

# STATISTICAL-GEOSPATIAL INTEGRATION FORUM United Nations • 5 March 2018

## Panel III: Satellite Observations for the Sustainable Development Goals

**Argyro Kavvada**  
NASA Earth Science / BAH &  
EO4SDG Initiative

United Nations Statistics Division  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Statistical-Geospatial Integration Forum

INTEGRATING  
STATISTICAL,  
GEOSPATIAL,  
AND OTHER BIG  
DATA TO LEAVE  
NO ONE BEHIND

Monday, 5 March 2018  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 4  
Conference Building

BETTER DATA. BETTER LIVES.  
unstats.un.org

89th Session  
of the United Nations  
Statistical  
Commission  
6-9 March 2018 · New York





## Mexico City Declaration from 5<sup>TH</sup> High Level Forum on UN-GGIM

*"Advocate and communicate to political decision makers the importance and impact of geospatial technologies, including **Earth observations**, in informing policy, and that tech savvy, flexible and open leadership is fundamental to establishing and sustaining data innovation and its associated creation, systems and services, sharing and management to support the measurement and monitoring of the **SDG's**."*

**Everything happens somewhere.**

- Nancy Tosta

**Together, we can make the full,  
transformative ambition of the 2030  
Agenda a reality for all.**

- António Guterres



Ground-based instruments used to observe precipitation include rain gauge tipping buckets, cylinders, and disdrometers & radar systems [top]



A sensor pod from NASA – Jet Propulsion Laboratory



The GOES-R Series—a collaborative program between NASA and NOAA.



Argo floats are used to observe the ocean [image from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization]



Researchers with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF) use small aircraft such as the Havilland DHC-3 Otter. Credit: UAF

**Space-based  
Satellites**  
  
**Airborne**  
  
**Ground-based**  
  
**In Situ**



# How can the Earth observation community contribute toward achieving the SDGs?





## Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda (EO4SDG)

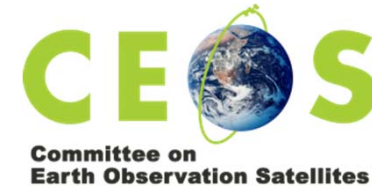
### **Purpose:**

Organize and enable the potential of Earth observations and geospatial information within GEO to advance the 2030 Agenda and enable societal benefits through achievement of the SDGs.

### **Key Emphasis:**

Collaborations with global statistical community, NSOs, line ministries, custodian agencies. Also, communication role in a federated approach with GEO & broader EO community.

<http://eo4sdg.org>



## Ad-Hoc Team on Sustainable Development Goals

### **Purpose:**

Assess, showcase and promote satellite-based Earth observation contributions for the full realization of the SDGs.

### **Key Emphasis:**

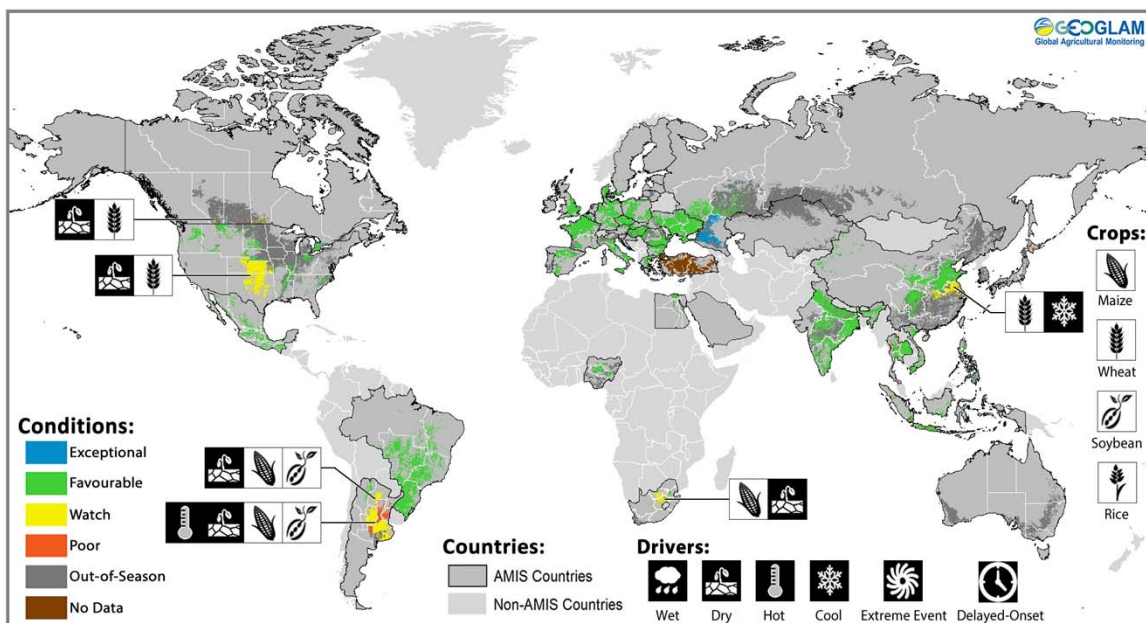
Collaborations with GEO and global statistical community, NSOs, line ministries, custodian agencies. Also, analysis of new opportunities for satellite observations to support SDGs.

