



GEOSS Water Services for Data and Maps

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Finding and accessing data in most countries of the world about local, regional and national water resources (streamflow discharge, gauge depth, soil moisture, etc.) has been complicated by a number of issues, from concerns of local and national security, to lack of suitable conventions and standards for data exchange that could be reasonably implemented and enforced at the national and international levels. These issues are now starting to be addressed, thanks to recently adopted standards for hydrologic data exchange, and growing acceptance of community standards for web services to perform such data exchange. This presentation reviews recent work in this area, in particular from an international initiative for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) to federate regional water data into national pictures for Italy, New Zealand, Canada, and a growing number of countries in Latin America. This builds on previous similar work by the Consortium of Universities for Advancement of Hydrologic Science (CUAHSI) with the U.S. Geological Survey and several other U.S. national agencies. The ability to discover and access such important data should improve the awareness and responsiveness of policy- and decision-makers in the event of natural disasters from storms, flooding and drought.