

# UNEP - GEO Blue Planet Nutrient Management Workshop

Date: January 9, 2025

Time: 9am-6pm

Location: Zamansky Tower, 24th floor. Sorbonne University, Paris, France

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## Workshop Objective

The workshop objective is to connect the GEO work programme and UNEP representatives to discuss global remotely sensed monitoring for national action plans on sustainable nitrogen management. The meeting aims to assist UNEP in articulating their data needs to implement the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) workflow supporting countries in the development of national action plans. The meeting will further enable us to define the contours of a future GEO-wide collaborative team to leverage GEO's convening power to build the tools that meet the information needs. A workshop summary and a strategy paper for the next steps will be tangible deliverables.

## Introduction

GEO Blue Planet and UNEP, with support from other activities of the GEO Work Programme, are establishing a Task Team to examine the feasibility for cross-sector coordination of nutrient monitoring. This Task Team aims to leverage the GEO Work Programme to provide coordination and guidance to lead the scientific community and public administration in establishing a sustained global observing system of the nutrient life cycle.

Coastal eutrophication is fueled by nutrient runoff and poses a threat to marine ecosystems. GEO Blue Planet focuses on activities that support UN SDG 14: Life Below Water, specifically Target 14.1.1a, which aims to measure the contribution to coastal eutrophication from countries and the state of coastal eutrophication. GEO Blue Planet is committed to coordinating a task team on marine observations for nutrient monitoring.

However, nutrient pollution is a complex issue with connections to other SDGs, including Zero Hunger, Clean Water and Sanitation, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, and Life on Land.

To help UNEP effectively address gaps in monitoring nutrients to support countries in setting up policies for reducing associated pollution, a more comprehensive understanding of nutrient sources, fate and transport, adverse impacts, and potential solutions is sought, which involves data and expertise from various fields and Earth systems, including terrestrial, atmospheric, and water systems.

Thus, GEO Blue Planet is calling on the GEO work programme to provide guidance on a globally coordinated and sustained observing system of the full nutrient life cycle to fill knowledge gaps and to address policy-makers needs with adequate data and information.

Over the last few months, GEO Blue Planet has facilitated meetings with UNEP and other activities of the GEO work programme to identify ongoing nutrient-related activities and data collection efforts.

**The aims of this workshop will be:**

1. Finalize the mission statement of the Task Team
2. Work on a strategy
3. Establish next steps for implementation
4. Advance this nutrient management concept to a Post-2025 GEO initiative

**Workshop Deliverables will be:**

1. Workshop Report
2. The Strategy paper for next steps

**Agenda**

Time	Theme/Discussion
08:30-09:00	<b>Check-in</b> - <i>Coffee will be offered</i>
09:00-09:20	<b>Welcome and Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of GEO</li> </ul> Proposed Speaker: Justyna Nicinska – GEO Programme Board, NOAA
	<b>GEO Blue Planet</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role in convening larger group</li> <li>• Interest in nutrients</li> </ul> Speaker: Audrey Hasson – GEO Blue Planet Director, Mercator
	<b>Workshop Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nutrients overview</li> <li>• Objectives &amp; Outcomes of Workshop</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliverables of Workshop</li> </ul> <p>Speaker: Natalie Lerma – GEO Blue Planet, NOAA Knauss Marine Policy Fellow</p>
<b>SESSION 1</b>	
09:20-09:35	<p><b>Oral Presentation 1 (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiring example</li> <li>• How to move data to policy?</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Jeanne De Jaegher, European Commission Team Leader- Nitrates</p>
09:35-09:50	<p><b>Introduction to Working Group on Nitrogen (WGN) (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do they do?</li> <li>• Scientific Advisor group</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Mihai Constantinescu - UNEP WGN Co-Chair</p>
09:50-10:05	<p><b>Oral Presentation 2 (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot country needs and perspective</li> <li>• What are the data needed for evidence-based decision-making?</li> </ul> <p>Speaker: TBD – Pilot Country/Focal Point Representative</p>
10:05-10:50	<p><b>Guided Panel Discussion followed by Q&amp;A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about what they want for policy preparation</li> <li>• Challenges using information for decision-making</li> <li>• Strengthening institutional capacity for monitoring</li> </ul>

	Proposed Panelists: Country representatives, WGN Chair, EU Commission
10:50-11:10	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>SESSION 2</b>	
11:10-11:25	<p><b>Oral Presentation 3 (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International Nitrogen Assessment</li> <li>• Presentation on existing nutrient monitoring data, including sources, collection methods, and scale (national, regional, global)</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: William “Bill” J. Bealey – UK Centre for Ecology &amp; Hydrology, GPNM Representative</p>
11:25-11:35	<p><b>Introduction to Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <p>Proposed Speaker: Ning Liu – UNEP, Programme Management Officer</p>
11:35-11:45	<p><b>What is the landscape in terms of monitoring within GEO and beyond? (10min Presentation, 5min Q&amp;A)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theory on the structure of the Task Team</li> <li>• GEO Activities and how GEO can funnel this ongoing work to meet UNEP data needs</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Natalie Lerma – GEO Blue Planet, NOAA Knauss Marine Policy Fellow</p>
11:45-12:30	<p><b>Guided Panel Discussion followed by Q&amp;A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What we have, what are the gaps?</li> <li>• Where is coordination lacking?</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Panelists: GPNM, GEO Blue Planet</p>

12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch Break (On-Site)</i>
<b>SESSION 3</b>	
13:30 – 13:50	<p><b>GEO Biodiversity Atlas Success Story (10 min Presentation)</b>  Proposed Speaker: Yana Gevorgyan – GEO Secretariat Director (Pre-Recorded 10-min)</p>
	<p><b>Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI): An example of what ESRI can support (10 min Presentation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEO partner on SDG 14.1.1a for Global Chl-a Anomaly Mapping</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Keith VanGraafeiland - ESRI</p>
13:50-14:00	<p><b>Morning Session Recap</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary from each guided discussion</li> <li>• Outline of structure for afternoon session</li> <li>• Reminder for workshop objectives and deliverables</li> <li>• Introduction of Breakout Session</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Audrey Hasson – GEO Blue Planet, Mercator</p>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>Breakout Session: Developing a Strategic Framework for reliable monitoring and evaluation system on nutrients (GUIDED)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group discussions on key elements of a strategic framework for nutrient management, including goals, objectives, and action plans</li> </ul>
15:30-16:00	<p><b>Breakout Groups Summarize Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each group should write their findings and forward to facilitators</li> </ul>

16:00-16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>SESSION 4</b>	
16:30-16:50	<p><b>Breakout Groups Share Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A speaker from each group will share their group's findings</li> </ul>
16:50-17:20	<p><b>Discussion of Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broad actions</li> <li>- Setting up future communication strategy</li> </ul> <p>Proposed Speaker: Merrie Beth Neely – GEO Blue Planet, GST</p>
17:20-17:50	<p><b>Concluding Remarks</b></p> <p>Proposed Speaker: Ning Liu (UNEP) and Audrey Hasson (GEO Blue Planet/Mercator)</p>
17:50-19:00	<i>Cocktail</i>