The AGEDI Story

- Access to sound environmental data and information is essential to achieving sustainable development – a lack of access in developing countries has challenged policy-makers to make vital decisions without the right data

- In February 2002, the UAE was listed as 141 out of 142 countries in Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI), produced by the World Economic Forum

- This position shed light on gaps in the approach and criteria used to develop the rankings, which were not region or location-specific, and AGEDI was formed as a response to this – an initiative of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

AGEDI Today

- With the Arab region as a priority area, based on systemic problems that exist around the world, AGEDI facilitates access to quality environmental data that equips policy-makers with actionable, timely information to inform and guide critical decisions towards a sustainable future

- In fulfilling this mandate, AGEDI:
    - Enables informed decision-making in the region
    - Serves as a resource and acts as a capacity-builder at the local, national, regional and international level
    - Encourages partners and stakeholders to leverage its considerable access and reach to a valuable knowledge network

Milestones

2011

2011: Eye on Earth Summit & inception of 8 Special Initiatives

2002

Sept 2, 2002: AGEDI launched @ WSSD, Johannesburg

2013

Climate Change Programme - Phase II launched

Arabian Atlas of Our Changing Environment with UNEP

9 Environmental Sector Papers published

First web based reporting in Region: SoE Report for Abu Dhabi

2006

2012

Local National & Regional Biodiversity Rapid Assessment

Blue Carbon Project Phase I

2014 & beyond

Climate Change Programme – Phase II

Eye on Earth Alliance Summit 2015

Blue Carbon Project Phase II

National Reporting Toolkit (NRT)

Ecocity World Summit 2015

AGEDI
Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative

an initiative of

UNEP

Environment Agency - ABU DHABI

Climate Change – arguably one of the world's most daunting environmental challenges – can best be mitigated by first developing an integrated and expanding pool of environmental data to facilitate informed decision-making.

- **Climate Change Programme**
    - 3 sub-projects completed thus far
    - 2015 conclusion for 3 additional sub-projects: Desalinated Water Supply, Coastal Vulnerability Index, and Transboundary Groundwater

Coastal ecosystems act as carbon reservoirs and are being destroyed at an alarming rate; investigating the full potential of such ecosystems helps guide decision-makers towards championing their conservation.

- **Phase II of Blue Carbon Project** initiated, expanding the science to the national level, and extending the understanding and valuation aspects of coastal blue carbon ecosystem services

An active network of thought and action leaders from global environmental information networking movements fosters a shared commitment to more informed decision making for sustainable development.

- First **EoE Alliance Summit** in 2015, facilitated by AGEDI

2014+

Supporting Partner Activity

Projects | Facilitation | Contribution

- Convention on Biological Diversity's Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

- Wind and Solar Energy Atlas- Masdar Institute

- EWS-WWF- UAE Ecological Footprint Initiative

- Global Footprint Network - Letter of Agreement and associated GFN services to the UAE

- Blue Forests Project - Global Environment Facility

- National Geographic – Great Nature Project

- Core Secretariat Member Arab Region Data Working LAS

- Core Secretariat member Eye on Earth Alliance

- GFN Standards Committee member Global Footprint Network

Partnerships

Local | Regional | International

EWS-WWF   I   ADSIC   I   Masdar Institute

Ministry of Environment & Water

Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate of Energy & Climate Change

