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Policy issues: state of the environment

Progress made on the Eye on Earth process

Note by the Executive Director¹

Summary

The present note sets out the progress made to date in follow-up to the Eye on Earth Summit, held in Abu Dhabi in December 2011, and outlines the engagement of Eye on Earth with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. Executive summaries of the eight Eye on Earth special initiatives are annexed to the note.

The composition, structure and functions of the recently established joint secretariat are described. Linkages between Eye on Earth and the post-United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development process are also proposed for the consideration of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-seventh session.

* UNEP/GC.27/1.

¹ Issued without formal editing.

I. Background

1. The Eye on Earth Summit (Abu Dhabi, 11-15 December 2011), sponsored by the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD), facilitated by the Abu Dhabi Global Environment Data Initiative (AGEDI) and organized in partnership with UNEP, brought together over 900 stakeholders from all sectors, including civil society, to address the issue of access to environmental and societal data to advance the sustainable development agenda. The Summit convened the nucleus of a global, multi-stakeholder network which is evolving and expanding.
2. The Summit endorsed the Eye on Earth Declaration² and approved eight special initiatives covering the following priority areas: oceans and blue carbon, disaster management, water security, community sustainability and resiliency, and biodiversity. These will be underpinned by three cross-cutting initiatives on a global network of networks, environmental education and access to information (termed access for all). Technology support and capacity-building for developing countries will be mainstreamed into all eight initiatives.
3. Eye on Earth is defined as a network that aims to improve access to information for environment and sustainable development in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Eye on Earth Declaration. The network will include Governments, major groups and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.
4. The outcome document³ of the Eye on Earth Summit was presented to the twelfth special session of the Governing of UNEP/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, 20-22 February 2012.

II. Eye on Earth engagement with UNCSD

5. The integration of the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainable development is a theme running through the Rio + 20 outcome document, "The future we want". This is also an objective of the Eye on Earth process, but the focus is on data integration and the delivery of information services under the economic, environmental and social pillars. The Eye on Earth community is therefore well positioned to assist the post-2015 development agenda process by fostering knowledge sharing for sustainable development.
6. A letter of agreement between EAD and UNEP was signed at Rio to establish the joint EAD/AGEDI-UNEP Eye on Earth Secretariat for the purpose of:
 - (a) Managing the follow-up process to the Eye on Earth Summit as described in the Summit outcome document;
 - (b) Facilitating and supporting the implementation of the Special Initiatives approved at the Summit;
 - (c) Engaging in joint fund-raising activities for the Special Initiatives;
 - (d) Promoting and expanding the Eye on Earth Community in the spirit of the Declaration;
 - (e) Identifying related projects and activities that further support the implementation of the Summit Outcome Statement;
 - (f) Supporting the planning and organisation of the second Eye on Earth Summit scheduled to be held in Abu Dhabi in 2014; and
 - (g) Communicating the focus and purpose of Eye on Earth, including the progress and success stories from the special initiatives and publicizing the forthcoming 2014 Summit.
7. EAD provided generous financial support for the UNEP Pavilion at UNCSD, which was subsequently donated to a local community in Rio. The Pavilion hosted 10 Eye on Earth side events and an exhibition which raised awareness of the Eye on Earth Declaration, the Summit follow-up process and the eight special initiatives. A press conference was organized around the signing of the letter of agreement and the new Secretariat was announced officially.

² Eye on Earth Declaration: <http://www.eyeonearthsummit.org/sign>.

³ UNEP/GCSS.XII/INF/6.

III. Overview of the special initiatives and current status

8. A critical objective of the Eye on Earth Summit was to ensure that compelling, specific, achievable outcomes translate the principles of the Summit to “on the ground” commitments and actions. This is to be achieved through the special initiatives referenced in the Declaration.

