IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
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TOOLS TO ENABLE UN MEMBER STATES AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL TO USE EARTH OBSERVATIONS TO HELP DELIVER THE UN SDG

Abstract

While Earth Observations (EO) are a critical data source for monitoring and driving progress against global policy frameworks, UN member states do not always recognize or have the capacity to leverage this value. A current gap exists in value demonstration and practical guidance on using EO to plan, monitor, and drive progress on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in a timely manner, with a particular focus on integrating remotely sensed data with ground-based observations and ancillary data sources. The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) EO4SDG initiative has initiated the development of customizable and continually updated SDG EO toolkits, in close collaboration with SDG custodian agencies, GEO thematic and regional activities, UN member countries, and other stakeholders. The key purpose of these toolkits is to serve the needs and interests of national to local governments who need high quality EO data to inform their domestic and international reporting requirements and development needs. The EO toolkits are designed to facilitate knowledge sharing, interlinking national experiences, and foster understanding between technical analysts and decision makers of the role and contributions of EO in tracking progress, monitoring, and implementing the SDGs. These toolkits also serve as a guide and first step for countries and relevant stakeholders interested in learning about examples of where others are applying EO to track and drive progress against relevant SDG targets and indicators.