

41st CEOS Strategic Implementation Team Meeting (SIT-41)

Objectives and Agenda

14 – 16 April 2026

Hosted by NASA at the Beckman Center of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), [100 Academy Wy, Irvine, California, USA](https://www.nasem.org/)

HYBRID MEETING – Remote Connection Details on Last Page

**** ATTENDANCE AS PART OF OFFICIAL CEOS AGENCY DELEGATION ONLY ****

CEOS SIT-41 and its associated side meetings will facilitate discussions and decision-making at the CEOS Principal level, with a focus on strategic guidance regarding governance, stakeholders, and CEOS entities' accomplishment of deliverables.

In this first year of NASA's SIT Chair term, the meeting is an important opportunity to accelerate the two priorities: *Water Planet – Seeing Earth's Water from Space* and *Connected Data for Community Resilience*.

NOTE: A Water Quality Workshop will be held on April 13, 2026, also at the Beckman Center. Co-hosted by the current CEOS Chair (CSIRO and Team Australia) and the SIT Chair (NASA), the one-day workshop will focus on leveraging Earth observation data to address freshwater and coastal water quality challenges. Open to CEOS agency representatives and invited experts, the event offers an opportunity for collaboration on advancing actionable, scalable solutions through a catchment-to-coast approach.

SIT-41 Meeting Objectives

Organisational

1. Review the **2026-2028 update of the CEOS Work Plan**.
2. Discuss the **CEOS Decisions Types** document and consider the suggested conventions and definitions.
3. Gather feedback on the **CEOS Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Process Paper** and discuss its relation to and integration with the Decision Types document, with a view towards endorsing both later this year at the CEOS Plenary.
4. Endorse **CEOS Organisational GitHub governance** rules and procedures and confirm CEOS Principal positions on key decisions.
5. Endorse the **2026-2027 CEOS Communications Strategy**.
6. Endorse the Full Proposal and final Implementation Plan for the proposed **Biodiversity Virtual Constellation** and thereby establish the team. Confirm initial leadership and membership of the Virtual Constellation.
7. Share an update on the new **LSI-VC Wildfires Subgroup** – the response to Canada's call for an international wildfire coordination group in CEOS. Discuss membership as well as co-leadership alongside CSA/NRCan.

SIT Chair Priorities

Water Planet – Seeing Earth's Water from Space

8. Present preliminary work and the forward plan for the **Best Practice Guidance for Integrating Multiplatform/Multisensor Data for Water Science and Applications** deliverable. Discuss steps to strengthen coordination across CEOS Agencies to promote the acquisition, integration, and delivery of diverse water-related data. Gather feedback on the purpose, scope, and audience of guidance deliverables and identify potential contributors.
9. Present ideas for a **water thematic contribution to the 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy**, which will include several water product CEOS-ARD self assessments and identification of existing data needs and specific higher-level requirements for water (aquatic and terrestrial) applications across CEOS Agencies, WGs, and VCs.
10. Present the outcomes from the April 13, **CEOS Water Quality Workshop and discuss plans for continuation of this series** organised jointly by the CEOS Chair and SIT Chair teams. Solicit CEOS Agency participation and discuss invitations to external stakeholders for the workshop that will be held alongside the 2026 SIT Technical Workshop in Washington, D.C., USA.

Connected Data for Community Resilience

11. Invite thematic perspectives from the community, including on **Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL)** from WMO and WGDIs, the **International Wildfire EO Coordination Group**, and local Californian stakeholders involved with community resilience initiatives to establish additional context for this SIT Chair priority.
12. Discuss how CEOS interoperability (**WGISS Interoperability Handbook and Maturity Matrix**) and analysis-ready data (**CEOS-ARD**) initiatives can lead to **improvements in outcomes for community resilience**, starting with the example of The International Charter: Space And Major Disasters.
13. Present the **WGISS Interoperability Demonstrator** activities and discuss connections and opportunities for the overarching SIT Chair theme.
14. Brief CEOS Agencies on the **value chain and impact assessment** activities being planned by the SIT Chair team and welcome contributions.