9. The chosen initiatives are those which are considered by the Eye on Earth community to fundamentally improve the landscape of environmental and societal information networking for the benefit of mankind, and from which compelling, tangible results can be achieved in the medium term. As such they have the following fundamental characteristics:

(a) Potential to be an agent of change with significant and impact. An Eye on Earth Special Initiative must address one or more core objectives and themes of the Eye on Earth Summit in a way that will fundamentally change the face of environmental and societal information networking in a substantive, systemic and sustainable manner;

(b) Identified as a compelling and common need across the Eye on Earth stakeholder community. An issue or outcome that is acknowledged as a critical need across a majority of the concerned Eye on Earth stakeholder community;

(c) High level support and commitment. The explicit commitment of a constellation of major concerned stakeholders who have the access, influence, commitment and resources to catalyse and implement change. Special initiatives must therefore engage the donor community;

(d) Implementable within a reasonable period of time. A viable Eye on Earth initiative must be specific and achievable enough to accomplish key, measurable results within 3-5 years.

10. The Eye on Earth Summit endorsed eight Special Initiatives, three cross-cutting or foundation initiatives:

- (a) Eye on Global Network of Networks;
- (b) Eye on Access for All;
- (c) Eye on Environmental Education;

and five thematic initiatives:

- (a) Eye on Biodiversity;
- (b) Eye on Community Sustainability and Resiliency
- (c) Eye on Disaster Management;
- (d) Eye on Oceans and Blue Carbon
- (e) Eye on Water Security

11. Each special initiative has its own facilitation process that brings together interested stakeholders and proposes various projects that will collectively deliver the intended outcomes. The annex provides summary information for each special initiative, specifically the outcome statements, the expected achievements and the stakeholders involved. Networking, capacity-building and technology support will be an integral component of each special initiative. Information and data generated by the special initiatives will also be made accessible through UNEP-Live.⁴

IV Eye on Earth Secretariat: structure and functions and current status

12. The joint EAD/AGEDI-UNEP Eye on Earth Special Initiatives Secretariat commenced work immediately after UNCSD, and among its priority actions are the implementation of the special initiatives; partnership building and networking, expanding the Eye on Earth community; delivering integrated information services, capacity building and promoting the principles of the Declaration.

13. The Secretariat is comprised of three functional tiers:

- (a) Executive level;
- (b) Strategic level; and
- (c) Operations level.

⁴ See UNEP/GC.27/INF/10.

Both EAD and UNEP have assigned staff at the respective levels.

The Secretariat will be supported by a Technical Advisory Committee which has the following functions:

- (a) Provide timely and relevant technical and/or scientific direction relating to the individual special initiatives or cross-cutting issues;
- (b) Advise of emerging thematic and/or foundational elements and recommend future special initiative targets;
- (c) Review actual implementation against key performance indicators and advise on progress and as well as enhancement opportunities;
- (d) Provide technical input to quarterly Secretariat meetings.

14. Two meetings of the Secretariat were convened in 2012. The inaugural meeting was hosted by UNEP in Nairobi from 18-19 July 2012. The second meeting was hosted by EAD in Abu Dhabi from 5-6 November 2012.

15. The key outcomes of the first meeting were as follows:

- (a) The Secretariat was launched officially and both parties committed to joint actions;
- (b) The White Papers, prepared for the Summit for all eight Special Initiatives, were reviewed to produce an initial draft of outcome statements, lists of projects, and involved stakeholders. These served as the focus for SI efforts during the subsequent quarter to more fully develop and refine these key documents;
- (c) The Secretariat agreed to develop a communications and awareness-raising strategy, a fundraising strategy for the Special Initiatives, and a guidance document that outlined the value proposition for being involved in the Eye on Earth Summit process.

