

GEO CRI - Formally endorsed 14-Dec-2015

Title

GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEO CRI): Information Services for Cold Regions

Principal Investigator

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Summary

This new Group on Earth Observations initiative, developed from the existing Cold Region task, aims to coordinate global, joint efforts to provide Earth observations and information services to decision-makers over the vast Cold Regions areas, including the North Pole, South Pole, Himalaya-Third Pole and Mountain areas. Contributors include national authorities, universities and international organizations such as ICIMOD, CliC, and SAON, to mention only a few.

Description

Objectives and actions of the GEO Cold Region Initiative are:

- Build a global network to archive, manage, and provide access to in-situ and remotely-sensed earth status data and social humanity data for monitoring the global cold regions through appropriate national, regional and global systems, centres and programs.
- Provide sustained observations and information exchange mechanisms to understand global change over the cold regions, and address fragile ecosystem and environmental challenges and societal influences on those regions.
- Establish a proactive framework for the development of information and related services, the Global Cold Regions Community Portal, to underpin the Global Earth Observations System of Systems (GEOSS) implementation by expanding the outreach of, and maximize synergies among, thematically wide Group on Earth Observations activities and thematically deep participant activities, thereby exploiting their complementary roles.
- Advocate open data policies and free access to the Earth observation data over Cold Regions.
- Strengthen the synergies and partnerships with policy makers, stakeholders, and funders over the cold regions' ecological and engineering fields, and improve public awareness through education and capacity building.

All these activities will contribute to YOPP efforts by facilitating the discovery of and access to data, as well as gathering knowledge and allowing efficient coordination from the GEO Cold Regions community.

Timeline

Start: 1st December 2015 - open-ended

Regional emphasis

Northern & Southern Hemispheres. Additionally, it also includes the low latitude mountain cold regions, especially the Alps, and the so-called Third Pole, the High Mountain Asia areas.

Key deliverables

- Polar data sets available on the GEOSS portal (satellite, airborne, in situ, and assimilation).
- Leveraging the use of Cold Regions data, especially YOPP-related results and products.
- Advocate improved availability of relevant datasets with funding agencies and operational agencies, and emphasise the importance of funding support for YOPP relevant observations and free and open access to data.

Data management

By contributors, institutions and organizations respectively, which are brokered via the GEOSS Data Portal infrastructure.

Real-time data provision

None directly

Funding

confirmed as in-kind contributions

Remarks

The GEO Cold Regions Initiative (GEO CRI) can support and leverage YOPP efforts and results, but will not deliver data directly, except through the GEOSS itself resulting from the data pledges from contributors and leads in GEO CRI.