

Project background

The Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) is sponsoring the “*Building Regional Capacity and Knowledge in Earth Observations using Data Cube Technology*” project, which will be executed through Australia’s national science agency, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The project aims to promote the use of earth and marine observation (EMO) technology in both the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) forum region and the America.

Alignment with regional initiatives

Earth Observation has demonstrated an ability to support local and national decision making and the Sustainable Development Goals through a number of successful country-level Open Data Cube initiatives around the world. In this context, a Digital Earth Americas workshop, coordinated by UN-ECLAC, INEGI and NASA-CEOS, was held in August 2020 to engage across the region and begin the discussion of what a regional-scale earth observing initiative in the Americas could look like. In addition, the joint virtual session of UN-GGIM: Americas and AmeriGEO in September 2020 delivered the *Aguascalientes Declaration*¹ to develop a set of objectives aimed at improving collaboration and the use of Earth observations in the region; the efforts defined in this concept note align with many of the declaration objectives including improving communications among countries and relevant international stakeholder organizations, increasing capacity for the acquisition and use of geospatial data, and establishing relationships and cooperation mechanisms to promote the integration of geospatial data for national and regional decision-making. The project will also collate and disseminate technical resources and digital materials in partnership with the Open Earth Alliance².

General objectives

The primary aim of the project for 2021 will be to conduct a series of workshops to promote the use and identify challenges of earth and marine observing technologies.

Holding these workshops aims to:

- i) show the benefit of using earth and marine observation technologies at national and regional levels;
- ii) identify critical activities and challenges to deploying earth observing solutions; and
- iii) develop a community of stakeholders with different levels of deployment of earth observation technologies across the region. This will be done in partnership with other regional initiatives (such as UN-GGIM: Americas and AmeriGEO) and global communities (such as the Open Earth Alliance).

¹ http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/en/contenido/eventos/AmerigeoWeek/sesionConjunta-09-sept-20/pdf/AGUASCALIENTES%20DECLARATION_Final.pdf

² <https://www.openearthalliance.org/>

Workshop 1: Exploring the value and challenges of using EO data

Thursday 15, April 2021

11:00 hrs Chile & EDT / 10:00 hrs Peru, Mexico & Colombia / 12:00 hrs Brazil & Argentina

Overview

The objectives of the 3 workshops planned are to build knowledge around key topics of interest, identify current opportunities and challenges related to earth observing in the region and to encourage networking, partnering and contacts. This first workshop will provide a high-level overview of current best practices both globally and regionally, using existing solutions as demonstrators and will engage with participants to identify key areas of need and impact.

Objective

The objective of this workshop is to discuss potential pathways and challenges for the adoption of earth observing solutions in the region, including a showcase of the use of Earth Observations (EO) for improved decision-making.

Content

The workshop will discuss:

- i) a general context including international examples
- ii) status and objectives of existing initiatives across the region
- iii) priority needs and challenges including both thematic and technical to guide the development of capacity-building and training materials

Outcomes

The outputs from this first workshop will provide input into the second and third workshops, which will aim to focus on specific areas of interest or challenges identified by participants.

Structure

The structure of the workshop will include expert presentations, demonstrations of existing systems and platforms, discussions sessions and technical sessions; the aim is to encourage strong and meaningful participation from the participants through the use of Q&A sessions, breakout discussions and contribution from participants. For convenience, the workshop will be hosted in a platform that supports simultaneous translation (English and Spanish).



Australian Government



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