16. The key outcomes of the second meeting were as follows:

- (a) Appointments by UNEP and EAD/AGEDI were made to the special initiatives Secretariat at the executive, strategy and operations levels;
- (b) All eight special initiatives were re-examined and upgraded with improved outcome statements and implementation was accelerated with an expanded list of projects and involved stakeholders (see annex);
- (c) The outcome statements for each special initiative were approved;
- (d) A total of 16 projects with no funding requirement were reviewed and are now affiliated to their respective Special Initiatives;
- (e) An additional 24 projects were reviewed and a full portfolio describing them is planned; an assessment methodology including proper criteria, and project consolidation that may reduce number will be presented at the next Secretariat meeting early in 2013;
- (f) The stakeholders who wrote and submitted project descriptions will be asked to approve the distribution of these descriptions at high level to all special initiative stakeholders;
- (g) The initial draft of the communications and outreach was reviewed and a revised version will be presented to the next Secretariat meeting;
- (h) A donor plan to fund the special initiatives was presented and a revised version will be presented to the next Secretariat meeting;
- (i) The information support infrastructure for the special initiatives, including a portal, a geographic mapping of SI impacts, extended facilitator support was discussed.

V. Potential linkages between the Eye on Earth process and the post-Rio+20 process

17. "The future we want" contains numerous substantive references to data, access to information, networking, partnerships, technology support and capacity-building that are complementary to the substance and spirit of the Eye on Earth Declaration and the various special initiatives approved at the Eye on Earth Summit.

18. In para. 13, it is recognized that sustainable development can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and private sector, all working together to secure the future we want for present and future generations. This is in keeping with the aspirations of the Eye on Earth Declaration which aims to convene the “Eye on Earth Community”, embracing Governments, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and major groups that have agreed to collaborate on a range of initiatives aimed at facilitating access to the data and information needed to monitor the state of the global environment, and building capacities where appropriate.
19. Paras. 42-45 call for the provision of information on the three dimensions of sustainable development. Access to information and the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to facilitate free flow of information between Governments and the public is underscored. This is a two-way process. People need access to information in order to be engaged in sustainable development.
20. Para. 76 (g) emphasizes access to reliable, relevant and timely data across all three dimensions and to provide capacity-building for developing countries. Para. 99 calls for action on Principle 10 (information access, public participation, justice) at various levels.
21. Para. 98 calls for *integrated social, economic and environmental data and information* to support decision-making processes. This is reiterated in para. 251 with a request to support national-level efforts.
22. Para. 99 encourages *action at regional, national, sub-national and local levels to promote access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters*, reconfirming Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration. The Eye on Earth Special Initiative “Access for All” reflects in particular the access to information element of this paragraph.
23. Para. 229, one of the paragraphs focused on Education, calls for, inter alia, *the development of curricula around sustainability, the development of training programmes that prepare students for careers in fields related to sustainability, and more effective use of information and communication technologies to enhance learning outcomes*.
24. Para. 232, also in the Education section, highlights *the importance of greater international cooperation to improve access to education including through building and strengthening education infrastructure*, and calls for *international educational exchanges and partnerships, including the creation of fellowships and scholarships to help achieve global education goals*.
25. Paras. 269-276, which define the Technology section, place strong emphasis placed on information and communication technologies, including geo-spatial information for sustainable development policymaking and *the need to support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data*.
26. Para. 274 recognizes the efforts of the Eye on Earth Network and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) in developing environmental monitoring systems. GEOSS is mainly focused on the science, data and observation and monitoring side of environmental data and information whereas Eye on Earth (and UNEP-Live) is focused more on the institutional networking dissemination and communications side. Both are complementary, not competitive.

VI. Next steps and status of preparations for 2014 Summit

27. The joint Eye on Earth Secretariat will engage in a dialogue with Member States, the European Environment Agency (EEA), GEOSS Secretariat and other relevant stakeholders to outline a response strategy to para. 274 and support developing countries in their efforts to collect environmental data.
28. The 2014 Eye on Earth Summit presents a unique opportunity to re-convene relevant stakeholders from Governments, major groups and the United Nations system to take stock of progress on all matters relating to access to data and information for sustainable development.
29. Approval of specific projects under each special initiative will now set the future direction with respect to fundraising for the implementation of the special initiatives and this is a top priority in the lead-up to the 2014 Summit. Progress on implementation of the special initiatives will be reported upon in 2014.
30. The implementation of the communications and outreach strategy is important for expanding the Eye on Earth community and promoting Eye on Earth on a regional basis. The Global Network of Networks (GNON) special initiative is crucial in terms of institutional networking across all the special initiatives. Under the Irish EU Presidency, a Global Network of Networks meeting is being convened in Dublin on 5 and 6 March 2013 and it is planned to officially launch GNON at this event.

