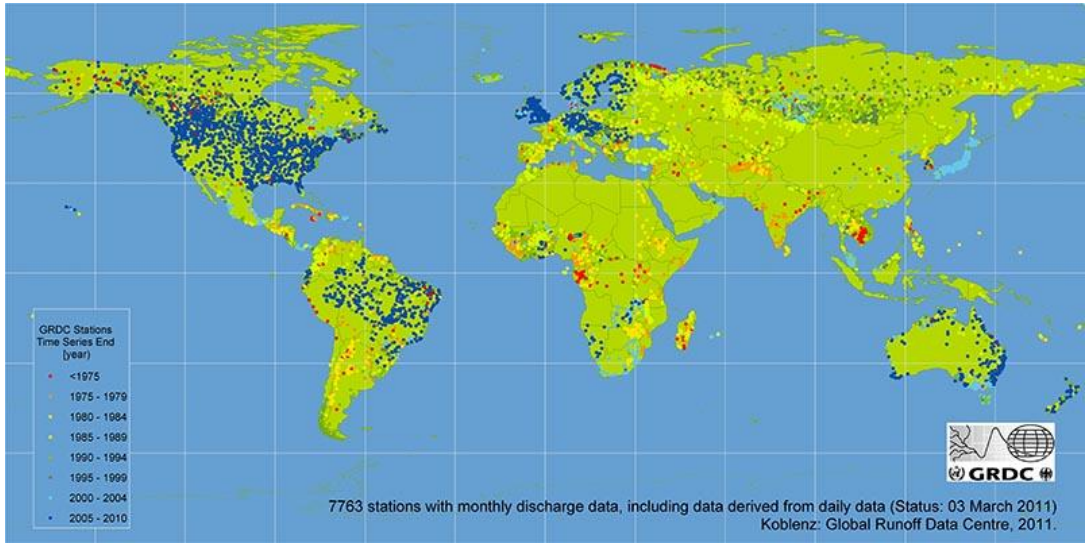
Structural Gap Analysis

- Examines whether GEO Work Plan, structures, committees, tasks and activities are internally consistent and will lead to the achievement of the GEOSS strategic targets.
- Do the pieces of GEOSS fit together logically and coherently?
- Are the outputs of some tasks consistent with expectations of other tasks (ie. do the building blocks connect?)
- What adjustments are necessary to achieve internal consistency?
- Should happen in synchronization with GEOSS Workplan renewal.

Observational Gap Analysis

- Cross domain/SBA structured process for observational gap analysis covering observation specifications and parameters, geographical and temporal coverage, and observation and information accessibility and quality.
- STC's EOCA proposal and UIC's US-09-01a: Critical Earth Observation Priorities report are both attempting to directly address this need, but differing in methodology.
- Best approach perhaps to combine efforts.
- Timing perhaps every 5 years



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Periodic Meta Analysis of Gaps

- Summary of findings across other three analyses, brought together into single document for the information of Plenary
- Prioritization according to agreed principles
- Articulated far enough in advance of GEO Ministerial to allow actions to address gaps (provides announcables for ministers)
- Meant primarily as desktop analysis of other analyses

Development of GEO Prioritisation Principles

- Need to define common GEOSS Prioritization Principles or GEOSS Common Values to inform relative prioritization of gaps within a GEOSS Gap Analysis Strategy.
- Would not over-ride Member or Participating organizations' own prioritization processes, but would articulate the shared principles whereby an agreed GEO prioritization may occur.
- Principles could be: number of people/communities expressing need, degree of contribution to meeting MDGs, degree of consistency with GEOSS Data Sharing Principles, continuity of measurements rating higher than new measurement types, value for money…..etc
- One–off process needed to agree on these across GEO.

Outcomes

- The cross cutting Gap analysis has now been included in the new workplan as a new task
- Detailed methodology and resource requirements for aech style of analysis are still to be developed, likely over the next month or two.
- More detailed plan to be considered by ExCom in July
- Potential funding agencies may wish to influence this process now to ensure funding priorities are reflected in gap assessment process.
- EGIDA can perhaps play a role in ensuring this happens?

Acknowledgements

- **ACTION TEAM MEMBERS**

- Stuart Minchin (STC),Yana Gevorgyan (M&E) (Co-Chairs)
- Lawrence Friedl (UIC), Gary Foley (UIC), Jai Parihar (UIC), Craig Larlee (M&E) Andiswa Melissa (CBC), Hans-Peter Plag (CZCP/GHCP), Thierry Ranchin (UIC/Energy CoP), Johanna Tamminen (Atmospheric Chemistry CoP/ WMO-IGACO-03/UV), Richard Gross (GGOS/IAG), Anne Larigauderie(GEO BON), Rob Jongman (GEO BON), Bob Scholes (GEO BON), Michele Walters (GEO BON), Rick Lawford (IGWCO), Gilles Ollier (EC), Michael Nyenhuis (UIC/Germany)

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