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/

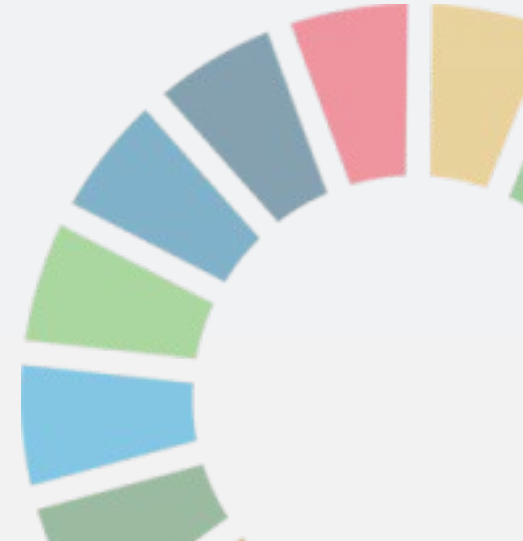EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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"
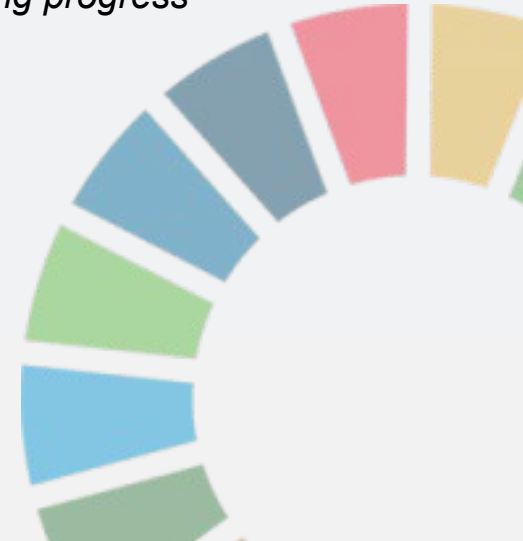
ELIGIBILITY

- 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
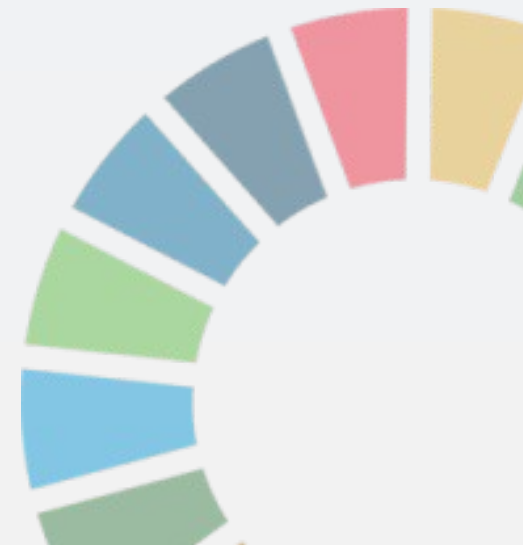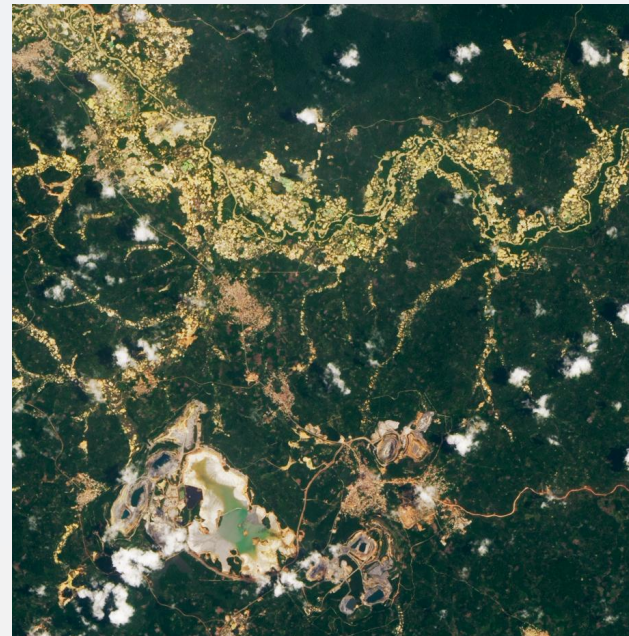
EVALUATION CONT.

