

Global Earth Observing Systems: Taking the Pulse of the Planet

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*UK Co-Chair, GEO Science & Technology Committee
and GEO Geohazard Community of Practice*

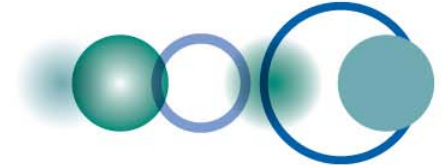
*Head of Geoscience Technology
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**British
Geological Survey**

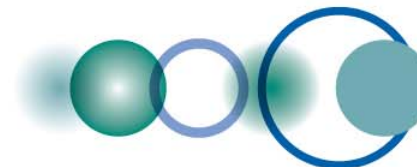
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL





An inter-governmental organisation established in 2004 in response to calls for action from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to develop & implement **GEOSS**

- **85 countries** plus **the EC** are members and there are also **61 participating organisations** (e.g. IUGS, EuroGeoSurveys)
- Oversight is by **4 Committees** on 5 cross-cutting issues, an Executive Committee, Annual Plenary & periodic **Ministerials**
- A **10 year implementation plan** with bi-annual Work Plans, addressing **9 Societal Benefit Areas + cross-cutting issues**
- **~100 Tasks & Sub-Tasks** taken on by groups of members & others: some best-endeavours; some funded, e.g. by EC



1st Summit in US in July 2003:

- Began the GEO process

2nd Summit in Japan in 2004:

- Framework Document

3rd Summit in Europe in 2005:

- 10 Year Implementation Plan

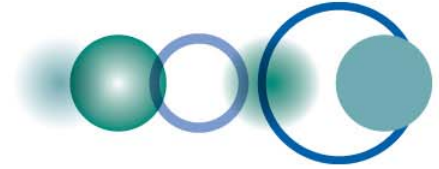
4th Summit in South Africa in 2007:

- Early implementation progress

5th Summit in China in 2010

- 10 year Plan Mid-point review





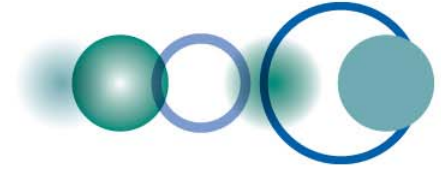
A **G**lobal **E**arth **O**bservation **S**ystem of **S**ystems means:

- Focusing on users' needs
- Using what already exists
- Modifying it where needed
- Filling gaps where needed
- Better/new access systems
- Standards/interoperability
- Concerted capacity building



