

The Eye on Earth Special Initiatives

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) hosted, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) the inaugural Eye on Earth Summit. It convened global leaders, innovators and decision-makers to strengthen existing efforts and inspire new solutions to the critical issue of access to environmental data and information by all those who need it. With the shared knowledge and understanding of the Eye on Earth Community, a suite of outcomes were committed to in 2011: the Eye on Earth Summit Declaration and Eight (8) Special Initiatives.

WHAT IS A SPECIAL INITIATIVE?

The chosen eight initiatives are considered by the Eye on Earth Community to fundamentally improve the landscape of environmental and societal information networking for the benefit of mankind, and from which compelling and tangible results can be achieved over the next 2-5 years.

The eight Special Initiatives, **3 foundational and 5 thematic**, represent significant programmes of work. The 3 foundational series address issues that cross-cut the 5 thematic Special Initiatives and are seen as essential to supporting effective environmental and societal data and information sharing. 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.

Foundational Special Initiatives



Thematic Special Initiatives



WHY THE SPECIAL INITIATIVES MATTER

The issues represented by the Special Initiatives can only be resolved by a concerted effort of all those involved, from information specialists to policy and decision-makers.

HOW WERE THE INITIATIVES SELECTED?

Each initiative was chosen for having the following fundamental characteristics:

- **Potential to be an agent of change of historical proportions and impact.**

Address one or more core objectives and themes of the Eye on Earth Summit in a way that will fundamentally change the face of environmental and societal information networking in a substantive, systemic, and sustainable manner;

- **A compelling and common need across the Eye on Earth Community was identified.**

An issue or outcome that is acknowledged as a critical need across a majority of the concerned Eye on Earth Community;

- **High-level support and commitment.**

Explicit commitment of a constellation of major, concerned stakeholders who have the access, influence, commitment and resources to catalyse and implement change.

- **Implementable within a reasonable period of time.**

A viable Eye on Earth initiative must be specific and achievable enough to accomplish key, measurable results within a 2-5 year period.

COLLABORATE - HOW TO HAVE YOUR PROJECT AFFILIATED

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. We invite you to share your commitment to action with Eye on Earth through one of the Special Initiatives and engaging with a like-minded community of global leaders, decisions makers and innovators. Members of the Eye on Earth Community contribute, through their projects, to achieving the shared vision of “providing access to environmental and societal data and information by all those who need it” with the aim of reaching a sustainable world.

MAKE A COMMITMENT

With the common vision of Eye on Earth 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 Special Initiative area of interest.

GOVERNANCE - THE SPECIAL INITIATIVE SECRETARIAT

WHO'S KEEPING AN EYE ON THE SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Your commitment will be managed and facilitated by Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) who report to the Eye on Earth Special Initiative Secretariat. The Secretariat currently consists of responsibilities across partner organizations; UNEP, AGEDI and EAD, with additional partners to joining a newly formed Eye on Earth Alliance shortly. As a result, transparency and result oriented, tangible outcomes through all phases of the Special Initiative programme or specific sub-project are assured.

BE PART OF THE EYE ON EARTH COMMUNITY

To find out more on which Special Initiative 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.



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