



SUCCESS STORY

STIMULATING DEVELOPMENT OF A GEOSPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE IN GEORGIA



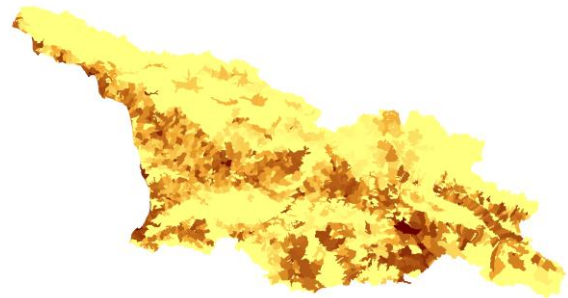
Georgian Delegation at GEO-X Plenary & Ministerial, 15 January 2014

The X Plenary Meeting of the Group on Earth Observations recognized Georgia as 90th Member of GEO. Georgia in its turn pledged to establish a functional coordinating mechanism within the country to further strengthen the Earth Observation capacity.

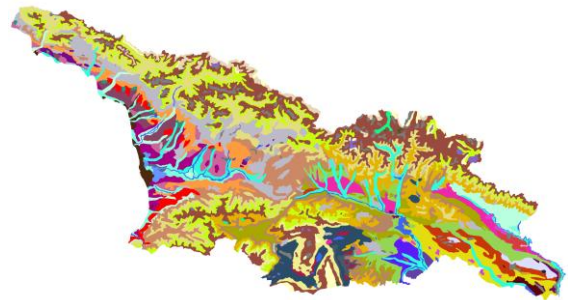
In line with national aspirations of the country, the selection was made to follow the European INSPIRE model. This is also in line with the agreement established in 2013 to join the EEA-compatible Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS), ultimately achieving a national policy of unrestricted access to public sources of data and information.

The agencies, which can contribute to populating various INSPIRE themes are the National Agency of Public Registry under the Ministry of Justice (a prototype geoportal is already provided at <http://maps.napr.gov.ge>), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, represented by the National Environmental Agency of the (responsible for meteorology, hydrology, ambient pollution monitoring datasets, competence in geology and geodynamic processes) and the Environmental Information and Education Centre (competent authority for the Aarhus Convention in Georgia), the Ministry of Agriculture (soils), other governmental agencies, various universities and research institutes (seismicity, geology), as well as non-governmental organizations and SMEs.

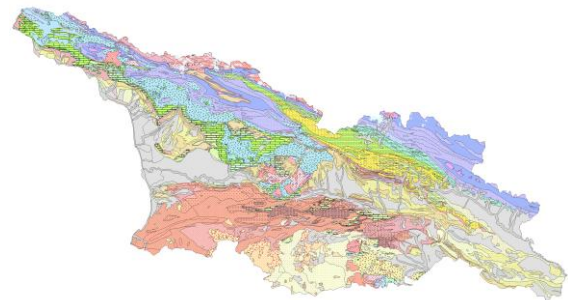
Various projects (international, national) contribute to GEO/GEOSS and INSPIRE processes (enviroGRIDS, PEGASO, IASON, etc.), while at least 11 INSPIRE themes are already available at national level. Cross-sectoral cooperation allowed identification of additional datasets depicted hereby, illustrating, that with proper coordination complementary resources can be identified.



Population (Source: GeoStat, <http://geostat.ge>)



Soils (Source: Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, <http://moa.gov.ge>)



Geology (Source: Institute of Geophysics, <http://www.ig-geophysics.ge/sakartvelo.html>)

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Open minded approach & political will of the government
- Support of various national agencies and organizations
- Readiness to share datasets by data holders
- Involvement and support of NGOs and private sector
- Stimulating role of EU's GEO capacity building projects
- Facilitation and support of GEO Secretariat


COOPERATING NATIONAL NETWORK






SUCCESS STORY

Letter of the Minister


 საქართველოს გარემოს დაცვის მინისტრი
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION OF GEORGIA


K.A06011751656313

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924 18 / March / 2013

To: Ms. Barbara RYAN
 Secretariat Director
 GEO – Group on Earth Observations
 7 bis, avenue de la Paix
 Case postale 2300
 CH-1211 Geneva 2
 SWITZERLAND

Re: Letter of Intention of Georgia to apply for GEO Membership

Dear Ms. Ryan,

The Ministry of Environment Protection of Georgia presents its compliments to the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Secretariat and in connection with the membership of Georgia in GEO I would like to express our firm commitment to become the Member of the GEO.

As a member of the World Meteorological Organization since 1994, we have benefited from data flows from almost the whole Europe that provides us with the opportunity of excellent weather forecasts and capabilities to create the climate model for climate change scenarios in support of various adaptation and mitigation measures.