CEOS Chair Theme

Positioning CEOS for Success in a Rapidly Changing Context

15. Provide an update on progress of the 2026 edition of the **CEOS Earth Observation Handbook**, which will have a focus on adaptation and resilience and is being produced by ESA in support of the CEOS Chair theme. Discuss gaps in case study representation across the thematic areas and seek CEOS Principal support to close them.
16. Present an update on development of the **2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy** and pose specific questions to CEOS Principals to confirm overarching strategic directions to enable subsequent technical decisions to take place at the joint WGCV-56 and LSI-VC-19 meeting the following week.
17. Brief CEOS Principals on the **CEOS in Schools** activities planned for 2026 and seek additional contributions from agencies.

Working Group and Virtual Constellation Priorities

18. Progress the initiative started by the JAXA SIT Chair team in 2025 to introduce more **consistent reporting on the status of the Virtual Constellations**. Present updated and consistent mission continuity charts in the SIT Chair's Virtual Constellation synthesis report.
19. Endorse the **WGCV Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol**.

20. Review progress on the three CEOS Carbon Roadmaps.
 - a. Review the latest draft of the **Aquatic Carbon Roadmap** produced by the OCR-VC and discuss the timeline towards its disposition at plenary.
 - b. The LSI-VC Forests and Biomass subgroup will present the latest work on **implementation of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) Roadmap**, make a call for additional participation in the subgroup, and encourage inputs to a **stocktake of CEOS AFOLU activities**.
21. Present four new WGDisasters projects (Landslides Follow-on, Wildfire II, Biodiversity, Drought) for the awareness of CEOS.
22. Present outcomes of the first **Essential Agriculture Variable (EAV) stocktake** undertaken by the LSI-VC GEOGLAM subgroup. Discuss the state of agency representation and confirm priorities and contributors to the next phase of the EAV stocktake.
23. Discuss the plan for the joint WGCV Land Product Validation Subgroup and GEOGLAM ***“Joint Workshop on Good Practices for Evapotranspiration Validation”*** and make a call for contributions.
24. Share the draft analysis from AC-VC on ***“Expanding the Geostationary Atmospheric Composition Constellation: Toward Global Coverage”***.
25. Review progress of the **Earth Observation Training, Education and Capacity Development Network** (EOTEC DevNet), an initiative supported by WGCapD, and consider connections to the SIT Chair priorities.
26. Discuss the work of the **International Coordination Group for Spaceborne SAR** (ICGS-SAR), including how to integrate their efforts into the CEOS framework.

Week at a Glance

SIT-41 will take place over two days, April 15-16, 2026 and will be preceded by a side meeting day on April 14, as well as the Water Quality Workshop on April 13. A 'Week at a Glance' overview can be found below.

Monday, April 13	Tuesday, April 14	Wednesday, April 15	Thursday, April 16
Water Quality Workshop (09:50 - 16:00) <i>Invitation and Outline</i> <i>Agenda</i> <i>Meeting link</i>	Side Meetings: ● SEC-346 (<i>closed meeting</i>) ● Aquatic Carbon Roadmap ● ICGS-SAR (<i>ICGS-SAR agencies, CEOS SEC, invited VC/WG Chairs/Leads</i>) ● Biodiversity Virtual Constellation ● CEOS Support for Adaptation & Resilience ● GEOGLAM ● 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy ● SIT Chair Priority #2: CEOS Value Chain ● CEOS Troika (<i>closed meeting</i>)	Welcome and Core Business Connected Data for Community Resilience Early Warnings for All Other Business	Water Planet Adaptation and Resilience: Thematic Topics Working Group & Virtual Constellation Topics Closing Session
	Icebreaker Event	Dinner Reception	

SIT-41 Supporting Documents

All items are for information, unless specified.

