



Our Ref.: 2009454/GEO/US-09-01a

GEO All

Geneva, 8 January 2009

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the GEO User Interface Committee and the team for Task US-09-01a, it is my pleasure to request your participation and contributions to this Task.

Task US-09-01a will help GEO identify critical Earth observation priorities common to the Societal Benefit Areas. The Task team has developed a process that compiles and analyzes observation needs expressed in existing, publicly-available documents from 2000 to the present. The team recognizes that GEO Member countries and Participating Organizations may have already published documents, held workshops, or written reports that identify observation needs particular to their regions or topics. The Task team will harvest the information in these documents and conduct a meta-analysis to identify common observation priorities across the existing documents.

The team is especially interested in ensuring an international breadth to this process. The team will include information from a broad, international distribution of documents, including significant representation from developing countries. A brief description of this Task is available on the GEO User Interface Committee webpage at <http://earthobservations.org>. To ask questions about this Task, contact the Task lead Lawrence Friedl at +1.202.358.1599 or send an inquiry to the Task US-09-01a email address: [geo-task-us-0901@lists.nasa.gov](mailto:geo-task-us-0901@lists.nasa.gov).

The Task team requests your organization's submissions or suggestions for documents, reports, workshop summaries, etc. that address Earth observation priorities for any and all of the Societal Benefit Areas. Please provide an electronic copy, Internet link, or title and information about the document to the Task US-09-01a email address.

The Task team is forming *ad hoc* Advisory Groups to support its work. These informal groups of 12-15 persons from GEO Member countries and Participating Organizations will provide input on the Societal Benefit Areas, help identify documents, and review the analyses and findings. The Task team requests your organization to submit suggestions for people that can be considered for an Advisory Group. To submit suggestions, please send the name(s), brief biography, and associated societal Benefit Area to the task email address, listed above.

I strongly encourage your organization to respond to these requests for documents and Advisory Group members to support the Task team. Responses to the above requests should be sent by 6 February 2009.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'José Achache'.

José Achache  
Secretariat Director