NOT a monolithic system owned/operated by one country

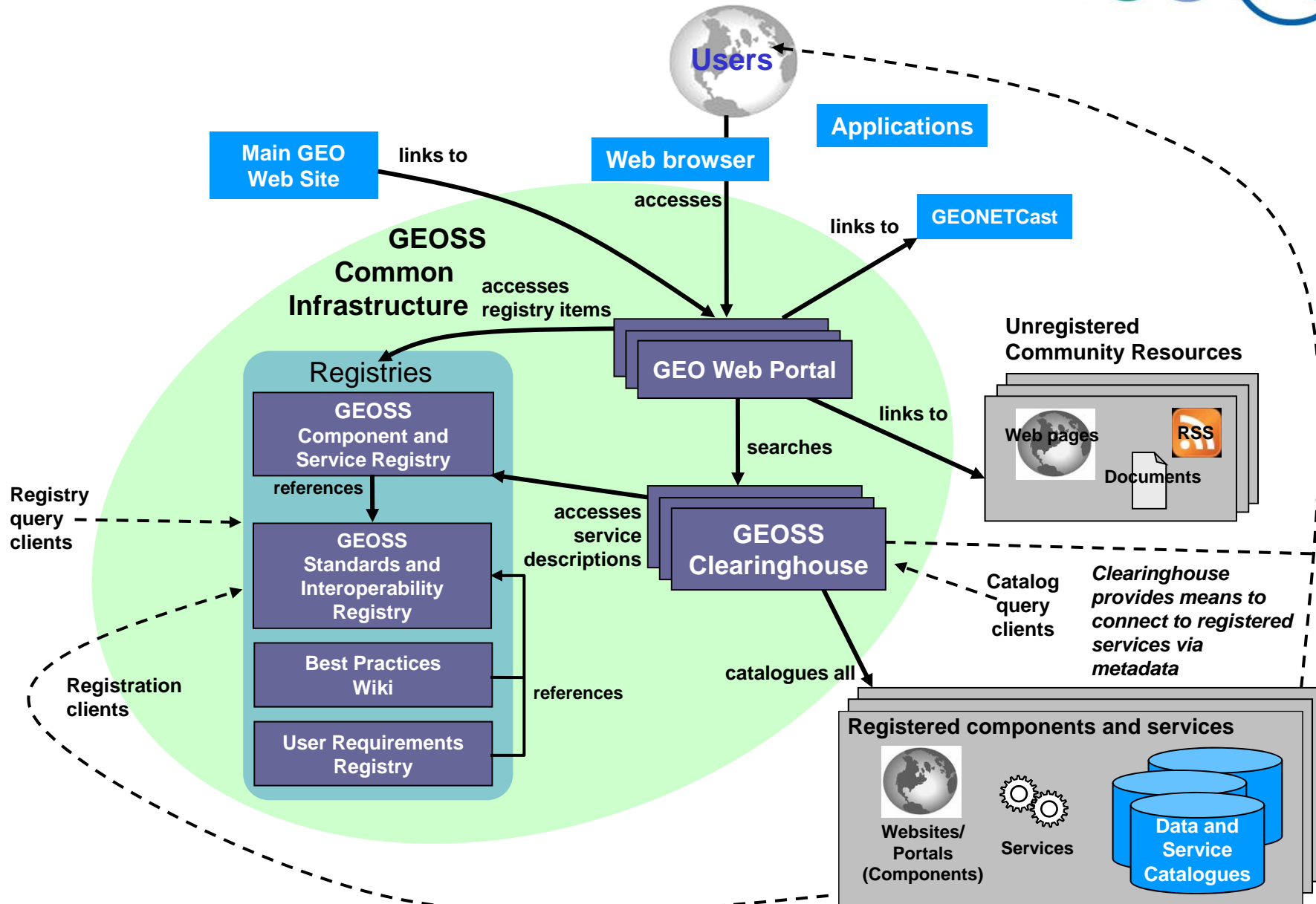
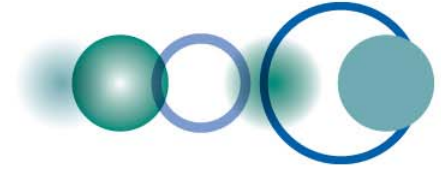
2015 Target: Global, coordinated, comprehensive, sustained system of observing systems, supporting informed decisions



Global, coordinated, comprehensive & sustained systems,
making observations that address **9 Societal Benefit Areas**

**THE GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION
SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS**

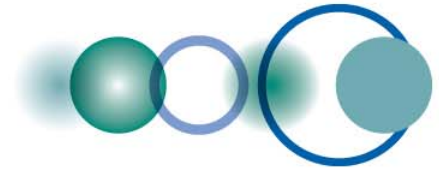






GROUP ON
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

Four GEO Committees



Cross-cutting committees made up of interested members and participating organisations covering the following areas:

- **Science & Technology** (Stuart Marsh, BGS, UK Co-chair)
- **User Interface** (Community of Practice: inc. Geohazards)
- **Capacity Building** (AEGOS is in a Capacity Building Task)
- **Architecture & Data** (OneGeology in Global Dataset Task)

GEO Tasks are monitored by the committees, which receive progress reports 3-4 times per year, steer the Task and may report on Tasks to all GEO members during Annual Plenary