

**ICOS**

INTEGRATED  
CARBON  
OBSERVATION  
SYSTEM



**GEO**  
CARBON AND  
GHG INITIATIVE



# The GEO Carbon and GHG Initiative: Toward policy-relevant global carbon cycle observation and analysis

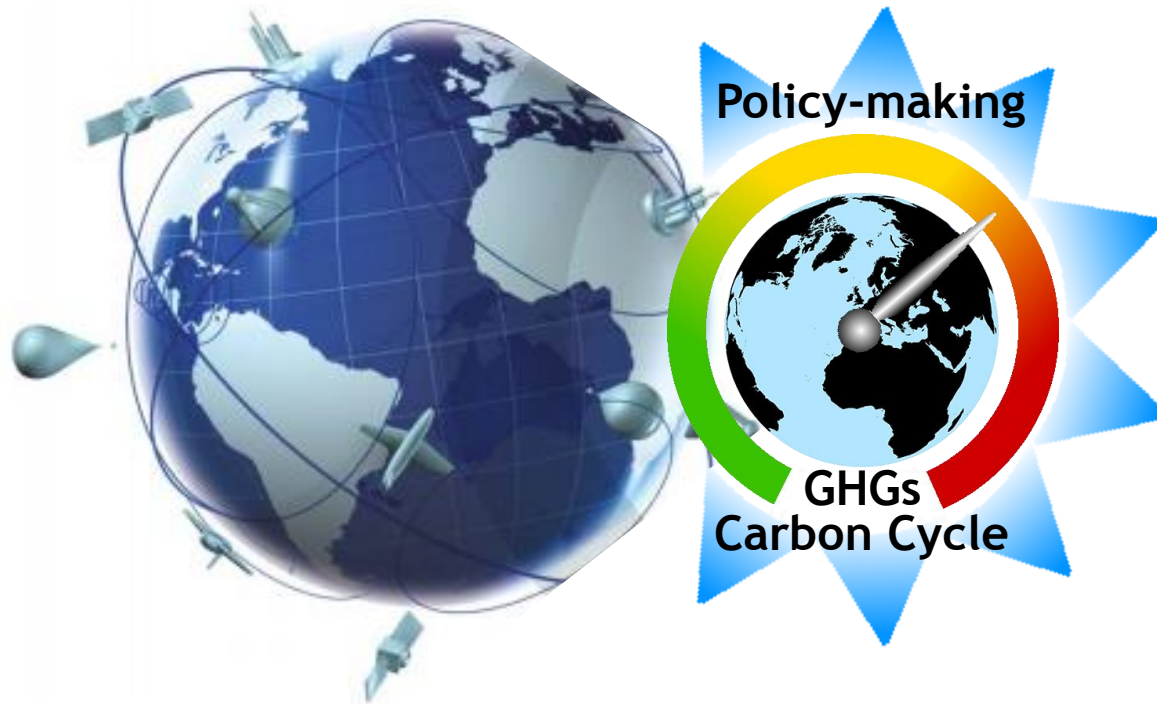
