



SPECIAL INITIATIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Wise decision-making depends on use of an ever-growing pool of data, information and knowledge. Access is critical; nevertheless, decision-makers often find the resources to be inaccessible, absent or simply hidden.

Eye on Earth (EoE) converges initiatives that address the challenges of increasing access to environmental, societal, and economic information. More specifically, EoE is facilitating the global convergence of world class thinkers, actors and capacity builders with a focus on resolving data and information gaps, blockages and needs as required for more effective decision-making towards sustainable development.

In December 2011, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi (EAD) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), convened global leaders, innovators and decision-makers to the inaugural EoE Summit. Delegates committed to a suite of outcomes, including the EoE Summit Declaration and Eight (8) Special Initiatives (SIs). The SIs address major environmental issues and are categorized into five thematic and three foundational initiatives. Among the thematic initiatives is the Eye on Disaster Management SI.

In 2012, EAD, through the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), and UNEP established a Secretariat to support and facilitate the aims of EoE through the SIs. Each Initiative is comprised of stakeholders that form a global community of practice. Together, the SIs represent a major portion of the EoE community. Stakeholders are actively engaged in moving initiatives forward through exemplary projects that demonstrate the guiding principles of the EoE Summit Declaration.

THE EYE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT SPECIAL INITIATIVE

The Disaster Management (DM) initiative is being framed as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) to strengthen existing networks and support Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial data infrastructure capacity building for more effective disaster planning and response and climate change adaptation. Special emphasis is placed on disaster resistant community development and resiliency in the most vulnerable communities and countries in the world.

There is a clear need for better preparedness, planning and mitigation so that efforts in response and recovery are more effective. GIS can play a fundamental role in helping to understand risk, prioritize activities to mitigate that risk, and bring the community together to achieve the same.

This initiative combines technology and expertise contributions of private sector companies, alignment with and strengthening of existing governmental, intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder programs, and direct cooperation with international financial institutions, development aid agencies and foundations, to help target countries and communities and develop the human, institutional, and technical frameworks and spatial data infrastructure needed to better plan for and respond to natural disasters. This initiative aligns and strengthens existing efforts where they are underway, and will establish new programs where they are most needed.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Within the next 5 years, the DM SI will be striving to achieve the following outcomes:

- Prepare and disseminate a “sound practice” conceptual framework for effective disaster management information infrastructure that will provide a reference model for the development of information infrastructure and associated systems that can enable more effective disaster reduction and recovery within countries.
- Identify and, as needed, support, successful examples of integrated disaster management information infrastructure. Establish a public-private partnership of commitments bringing together the international financial institutions and development aid agencies as well as the private sector to build or strengthen information infrastructure to support more effective disaster reduction and recovery, especially within the most needful countries and communities.
- Establish a framework that will enhance and sustain synergies within the disaster risk and recovery information community of practice to share ideas, methods, information and mutual technical support and advice.

It may also help to provide technical capacity for National Spatial Data Infrastructures (NSDI) that can advance sustainable development and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within beneficiary countries.

EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

To achieve the expected outcomes listed above, the Eye on Disaster Management SI proposes the following outputs:

- Establish regional and local pilot projects that align with the project vision and that establish texture and a knowledge foundation reflecting realities in different countries.
- Focus on communication elements to top policy decision makers that can establish sustainable funding for the needed efforts.
- Identify Policy, Management, Functional and Technological leadership elements for more effective disaster management tool development, data base creation and maintenance as well as proper scale deployment during and after disasters.
- Integrate new tools of crowd sourcing and people science with the governmental framework already in existence and provide market driven strategies that adapt and use both levels.
- Use the expanding technology of cloud-based data provision, new display and communication technologies and social networking systems in order to produce blue prints for optimal technology packages matched to the situation on the ground.
- Integrate and harmonize the interest in DM across other EoE SIs, especially Community Sustainability and Resiliency and Global Network of Networks.

SPECIAL INITIATIVE PROJECTS & LEAD STAKEHOLDERS

The following projects have been selected for seed funding by AGEDI and coordinated by the Association of American Geographers (AAG):

- Strengthening Information Infrastructure for Emergency Management (SIIEM) – Gaia GeoSystems.
- Falcon Serial Digital Interface (SDI) Leadership - a global business transformation initiative - Glenn Brooks Associates.

STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT

Nearly Seventy (70) stakeholders have engaged in this SI. They include governmental organizations, NGOs, private firms, and other interested organizations.

By participating in the SIs, your organisation can play a key role in helping us to achieve 'best-impact' from the SI programme. Through your support, you can play a leadership role in the provision of environmental and societal data and information to address the most critical issues of our time.

It is only with your help that we can collaborate to bridge the data and information gap between developing and developed countries, and build a more sustainable future founded on informed decision-making based on access to environmental and societal data and information by all of those who need it.

With the common vision of EoE you are offered a unique opportunity to support projects that have already been embraced by the international community, and highlight your distinction as an environmental leader in your chosen SI area of interest.

For further information, please contact the EoE SIs team at eoecommunity@ead.ae

WHAT IS A SPECIAL INITIATIVE?

A critical objective of the EoE Summit was to ensure that **compelling, specific, achievable outcomes** translate the principles of the Summit to **tangible commitments and actions**. The chosen eight initiatives are those considered by the EoE Community to fundamentally improve the landscape of environmental and societal information networking for the benefit of mankind, and from which compelling, tangible results can be achieved over the next 2-5 years.

BE PART OF THE EYE ON EARTH COMMUNITY

To find out more on which SI best aligns with your own environmental programme interests and how you can become an active participant, email us at eoecommunity@ead.ae or visit www.eoesummit.org

Join us and share your commitment to the SIs or keep up to date with our latest events and news through [Facebook/EyeonEarthSummit](https://www.facebook.com/EyeonEarthSummit).

OTHER 7 SPECIAL INITIATIVES:

- Eye on Access for All
- Eye on Biodiversity
- Eye on Community Sustainability & Resiliency
- Eye on Environmental Education
- Eye on Global Network of Networks
- Eye on Oceans & Blue Carbon
- Eye on Water Security



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