**Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)**

**Biodiversity Study Team (BST)**

**Draft Terms of Reference V1.0**

As the 2024 CEOS Chair, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) championed Biodiversity as a key priority for CEOS. It was a banner year that elevated the CEOS commitment to engage partners and stakeholders on Biodiversity and to agree on the internal CEOS resolve to take steps that will define the role it can uniquely play and the framework or mechanism to do so.

The 2024 CEOS Plenary established a Biodiversity Study Team (BST) with a one-year duration that will end at the CEOS Plenary on November 4-6, 2025, in Bath, U.K. The study team has been asked to complete four main tasks:

* Conduct a stakeholder assessment;
* Consult across CEOS entities and agencies to leverage existing practices on biodiversity and implement lessons learned and recommendations;
* Assess the options for sustainable support for biodiversity in CEOS;
* In collaboration with the CEOS executive officer, develop supporting documentation for the recommended option.

**Leadership**

The BST will need to coordinate the main tasks in a cohesive and participative manner. Its membership may decide by consensus on two but no more than three co-leads, consistent with the CEOS governance standard (Reference: page 3 of the CEOS Virtual Constellation Process Paper and page 7 of the CEOS Governance and Processes guiding document).

Given the short time frame to complete its work, the BST can confirm or invite individual members to lead one or more specific subtasks.

Similarly, before developing supporting documents such as the proposal with the final recommendation, Terms of Reference, and an Implementation Plan for vetting and socialization at the September 2025 SIT Technical Workshop and final decision at the November 2025 CEOS Plenary, BST co-leads can assign different individuals to coordinate efforts that later converge to accomplish complementarity and consistency in the final products and meeting presentations.

**Timeline and Approach**

April 8-10, 2025

CEOS SIT-40 Meeting

Potential side meeting at SIT-40 in Fukuoka, Japan. Purpose and objectives to be defined by BST telecon discussions. The BST must also be on the formal meeting agenda with one or two presenters.

Sept. 9-11, 2025

CEOS SIT Technical Workshop

A must-have side meeting to socialize the mature but not finalized versions of the Proposal, Implementation Plan, and Terms of Reference for a permanent entity or other model. The BST must also be on the formal meeting agenda with one or two presenters.

\*\*\*Two weeks before\*\*\* provide drafts to JAXA SIT Chair team for online posting and agency review.

November 4-6, 2025

CEOS Plenary

A must-have side meeting to build support for the final recommendation that will be decisional over the next two days. The side meeting objective is to pave the way for multiple positive interventions in support of the case that was made by the BST, the final recommendation, and the polished supporting documents. The BST must be on the formal meeting agenda with one or two presenters.

\*\*\*Two weeks before\*\*\* provide drafts to UKSA CEOS Chair team for online posting and agency review.