GEO-C Coordinator Jouni Heiskanen

GEO-C Secretariat & ICOS ERIC Head Office

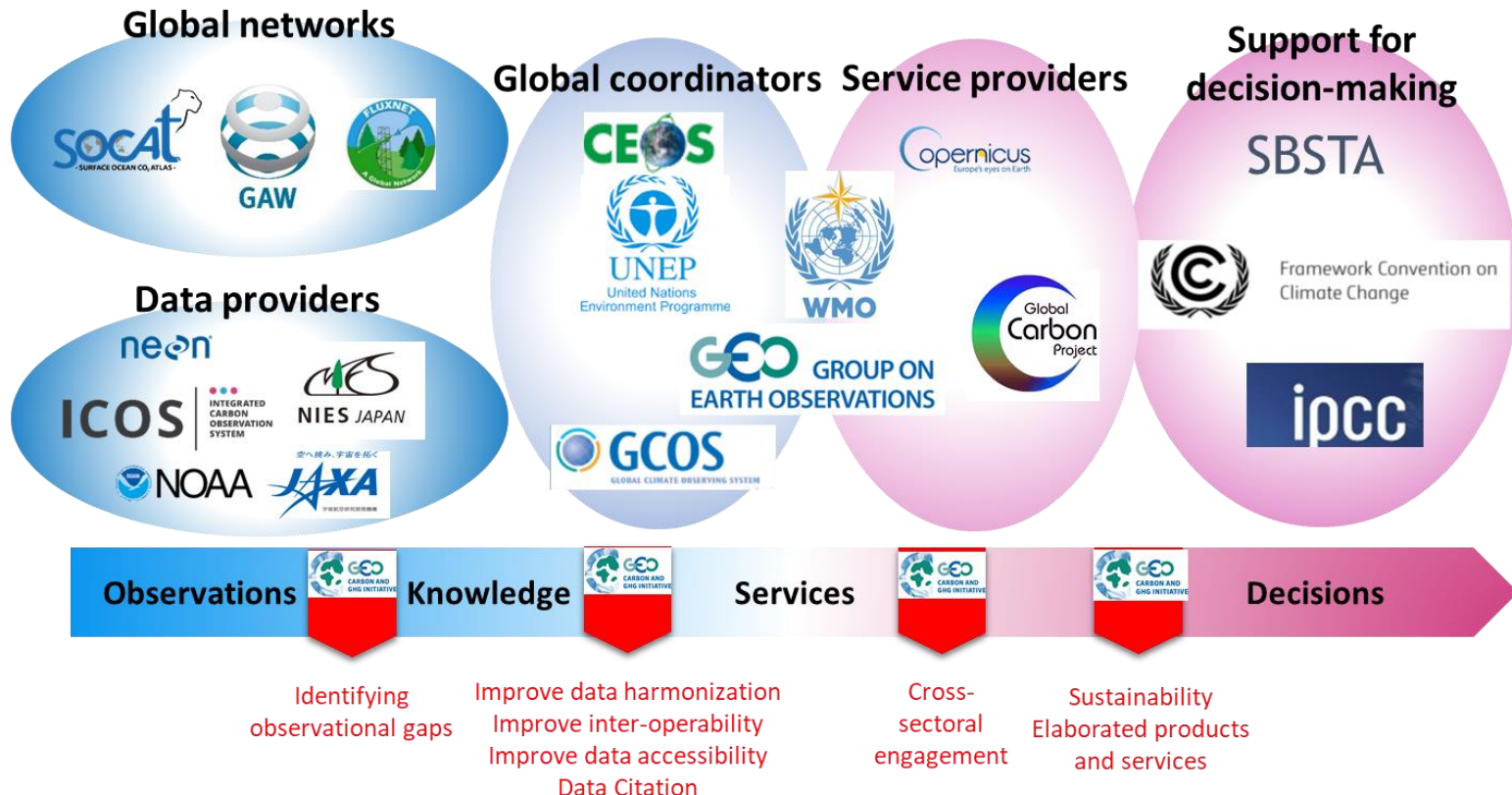
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Helsinki, 23 May 2018

