

# Meeting Minutes of the SDR Earth Observation Task Group

19 February 2004, 10:00 am to 11:00 am, Teleconference

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## Attendees

### NOAA

John Gaynor (weather hazards)

Kirk Waters (coastal hazards)

Mary Kate Rubin (GRS)

Dori Akerman (GRS)

### USGS

Rosalind Helz (Chair)

Gerald Wiecezorek (landslides)

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## Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:05 Update from the Chair

10:15 Gaps in Tables

10:35 Crosswalk Updates

10:50 Timeframe for Actions

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## Call to Order

Rosalind Helz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## Summary of Discussion

### Gaps discussion

Rosalind Helz opened the meeting by referencing the hazard files that were emailed to the group on February 16, 2004. She noted that there still are gaps in the tables and that she has contacted owners of the various hazards tables for help in filling in their gaps. The group discussed what constitutes a gap in required observations, for purposes of the IWGEO exercise. The following were identified as examples of significant gaps:

- Lack of high-resolution topography – general for all hazards, acute for coastal hazards;
- Lack of adequate models for significance of volcanic deformation;
- Inadequate ways of determining soil moisture at various temporal and spatial scales
- Apparently unsystematic updating of developments (dams, etc.) along rivers that impact hydrology; and
- Inadequate temporal and spatial resolution for many kinds of data.

In addition John Gaynor made the point that there are different scale issues, depending on whether one is considering operational use vs. research. Roz Helz commented that in the context of the IWGEO process, there is a fairly strong bias toward operations. Hazards represented on the call include: volcanoes, coastal hazards, landslides and extreme weather. Not represented were: wildfires, floods, and earthquakes. Roz Helz still is looking for someone to provide a first cut at the required observations and data streams for sea ice.

### Crosswalk table

Prior to the teleconference, Roz sent out an updated version of the crosswalk that incorporated a number of suggestions received over the past month. The group discussed the table and provided feedback from

the perspective of their own hazards, specifically landslides and coastal hazards. The group also discussed briefly the various ways of identifying or describing what satellite/sensor/bands are used and/or needed for various hazards applications. No final agreement was reached on how specific to be in the tables, although it was recognized that at present the tables are not fully consistent.

In general, there are still differences in the level of detail from one hazard table to the next. The group agreed that some of the differences are a function of the nature of the hazard, including the scale on which the hazard occurs, so that full uniformity is probably not achievable.

In response to a question about who the audience is, Roz Helz explained that the audience for the end product (the IWGEO 10-Year Plan) is senior management of each agency, plus the CENR/OSTP structure. The crosswalk table and the supporting tables for individual hazards will be an appendix in the 10-year plan, to illustrate and summarize the user requirements for information relating to natural hazards. Draft versions of the crosswalk and volcano tables have already been circulated outside the working group to the wider IWGEO audience and have been received positively.

The timeframe for updating the tables, including identifying essential gaps, and double-checking the cross-walk table is early March. An annotated outline of the U.S. 10-year plan is due the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March. Edits of tables should be submitted that week, by March 2 if possible, for inclusion in the next stages of development of the 10-year plan.

**Action:** All members will identify the gaps in their tables, check the individual tables against the crosswalk table for consistency, and resend their documents by March 2, 2004.

**2. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. Roz Helz will inform the members of the date and time for the next meeting or teleconference.

### **3. Contact Information**

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#### **Earth Observation Task Group**

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#### **Secretariat**

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