



# EOPOWER: EARTH OBSERVATION FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the EOPOWER project is to create conditions for sustainable economic development through the increased use of earth observation products and services for environmental applications.

This purpose serves the higher goal of effective use of earth observation for decision-making and management of economic and sustainable development processes.

This will be achieved through the following activities:

1. Roadshow activities to promote the increased use of EO products and services for environmental applications, including capacity building;
2. Portfolio of potential EO applications for economic development and environmental management;
3. Enhancement of the resource facility on capacity building in the GEO web portal;
4. Establishment of local focal points (nodes) that actively promote and provide capacity building on the use of EO for environmental applications effectively and at low-cost;
5. Explore the establishment of a high-level forum of stakeholders (resource providers, international organizations) that have an interest in EO for economic development and environmental applications;
6. Establishment of a central feedback node that digests and shares information on incubators, innovation, successes, experiences, visibility and provides brokerage and advice on resource mobilization.

## 13 PARTNERS

- Université de Genève (UNIGE, Switzerland)
- HCP International (Netherlands)
- Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD, France)
- Centrum Badan Kosmicznych Polskiej Akademii Nauk (SRC, Poland)
- Univerzita Karlova V Praze (CUNI, Czech Republic)
- South Africa National Space Agency (SANSА, South Africa)
- Centre Régional African des Sciences et Technologies de l'Espace (CRASTE-LF, Morocco)
- Aristotelio Panepistimio Thessalonikis (AUTH, Greece)
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR, Italy)
- Univerzitet U Novom Sadu, with Sveučilište u Splitu (UNS, Serbia)
- Universiteit Twente (ITC, Netherlands)
- Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica (INAOE, Mexico)
- Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu (TUBITAK, Turkey)

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACTS

1. Opportunities created for economic development, in particular in developing countries.
2. Key international economic development processes identified that require environmental information and mechanisms to develop them in a sustainable fashion.
3. Local communities and authorities have received capacity building and are able to collaborate with international development programs, use environmental EO information and products, and engage resource providers.
4. Mechanism established to market and exploit EO applications for the creation of new innovative products and support services.

**THE EOPOWER PROJECT IS NOT ABOUT SCIENCE,** although it benefits from and uses the results of scientific research in earth observation and its application areas. Building on the GEONetCab, EGIDA, enviroGRIDS, BalkanGEONet, OBSERVE and SEOCA projects, EOPOWER provides a link (and feedback) between the science community and civil society. The coordination of EOPOWER consists of several elements:

- Valorisation of science for practical applications,
- Feedback from the end-users to the science and development community,
- Connection of different pilot regions to benefit and learn from each other experiences,
- Inter-regional dissemination of successful practices and results, and
- Interaction with the GEO community to contribute to the achievement of the GEOSS targets.

### **EOPOWER IS A PROJECT DEDICATED TO ACTION.**

In the different regions promotion activities will be carried out, each coordinated by a node in the region. The plan and strategy for each region can be different, depending on the specific circumstances.

An essential element is that the drivers in the different regions are organizations that are committed to the promotion of earth observation applications and have a proven track record in this area. The activities in the regions are complemented and supported by a number of 'central' initiatives:

- A central feedback node, where experiences from the regions are processed and fed back to the other regions. This activity builds on the brokerage function of the GEONetCab project.  
The main aim of this activity is to deliver a compelling marketing concept and to demonstrate the value of earth observation to customers. It also has a monitoring and evaluation function, with the aim to capitalise on lessons learned from past experiences.
- A capacity building node, where successful practices for capacity building in earth observation for environmental applications are generated and disseminated.
- The resource facility on capacity building and resource mobilization that will be enhanced as part of the GEO web portal.
- A central node that is dedicated to the conceptual aspects of the valorisation of scientific results in earth observation.

All the other action concentrates on the regions, except an effort to involve international organizations (get earth observation on the agenda), for which a separate work package is reserved.

The regions of the project are:

- Southern Africa,
- French-speaking Africa,
- Czech Republic and Slovakia,
- Poland and Ukraine,
- Balkan region,
- Black Sea region,
- Turkey and Turkish-speaking countries,
- Latin America.

These regions are selected because they provide a broad geographical coverage, with active players in the context of GEO and are of specific interest from the viewpoint of European cooperation in earth observation. Of course, there are other regions that potentially fulfil these criteria, but practical considerations pose a limit on the number of partners.

Additionally, in most of the regions previous projects have been carried out, such as GEONetCab, which makes it possible to increase the number of partners without putting too much strain on coordination, because this project can build on past experiences and results.

As the GEONetCab project has shown, although regions may be very different, comparing the differences and similarities yields interesting results and is very useful for learning from each other and formulating a general strategy for successful promotion.



**Background satellite image:**  
courtesy of NASA