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.
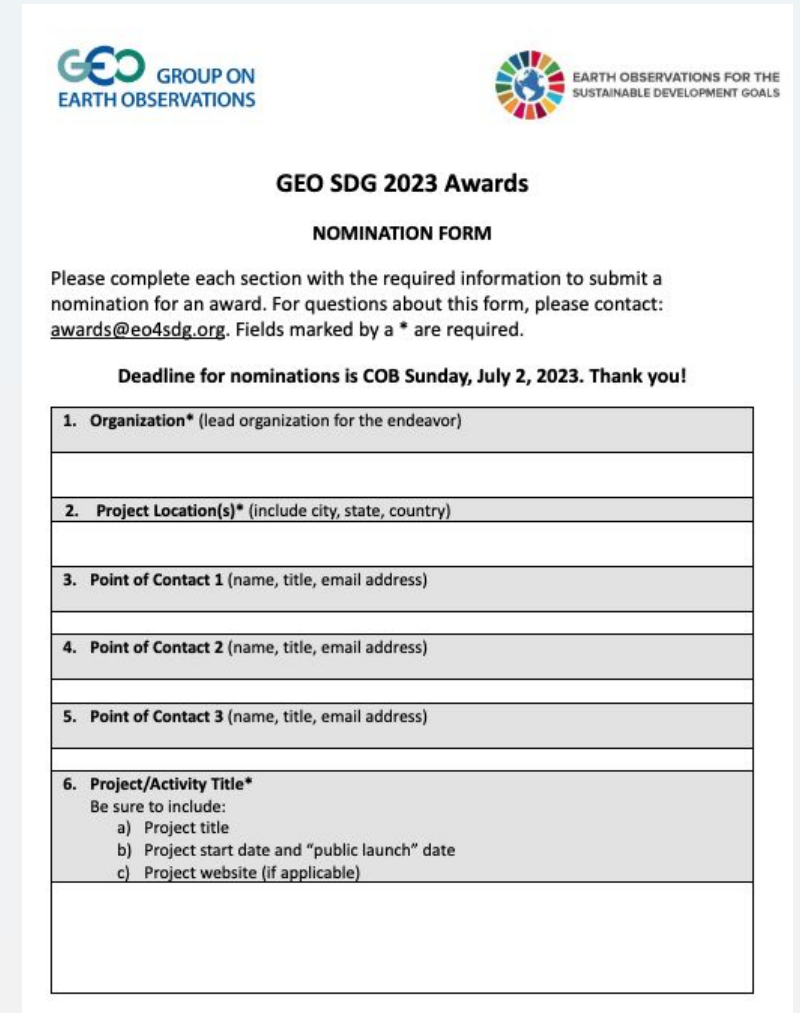
Special Categories include:

- 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 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. Fields marked by a * are required.

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

1. **Organization*** (lead organization for the endeavor)

2. **Project Location(s)*** (include city, state, country)

3. **Point of Contact 1** (name, title, email address)

4. **Point of Contact 2** (name, title, email address)

5. **Point of Contact 3** (name, title, email address)

6. **Project/Activity Title***
   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/

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.


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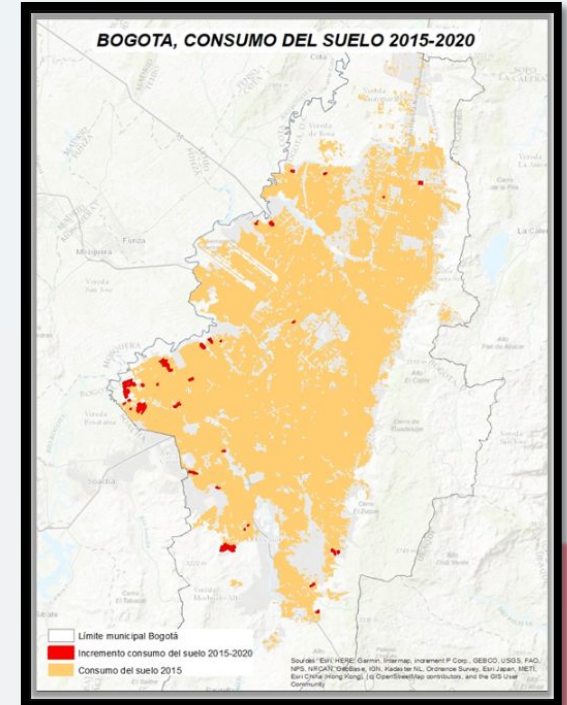
"The Awards program helped our project disseminate the results of our project and to learn from other organizations."

