

# CEOS SEC Report

(two pages max.)

**Entity:** CEOS Chair Team

**Prepared By:** NASA

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## Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference

### (Dot points)

- ❖ Troika: The meeting on April 29 welcomed Selma Cherchali as incoming CEOS Chair, as well as her CNES team. There is agreement in the Troika on the need to engage CEOS Members and Associates to participate in CEOS technical groups and activities overall. Approaches include:
  - Encouraging new Members and Associates to participate in CEOS activities as a building block toward holding leadership roles in the future;
  - Encouraging CEOS Principals to consider engagement by their subject matter experts as a benefit to their own programs and to CEOS with burden sharing;
  - Encouraging CEOS Agencies to consider making other contributions when they cannot take on leadership roles in the WGs, VCs, AHTs (e.g., Deputy CEOS Executive Officer; Disasters Coordination Team (DCT) lead for the WGDisasters, and being members of WGs, VCs, and AHTs);
  - Encouraging CEOS Agencies in all regions to approach CEOS as a forum for international cooperation on the delivery of EO products for which they can choose to mentor future representatives and plan accordingly; and
  - Actively pursuing broader inclusion across the range of CEOS roles.
  - There is also consensus in the Troika on the importance of building and preserving institutional memory so that CEOS can continue to function effectively, advance its important work, and evolve with new people over time.
  
- ❖ Review of Actions: The Chair team and CEO reviewed and updated the open actions listing. Comments from the SEC are welcome.

## Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference

### (Dot points),

- ❖ As noted on the final SEC-279 meeting agenda.

## Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations

(Dot points, e.g. outputs, new products, papers, technical reports, media, pipeline and new projects, interactions, project status changes, new opportunities)

- ❖ Future CEOS Chairs: Now and in the past, the SEC has done a good job of being ahead of the curve on this aspect of CEOS governance. Along these lines, as SEC members we should all be thinking of the geographic rotation over the coming years. As you know, in the CEOS Terms of Reference, the three geographic regions are: Europe/Africa; Asia/Pacific-Oceania; Americas.

2022 – CNES from the Europe/Africa region (*confirmed at SIT-36 Special Plenary Session*)

2023 – Agency from the Asia/Pacific region (*for endorsement at the 2021 CEOS Plenary*)

2024 – Agency from the Americas region (*for endorsement at the 2022 CEOS Plenary*)

## **Upcoming meetings or events**

**(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Climate Observations Conference of CGMS and WCRP (Aug. 30-Sept. 2; virtual event): The CEOS Chair has been invited to give a presentation on “satellite observations – capabilities and needs” on Sept. 1.
- ❖ IAC (Oct. 25-29; Dubai): The CEOS Chair has been invited to give a presentation on “Earth Observation International Cooperation” during Session B1.1. on Monday, Oct. 25. The segment consists of 30 minutes (presentation and Q & A).
- ❖ COP26 (Nov. 1-12; Glasgow): We contacted the U.S. Department of State regarding the Annual Joint Statement from Space Agencies to SBSTA. We received a “yes” on the matter of a member of the U.S. Delegation delivering the Joint Statement.
- ❖ CEOS Plenary (Nov. 1-4; Virtual): As we mentioned during SEC-278, the plan is to have a virtual plenary over 4 days (3 hrs. each day). On two days, there will be an early start on the U.S. East Coast, and on two days there will be a start time that favors Asia/Pacific and the Pacific coast of the U.S. We see this approach as being more equitable across CEOS and also discussed it with the Troika. Because these dates coincide with the first few days of COP26, the CEOS Chair team will make every effort to deconflict the scheduling of presenters and participants who will need to engage in COP26.

## **Attachments**

**(e.g. pictures, figures, graphs, links – for use in overall CEOS reporting and as website resources etc.)**

## CEOS SEC-279 Report

**Entity:** SIT Chair Team

**Prepared By:** J. Ross (GA) & CSIRO

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### Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference

- Nil.

### Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference

#### SIT TW 2021

- SIT Technical Workshop 2021 will be a fully virtual event to take place over an approximately two-week period from 6 September to 16 September inclusive.
- Week 1 commencing 6 September: Informal time for groups to get together, have discussions and prepare materials on specific topics. Largely “self-organised” by groups themselves providing maximum flexibility. SIT Chair Team representative will call in to sessions whenever possible but there will be no expectation others will.
- Week 2 commencing 13 September: Formal whole group sessions focussing on items required for Plenary. During the week there will be 3x2-2.5 hour sessions held in the usual time slots on 14, 15 and 16 September..

### Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations

#### Working Teams

- The 4th Working Teams All Hands call took place Tuesday. Main discussion topics included: ARD beyond land and the ARD governance framework; the GST Strategy; and CEOS website updates (e.g., ceos.org/observations).
- A round of VC ‘chats’ with the SIT Chair Team to get caught up on current status and activities is currently being planned for May-June.

#### Carbon & Biomass

- The Global Stocktake Strategy team met for the 4th time by telcon on 27th April and established a good consensus around the latest version of the Strategy paper. No further comments have been received on the updated version. SIT Chair and Vice-Chair Teams plan to revisit the paper at SIT TW, with a view to endorsement at CEOS Plenary. Sincere thanks to all who contributed and especially the SIT Vice-Chair team for leading the paper. A short report will be provided to SEC on the telcon.
- SIT Chair team has had discussions with WGISS, SEO and the AFOLU and GHG Task Teams and will commence definition and development of a dedicated portal on ceos.org for the presentation of the full range of datasets and guidance under preparation for COP-26. Ideally this will be a multilingual affair. More on this in the coming months.
- The AFOLU roadmap team work continues apace with the identification of baseline and enhanced product options for each of the main land sector datasets prioritised for COP-26 and beyond. The multi-mission biomass team is the only effort focusing on an enhanced product in 2021. The team will focus on ensuring inputs to COP-26 before attending to a broader roadmap from 2022.
- The Forest Biomass Reference System concept which evolved from the Biomass workshop in Canberra in March 2020, has been accepted as a GEO Community Activity. (Full name: Forest Biomass Reference System from Tree-by-Tree Inventory Data). The activity will be identified as GEO-TREES. The key activities during the 2021-2022 GEO work programme are to:

- 1. Set up the GEO-TREES activity, in particular establish the structure of the project and the governance model.
- 2. Identify and reach out to potential partners to support a GEO-TREES coordination office.
- 3. Consolidate an implementation plan and funding roadmap for the Forest Biomass Reference System.
- 4. Link the activity with the GEO GFOI (regarding forest biomass activities) and GEO-BON (regarding forest biodiversity activities) Flagships.
- 5. Identify and reach out to potential funding partners and seek systematic funding for the Forest Biomass Reference System.
- Point of Contact: Klaus Scipal (Klaus.Scipal@esa.int)

#### SDGs

- Current target for the SDG AHT is to pursue the SIT-36 decision: *“CEOS SIT agreed to focus on the development of two options for the future of the SDG Ad Hoc Team for presentation at Technical Workshop and then Plenary: “Option 1 Full Scale” (i.e. Working Group); and, “Option 2 Federated” (i.e. coordination of existing entities).”*.
- Resource constraints due to the non-availability of key AHT members (personal leave) has slowed progress, and delayed the next call and milestones until May.

#### ARD

- The draft of a CEOS ARD Governance Framework that is applicable to all domains (i.e., beyond just land) will be presented at the 4th Working Teams All Hands. The opportunity is being used to introduce the document and cover the background and rationale. Follow-up discussions will be arranged with the VCs for a deeper dive into the specifics.
- LSI-VC-10 teleconferences are being held this week and next. CARD4L is a key topic, including discussions on upcoming PFS and ongoing assessments of agency datasets. The CEOS ARD Governance Framework will also be discussed, along with the CEOS ARD Strategy v2, which is planned for presentation to SIT TW and CEOS Plenary later this year.

#### **Upcoming meetings or events**

- Technical Workshop 2021: Current plan is to be held as a virtual event over two weeks. The first week will have self-organised sessions with narrower thematic/topical focus and self organised. The second week will be more structured, debriefing from each thematic discussion.
  - Week 1: 6th September
  - Week 2: 13th September with three 2-2.5h sessions planned.

# CEOS SEC-279 Report

**Entity:** CEO

**Prepared By:** Marie-Claire Greening

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**Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference  
(Dot points)**

**Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference  
(Dot points)**

- **COP-26**
  - UKSA are waiting on news on the format of the meeting and which of their proposals will be taken forwards as “official” COP-26 events.
  - UKSA, WGClimate and the CEO have set up shared workspace to share information on COP-26.
- **GEO Symposium 2021**
  - To be held 21-24 June as a virtual event:  
<https://earthobservations.org/symposium2021.php>
  - Deadline for submission of parallel or “spotlight” sessions is now past, but if you would like to provide a late submission let Marie-Claire know as they may still be considered.

**Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations  
(Dot points, e.g. outputs, new products, papers, technical reports, media, pipeline and new projects, interactions, project status changes, new opportunities)**

- **CEOS Comms**
  - Working with the SEO to improve social media outreach
  - Considering ways to improve corporate branding across the various CEOS websites

**Upcoming meetings or events  
(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- 18-20 May GEO Programme Board #20
- Virtual meetings with all Virtual Constellations throughout May / June

**Attachments  
(e.g. pictures, figures, graphs, links – for use in overall CEOS reporting and as website resources etc.)**

- Updated CEOS calendar of meetings / events attached to this report. If any key meetings or events are missing from the calendar, please contact Marie-Claire.

# CEOS SEC Report

*(two pages max.)*

**Entity:** WGDisasters

**Prepared By:** David Green (NASA), Pierric Ferrier (CNES), Dave Borges (NASA)

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## **Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

- WGDisasters Data Coordination Team (DCT) Lead role discussed during SEC-278 remains vacant.

## **Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

- GEO GSNL Nicaragua Supersite Virtual CEOS Endorsement Request. WGDisasters has recently completed the vetting process, to include relevant WG member agency data sharing agreements, and approved this new Supersite. Unfortunately these steps could not be completed prior to SIT-36. The ongoing volcanic eruption status of the San Cristobal Volcano (included in new Supersite area) adds urgency to this request. The proposed Supersite Coordinator (INETER) would benefit now from image acquisition requests that Supersite status will make available, rather than waiting until CEOS Plenary 2021 to request CEOS endorsement.

## **Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations**

### **(Dot points, e.g. outputs, new products, papers, technical reports, media, pipeline and new projects, interactions, project status changes, new opportunities)**

- Volcano Demonstrator has held several meetings with ICEYE representatives, and an exploratory data sharing partnership is being considered, that would highlight how ICEYE imagery would have a tangible impact on monitoring eruption volcanoes responsively.
- Wildfire Pilot's new webpage, within WGDisasters, is now live and includes key Pilot information to include an overview, objectives, outcomes, milestones and schedule.

## **Upcoming meetings or events**

### **(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- WGDisasters Telecon-29, June 2021
- GEO Virtual Symposium, 21-24 June 2021
  - GEO DRR WG developing DRR engagement priority session. CEOS WGDisasters Flood Pilot will likely support and give presentation.

# CEOS SEC Report

(two pages max.)

**Entity:** WGClimate

**Prepared By:** Albrecht von Bargaen (DLR)

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## **Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

- Use cases: action items clarified; some more use cases submitted; letter to principals under draft;

## **Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

## **Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations**

**(Dot points, e.g. outputs, new products, papers, technical reports, media, pipeline and new projects, interactions, project status changes, new opportunities)**

- CGMS WGs meeting with presentation of WGClimate activities
- Preparation of CGMS plenary
- Information exchange platform for COP-26
- Use case web publication: meeting with NOAA / NCEI staff to publish following the “first come first serve” principle (currently)
- Drafting of letter to the principals wrt use cases under work

## **Upcoming meetings or events**

### **(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- 2nd Climate Observation Conference organised by GCOS & WCRP with support of EUMETSAT; August 30 – September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021; *virtual conference*

## **Attachments**

**(e.g. pictures, figures, graphs, links – for use in overall CEOS reporting and as website resources etc.)**

# CEOS SEC Report

(two pages max.)

**Entity:** WGCapD

**Prepared By:** Nancy Searby (Chair/NASA) & Pham Thy (Vice Chair/VNSC)

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## **Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

- WGCapD continues to look for a new incoming Chair and Vice Chair; consultations continue among CEOS leadership, WGCapD chair and principals on the next steps in identifying members who will take on chair and vice-chair roles starting in October 2021.

## **Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

- None

## **Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations**

### **(Dot points, e.g. outputs, new products, papers, technical reports, media, pipeline and new projects, interactions, project status changes, new opportunities)**

