EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
International Cooperation in Earth Observation Missions (1)

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AMERIGEOSS: A GEO REGIONAL INITIATIVE FOR THE AMERICAS

Abstract

The AmeriGEOSS initiative is a framework that seeks to promote collaboration and coordination among the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) members of the American continent, "to realize a future wherein decisions and actions, for the benefit of the region, are informed by coordinated, comprehensive and sustained Earth observations and information". The Americas Caucus members (Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States, and Uruguay) have recognized the value of working together as one region to meet GEO objectives. In October 2014, the AmeriGEOSS initiative was born as a way to continue the progress made at that meeting in identifying regional needs GEO can address. The GEO Americas Caucus endorsed and presented the initiative to the GEO-XII Plenary and Ministerial in Mexico City last November 2015.

The initiative is focused on the four GEO Societal Benefit Areas prioritized by the Americas Caucus members: food security and sustainable agriculture, disaster resilience, water resources management, and biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability. Foundational activities, e.g. data infrastructure and capacity building, are also a focus. Through this initiative, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) agencies and GEO Ministerial and other end users are joining to apply space-based and in-situ Earth observations for societal benefit. By leveraging and tailoring GEO global initiatives such as the GEO Global Agricultural Monitoring System (GEOGLAM), the GEO Global Water Sustainability (GEOGLOWS), and the new Pole-to-Pole Marine Biodiversity Network (mBON), the initiative seeks to make the applications of Earth observations affordable for all in the region. These global initiatives are tailored and linked to local activities, to meet the regional needs.