- 1.7: [CEOS 2026-2028 Work Plan](#)
- 2.1: [Draft 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy v0.0](#)
- 4.1: Biodiversity Virtual Constellation (B-VC) [for decision]
 - [Full Proposal](#)
 - [Terms of Reference](#) [for endorsement]
 - [Implementation Plan](#)
- 4.2: [CEOS Organisational GitHub Governance](#) [for endorsement]
- 4.3: [2026-2027 CEOS Communications Strategy](#) [for endorsement]

- 5.3: [Aquatic Carbon Roadmap](#)
- 7.3: [WGCV Land Product Validation \(LPV\) Subgroup Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol](#) **[for endorsement]**

Side Meetings: Tuesday, April 14

Shuttle bus departs 8am from Marriott Bayview Hotel

Hot buffet breakfast served at Beckmann Centre Dining Room from 8am to 9am

All day coffee 9am to 5pm; Morning snack 11am to 12pm; Afternoon snack 4pm to 5pm

Time	Side Meeting Room #1 (Balboa) Capacity: 35	Side Meeting Room #2 (Corotis) Capacity: 22	Side Meeting Room #3 (Newport) Capacity: 35	Side Meeting Room #4 (Laguna) Capacity: 22
09:00 - 09:30	09:00 - 10:00 SEC-346 (closed meeting)			
09:30 - 10:00	<u>POC:</u> Matt Steventon (CEOS Chair Team)			
10:00 - 10:30		10:00 - 11:00 ICGS-SAR (ICGS-SAR agencies, CEOS SEC, invited VC/WG Chairs/Leads)		
10:30 - 11:00	10:00 - 11:30 Aquatic Carbon Roadmap <u>POC:</u> Laura Lorenzoni (OCR-VC)	<u>POC:</u> Paul Rosen (ICGS-SAR)	10:30 - 12:00 Biodiversity Virtual Constellation <u>POC:</u> Gary Geller (NASA)	
11:00 - 11:30				
11:30 - 12:00	11:30 - 13:00 CEOS Support for Adaptation & Resilience			
12:00 - 12:30	<u>POC:</u> Jonathon Ross (GA, CEOS Chair Team)	12:00 - 13:00 GEOGLAM CANCELLED		
12:30 - 13:00				
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch			
14:00 - 14:30	14:00 - 15:00 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy			
14:30 - 15:00	<u>POC:</u> Matt Steventon (CEOS Chair Team)			
15:00 - 15:30	15:00 - 16:30 SIT Chair Priority #2: CEOS Value Chain			
15:30 - 16:00	<u>POC:</u> Dave Borges (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
16:00 - 16:30				
16:30-17:00		16:30 - 17:00 CEOS Troika (closed meeting) <u>POC:</u> Matt Steventon (CEOS Chair Team)		

Reception 5:30pm to 7:30pm on the Beckman Center Outdoor Dining Terrace

SIT-41 AGENDA

Day 1: Wednesday, April 15

Shuttle departs 8am from Marriott Bayview Hotel
 Hot buffet breakfast served at Beckmann Centre Dining Room from 8am to 9am
 All day coffee 9am to 5pm

Room: Huntington

All items are for information, unless specified.

Arrival / Teleconference Open		08:30	30 min
Session 1: Welcome and Core Business Moderator: Julie Robinson (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
1.1	Welcome and Opening Remarks <i>Julie Robinson (NASA, SIT Chair Team)</i>	09:00	15 min
1.2	Welcome from our host Dr. T Arul Mozhi, Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board, NASEM	09:15	5 min
1.3	SIT-41 Objectives <i>SIT Chair Team</i> Review of agenda sessions and headline objectives	09:20	15 min
1.4	Review of 2025 CEOS Plenary Actions <i>Matt Steventon, CEOS Chair Team</i>	09:35	10 min
1.5	CEOS Document Status and Handling Framework <i>CEOS Chair Team and CEOS Executive Officer</i>	09:45	15 min
1.6	CEOS Digital Object Identifier (DOI) Process Paper <i>Dave Borges (NASA, SEO)</i>	10:00	10 min
1.7	CEOS 2026-2028 Work Plan [PDF] <i>Lefteris Mamais (CEOS Executive Officer)</i>	10:10	20 min
	<i>Discussion/buffer</i>	10:30	15 min
Group Photo + Break (@ Palm Court 2)		10:45	25 min
Session 2: Connected Data for Community Resilience Moderator: Eleanor Pierel (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
2.1	2026 CEOS Analysis Ready Data (CEOS-ARD) Strategy	11:10	20 min

