



GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

Our Ref.: 2010758/GEO/CZCP/INV

GEO Principals

Geneva, 23 November 2010

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in a GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice regional workshop on "Earth Observation Support for Sustainable Tourism in Small Island States," scheduled to take place at the Sheraton Puerto Rico Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 9-11 March 2011.

The workshop aims to facilitate a dialog between the providers of Earth observations and derived information on the one side, and a wide range on the other of stakeholders of tourism in small island states with a particular focus on the Caribbean regions. The dialog will focus on the specific needs, challenges, and capabilities related to sustainable tourism while exploring how Earth observation-based services could support decision making related to all facets of tourism. The topics covered include improving the sustainability of tourism through Earth observations, sustaining tourism under climate change, using Earth observations to enhance relationships and support resolution of conflicts between tourism and environment/ecosystems, increasing and sustaining the economic value of tourism, and augmenting resilience of tourism through support for planning and information on environmental impacts and coastal hazards.

Strong participation will be enlisted from diverse stakeholders such as marine, water and environmental scientists and modelers; earth and climate sciences specialists; governmental planners; NGOs; and operators of tourism infrastructure and programs. The workshop will focus on identifying gaps in Earth observation systems capabilities; scientific and research infrastructure needs for improved services for governmental, non-governmental and commercial stakeholders in tourism.

The Workshop is a joint initiative of the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), and the Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System (CariCOOS). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and US-GEO are also key partners and sponsors of the Workshop. The Caribbean Regional Association for Coastal Ocean Observing (CaRA), a component of the US Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS), will serve as sponsor and local host in San Juan.

Additional details and registration information may be obtained from the workshop website (http://www.czcp.org/workshops/Puerto_Rico) or by contacting the workshop Scientific Steering Committee (SC) co-chairs as listed on the following page.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "José Achache".

José Achache
Secretariat Director



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Workshops Contacts:

Doug Wilson, NOAA, IOCARIBE-GOOS

Email: Doug.Wilson@noaa.gov

Paul DiGiacomo, NOAA, Marine Ecosystems and Climate Branch

Email: Paul.DiGiacomo@noaa.gov

Jorge Corredor, University of Puerto Rico

Email: jorge.corredor@upr.edu

Douglas Cripe, GEO Secretariat

7bis, avenue de la Paix, Case postale 2300

1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland

Phone: +41 22 730 8368

E-mail: dcripe@geosec.org