



DAY ONE - DATA DEMAND

6th October 2015

08.30 - 10.00	Welcome
10:00 - 10:10	Curtain raiser
10:10 - 10:30	Opening Ceremony: Convene, Converge, Collaborate
10:30 - 12:00	Plenary I : Welcome address - Data revolution and institutional transformation <p>This plenary session will provide an overview of the key political and societal agreements and ambitions for a transition to a sustainable future (SDGs and climate COP). It will highlight the opportunities and challenges that we face regarding data, information and knowledge. An increased evidence and knowledge base is required to support policy and decision makers in delivering on these commitments and in tracking progress. Never before has the world had the need for - and access to - so much data and information, enhanced through rapidly evolving technologies and multi-stakeholder engagement. Achieving sustainable development is not possible without the entire society playing its role. This requires leadership, partnership and accountability from the UN, governments, the private sector and civil society.</p>
12:00 - 12:45	Souq opening
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	Track I <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing policy making demand for data; dialogue between decision makers and providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showcase the general successful practice/experience in data quality control/assurance from the perspective of various stakeholders (providers, users, third-parties, etc.) Identify the major challenges facing data quality for decision-making in the context of crowd-sourcing and citizen science Create a common understanding of data quality in the context of decision-making Biodiversity: data gaps from global to local practices <p>This session will draw on examples from the application of standards in biodiversity conservation data generation, including documentation of point biodiversity occurrences, assessment of extinction risk, identification of important sites, and evaluation of invasive species risk. The session will add value by building awareness of the key biodiversity data and its key role towards advancing sustainable development, as well as bringing together diverse groups in support of bridging the science to policy gap.</p> Arab Region's environmental data challenges <p>This session will discuss environmental data management strategies in the Arab Region to serve sustainable development indicators to enhance environmental policy making process in the Arab region.</p>





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4. Measuring progress towards sustainable development: priorities to meet the data demand

What is the demand for data to support indicators of progress towards the emerging Sustainable Development Goals and the broader post-2015 sustainable development agenda? This session will explore this demand by drawing from existing expertise and processes such as the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, with reference to a wide range of environmental and related governance, economic, and social indicators.

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30

Track 2

5. Donors demand for data

The purpose of this session is to learn from the international donor community – international development banks, international development agencies, foundations and others – how data is and can be used in their decision-making processes.

6. Building knowledge for healthy lives

People need to have access to data and information that affect their daily lives and their well being to pressure policy makers to take action and to empower them to take their own action.

7. Environmental data for business performance

This session will explore the demand for environment-related data from the private sector; in terms of managing risk, ensuring access to capital, and strengthening social licence to operate. It will span sectors including extractives and conglomerates, business intelligence, banking and financial services, and environmental consultancies. Optimal strategies for making such data available, including provision of tools and data licensing, will also be discussed.

17:30 - 17:45

Day wrap up

17:45 - 20:00

Networking and side events

20:00 - 22:00

Reception and Gala Dinner



DAY TWO - DATA SUPPLY

7th October 2015

09.00 - 10.30

Plenary 2 : Data Revolution – Data supply side

The purpose of this session is to set the tone and direction for the “data supply” theme of the 2nd day of the Summit. The speakers will focus on the revolution in data – the logarithmic explosion both in terms of data volume and of data sources. Most importantly, the keynote addresses will highlight the undiscovered potential of these new resources and providers to contribute to informed decision-making about environmental, social and economic challenges faced by politicians, businesses, governments, scientists and ordinary citizens.

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30

Track 3

8. Connecting environmental networks: What GNON can do for you!

This session will examine the fundamental problems from a socio-technical perspective – what are the practical realities that lead to our current sub-optimal state of affairs.

We will then introduce the principles of a Global Network of Networks to deal with these underlying problems with an evolutionary approach to leverage and improve the best available practices to create more useful environmental informatics capability at all scales of operation.

9. Mobilising data to support decision-making for SIDS

This breakout session will aim to achieve the following outcomes

- Establish a special initiative on Data for SIDS (Eye on Islands)
- Engage a global group of SIDS stakeholders to take this initiative forward
- Express the challenges and opportunities facing SIDS institutions
- Compile a set of priority fiche project concepts around data issues

10. Arab Civil Society : An Eye on Earth

Participating institutions, NGOs and organizations will explore the potential roles for civil society to assist decision and policy makers to improve environmental decision making process through reliable data collected by civil society.

