

Panel on “Earth Observation for the SDG Indicators”

Living Planet Symposium 2019, Milano Congressi
Metallica Agora

Wednesday 15 May 2019, 9:00 - 11:00

The importance of data in development policies and processes is increasingly being emphasized. The 2030 Agenda on sustainable development represents a major milestone towards development policies that are data driven and evidence based. Mainstreaming technical innovation to fill data gaps and mobilizing the data revolution to overcome inequalities between data-poor and data-rich countries are high priorities. The integration of geospatial information and Earth Observations with traditional statistical data, combined with new emerging technologies such as big data processing and analytics offer unprecedented opportunities to make a quantum leap in the capacities of countries to efficiently track all facets of sustainable development. With the recognition that data is at the heart of the SDGs comes the reality that the least developed countries will have the most difficulty with the related institutional and technical challenges.

Panel Objectives

The LPS panel on “**EO for the SDG Indicators**” will have senior representatives from key organisations (Space Agencies, UN agencies, National Statistical Offices, Development Data Enablers) discuss the opportunities and challenges lying ahead for successfully integrating EO technology within the national monitoring and reporting systems on SDG indicators, leaving no country behind. The key question that the panel will address is “*How EO technology can become a game-changer for countries to fully achieve their sustainable development goals?*” The participants will discuss the EO opportunities and challenges from their perspectives, which can be scientific, technical, programmatic, or policy-based in nature.

The objective of the panel is to raise awareness amongst the EO community on the importance to join efforts to offer robust and cost-effective solutions that help countries better achieve their sustainable development goals, monitor progress towards their targets, inform development policies and ensure accountability and transparency, with a specific focus on SDG indicators.

Panel Organisation

The panel will be **moderated by Maurice Borgeaud** (ESA, Head of the EO Department for Science, Applications and Climate) **and Steve Ramage** (GEO Secretariat, Head of External Relations). The event will start with an **introduction by Josef Aschbacher**, the ESA Director of Earth Observation Programmes. A number of **lightening talks from Space Agencies** (NASA, ESA, JAXA and European Commission) will present the importance of EO for the SDG indicators, showcase a number of best practice examples and introduce the challenges and opportunities for countries to integrate EO in national systems and processes. These introductory talks will be followed by a **panel made of senior representatives from UN Agencies, National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and SDG data brokers** who will discuss how the recent advances in Earth Observations and ICT infrastructures can be fully exploited to serve the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable development and leave no country behind.

To illustrate the importance to build EO capacities in countries and integrate EO technology in national systems and processes, the panelists will discuss 3 main indicators for which EO is seen as a major source of information: SDG 6.6.1 (Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time); SDG 15.3.1 (Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area); and SDG 11.3.1 (Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate).

Participants

Moderators

Maurice Borgeaud	ESA <i>Head of EO Department for Science, Applications and Climate</i>
Steven Ramage	GEO Secretariat <i>Head of External Relations</i>

Opening

Josef Aschbacher	ESA <i>Director of Earth Observation Programmes</i>
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Lightening Talks

Marc Paganini	ESA <i>CEOS SDG AHT co-lead</i>
Argyro Kavvada	NASA <i>GEO EO4SDG Executive Secretary</i>
Chu Ishida	JAXA <i>GEO EO4SDG co-lead</i>
Mark Dowell	European Commission <i>on behalf of DG GROW and DG JRC</i>

Panelists

Sasha Alexander	UNCCD, <i>Policy Officer, Secretariat</i>
Stuart Crane	UN Environment, <i>Programme Management Officer, Freshwater Unit</i>
Dennis Mwaniki	UN Habitat <i>Spatial Data Expert, Global Urban Observatory Unit</i>
Marie Haldorson	Statistics Sweden <i>IAEG-SDG WGGI co-lead</i>
Paloma Merodio	INEGI, Mexico <i>IAEG-SDG WGGI co-lead, GEO EO4SDG co-lead</i>
Claire Melamed	GPSDD <i>CEO</i>

Program

9:00	3 min	Introduction to the Panel on SDG indicators by the moderators
9:03	7 min	Opening talk by Josef Aschbacher, ESA Director of Earth Observation Programmes
9:10	30 min	Lightening talks by the Space Agencies (ESA, NASA, JAXA, EC)
9:40	80 min	Panel with UN Agencies, NSOs and SDG data brokers (including 15 min Q&A session with the audience)
11:00		End of the Panel