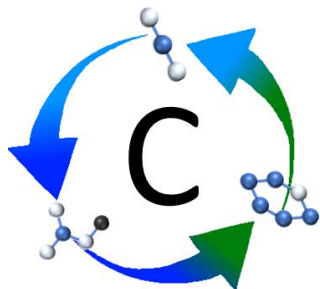
# VISION



# From Observations to Decisions



# Fragmented landscape



Carbon Cycle



Climate Change

Ecosystems

Oceans

Atmosphere

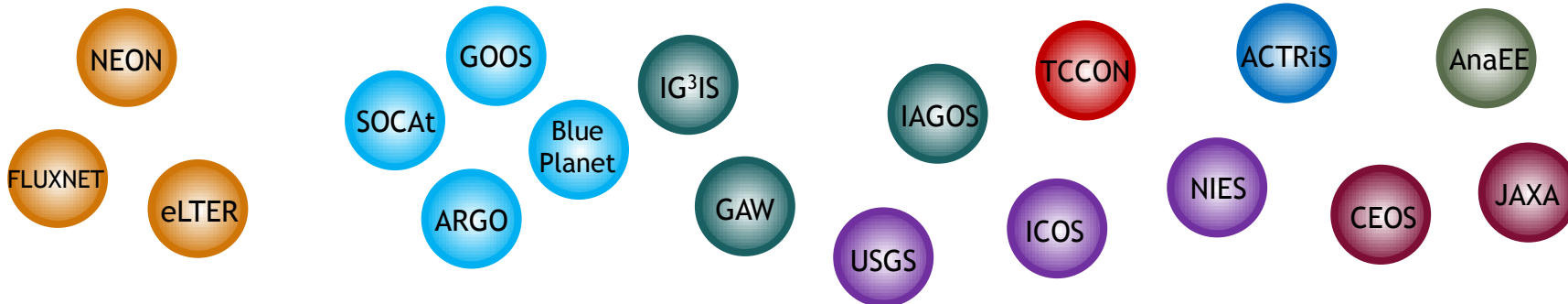
Gases

Aerosols

Human activities

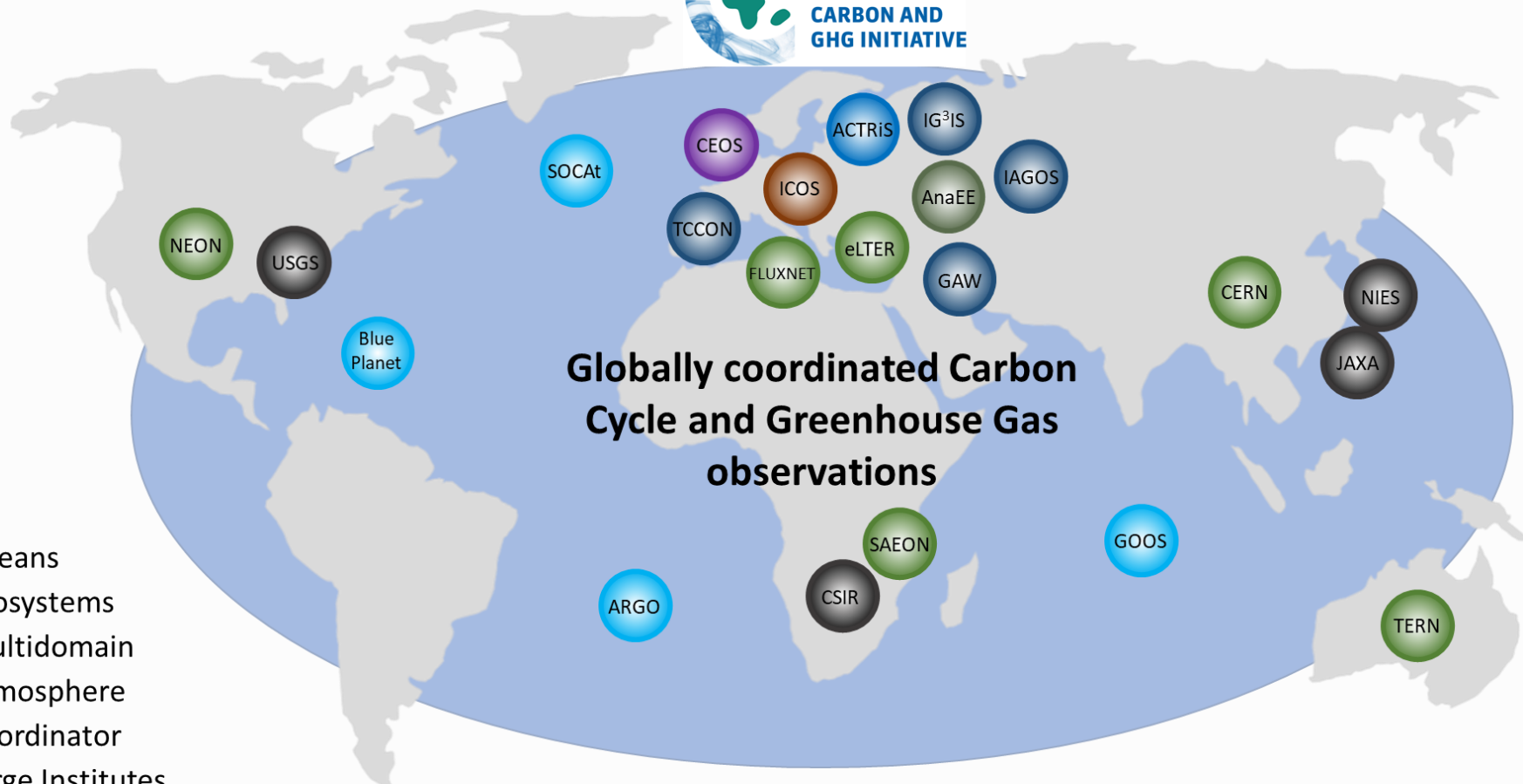
Natural processes

Very diverse scientific domains that need specialized approaches



... and many others!

# GEO-C aim



- Oceans
- Ecosystems
- Multidomain
- Atmosphere