<http://ceos.org/>



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

### Condition Synthesis Maps Covering All AMIS Crops



Crop conditions and drivers are shown as of February 28. Crops that are in other than favorable conditions are displayed on the map with their crop symbol & driver.

<https://cropmonitor.org/>



*Market Monitor:*  
Operational monthly bulletin for primary crop types for 49 countries

Four main crops:  
Rice, Wheat, Maize, Soybeans

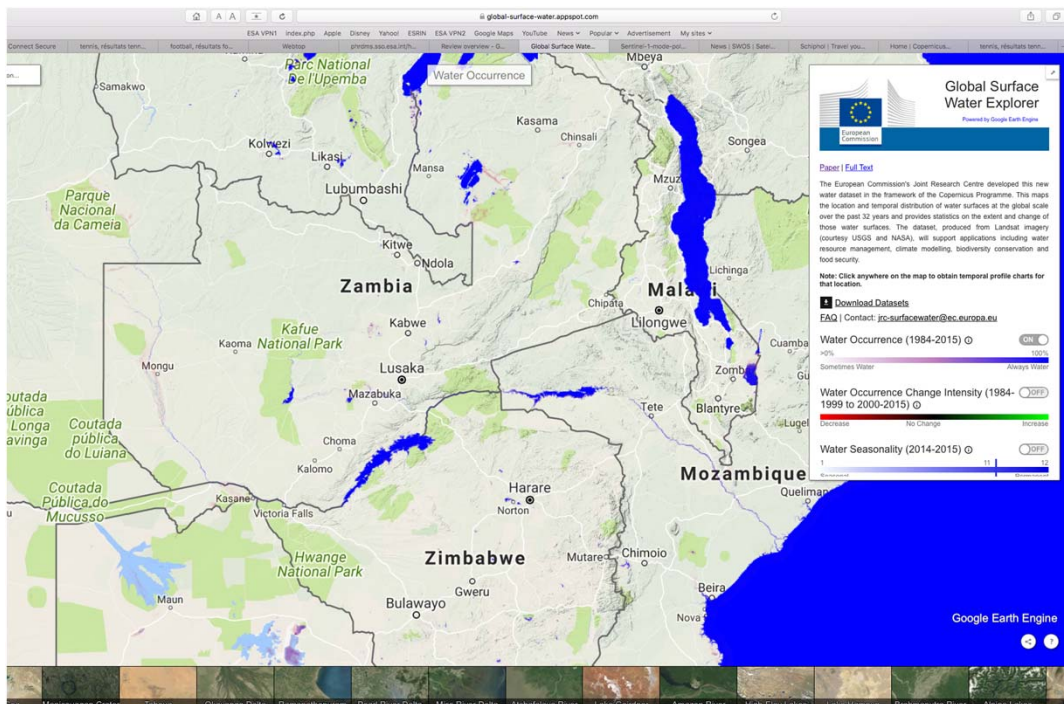
### EO Data Use

- Satellite baseline datasets - GEOGLAM Crop Calendars and Crop Masks
- Satellite observations of land - NASA & USGS (MODIS, Landsat, SMAP), ESA (Sentinel-1, Sentinel-2, Sentinel-3), CSA (Radarsat-2, RCM), JAXA (GCOM-C, ALOS-2), DLR (TerraSAR-X, TanDEM-X), CNES (Pleiades)
- In-situ & agrometeorological data sets
- Novel crowd-sourced information – GEO WIKI