Membership of GEO would further widen the area of environmental, social and economic management as we would be able to access various datasets, including remote sensing data, that would give the country enhanced possibilities for disaster risk reduction and disaster control, mapping and monitoring changes in vegetation and land use/cover, state of the ecosystems, biodiversity and many other applications in the domain of GEO framework. We also hope that membership to GEO will assist us in our aspirations of further implementation of the provisions of Aarhus convention by improving the public access to critical environmental information.

In our turn we may contribute with improved access to long range and historic datasets for the territory of Georgia in climatology, meteorology, hydrology and environment that might be of interest for the wide spectra of researchers, policy makers and managers at national and regional levels.


We would like to use the opportunity of the concluding meeting of the European Commission's 7th Framework Project enviroGRIDS at the premises of GEO Secretariat in March 2013, to thank the University of Geneva (UNIGE) and GRID-Europe for coordinating this project and promoting the GEO-GEOSS framework among the Black Sea basin countries, including Georgia. We particularly appreciate the contribution of enviroGRIDS Project in providing the instruments for environmental data sharing and processing in support of the management of land based sources of pollution in the Black Sea catchment. We very much count on institutional and technical support of UNIGE and GRID-Europe in guiding us into the direction maximizing for Georgia the benefits of becoming the Member of this global initiative on Earth Observations.

In this process we are determined to take all necessary steps at the national level, such as the establishment of the national intersectoral geospatial forum (commission), including with participations of capable non-governmental actors, and in this regard intend to coordinate and cooperate intensively with the National Agency of Public Registry (Ministry of Justice of Georgia) – experienced and well established clearinghouse for geospatial information here in Georgia, as well as engaging our own National Environmental Agency of Georgia – the repository of important climate and environmental data and information – latter contemplated to provide the functions of the National GEO Principle, representing Georgia in GEO partnership. To that end, we are committed to endorse and act in the spirit of the GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan or its successor.

Summarising all above mentioned, I assure you of strong willingness of Georgia to become the member of the GEO as early as the GEO-X Plenary and Ministerial in January 2014.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Minister  Khatuna Gogaladze

REFERENCES

- <http://earthobservations.org/members.php>
- http://envirogrids.net/index.php?option=com_jdownloads&Itemid=13&view=finish&cid=129&catid=15
- <http://www.iisd.ca/geo/geox/15jan.html>
- <http://www.iisd.ca/geo/geox/17jan.html>
- <http://www.iisd.ca/geo/geox>
- http://earthobservations.org/documents/ministerial/geneva/statements/gms_georgia_statement.pdf
- http://moe.gov.ge/index.php?lang_id=GEO&sec_id=40&info_id=2608

Response of the Secretariat Director



Our Ref: 2013-40/GEO/MEM
sr

H.E. Ms Khatuna Gogaladze
 Minister of Environment Protection of
 Georgia
 6 G. Gulua Str. 0114
 Tbilisi, Georgia

Geneva, 26 April 2013

Madam,

The Secretariat of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is in receipt of your communication of 18 March 2013, conveying the formal request of the Government of Georgia to join GEO.

On behalf of the GEO Secretariat, it is my great pleasure to welcome Georgia as the 90th Member of GEO. As such, Georgia may participate in GEO Plenary meetings and provide experts to the GEO Work Plan and Implementation Boards.

For your information, the next GEO Plenary (GEO-X), will be held from 15-16 January 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. New GEO Members will be officially recognized at this Plenary and will be invited to make a short statement during the opening session of the meeting. The Ministerial Summit will be held immediately following the Plenary on Friday, 17 January 2014. We hope you are personally able to join us for the Summit.

We look forward to working with Georgia and hope to see you in Geneva in January 2014.

Accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Barbara J. Ryan
 Secretariat Director

MILESTONES

- ✓ 2012.10.31 enviroGRIDS meeting in Batumi
- ✓ 2012.12.02 Message to First Deputy Minister
- ✓ 2013.03.01 Meeting with National Agency of Public Registry, sharing GEO 10-Year Plan in Georgian, informal intersectoral working group
- ✓ 2013.03.03 GEO 10-Year Plan in Georgian and memo submitted to Minister by BSC Member
- ✓ 2013.03.18 Letter of Intent of Minister to GEO
- ✓ 2013.03.21 enviroGRIDS final meeting at GEO Secretariat with participants from Georgia
- ✓ 2013.04.26 Response of GEO Secretariat
- ✓ 2013.12.13 Application letter of the Minister designating GEO Principal and other contacts
- ✓ 2014.01.15 Georgia is 90th Member at GEO-X

CONTACT INFORMATION

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