- Coordinator
- Large Institutes
- Other GHGs



# Current situation

AIM: Coherent and global GHG observations

Contributions to global GHG observations

IG<sup>3</sup>IS

ICOS

Blue Planet

FLUXNET

CEOS

IAGOS

Distributed and largely independent observations and programs with obscure relations

ICOS  
INTEGRATED  
CARBON  
OBSERVATION  
SYSTEM

NEON

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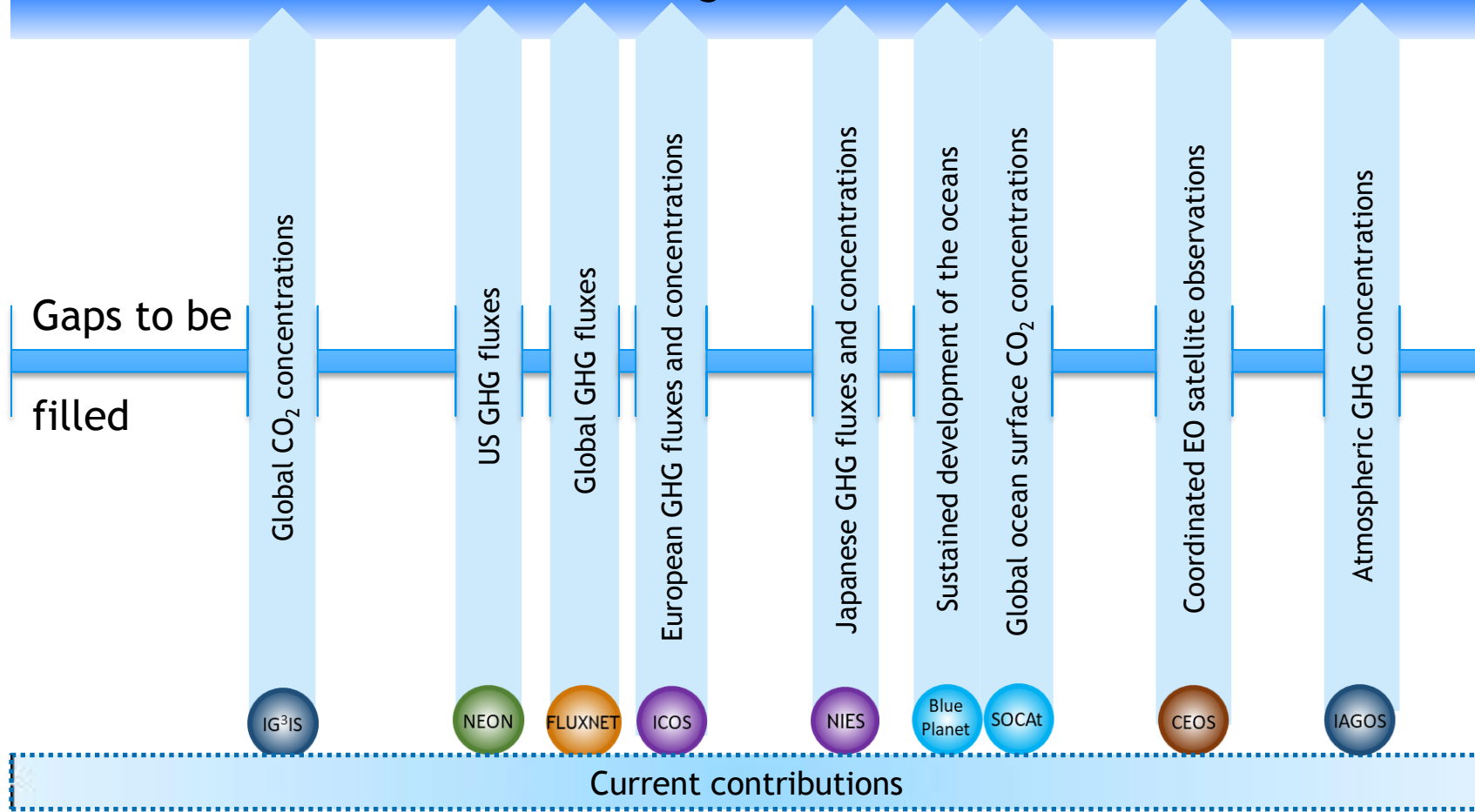
NIES