11. Data for sustainable development

The past five years have witnessed the advent of “big data” enabled by technology innovations such as cloud computing. This session will explore the potential for this breakthrough to accelerate improved decision-making to advance sustainable development.

12. It's an Urban World!

Clearly identifying opportunities for the Eye on Earth community to support the urban SDG – goal 11. Without capacity building, to promote data accessibility and applications use, urban communities will not be able to develop a sustainable, resilient and viable future

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch / Press event



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14:00 - 15:30

Track 4

13. Improving Access to Quality Data and Information to Implement Global Frameworks

In March 2015 the international Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) community approved the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Sendai framework includes seven, concrete global targets to monitor its implementation. The development of a DRR monitoring mechanism to measure the achievement of these targets and their alignment with other critical global initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), needs a concerted effort of all stakeholders.

14. Decision-making in water security : Community strategy for success

Water security is an inherently interdisciplinary and complex issue that is critical to consider for achieving sustainable development, human well-being, and environmental sustainability. It is a central factor in biological, institutional, political, economic and social considerations and has an impact on local, regional, and global scales. Achieving the post-2015 SDGs will not be possible without a considerable focus on water.

15. Oceans and Blue Carbon – The Role of Mapping and Joint Fact Finding in Efficiently Creating Community

The Role of Mapping and Joint Fact Finding in Efficiently Creating Community The session will look at how increased understanding of the role of data and mapping and how it can support joint fact finding. Having distinct groups/people come together towards one common cause/ action can be an efficient means towards creating an active and engaged society.

16. Understanding the costs of knowledge : Cost of data generation and maintenance

How much investment is necessary to develop and - critically - to maintain the delivery of authoritative knowledge products to inform decisions in sustainable development? This session will present examples of how such costs can be evaluated, showing that, while large compared to present investment, they are tiny relative to societal investments in other topics of comparable significance for improved decision-making.

17. Data integration for effective monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

This session will show the importance of data from Earth observations into SDG monitoring and how they can be integrated into other geographic and data from various national statistical systems including those used by MDG monitoring. This will enable more relevant and focused measuring and monitoring of progress toward achieving various types of sustainability, be it economic, social or environmental within the SDGs framework.

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break



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16:00 - 17:30

Track 5

18. Everyone is a supplier

With more than 7 billion mobile phones worldwide and with near global internet connectivity, citizens anywhere are now capable of being the eyes and ears of the planet. This session will showcase successful approaches for engaging people to crowd-source data and contribute to citizen science, and how can indigenous knowledge be systematically integrated into decision-making.

19. Sustaining Communities in Upheaval – Data Needs to Support Refugees and Vulnerable Populations

This session will bring together disaster management, global network of networks, and access for all themes to foster an engaging and vital conversation on a critical international situation – the Syrian refugee crisis. The UN estimates that at least 6.5 million people have been displaced in Syria, with over 3 million having fled to neighboring countries. There are exigent data demands as the international community works to sustain these refugee populations. The Eye on Earth Summit would be an ideal location for a panel session to discuss potential solutions to help address this urgent data crisis.

20. Special initiatives contribution to enabling conditions

This session will present view points from three EoE Special initiatives, namely Access for all, GNON and Education on how each of them proposes to respond to developing the right enabling conditions with regard to access to information, citizen engagement and access to justice (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (1992) as affirmed by the EoE Abu Dhabi Declaration (2011)). These view points will be presented in response to two case studies problem statements drawn from a watershed and dam scenario that will be presented at the outset.

21. Innovations in data supply : Big data and how to manage it

The session will include an overview of the approaches and accomplishments of the Group on Earth Observations Global Earth Observation system of Systems (GEOSS), GeoScience Australia's DataCube and other data infrastructures. Presentations/discussion will focus on several significant components with regard to the GEOSS, such as Earth observation systems and data and information systems that can facilitate the delivery of data and information for informed decision-making. The session will also include approaches being used by the private sector to handle the increasing volume of data becoming available.