	<i>Ferran Gascon (ESA, CEOS-ARD Oversight Group Lead)</i> • Draft 2026 CEOS-ARD Strategy v0.0 • <u>Discussion</u>: Confirm overarching strategic directions		
2.2	WGISS Interoperability Maturity Matrix <i>Mirko Albani (ESA, WGISS; remote)</i>	11:30	10 min
2.3	WGISS Interoperability Demonstrators <i>Nitant Dube (ISRO, WGISS Chair; remote) and Damiano Guerrucci (ESA, WGISS Vice Chair; remote)</i>	11:40	15 min
2.4	CEOS Analytics Lab Resilience Interoperability Demonstrator <i>Dave Borges (NASA, SEO)</i>	11:55	15 min
2.5	CEOS Value Chain <i>Dave Borges (NASA, SEO)</i>	12:10	15 min
2.6	Impact Assessment <i>Ayia Lindquist (NASA, SIT Chair Team)</i>	12:25	15 min
	<i>Buffer/Discussion</i>	12:40	20 min
Lunch (@ Dining Room)		13:00	60 min
2.7	CEOS Chair Resilience Theme Introduction <i>Alex Held (CSIRO, CEOS Chair)</i>	14:00	5 min
2.8	2026 Earth Observation Handbook & Missions, Instruments and Measurements (MIM) Database Update <i>Marie-Claire Greening (ESA)</i>	14:05	10 min
2.9	Opportunities for CEOS Support to Adaptation & Resilience <i>Alex Held (CSIRO, CEOS Chair)</i>	14:15	10 min
Session 3: Early Warnings for All Moderator: Eleanor Pierel (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
3.1	Introduction to Early Warnings for All (EW4All) <i>Anthony Rea (WMO; remote)</i>	14:25	15 min
3.2	EW4All in the Asia-Pacific Region: Ensuring Data Access <i>Agnes Lane (Bureau of Meteorology, CEOS Chair Team; remote)</i>	14:40	15 min
3.3	WGDisasters EW4All Subgroup <i>Lóránt Czárán (UNOOSA, WGDisasters Chair; remote)</i> • <u>Discussion</u>: CEOS activities to support EW4All	14:55	15 min
	<i>Buffer/Discussion</i>	15:10	20 min

Break (@ Palm Court 2)		15:30	20 min
Session 4: Other Business			
Moderator: Dave Borges (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
4.1	Establishment of a CEOS Biodiversity Virtual Constellation (B-VC) [for decision] <i>Gary Geller (NASA, Biodiversity Study Team Co-Lead)</i> • Full Proposal • Terms of Reference [for endorsement] • Implementation Plan	15:50	30 min
4.2	CEOS Organisational GitHub Governance [for endorsement] <i>Dave Borges (NASA, SEO)</i>	16:20	10 min
4.3	2026-2027 CEOS Communications Strategy [for endorsement] <i>Libby Rose (SEO)</i>	16:30	10 min
4.4	CEOS in Schools: 2026 Programme Update <i>Agnes Lane (Australian Bureau of Meteorology, CEOS Chair Team; remote)</i>	16:40	10 min
4.5	International Coordination Group for Spaceborne SAR (ICGS-SAR) Update <i>Paul Rosen (NASA/JPL)</i> • <u>Discussion</u>: Possibility of becoming a CEOS entity	16:50	15 min
	<i>Buffer/discussion</i>	17:05	5 min
Adjournment of Day 1		17:10	

Dinner 5:30pm to 8:00pm @ Beckman Center Dining Room

Day 2: Thursday, April 16

Shuttle departs 8am from Marriott Bayview Hotel

Hot buffet breakfast served at Beckmann Centre Dining Room from 8am to 9am

All day coffee 9am to 5pm

Room: Huntington

All items are for information, unless specified.