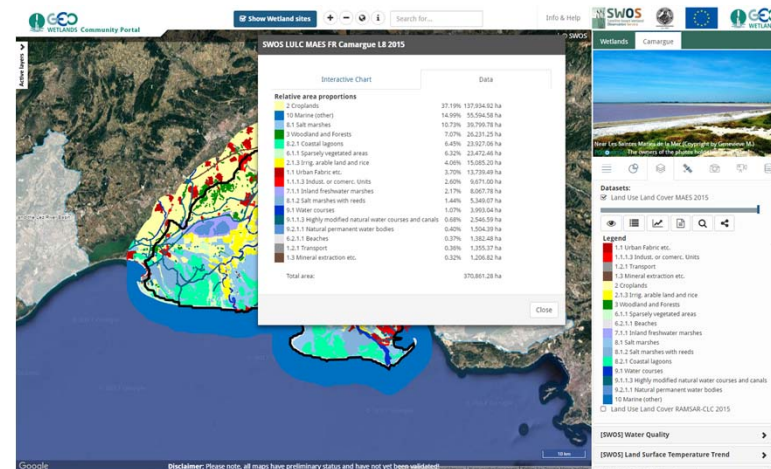
## Earth observations for water-related ecosystem monitoring

High quality Global Data Set on spatial extent of inland water bodies (1984-2015, full Landsat archive, 30m, Joint Research Center supported by Google Earth Engine)



## Water-related Community Portal

- Wetland-related datasets freely available
- EO best case practices & guidelines
- Portal customization for SDG 6 monitoring & reporting







# Earth observations for water-related ecosystem monitoring



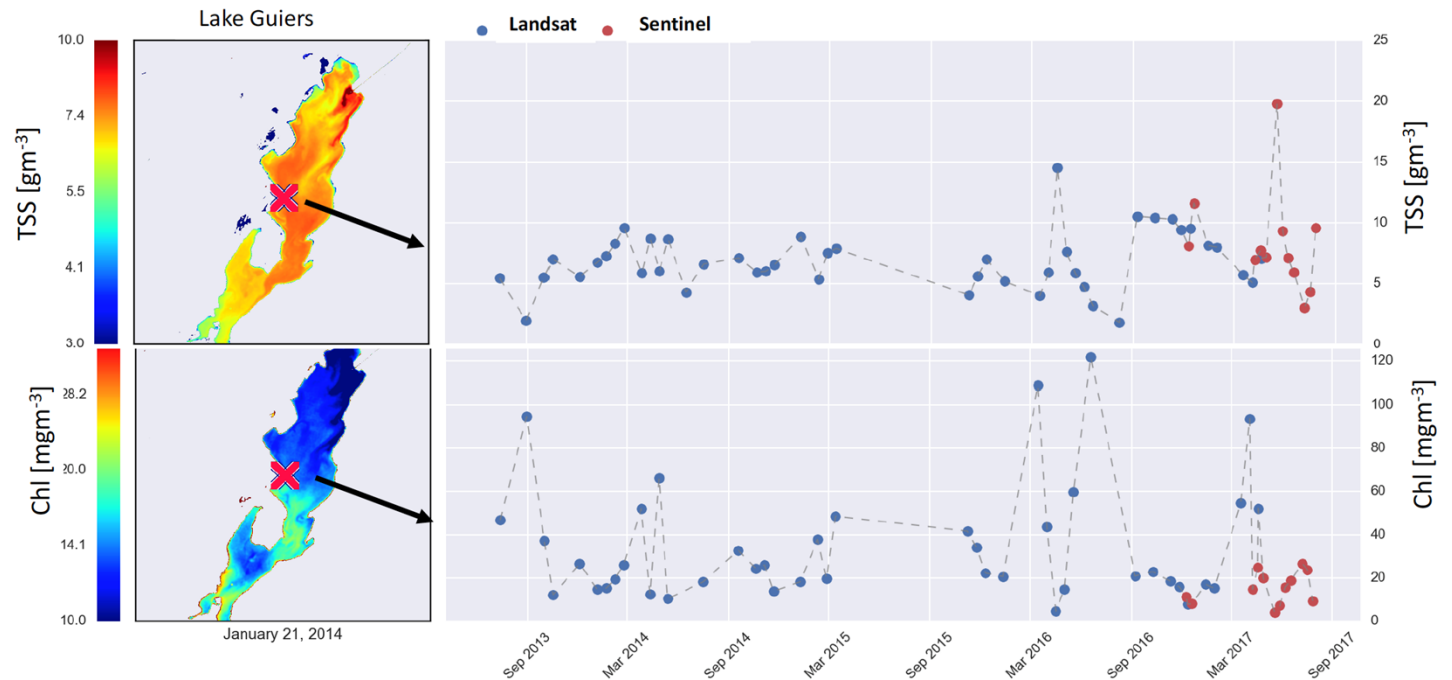
## Analysis of water-quality indicators (Chl-a, TSS)