17:30 - 18:30

Plenary 3 : Reaching audiences through innovations in visualisation

For people to act on information, they need to understand it. Visualisation can increase that understanding. Bringing together leading experts and practitioners, this plenary will showcase innovations in data visualisation and application that advance sustainable development.

18:30 - 18:45

Day wrap up

19:00

Free for Networking





DAY THREE - ENABLING CONDITIONS

8th October 2015

09.00 - 10.30

Plenary 4 : Creating the enabling environment

This plenary session will set the stage for the third day of the summit's theme of enabling conditions. It will draw together the issues of data demand and data supply discussed on the first two days respectively, and place them in context of the factors necessary to support effective and efficient synergy between the two. These include policy arenas, funding commitments, and capacity building. IUCN's Director General will open the session with a keynote, and then moderate a discussion among distinguished panelists, all of whom are global leaders on the above themes.

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30

Track 6

22. Policies, partnerships and open data for sustainable development

This breakout session will aim to achieve the following outcomes

- Reach a common understanding of Open Data Policies and their importance
- Recommend resources/best practises/capacity-buildings activities that legislative bodies, governments, public organisations and individuals can take advantage of to increase the adoption and implementation of Open Data Policies.

23. Education for sustaining the planet

The goals of the session are three-fold: 1) to provide an overview of global trends in education as it relates to sustainable development and data-driven decision-making; 2) showcase achievements of the EE SI since its inception through its seed-funded projects; and 3) to formulate the future vision of the EE SI, based on a variety of stakeholder perspectives, from a range of geographical areas (e.g. Europe, Asia/Pacific, regional) and from a range of sectors (e.g. universities, private entities, non-profit organizations, and international organizations).

24. Principle 10 of Rio Declaration : For better environmental governance and access for all in different regions

Efficiency and accountability of policy development can be further enhanced through a more open access to environmental information and data as well as better conditions for public participation in environmental decision-making thus aiming for environmental governance improvement.

Major progress was achieved in this regards on the regional level since Rio Conference and especially after Rio+20 Conference on Principle 10 (access to information and public participation on environmental matters) promotion and implementation. Most recent development marks the Latin American and Caribbean regions Principle 10 process where 20 countries launched few months ago the negotiation of Principle 10 regional instrument.

25. Regional innovative approaches for cross regional cooperation in data sharing

This session focuses on Cross regional cooperation framework within the eye on earth summit objectives and will highlight the need to create a platform among regions to exchange experiences in the field of data sharing, data harmonization and exchange of success stories. The session will include the data issues on a regional, sub regional or cross regional basis. Major environmental data networks will be invited.



DAY THREE - ENABLING CONDITIONS

8th October 2015

26. Ensuring the capabilities exists

To foster use of Earth observations for improved decision-making we must consider human, scientific, technological, organizational and institutional resources and capabilities. These are crucial elements of capacity building as embraced by the Group on Earth Observations.

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch / Press Event

14:00 - 14:10

Reconvene at Plenary room with refreshments for the
“Cutting Edge Eye on Earth”

14:10 - 16:00

Feet in the field

Environmental issues are fundamentally local ones, and so the mobilisation of environmental data in support of sustainable development decision-making requires the professional human capacity to collect data on the ground and in the water. This session will provide inspiring examples of building and maintaining such capacity to get “feet in the field” such as the Conservation Leadership Programme, Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, and Save Our Species programme.

Remote sensing and location enabling applications

WRI: This session will introduce “what’s next” for remote sensing, including high-resolution/ high-frequency satellites, remote-operated aircraft, and more.; GEO: Meta Data Interoperability Although progress has been made with respect to syntactical, structural and semantic standardization, the large number of different meta data standards and environmental thesauri illustrates a key problem of all standardization efforts. Imagery of Earth from space and air has revolutionized how we monitor and understand developments on the planet.

UNEP (location enabling app. :

- Huge opportunities exist to create data and engage many more actors in the process at different levels.
- The power of the mobile phone in terms of societal improvements and economic opportunities is clearly recognised.
- Geographical information systems and satellite technology is continuing to advance rapidly.
- Technologies (low/high tech, low cost - raspberry)

16:00 - 16:30

Coffee break

16:30 - 17:00

Reporting on the EoE roadmap 2016 - 2017:
Eye on Earth - Looking forward

17:00

Plenary 5: Closing