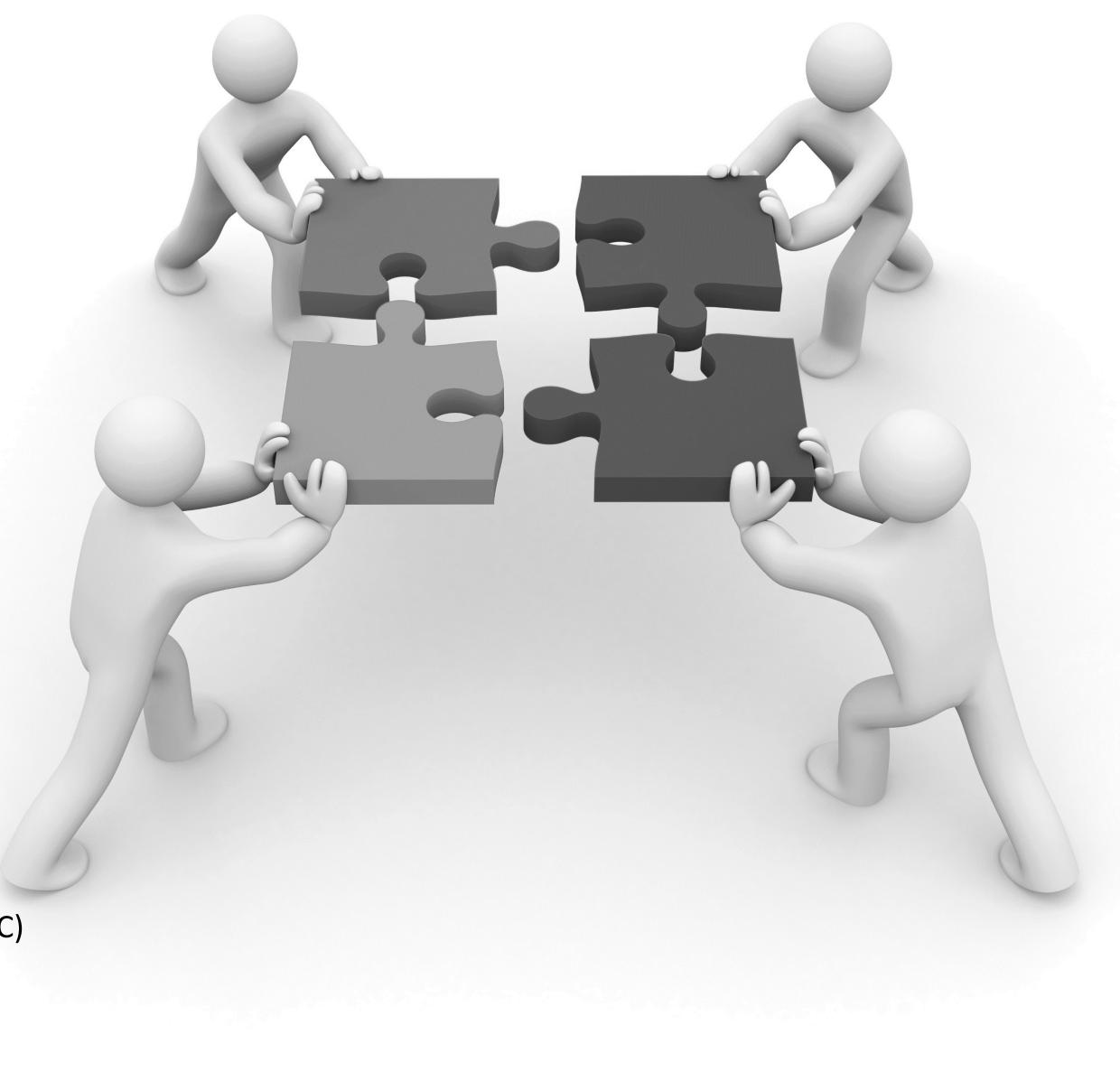UNEP Regional Office of West Asia

League of Arab States   I   CAMRE   I   CEDARE

UNEP   I   Global Footprint Network   I   European Environment Agency

World Bank   I   Global Environment Facility (GEF)

National Geographic   I   UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)

Group of Earth Observations (GEO)   I   World Resource Institute (WRI)

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Eye on Earth
Executive Summary Presentation

March

Eye on Earth Mission Statement

Eye on Earth strives to enable the generation, maintenance, sharing and application of environmental, social and economic data and information to support informed decision-making for sustainable development.

A Growing Movement
The Eye on Earth (EoE) Community

- The EoE Community is continually growing and represents the full range of government, private sector, environmental, social and economic interests.

- The EoE Alliance, which provides the strategic direction for the movement and strives to build global support for EoE, is also expanding. Today it includes the following organisations.

Enabler of Change
Working Towards Sustainable Development

Eye on Earth:

- Provides access to quality environmental, social and economic data and information for informed decision-making

- Strives to close the data and information gap critical to conserving the world's resources and improving citizens' lives

- Convenes thought and action leaders worldwide to create consensus, encourage collaboration and effect change.

Implementing the Eye on Earth Vision
The Special Initiatives

EYE ON ACCESS FOR ALL

EYE ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

EYE ON GLOBAL NETWORK OF NETWORKS

EYE ON BIODIVERSITY

EYE ON COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCY

EYE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

EYE ON OCEANS & BLUE CARBON

EYE ON WATER SECURITY

- Improving environmental, social and economic information sharing.

- 37 SI projects across 6 continents.

- 500 individuals from more than 120 organisations representing multiple sectors across society.