Arrival / Teleconference Open		08:30	30 min
Session 5: Water Planet Moderator: Erin Urquhart (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
5.1	First Water Quality Workshop Outcomes <i>Alex Held (CSIRO, CEOS Chair)</i> Plans for September event (alongside SIT Technical Workshop)	09:00	15 min
5.2	SIT Chair Water Planet Activities <i>Erin Urquhart, Dave Borges (NASA, SIT Chair Team)</i> - Best Practice Guidance for Integrating Multiplatform/Multisensor Data for Water Science and Applications - CEOS Analysis Ready Data (CEOS-ARD) for water	09:15	30 min
5.3	Aquatic Carbon Roadmap [PDF] <i>Marie-Helene Rio (ESA, OCR-VC Co-Lead; remote)</i> <u>Discussion:</u> Timeline towards plenary	09:45	20 min
5.4	Validation of Atmospheric Observations Over the Oceans <i>Yasjka Meijer (ESA, GHG-TT Lead; remote)</i>	10:05	15 min
	Buffer/discussion	10:20	10 min
Break (@ Palm Court 2)		10:30	20 min
Session 6: Adaptation and Resilience: Thematic Topics Moderator: Eleanor Pierel (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
6.1	Earth Fire Alliance & CalFire <i>Mike Falkowski (Earth Fire Alliance), Phillip SeLegue (CalFire)</i>	10:50	20 min
6.2	International Charter: Space and Major Disasters <i>Mike Budde (USGS)</i> <u>Discussion:</u> Limitations and areas for improvement from a data interoperability perspective	11:10	20 min
6.3	LSI-VC Subgroup for Wildfire Observation Coordination	11:30	20 min

	Mark De Jong, Tracey Cooke (NRCan) - Justification and process <i>Discussion:</i> Co-leadership and membership		
6.4	CEOS Wildfire Portal Libby Rose (CEOS LSI-VC and MIM Database team)	11:50	10 min
6.5	WGDisasters Pilot Projects Lóránt Czárán (UNOOSA, WGDisasters Chair; remote) New pilots: Landslides Follow-on, Wildfire II, Biodiversity, Drought	12:00	20 min
	Buffer/discussion	12:20	10 min
Session 7: Working Group & Virtual Constellation Topics Moderator: Sid Boukabara (NASA, SIT Chair Team)			
7.1	Essential Agriculture Variable (EAV) Stocktake Alyssa Whitcraft (LSI-VC GEOGLAM Subgroup) - Agency representation in the subgroup and EAV stocktake <i>Discussion:</i> Priorities for the next phase of the EAV stocktake - WGCV Land Product Validation Subgroup and GEOGLAM “Joint Workshop on Good Practices for Evapotranspiration Validation”	12:30	20 min
	Buffer/discussion	12:50	10 min
Lunch (@ Dining Room)		13:00	60 min
7.2	Virtual Constellation Synthesis Report Sid Boukabara (NASA, SIT Chair Team) - Mission continuity charts - Commercial sector engagement in the Virtual Constellations	14:00	20 min
7.3	WGCV Land Product Validation (LPV) Subgroup Land Cover and Change Map Accuracy Assessment and Area Estimation Good Practices Protocol [for endorsement] Alexandra Tyukavina (UMD)	14:20	15 min
7.4	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) Roadmap Update Clement Albergel (ESA, LSI-VC Forests & Biomass Co-Lead)	14:35	15 min
7.5	Expanding the Geostationary Atmospheric Composition Constellation: Toward Global Coverage Emma Knowland, Ali Omar (NASA, AC-VC; remote)	14:50	15 min
7.6	WGCapD and EOTEC DevNet Yasha Moz (NASA, EOTEC DevNet)	15:05	20 min

	<i>Buffer/discussion</i>	15:25	15 min
Break (@ Palm Court 2)		15:40	20 min
Session 8: Closing Session Moderator: Julie Robinson (NASA, SIT Chair)			
8.1	NOSA 2027 CEOS Chair Priorities Preview ● Save the date: 2027 CEOS Plenary	16:00	10 min
8.2	Review of Actions & Decisions <i>SIT Chair Team</i>	16:10	20 min
8.3	Closing Remarks <i>Julie Robinson (NASA, SIT Chair), Alex Held (CSIRO, CEOS Chair)</i> ● Plan for 2026 SIT Technical Workshop ● 2026 CEOS Plenary Update	16:30	20 min
Adjournment of Day 2		16:50	

