

# GEO SDG Awards 2023

Recognizing the productivity, innovation, novelty and exemplary efforts in the use of Earth observations to support sustainable development

Call for nominations open from  
May 16 – ~~July 2~~ **July 16, 2023**

<https://eo4sdg.org/awards/>



EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR  
THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

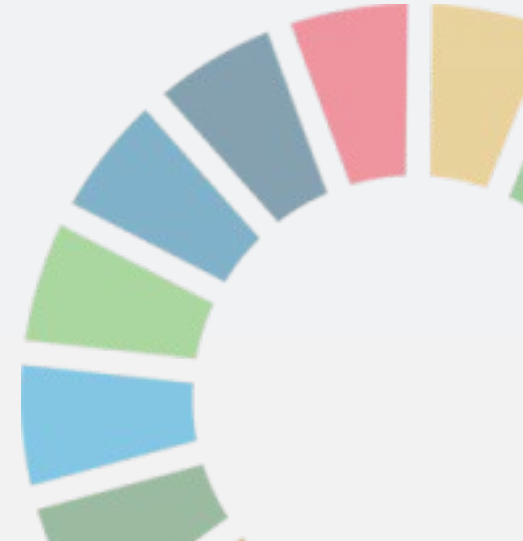
**GEO** GROUP ON  
EARTH  
OBSERVATIONS



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# BACKGROUND

## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, a global development agenda for all countries and stakeholders to use as a blueprint for progress on economic, social and environment sustainability.

## GEO and EO4SDG

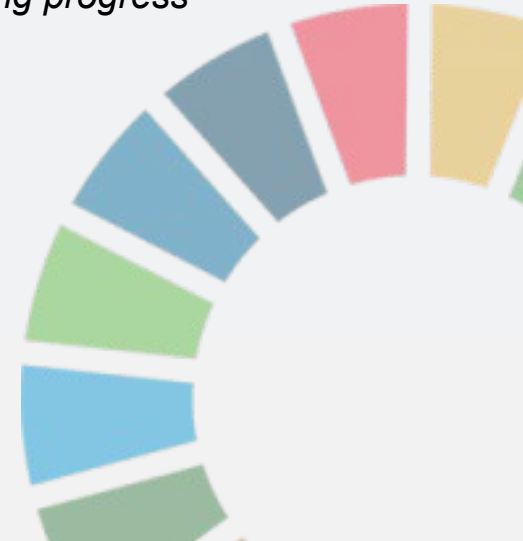
- To help advance the 2030 Agenda and enable societal benefits through the achievement the SDGs, the Group of Earth Observations (GEO) began **EO4SDG**, an initiative for harnessing Earth Observations and geo-spatial information.

## GEO SDG Awards

- The GEO SDG Awards recognizes the productivity, innovation, novelty, and exemplary efforts in the use of Earth observations to support sustainable development.



*The 2030 Agenda includes efforts “to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observation and geo-spatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress”*



# ELIGIBILITY

- All GEO Members and all organizations within a specific sectoral category are eligible to nominate themselves or others for the GEO SDG Awards.

Check GEO Membership:

<https://earthobservations.org/members.php>

- There will be Sectoral and Special Category Awards presented in several categories. Sectoral Category Awards will focus on the type of organization and the nature of their work. Special Category Awards recognize specific key tenets and objectives the Awards are intended to highlight.