Eye on
Biodiversity

Expected Achievements

- Initiate a global movement for governments, funding bodies, academic and research institutions to reward and promote sharing of non-sensitive biodiversity data and information
- Community discovery on how key biodiversity data sets can bridge the science to policy gap toward advancing sustainable development
- Community discovery of advancing how local and citizen science efforts in biodiversity data collection can support informed decision making
- Further support existing distributed networks of connected nodes
- **Initiate unlocking of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) information**
- Support the contribution of biodiversity and conservation data to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- Support the contribution and discussions towards data accessibility and availability towards reporting to the SDGs.
- The creation of community position papers including how healthy ecosystems support the SDGs

EYE ON BIODIVERSITY

Accomplishments

- Sharing of achievements, lessons learnt and expertise to create an active community
- Support of globally standardized methodologies for accounting for carbon in coastal ecosystems (mangroves, seagrass and intertidal saltmarshes)
- Support and advocacy of the GEF Blue Forests Programme of Work to share the lessons learnt broadly
- The implementation and replicability of the UAE Blue Carbon project outcomes and methodologies in the region
- Our global knowledge and data on coastal and ocean ecosystems are improved and made more accessible for management of these ecosystems around the world.
- Incorporation of multiple levels and geographic area within the community including SIDS, chief scientists, private sector, fishermen, government and non government etc

EYE ON
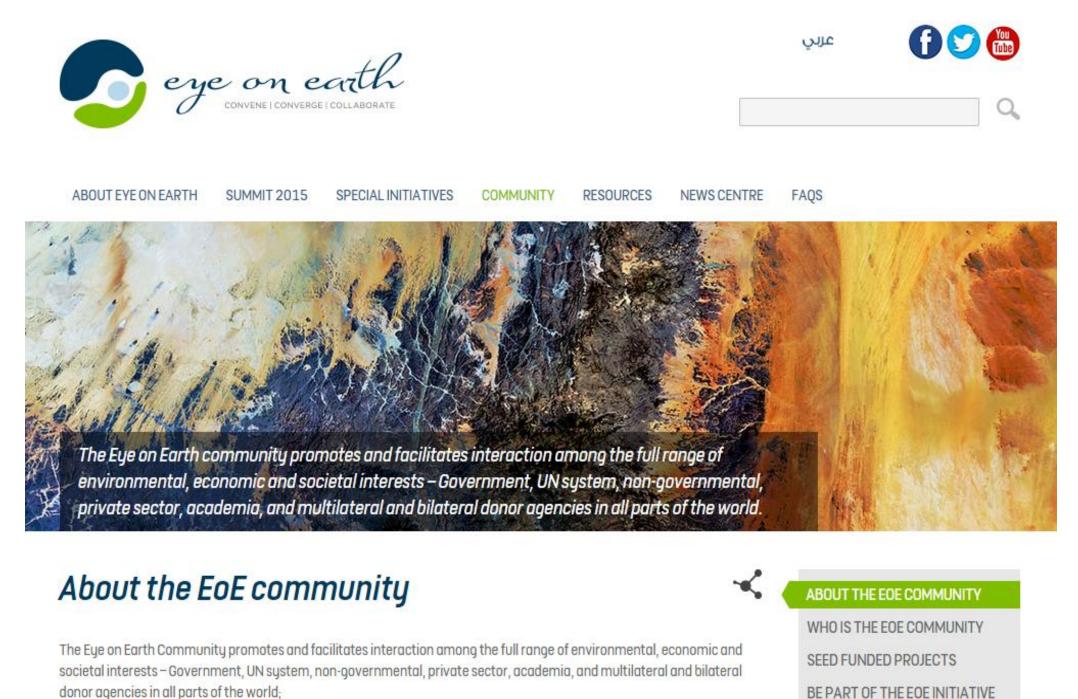OCEANS &
BLUE CARBON

Driving Momentum
Summit 2015

Timely Dialogue
Summit 2015 Focus and Themes

650 delegates, more than 60 speakers and a global following will examine the role of governments, technology, science and citizens to address:

- **Data demand -** how to communicate and visualise data for optimal use

- **Data supply –** how to encourage innovation in gathering and accessing crucial data

- **Data-enabling conditions –** how to create the capabilities and frameworks needed to access and use critical information

A Movement for All
Get Involved

Be Part of Our Community
Learn more about the SIs, participate in any of their scheduled meetings or find out how you can support them.

Keep Abreast of Our News
Subscribe to our quarterly EoE newsletter to remain informed about the latest Community and Summit developments.

Share in the debate
Stay up to date with the latest conversations about EoE and forthcoming Summit in 2015 by following us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn or YouTube.

www.eoesummit.org/get-involved