- Water Anomaly detection using Landsat (NASA-USGS) & Sentinel 2 (ESA)
- Spatial Resolution: 20-30 m
- NASA's SeaWiFS Data Analysis System (SeaDAS)
- Forthcoming work with UN Environment & countries to build capacity for algorithm development/validation and support SDG monitoring & reporting



Lake Guiers – Senegal

*Concentrations of chlorophyll-a (Chl), which is the primary pigment in phytoplankton, and the total suspended solids (TSS) can be used as proxies to infer other important parameters like oxygen level, nutrients, or chemicals. Chl and TSS are both listed as parameters under SDG indicator 6.6.1.*



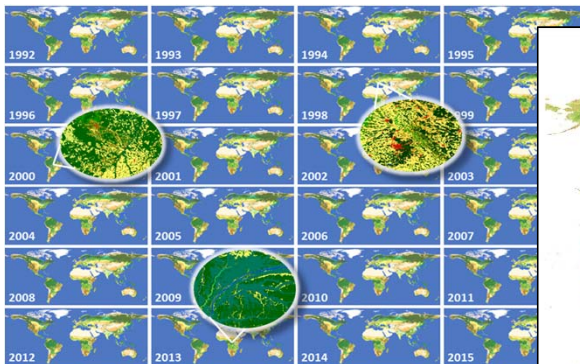
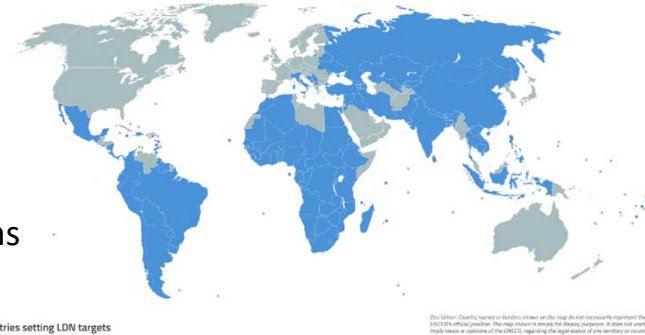




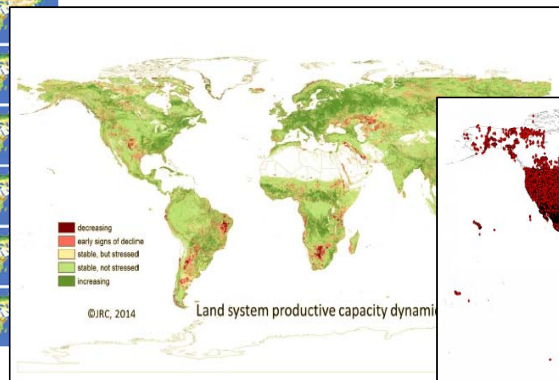
# 15.3.1. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area