## Who can be nominated?

- GEO Member Countries
- GEO Participating Organizations
- GEO Work Programme Activities
- GEO Associates
- SDG Custodian Agencies
- Academia
- Inter-governmental
- Commercial Sector
- Civil Society



# EVALUATION

**The following are the criteria used to evaluate the nominations for the Sectoral Category Awards:**

- **Merit:** Quality, effectiveness, and soundness of the Earth observation-based endeavor
- **Relevance:** Aligns with objectives of SDGs and GEO's vision and strategic objectives, and supports the use of Earth observations in countries' or stakeholders' activities and processes to meet SDG targets and/or report on SDG indicators.
- **Innovation:** Creative and innovative use of Earth observations
- **Achievement:** Clear results and distinct accomplishments (i.e., not a work-in-progress or expectations of future results)
- **Impact:** Value and level of positive social, economic, and/or environmental benefits
- **Exemplariness:** A commendable example and strong representation of the use of Earth observations for the SDGs that is worth showcasing; an endeavor which might motivate others

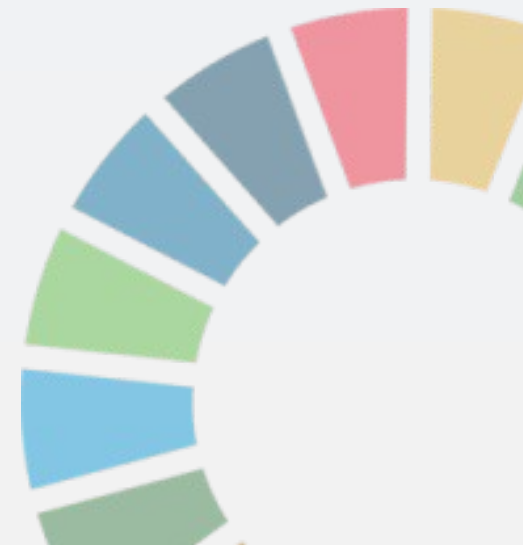
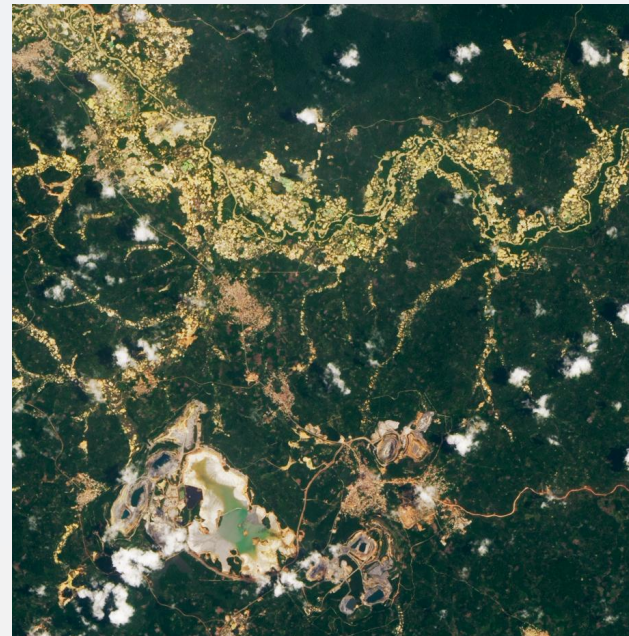
# EVALUATION CONT.

## Special Category Awards

- Special Category Awards recognize key tenets and objectives the Awards are intended to highlight. All nominees will be considered (as an entire group) for all Special categories.

