

## **GEO Ethical Standards and Intellectual Property**

*Excerpted from the GEO Rules of Procedure (November 2019), section 3.4.*

GEO is committed to upholding the highest standards of ethics, integrity, accountability and transparency across and throughout the community.

Members, Participating Organizations, Associates and the Secretariat Staff involved in GEO activities shall promote a working environment that values respect, fairness, courtesy, honesty, integrity and impartiality. In discharging their functions, all Secretariat Staff and secondees shall respect the requirements of the WMO (host organization) Staff Regulations, the WMO Code of Conduct, the WMO Fraud Prevention Policy and the UN Staff Rules. All GEO Members and Participating Organizations involved in GEO activities shall respect the obligations of the Secretariat in this regard, as well as abide by their respective national or organizational standards.

Members, Participating Organizations, Associates, and Secretariat involved in GEO activities shall adhere to GEO Data Sharing and Data Management Principles, which are fundamental tenets of GEO.

Data, software, products, and other goods created prior to a collaboration within a GEO Work Programme Activity by GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates may be subject to copyright or intellectual property right restrictions. GEO Members, Participating Organizations or Associates may choose to use such data, software, products, and other goods in such a collaboration and to share it with others involved in the collaboration. Such use does not affect that party's prior intellectual property rights, and those it authorizes to use the data, software, products, or other goods within a GEO Work Programme Activity must do so for the purpose of the collaboration and in accordance with instructions of the owner. Such data, software, and other goods may not be disclosed or retransferred to any other entity without the prior written permission of the furnishing party.

Data, software, products, and other goods developed solely or jointly by GEO Members, Participating Organizations and Associates during and within the scope of a collaboration within a GEO Work Programme Activity should not be made subject to copyright or intellectual property right restrictions, but should be made available to the public under an open license, at no cost and with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, citing, or adapting. Such data, software, products, and other goods may therefore be used by any entity for any lawful purpose, including for commercial purposes. Organizations that are unable to comply with the expectation, due to legal or other constraints, should document these restrictions in advance of their involvement in the GEO Work Programme activity (or as soon as possible in the case of existing contributors).

If after public release, such data, software, products, and other goods are developed further by entities outside the scope of a collaboration within a GEO Work Programme Activity, and such developments qualify for copyright or intellectual property right protections, those entities may choose to seek such protections on the portions they created.