Annex

Eye on Earth outcome statements: executive summaries

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
Access for All	Increased awareness among national governments and civil society about Principle 10 and the benefits of its implementation including sharing good practices and experience from other regions or countries;	To provide capacity building, training and legal advice to governments and civil society to develop national legislation along the Bali Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (2010).	World Resources Institute (WRI); UNEP;
	Development of legal frameworks at national and regional levels that promote public information access and engagement rights and better implementation practices in the spirit of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration from 1992.	To develop and deploy assessment tools that will enable a multi-stakeholder evaluation of national legal regimes and institutions with the goal of identifying Principle 10 related legal and implementation gaps and developing an incremental programme of improvement; and develop a web-based mechanism for monitoring and tracking improvements in Principle 10 laws and implementation worldwide.	European Environmental Bureau (EEB); United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR); United Nation Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);
	Increased amount of information and data which is available for decision making and policy development, and to support public participation in decision making Increased visibility and influence of environmental information in societal decision making processes and national planning.	To transfer experiences from regions and countries (e.g. UNECE Region) that have applied Principle 10 successfully, through exchange forums, targeted training, capacity and skill building programs (including web-based programs) for government officials at various levels, the judiciary and civil society organizations as well as businesses.	Regional Environmental Centre (REC); Article 19; International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE); Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI); The Access Initiative (TAI); Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); European Eco Forum; Aarhus Centers; International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP)

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
Biodiversity	Further increase the level at which people, governments and institutions share what they know about biodiversity through international biodiversity information networks;	Initiate a transparent platform for acknowledging and recognizing sharing of data and information . The platform will enable individuals and institutions to be recognized for the information made available and will build on current data citation practices and services in which individuals at all stages of the data value chain, from collectors through curators to final publishers, will be explicitly acknowledged in a single citation.	UNEP (including UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre WCMC), Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)(through the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism),
	Increase the amount and quality of information and data needed for decision making and policy development;	Initiate a global movement for governments, funding bodies, academic and research institutions to reward and promote sharing of non-sensitive data and information. While many are already doing this, divergent approaches and standards can impede progress. Further promoting and expanding upon the Conservation Commons principles, coupled with the benefit from Achievement #1 above, can greatly improve progress.	Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES),
	Increase the visibility and influence of biodiversity information in societal decision making processes and national planning, especially as related to conservation targets; and	Initiate the development of a suite of coherently designed and interoperable personal information and data management tools that are your “link to the world.” These tools will simplify the manipulation and storage of data, further encourage the sharing of metadata, and serve as an interface to a distributed sharing network (see Achievement #4 below) that allows for easy tracking, discovery and consumption.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), The Global Earth Observation System of Systems GEOSS GEOBON,
	Strengthen public access to information.	Further support existing distributed networks of connected nodes. This will build on, use and enhance the networks, technology and experience of the GBIF, IUCN MEA IKM Initiative and NatureServe, as well as peer-to-peer file distribution, to create methods to search and explore the entire network discovering both complete datasets as well as the people and institutions owning and managing them.	Conservation International, Nature Serve, Private sector companies undertaking Environmental Impact Assessment’s (EIAs).
		Initiate Unlocking of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) information. Large amounts of biodiversity data are collected as part of EIA studies by private sector companies and not made publically available, and the private sector can further be included in these data sharing arrangements so these data are shared and tracked and recognized for their contribution. This activity will expand on the work already initiated by GBIF and the International Association of Impact Assessment (IAIA).	
		Initiate the contribution of biodiversity and conservation data to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). There is an urgent need to build a global biodiversity data coalition between GBIF, IUCN UNEP-WCMC, GEOSS GEOBON and NatureServe, the four leading biodiversity data sharing networks at the global level, to provide essential support to IBPES.	