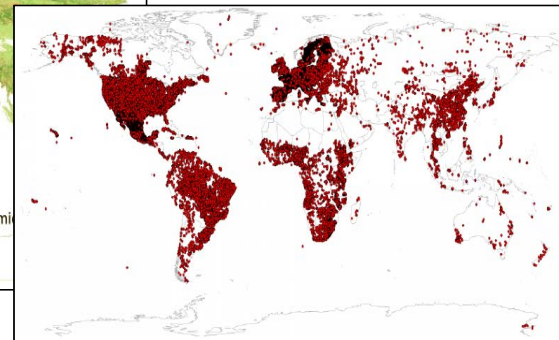
- Good Practice Guidance produced by UNCCD
- National official data sources, complemented by EO.
- EO Data: Land Cover – NASA (Landsat, MODIS), USGS (Landsat), ESA (Land Cover CCI); Land Productivity Dynamics (LPD) – JRC; Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) - International Soil Reference and Information Centre
- UNCCD - GEO regional capacity building workshops & federated collaborative platforms



ESA Climate Change Initiative Land Cover



JRC Land Productivity Dynamics



ISRIC SoilGrids250m

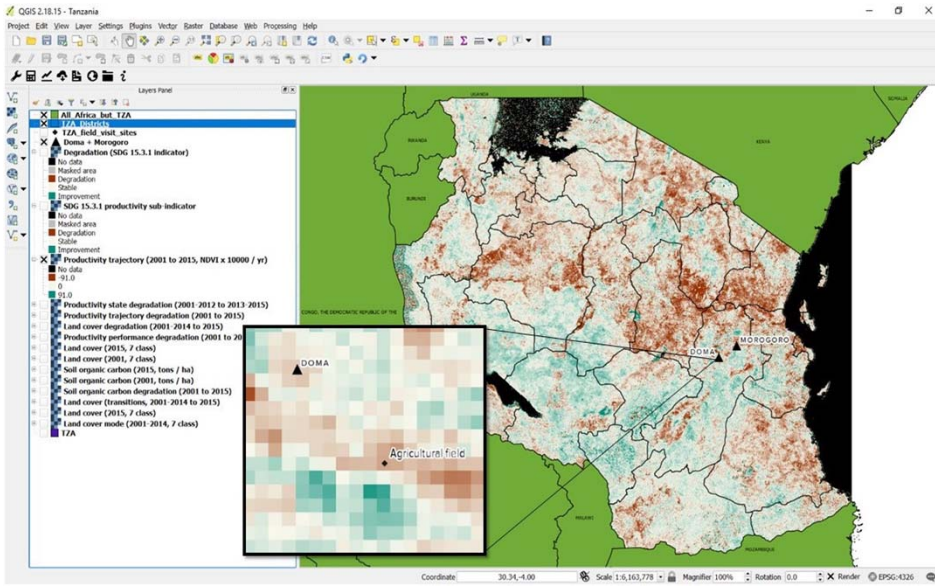


Out of the 113 countries that have committed to set LDN targets, 64 countries have already established a baseline





## 15.3.1 – Land Degradation Monitoring Tool



- GEF-funded project.
- Focus on: Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya
- EO Data: AVHRR, MODIS (NDVI), GOME-2 (chlorophyll fluorescence), MERRA-2 (soil moisture), Landsat 8, Sentinel 2A & 2B , 50 cm commercial satellite data
- Open source platform, qGIS, GEE
- SDG Monitoring & Reporting

**Above:** A screenshot of the Trends.Earth tool in use. Provided by Tristan Schnader, Vital Signs Senior Project Manager at CI.



### Pilot Country Workshops & Lessons Learned

Guidelines on dataset standardization to allow for valid comparisons • Request for finer spatial res. EO, preprocessed and ready for analysis • Need for further capacity building around indicators & tools • Internet access could limit usefulness of fully online platforms

# Building capacity around SDGs and EO data and tools



## Past Webinar Series (June 2017)

### Learning Objectives:

- Acquire satellite observations of land cover used to assess SDG indicators 15.1.1 and 15.3.1
- Develop a basic understanding of image classification and change detection



### Impact

445 individuals from 79 countries, 27 U.S. (states, territories, and D.C.), and 350 organizations

*“[I] hope to combine skills accessing & using this data along with higher resolution data to produce better derivative synthetic populations w/ estimated demographic attributes.” - U.S. Attendee*

*“It will help me create map of species distribution coupled with habitat characteristics” - Malaysian Attendee*



<http://arset.gsfc.nasa.gov>



### CAPACITY BUILDING:

Support institutions and individuals in the ideation, development, and implementation of methods, building capabilities directly with the SDG methods and more broadly with accessing and applying Earth observations.