- Sandra Liliana Moreno Mayorga, DANE

BOGOTA, CONSUMO DEL SUELO 2015-2020

Stanford University

Category: Academia

Stanford University's work with Costa Rica's Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAE), 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 MINAE'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).
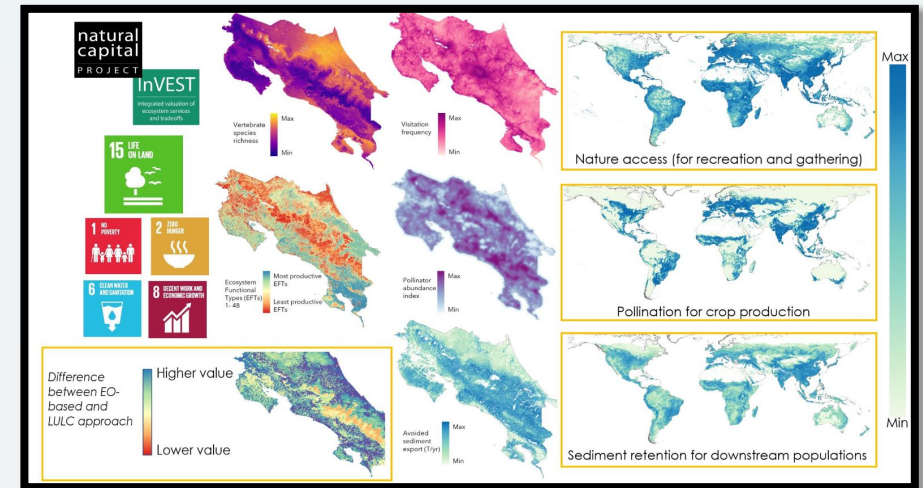
"Building partnerships has been key to our success and helped us be recognized as an award winner. Using this nomination process is also a good exercise to map information about your project; you can even use the summary for other reports and see how you can help improve other initiatives or vice versa."

- Rafael Monge, Costa Rica's Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAE)
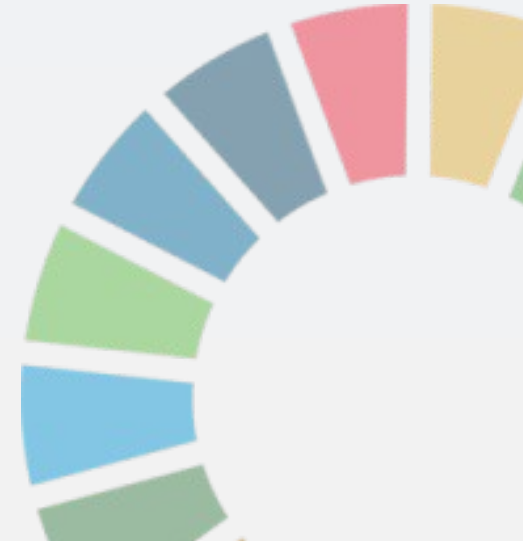
Learn More About Past Winners

- [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

- Follow us on Twitter: @EO4SDG, @GEOSEC2025 (#EO4SDG, #GEOAwards)

Timeline

- Nominations Open: **May 16th – ~~July 2~~** *July 16, 2023*

- Evaluation: **August 2023**

- Notification: **September/October 2023**

- Awards Ceremony: **November 6-10, 2023 (during GEO Week 2023)**