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
<p>Blue Carbon</p>	<p>Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are reduced by management of coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass and intertidal saltmarsh)</p>	<p>Globally standardized methodologies for accounting for carbon in coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass and intertidal saltmarsh).</p>	<p>AGEDI, GRID-Arendal, UNEP, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Conservation International, EAD, UNEP WCMC, Forest Trends, Blue Ventures</p>
		<p>Globally standardized methodologies for the valuation of ecosystem services for coastal ecosystems and integration.</p>	
	<p>Coastal ecosystems are managed for climate change mitigation and ecosystem services through market-based instruments in selected countries</p>	<p>Integration of above methodologies into existing carbon market, payment for ecosystem services schemes and international policy frameworks.</p>	
	<p>Our global knowledge and data on coastal ecosystems is improved and made more accessible for management of these ecosystems around the world</p>	<p>Development of global databases and management systems for coastal ecosystems data that is structured to be easily applied for management and decision-making on national levels.</p>	
		<p>On-the-ground projects aimed at maintaining carbon functions and wider ecosystem services of coastal ecosystems using market-based mechanisms. Projects should minimize opportunity costs by providing fair and equitable revenue streams to local communities.</p>	
		<p>Scientific research projects and data collection that help to address some of the important gaps in knowledge that we have surrounding blue carbon and coastal ecosystem services.</p>	
		<p>Recommendations made for using data-sets in decision-making and forming policies for coastal management at national scales.</p>	
<p>Community Sustainability and Resilience</p>	<p>Building and providing access to a common knowledge platform for sharing the outputs of on-going urban sustainability and resilience programs and projects;</p>	<p>Develop a framework and harmonise existing methodologies for constructing the urban environmental baseline required to facilitate analysis and support planning at a variety of scales through the creation of datasets and maps.</p>	<p>AAG, USD DoS, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), World Bank, US Green Building Council (US GBC), EcoCity Builders, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI),</p>
	<p>Connecting urban practitioners and researchers, both N-S and S-S, in order to facilitate discussion of urban problems and solutions, and data and information sharing;</p>	<p>Complete the pilot project that focuses on the Lake Victoria Region in East Africa where baseline environmental data for fifteen urban areas are being collected. Share the lessons learned from this pilot with other regions in Africa, and beyond.</p>	
	<p>Increasing the capacity of urban professionals and civil society to use available urban geospatial data, geospatial technology, and</p>	<p>Link the CSR framework to other urban networks and datasets in order to share best practices and information;</p>	
		<p>Provide training and materials to local urban management professionals in the use of data and mapping techniques;</p>	
		<p>Sponsor focused workshops where regional urban professionals can meet to exchange ideas on ways to use the data that is available to them to make urban areas</p>	

