

Open Geospatial Data for Positive Global Impact – Steven Ramage

Abstract

GEO (Group on Earth Observations) is an intergovernmental organisation focusing on open Earth observations providing insight for decision making. Countries have borders, earth observations do not, neither do disasters.

Earth Observation business case development, value assessment and capacity building are growing in importance. Open data and information provide knowledge and insight for policy development and decision making. Geospatial information provides context when integrated with socioeconomic data, such as national statistics; open standards are essential.

GEO excels at bringing capacity, promoting cooperation and engagement. GEO promotes collaboration between developed and developing countries through GEO Regional Initiatives such as AfriGEOSS.

GEO Portal provides access to Earth Observation data from around the world, acting as a broker for data akin to Air B&B. GEO is building the socioeconomic business case and understanding the value of Open Data

- Everyone needs help, across all countries and organisations
- GEO does not just include geospatial organisations, the last few countries have come through national statistics offices
- Access and connectivity of data is still a big talking point
- Different organisations are brought together, collaboration is incredibly important
- Closely linked to UN-GGIM, minimising effort and duplication on reporting