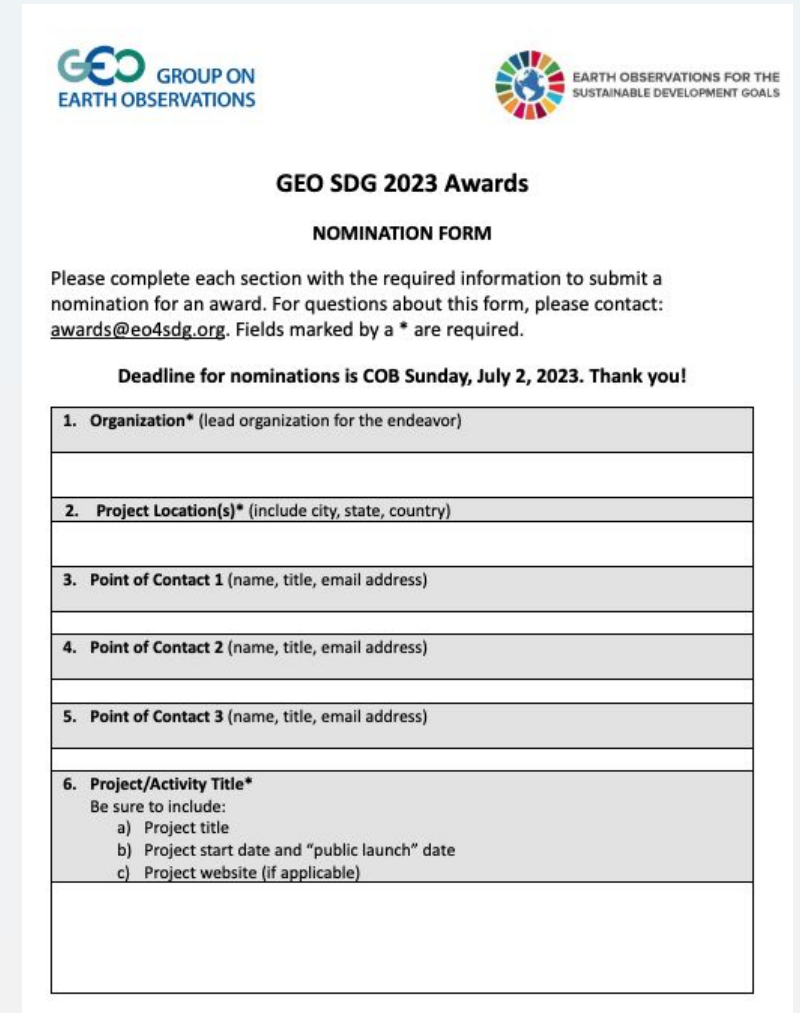
## Special Categories include:

- Innovation
- Testimonial/ Story
- Statistical-Geospatial Integration
- Collaboration



# HOW TO NOMINATE

- Download and complete the Nominations Form for the 2023 GEO Awards. Alternatively, you may download a Word Document and save it as a pdf before emailing your submission. Additionally, refer to the Suggestions for Nominators document for considerations in developing a nomination.
- Supplementary information such as images, testimonials, or other downloads should be included in your email as attachments.
- Email completed nomination forms and supplementary information to [awards@eo4sdg.org](mailto:awards@eo4sdg.org) by ~~July 2~~ **July 16, 2023**.



**GEO SDG 2023 Awards**  
**NOMINATION FORM**

Please complete each section with the required information to submit a nomination for an award. For questions about this form, please contact: [awards@eo4sdg.org](mailto:awards@eo4sdg.org). Fields marked by a \* are required.

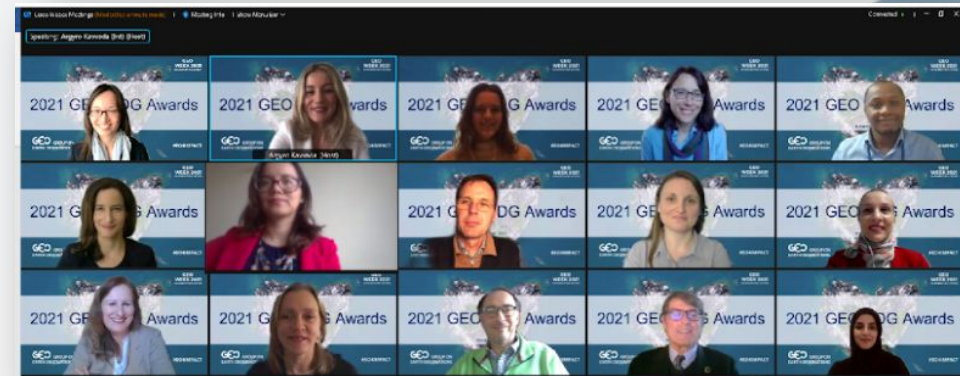
**Deadline for nominations is COB Sunday, July 2, 2023. Thank you!**