# EO4SDG



EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<http://eo4sdg.org>  
Twitter: @EO4SDG

The screenshot shows the EO4SDG website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: Home, About Us, What We Do, Users, Get More Information, Contact, and a search box. The main header features the EO4SDG logo on the left and the GEO Group on Earth Observations logo on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of a coastal town. A text box on the banner reads: "EO4SDG organizes and realizes the potential of Earth observations and geospatial information to advance the United Nations 2030 Agenda and enable societal benefits through achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals." Below the banner, there are two columns of content. The left column is titled "Upcoming Events" and features a link to "Implementing and Monitoring the SDGs in the Caribbean: The Role of the Ocean" with a brief description of a workshop. Below this is a "VIEW ALL EVENTS" button. The right column is titled "Featured Projects" and features a link to "Integration of Earth Observations and National Statistics for the SDGs in Colombia" with a brief description and a small map of Colombia. Below this is a link to "Using satellite-based Earth observations to monitor SDG 6 indicators" with a brief description and a small map of a coastal area.

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**Thank you!**

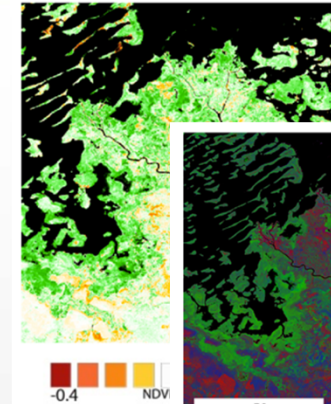
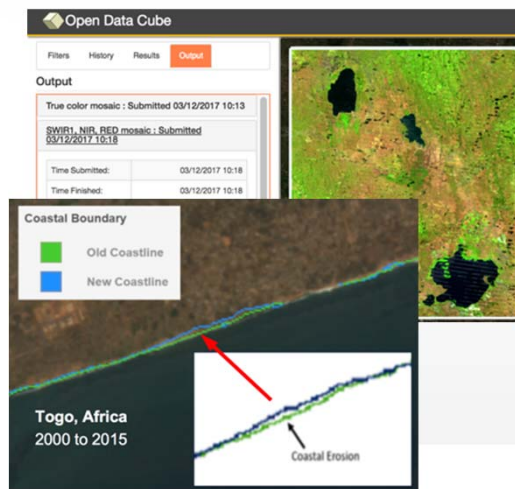


**EXTRA SLIDES**

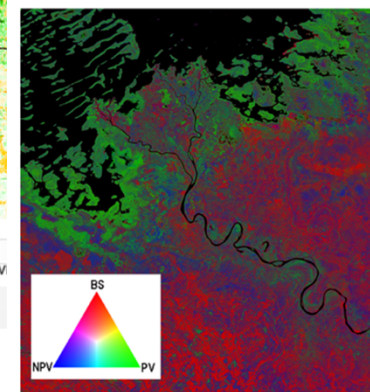




- Cloud-free Mosaics
- Land Change Detection
- Water Detection
- Water Quality
- Fractional Cover
- Vegetation Anomaly
- Coastal Change
- Urbanization

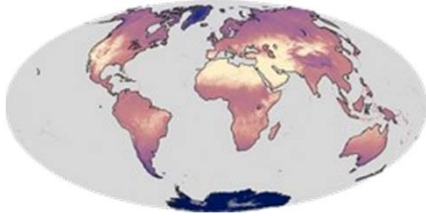


Red = Urbanization  
Green = Vegetation  
Blue = Water

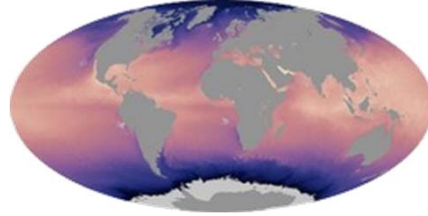


- Country Example: Australian, Colombian, and Swiss national Data Cubes
  - Reduced data preparation burden ... uses ARD
    - Enables data interoperability
    - Efficient time series analyses
  - Open source software and free access