- WGCapD members are working on executing the 2021-2023 work plan that includes 33 deliverables (28 to be implemented in 2021 calendar year, 4 – in 2022, 1 – in 2023). Updates are captured monthly in the shared work plan document, with main developments reflected in the CEOS deliverables tracking tool.
- CB-18-06: Advanced Multi-lingual MOOC on Radar Backscatter is now officially closed, 4 MOOCs now available on the EO College Portal. Link for a MOOC in English is <https://eo-college.org/courses/basic-principles-of-radar-backscatter>
- After compiling feedback from members, final WGCapD-10 meeting report is available on CEOS website at [ceos.org/meetings/wgcapd-10](https://ceos.org/meetings/wgcapd-10).
- As a part of the CB-21-10 deliverable, VNSC conducted a webinar on *Using Satellite Imagery in Urban Planning and Development* on April 15, recording available WGCapD's E-Learning page [HERE](#). Next webinar in the series is planned for June 15<sup>th</sup>
- The Jupyter Notebook Webinar, a joint deliverable CB-20-04 with WGISS, is planned for July 21-22, 2021. Organizers are using WGCapD's branded webinar toolkit materials and are still looking for experts with insight into the relevance (and challenges) of using Jupyter Notebooks for capacity development to serve on the panel.
- A set of thematic observation area icons to be used in CEOS-sponsored webinars and presentations was redesigned following member feedback. Please see the draft in the attached.
- EOTEC DevNet pilot endorsed by CGMS WGIV, plenary presentation is next. Astrid-Christina Koch from European Commission featured EOTEC DevNet in UNCOUOS STSC presentation. A Task Team is being established to advance planning for upcoming Regional Exchanges on June 14 and networks' leadership meetings in September.

## **Upcoming meetings or events**

### **(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- WGCapD Monthly Meeting on June 2, 2021
- EOTEC DevNet regional meetings are planned for June 14



# CEOS SEC Report

*(two pages max.)*

**Entity:** WGCV

**Prepared By:** Akihiko Kuze (JAXA) Philippe Goryl (ESA)

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## **Issues requiring discussion/decision during current CEOS SEC teleconference**

### **(Dot points)**

Input from WGCV was received by Prof. Liping Di, the convener of ISO TC211.  
ISO 19159 series of standards: the pre-launch cal/val of instruments  
ISO 19124 series of standards the post-launch cal/val of remote sensing instruments/products

## **Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations**

Application from NASA to sequester some subset of Railroad Valley (RRV) for use in Vicarious Calibration

## **Upcoming meetings or events**

### **(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- CEOS LPV Plenary :May 26, 27
- WGCV-49: June 29-July 2 (virtual, 4-day, 2-hour each day)
- WGCV-50: Early 2022 (Tokyo, Japan)

# CEOS SEC Report

**Entity:** GEO SEC

**Prepared By:** Doug Cripe (GEO Secretariat)

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## **Upcoming meetings or events**

**(Dot points, e.g. meetings, conferences of relevance, visits)**

- 18-20 May – GEO Programme Board Meeting
- 21-24 June – GEO Virtual Symposium  
(<https://earthobservations.org/symposium2021.php>)
  - Still opportunity to submit session proposal
- 25 June – Proposal submission deadline for GEO-Microsoft Planetary Computer Programme ([https://earthobservations.org/geo\\_blog\\_obs.php?id=503](https://earthobservations.org/geo_blog_obs.php?id=503))

## CEOS SEC-279 Report – May 2021

**Entity:** SEO

**Prepared By:** Brian Killough (NASA)

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### Issues requiring discussion/decision during CEOS SEC teleconference

- None

### Updates on issues raised during the last CEOS SEC teleconference

- None

### Upcoming meetings or events

- The CEOS-SEO has submitted a proposal for a "parallel session" for the GEO Symposium on June 24. This session would be used to demonstrate the new Open Data Cube Sandbox running on Google Colab. This session will demonstrate the new tool, discuss ideas for future expansion of application algorithms and discuss how the tool might be used for future capacity building initiatives.

### Other highlights, activities, actions, projects, collaborations

- **Digital Earth Americas** - The SEO participated in the first of three workshops to support the Americas on April 15. These workshops, sponsored by CSIRO-Chile and the Australian Government, will identify the EO needs and challenges of the region and will advance the use of satellite data and Open Data Cube technologies. The workshops involve key local stakeholders (e.g. UNGGIM, AmeriGEO, INEGI, CEPAL) and country-level Government agencies and are consistent with the 2020 Aguascalientes Declaration objective to improve collaboration and the use of EO in the region.
- **Pacific Islands** - The SEO, as a CEOS representative, was asked to be part of the Interim Steering Group for Digital Earth Pacific. The first meeting was held on May 5. Stuart Minchen (South Pacific Consortium) is a Co-Chair of the steering group along Rosamond Bing (Tonga). Other members include GEO, NOAA, GA, and several other countries. The group intends to assess country needs, establish prototypes, and develop a business case for Digital Earth Pacific (DEP).