<b>1. Organization*</b> (lead organization for the endeavor)
<b>2. Project Location(s)*</b> (include city, state, country)
<b>3. Point of Contact 1</b> (name, title, email address)
<b>4. Point of Contact 2</b> (name, title, email address)
<b>5. Point of Contact 3</b> (name, title, email address)
<b>6. Project/Activity Title*</b> Be sure to include: a) Project title b) Project start date and "public launch" date c) Project website (if applicable)

# RECOGNITION

**All Awardee organizations will receive:**

- Certificate of Achievement
- Award or Trophy
- Recognition at Award Ceremony (during GEO Week 2023, November 6-10 in Cape Town, South Africa)
- Feature in the GEO website and EO4SDG website
- Promotion via social media
- GEO SDG Award Winner alumni network





<https://eo4sdg.org/awards/>



EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR THE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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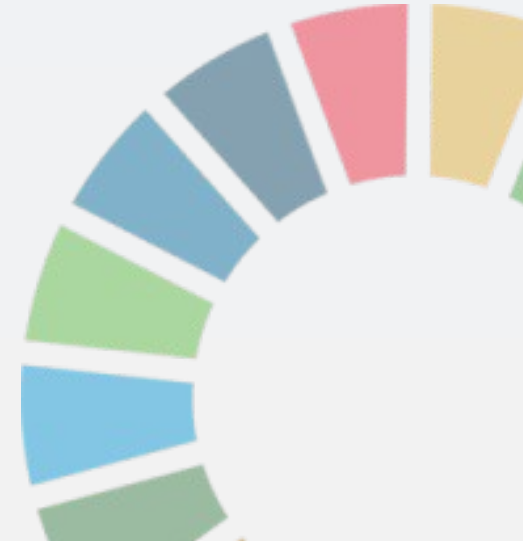
## GEO SDG Awards Program

The call for nominations is open from May 16th – ~~July 2nd~~ **July 16th, 2023.**

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) provides a universal set of priorities to use as a blueprint of action for people, the planet, and prosperity. Earth observations, geospatial data, and the information they provide play insightful roles in monitoring targets, tracking progress, as well as helping nations and stakeholders make informed decisions toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Group on Earth Observations Sustainable Development Goals (GEO SDG) Awards recognizes the productivity, innovation, novelty, and

# PAST WINNER EXAMPLES



# Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

**Category:** SDG Custodian Agency

FAO developed a new method to measure and monitor SDG indicator 15.4.2 (Mountain Green Cover Index, MGCI) leveraging free and open Earth observation data sets from land cover time series, ground truth land cover, and mountain elevation range. By integrating Earth observation data into the official methodology, the FAO achieved a series of important results including the standardization of input and methodology that has allowed for internationally comparable results. The use of validated input layers, in turn, has allowed for accuracy measures associated with the MGCI estimates, leading to increased transparency.



**15  
LIFE  
ON LAND**

In 2021 FAO introduced a new EO based methodology to measure and monitoring SDG 15.4.2.

The methodology in a nutshell is based on the geo-processing and spatial analysis of land cover data and digital elevation data from global maps. Countries can use the methodology relying on the global datasets, as well as use national land cover and DEM data as input.

The methodology is implemented as python code, as ESRI geoprocessing toolbox and is available as javascript for google earth engine users.