... and many others!

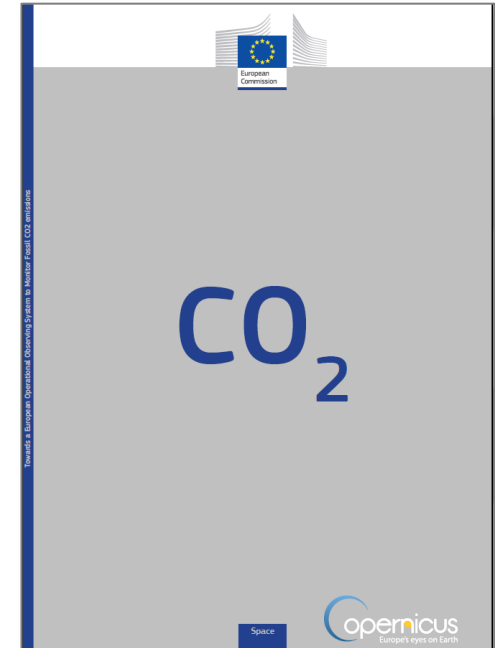
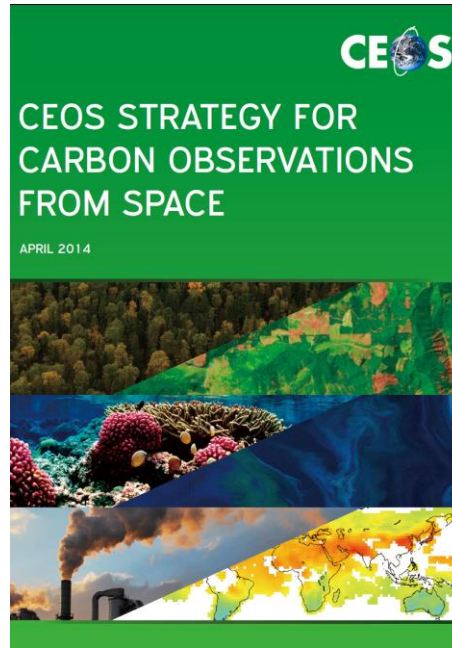
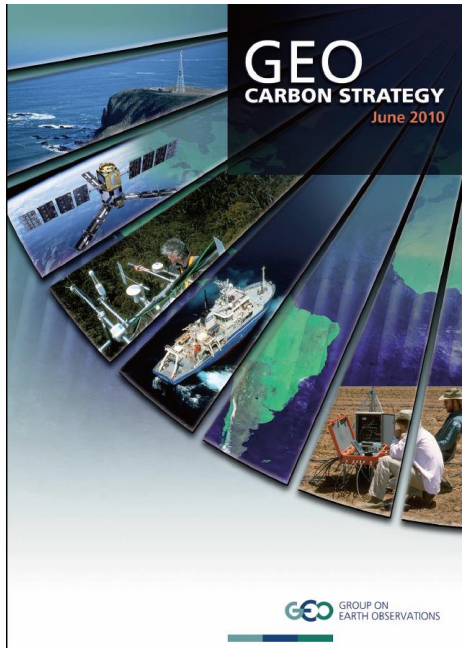


# GEO-C's role: follow landscape

AIM: Coherent and global GHG observations



# Background of the GEO Carbon and GHG Initiative



“GEO through its Members and Participating Organizations, has begun work to implement a global carbon observation and analysis system... to provide high quality information on carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>)...”