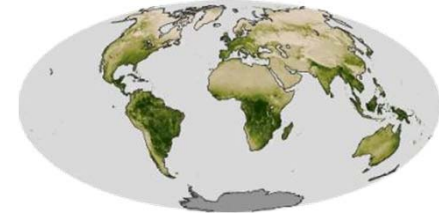
# Combining Earth observations to support informed decision-making



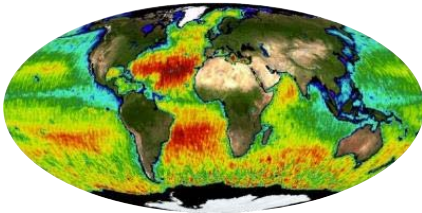
**Land Temperature**



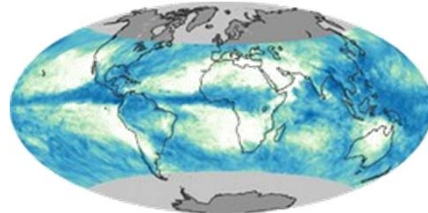
**Sea Surface Temperature**



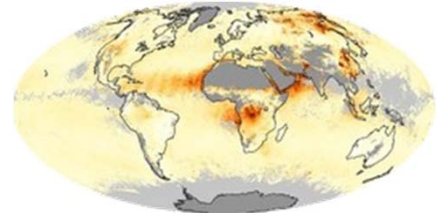
**Vegetation**



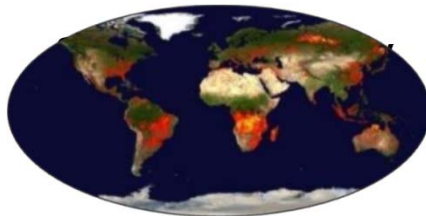
**Sea Surface Salinity**



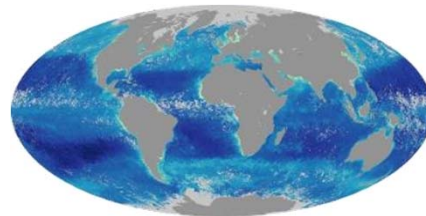
**Total Rainfall**



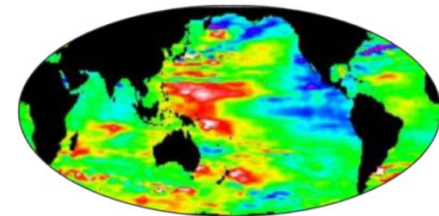
**Aerosols**



**Fires & Thermal Anomalies**



**Chlorophyll**



**Sea Surface Height**

Target Contribute to progress on the Target, not necessarily the Indicator								Goal	Indicator Direct measure or indirect support to the Indicator					
						1.4	1.5	1 No poverty	1.4.2					
						2.3	2.4	2 Zero hunger	2.4.1					
						3.3	3.4	3 Good health and well-being	3.9.1					
								4 Quality education						
							5.a	5 Gender equality	5.a.1					
		6.1	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.a	6 Clean water and sanitation	6.3.1	6.3.2	6.4.2	6.5.1	6.6.1	
						7.2	7.3	7 Affordable and clean energy	7.1.1					
								8 Decent work and economic growth						
						9.1	9.4	9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure	9.1.1	9.4.1				
						10.6	10.7	10 Reduced inequalities						
		11.1	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.6	11.7	11 Sustainable cities and communities	11.1.1	11.2.1	11.3.1	11.6.2	11.7.1	
						12.2	12.4	12 Responsible consumption and production	12.a.1					
						13.1	13.2	13 Climate action	13.1.1					
						14.1	14.2	14 Life below water	14.3.1	14.4.1	14.5.1			
						15.1	15.2	15 Life on land	15.1.1	15.2.1	15.3.1	15.4.1	15.4.2	
								16 Peace, justice and strong institutions						
							16.8							
								17 Partnerships for the goals	17.6.1	17.18.1				
17.2	17.3	17.6	17.7	17.8	17.9	17.16	17.17							



**GEO** GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

## Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda

### Purpose:

Organize and extend the potential of Earth observations and geospatial information within GEO to advance the 2030 Agenda and enable societal benefits through achievement of the SDGs.

### Key Emphasis:

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