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
	<p>management tools through training workshops, materials and enhanced public outreach;</p> <p>Provide value propositions to policy makers who must support urban planning tools and staff investments.</p>	<p>more sustainable.</p>	<p>Climate Leadership Group (C40), Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI), Siemens, AGEDI, UNEP Global Initiative for Resource Efficient Cities, UNEP Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI), UN-HABITAT</p>
<p>Disaster Management</p>	<p>Prepare and disseminate a “sound practice” conceptual framework for effective disaster management information infrastructure that will provide a reference model for the development of information infrastructure and associated systems that can enable more effective disaster reduction and recovery within countries.</p> <p>Identify and, as needed, support, successful examples of integrated disaster management information infrastructure. Establish a public-private partnership of commitments bringing together the international finance institutions and development aid agencies and the private sector to build or strengthen information infrastructure to support more effective disaster reduction and recovery, especially within the most needful countries and communities.</p>	<p>Establish regional and local pilots that align with the project vision and that establish texture and a knowledge foundation reflecting realities in different countries;</p> <p>Focus on communication elements to top policy decision makers that can establish sustainable funding for the needed efforts;</p> <p>Identify Policy, Management, Functional and Technological leadership elements for more effective disaster management tool development, data base creation and maintenance and proper scale deployment during and after disasters;</p> <p>Integrate new tools of crowd sourcing and people science with the governmental framework already in existence and provide market driven strategies that adapt and use both levels;</p> <p>Use the expanding technology of cloud-based data provision, new display and communication technologies and social networking systems in order to produce blue prints for optimal technology packages matched to the situation on the ground;</p> <p>Integrate and harmonize the interest in Disaster Management across other Eye on Earth Special Initiatives, especially Community Sustainability and Resilience and Global Network of Networks.</p>	<p>International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNEP, Association of American GEOGRAPHERS (AAG), ESRI, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), AGEDI</p>

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
	<p>Establish a framework that will enhance and sustain synergies within the disaster risk and recovery information community of practice to share ideas, methods, information and mutual technical support and advice.</p>		
Environmental Education	<p>Enhanced sharing and networking in environmental education by people, governments and institutions, and building capacity in the process;</p> <p>Improved knowledgebase on environmental education, by developing new and innovative content, approaches and practices relevant to decision making, policy development; and transformative learning and action(s) for sustainable development.</p> <p>Increased visibility and influence of environmental education for sustainable development in higher education, for policy formulation and implementation; societal decision making processes; and national planning mechanisms.</p> <p>Increased visibility and influence of environmental education for sustainable development in higher education, basic education, non-formal education and informal education for</p>	<p>The consolidation and strengthening of partnerships and networks to support coordination, collaboration, resource sharing and access in environmental education in the formal, non-formal and information education sectors, and stakeholder community;</p> <p>To develop a common global environmental education knowledge management infrastructure of available materials, curricula, best practices, data networks, educators, and other resources in the formal, non-formal and informal sectors of education;</p> <p>To enhance a systematic approach to sector wide mainstreaming of environmental and sustainability concerns into education systems, programs, projects, and initiatives through the environmental education global academy network;</p> <p>To provide capacity building opportunities that facilitate and strengthen the environmental education of future environmental professionals, using current & emerging technologies and learning techniques;</p> <p>To support the Thematic Special Initiatives by offering a platform for education and outreach;</p> <p>To pilot test region-based applications of the global environmental education academy network project in all six regions.</p>	<p>Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI)</p> <p>Africa Conservation Centre</p> <p>Africa Wildlife Foundation</p> <p>Association of American Geographers (AAG)</p> <p>Central European University (CEU)</p> <p>Comunicacion y Educacion Ambiental SC</p> <p>Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD)</p> <p>Abu Dhabi Education Council (ADEC)</p> <p>ESRI</p> <p>European Environment Agency (EEA)</p> <p>Institute for Global Environmental Strategies</p> <p>National Environment Agency – Gambia</p> <p>National Geographic</p>

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
			UNEP GRID-Arendal United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) University of Twente – Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) US Department of State
Global Network of Networks	Support to UNEP-Live and in particular its SOE-Live component Support to reporting under MEAs (InforMEA) A Continuously Improved Network Overview Support to the development of the Eye on Earth Network Support to the Eye on Access for All Special Initiative Support to the Eye on Water Security Special Initiative	Demonstrate an early version of country-level SOE-Live by November 2012, using the A4A (Access for All) SI leverage in the triad: governance, access and data; Demonstrate in the first half of 2013 early versions of SOE-Live for thematic realms (e.g. water quality and biodiversity assessment to support IPBES) Development of a global network of existing and emerging regional environmental information networks (including in the first instance Europe’s Eionet and the AfricaEIN) and connections with the Group on Earth Observations, Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEO/GEOSS) including GEO/GEOSS INSPIRE JRC brokerage capabilities; Supporting the development of emerging and planned regional environmental information networks (such as in Africa, the Arab region, with GeoSUR in South America, possibly the Carpathians treaty area and various of the Regional Seas treaty areas and others if possible especially in Asia) for eventual deployment of SOE-Live capabilities; Demonstrate by November 2012 that InforMEA can deliver enhanced and enriched information services through GNON-mediated access to relevant third-party information, shared tools and networking experience; Publish by end of 2012 of a systematic overview of existing information networks and partnerships as well as technical activities which have the potential to contribute to its aims; Recruit key networks and partners to make direct contributions to the Eye on Earth network and platform to diversify existing content both geographically and thematically, especially in developing countries;	The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Environment Agency Abu Dhabi (EAD) European Commission Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC) EEA GEO/GEOSS Geospatial Information for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean (GeoSUR)