Office of the Chief Statistician (OCS) | E3 | 15 | 15.4.2 | 15.4.2

**Mountain Green Cover Index: revised metadata**

The reclassification of land cover types follows the below scheme

Code	Land Cover Description	Reclassified to
010	Forest	Green
020	Shrubland	Green
030	Grassland	Green
040	Barren land	Non Green
050	Water bodies	Non Green
060	Urban areas	Non Green
070	Other land	Non Green
080	Ice and snow	Non Green
090	Clouds	Non Green
100	Water bodies	Non Green
110	Urban areas	Non Green
120	Other land	Non Green
130	Ice and snow	Non Green
140	Clouds	Non Green
150	Water bodies	Non Green
160	Urban areas	Non Green
170	Other land	Non Green
180	Ice and snow	Non Green
190	Clouds	Non Green
200	Water bodies	Non Green
210	Urban areas	Non Green
220	Other land	Non Green
230	Ice and snow	Non Green
240	Clouds	Non Green
250	Water bodies	Non Green
260	Urban areas	Non Green
270	Other land	Non Green
280	Ice and snow	Non Green
290	Clouds	Non Green
300	Water bodies	Non Green
310	Urban areas	Non Green
320	Other land	Non Green
330	Ice and snow	Non Green
340	Clouds	Non Green
350	Water bodies	Non Green
360	Urban areas	Non Green
370	Other land	Non Green
380	Ice and snow	Non Green
390	Clouds	Non Green
400	Water bodies	Non Green
410	Urban areas	Non Green
420	Other land	Non Green
430	Ice and snow	Non Green
440	Clouds	Non Green
450	Water bodies	Non Green
460	Urban areas	Non Green
470	Other land	Non Green
480	Ice and snow	Non Green
490	Clouds	Non Green
500	Water bodies	Non Green



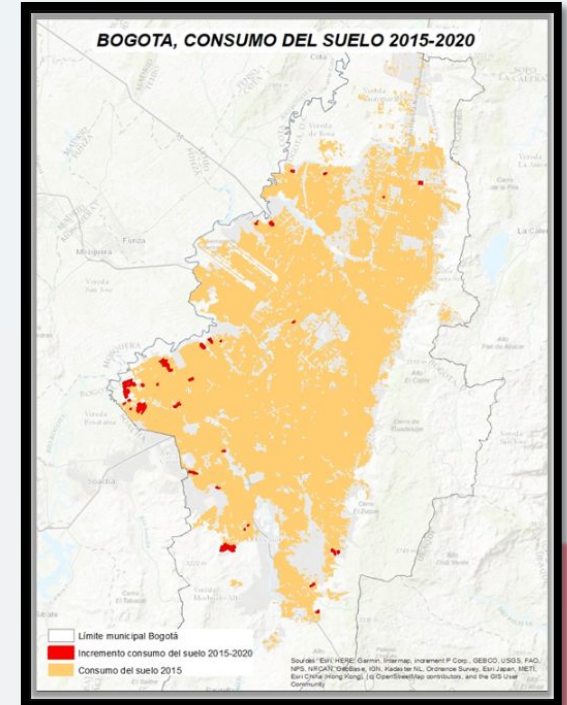
***“The Awards process and the recognition of our work was very useful for agencies like ours, and in general for building trust in countries and organizations using Earth observations.”***

– Lorenzo de Simone, FAO

# Colombia's National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE)

**Category:** GEO Member Country

Earth observations are an essential source of information for the exploration and calculation of SDG 11-related targets (sustainable cities and communities) for Colombia. Between 2015-2020, DANE used Landsat and Sentinel-2 satellite images, as well as census data and population projections to calculate SDG indicator 11.3.1 (ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate) for 63 Colombian cities. Based on this experience, Colombia then developed a methodology to calculate SDG indicator 11.7.1 in a sample of nine cities in 2021, which had a substantial component associated with the classification of satellite images.