“...a response to the *GEO Carbon Strategy*. It details the adequacy of past, present, and planned satellite measurements of carbon in the land, oceans and inland waters, and atmosphere domains to support GEO...”

“Improve the inter-operability with other carbon observation systems, contributing to the new GEO Strategy and the new GEO 10 years Implementation Plan (IP) for 2016-2025.”



# Type of gaps identified

1. Access to existing data
2. New data using existing stations
3. New stations for new data
4. Developing technical and scientific methodology
5. Sustained observations and products
6. Data architecture to bind these all together

# Identified gaps specified

- Improve fossil fuel GHG emission estimates
- Improve estimation of carbon capture and export in the ocean
- Improve satellite data accessibility
- Improve carbon pool estimates
- Decadal carbon pool monitoring
- Develop spatial scaling techniques for pCO<sub>2</sub> and land flux observations
- Develop space measurements of global GHG distributions
- Data architecture for combination of different data streams
- Increase the density and geographical coverage of in situ networks

# GEO-C's role: support and build on existing efforts

## Existing efforts

- Data sources
- Data infrastructures (portals)
- Data tools (software, codes)
- Elaborated products (models, visualisations)

## Existing actors

- RIs
- Communities
- Institutes
- Programs
- Initiatives

## Existing practices

- GEOSS Data Sharing Principles
- ICOS Measurement Standards
- EU guidelines (e.g. Inspire directive)
- Cross-domain integration

Many necessary things are already present,  
mutual benefits and joint actions need to be identified and promoted

# Benefits of GEO-C

- Way to contribute to the Paris Agreement challenges
- Scientists benefit from easier access to different data streams
- More use for ‘own’ data and services
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Learn from others, improve operations
- Good for the image
- Opportunities for funding

# Summary of GEO-C contributions

- follow the landscape and identify current efforts and their relations
- identify and facilitate needed projects
- promote and support existing efforts
- explore cross-domain and cross-societal-sector opportunities



# Outcomes in 2017-2018

## Steering Committee and Secretariat established

### GEO-C Steering Committee:

Han Dolman (Netherlands) / Chair  
Werner Kutsch (ICOS) / Co-Vice Chair  
Hiroyuki Muraoka (Japan) / Co-Vice Chair  
Steven Volz, Alternate: Pascal Lecomte (CEOS)  
Mauro Facchini, Alternate: Mark Dowell (EC)  
Carolin Richter (GCOS)  
Phil DeCola (IG3IS)  
Kiyoto Tanabe (IPCC TFI)  
Joanna Post (UNFCCC)  
Deon Terblanche (WMO)  
Bob Scholes (South Africa)  
Pep Canadell (Global Carbon Project)

### GEO-C Secretariat:

Jouni Heiskanen (ICOS, Host)  
Antonio Bombelli (Italy)  
Nobuko Saigusa (Japan)  
Andre Obregon (GEO Secretariat)

## Outcomes of 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting (2/2/2018)

- Appointment of governance positions
- Agreement to develop a White Paper for GEO-C including a common roadmap

## Major short-term outputs

- Provide a global forum for formal and informal discussions to identify the complementary roles and responsibilities within the carbon observation landscape;
- Map the carbon observations landscape, with the goal to support planning, outreach and communication efforts;
- Identify observational and modelling requirements to define requirements for an integrated global carbon monitoring system;
- Improve policy science interface, with the aim to produce rapid feedback in both directions.
- Identify current contributions from key actors, which leads to identification of existing gaps;
- Jointly agree on roadmap to reach goals;
- Establish common terminology;
- Explore cross-boundary opportunities between science and society.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



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[www.icos-ri.eu/geo-c](http://www.icos-ri.eu/geo-c)