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
		<p>Demonstrate by end of 2013 that GNoN principles and practices can lead to improvements in local, national, regional and global sustainable development governance;</p> <p>Demonstrate and document by end of 2013 in one region that GNON principles and practices have increased accessibility to and application of data and information content from trans-boundary sources as a step towards enhancing collective water security;</p> <p>Continuously revise and re-publish [bi-annually] a systematic overview of existing information networks and partnerships as well as technical activities which have the potential to contribute to its aims.</p>	UNEP inc. InforMEA
Water Security	<p>Increased collection and sharing of information by governments, institutions and civil society contributing to building confidence and enhancing water security. This includes information on ecosystems management practices, technologies, policies and agreements in addition to the usual biophysical which is normally the focus of many institutions.</p> <p>Increased access to water information by stakeholders such as communities and NGO, who currently have limited access to information classified as of national security.</p> <p>Increased value attached to sharing information on water in political and development planning circles resulting in increased investment in collecting, processing and sharing information.</p> <p>Engendering a culture of sharing</p>	<p>A partnership national and international institutions addressing data on water management and their related ecosystems for sharing information on water involving different water users from various regions by December 2013;</p> <p>A network of decision makers and practitioners in water management [which ones?] that promotes the development of collaborative activities e.g. preparing global water quality assessment report in addition to sharing data on water quality quantity and related ecosystems;</p> <p>A science –policy platform addressing information collection, analysis and sharing for water security e.g. protocols for data collection by June 2014;</p> <p>A programme to strengthen the capacity of developing countries] countries to collect, analyze and use the information in decision making December 2013.</p>	<p>Abu Dhabi Environment Agency (AGEDI)</p> <p>Alliance for Water Stewardship</p> <p>Arabian Gulf University (AGU)</p> <p>Arghyam</p> <p>Bureau of Meteorology, Australia (BOM)</p> <p>CAF – the Latin American Development Bank</p> <p>Cyber Security Policy and Research Institute,</p> <p>The George Washington University</p> <p>GeoComm</p> <p>Geographic Planning Collaborative (GPC)</p> <p>IEEE Committee on Earth Observation</p> <p>International Telecommunication Union</p>

SI	Outcome Statements	Expected Achievements	Stakeholders
	<p>information on water.</p> <p>Improved capacity for data collection and analysis resulting in improved decision making on water security, with a specific focus on regions with developing economies and/or developing information management systems.</p> <p>Improved contribution of data to existing networks such as GEMS/Water</p> <p>Informed science and policy dialogue based on sound information on water security.</p>		<p>International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN)</p> <p>Municipality of Abu Dhabi (ADM)</p> <p>OMS Tech, Inc., representing IEEE</p> <p>Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)</p> <p>Peer Water Exchange</p> <p>Southern African Research and Documentation Centre/Musokotwane Environment Research Centre for South Africa (SARDC/IMERCSA)</p> <p>The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)/Land and water</p> <p>Critical Infrastructure & Coastal Protection Authority</p> <p>United Arab Emirates-Prime Minister's Office (PMO)</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</p> <p>US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)</p>