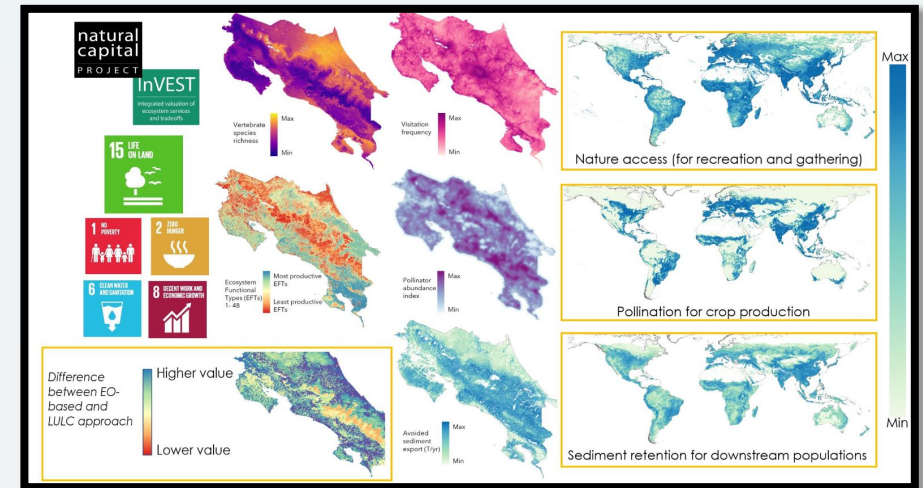
***“The Awards program helped our project disseminate the results of our project and to learn from other organizations.”***

- Sandra Liliana Moreno Mayorga, DANE

# Stanford University

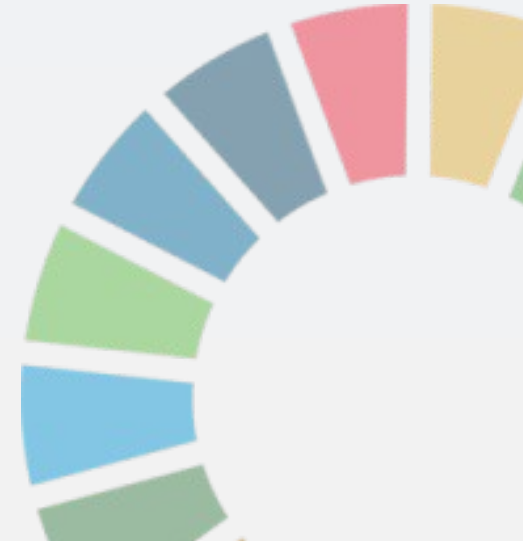
**Category:** Academia

Stanford University’s work with Costa Rica’s Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAЕ), Central Bank and PRIAS Lab has aimed to make information about the values of nature more accessible, relevant, and accurate by advancing the integration of Earth observations into biodiversity and ecosystem service modeling. The project has produced national maps of 30+ data products hosted on MINAЕ’s SINIA data portal, including vertebrate and pollinator diversity as well as ecosystem functional diversity (SDG 15), which drive ecosystem services like wildlife-based tourism, crop pollination, and sediment retention (contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 6, and 8).



***“Building partnerships has been key to our success and helped us be recognized as an award winner. Using this nomination process is also a good exercise to map information about your project; you can even use the summary for other reports and see how you can help improve other initiatives or vice versa.”***

- Rafael Monge, Costa Rica’s Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAЕ)



# Learn More About Past Winners

- [2019 Winners](#)
- [2020 Winners](#)
- [2021 Winners](#)
- [2022 Winners](#)



# RESOURCES AND TIMELINE

## Resources

- Website: <https://eo4sdg.org/awards/>
- FAQ: <https://eo4sdg.org/awards/faq/>
- [Suggestions for nominators](#)
- Questions: [awards@eo4sdg.org](mailto:awards@eo4sdg.org)
- Follow us on Twitter: [@EO4SDG](#), [@GEOSEC2025](#) (#EO4SDG, #GEOAwards)

## Timeline

- Nominations Open: **May 16<sup>th</sup>** – ~~July 2~~ **July 16, 2023**
- Evaluation: **August 2023**
- Notification: **September/October 2023**
- Awards Ceremony: **November 6-10, 2023 (during GEO Week 2023)**

