

GEO Blue Planet Update

December 2021



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

- Advance and **exploit synergies** among the many observational programmes devoted to ocean and coastal waters;
- **improve engagement** with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services delivered; and
- raise awareness of the **societal benefits** of ocean observations at the public and policy levels.

GEO Blue Planet Secretariat

- **Note:** please add us to your email safe list to avoid **geoblueplanet.org** from being sent to your spam in the future! (info@geoblueplanet.org, esmail@geoblueplanet.org & ahasson@geoblueplanet.org).
- The Secretariat will be welcoming [Knauss Fellow](#) Nikelene Alexandria Mclean in February. Nikelene is a PhD student at Morgan State University and is working on predicting spatiotemporal distribution patterns of jellyfish species using remote sensing techniques and traditional methods. She is a native of St. Vincent and is particularly interested in working on adaptation activities and engagement with small island states during her fellowship.
- Mercator Ocean International is welcoming in January 2022 Dr Fifi Adodo who will be assisting the EU coordination office. He will be focusing his activities on the development of partnership and use cases in Africa.
- The new [GEO Blue Planet Operations and Governance Plan](#) has been approved! The Secretariat will be working the Committees and Working Groups to begin implementation of the plan over the coming months.



Recent Events

- GEO Blue Planet activities were presented by the secretariat at the [GEO Climate Policy and Finance Workshop](#) and [EuroGEO Workshop 2021](#)
- Laura David (member of the Steering Committee) has presented GEO Blue Planet and relevant examples of National Adaptation Plans to the [GEO Week 2021](#) anchor session three (Climate and Ocean).
- The Secretariat has co-organised a side event to the [GEO Week 2021](#) entitled “Developing cooperation across GEO Activities to address marine hazards in Africa” with AfriGEO, GEO Digital Earth Africa, GEO Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and GEO Human Planet. Kwame Adu Agyekum (Steering Committee co-chair) has presented relevant GEO Blue Planet actions. Visit the [event webpage](#) for more information.

GEO

- Doug Cripe (GEO sec) is now representing the GEO Sec as part of the GEO Blue Planet Executive Committee under the new governance structure to maximize communication between the GEO Sec and GEO Blue Planet.
- The Data Working Group, the GEOSS Platform team and the GEO Secretariat have prepared a Data Analysis Survey. Responses from GEO Blue Planet data and technical experts expected by 22 December 2021.
- The GEO Mid-Term Evaluation was released in November. [Click here to view the document.](#)
- GEO Participated in the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26. For more information about GEO engagement at COP26 – [click here.](#)

Activities and Working Groups

Climate

- GEO Blue Planet is engaging in discussions with the GEO Secretariat lead for Climate (Sara Venturini), the [GEO Climate Working Group](#) and the UNFCCC Secretariat regarding potential GEO Blue Planet activities to support the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Top candidate activities include supporting the include:
 1. Producing guidance on inclusion of ocean and coastal observations in National Adaptation Plans
 2. Support for UN Decade of Ocean Science activities that support the ocean-climate nexus and have relevance to Earth Observations
 3. Activities for mapping coastal blue carbon resources

Marine Litter Working Group

- The marine litter white paper is in the process of being copy edited. The final publication of the paper is expected in the coming weeks with UN Environment.
- GEO Blue Planet co-organised and hosted with Mercator Ocean International a satellite activity to the Un Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development Laboratory for a Clean Ocean “One Integrated Marine Debris Observing System (IMDOS) for a Clean Ocean”. The event was successful, with 3* 2h sessions, 28 presentations, 202 participants from 46 countries. For the agenda, replay etc visit [the event webpage.](#)

- Co-organisers of this event (including many members of this WG) will discuss in a follow up meeting the next steps for the implementation of IMDOS.
- The Ocean BRIDGES group is being set up with GEO Blue Planet, the ECOP UN Decade Programme, Ocean Visions and the All Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance aiming at bridging ocean research, innovation and diversity across generations of experts and stakeholders. More information [here](#).

Eutrophication Working Group

- The working group is supporting a publication on a satellite-derived regional chlorophyll-a indicator for Europe and is working on a publication for the global chlorophyll-a SDG indicator.

Coastal Flooding Working

- The WaveForce team have produced a demo using historical data and are working to further develop the tool and secure resources.

Sargassum Working Group

- The Sargassum Hub is in the process of being updated to be more user friendly and to better answer users' needs.
- The Hub will be translated into French when the technical updates are finalized.

Fisheries Working Group

- The fisheries working group will be identifying projects to pursue that are aligned with the newly revised core actions.

Upcoming Events

- **13-15 December 2021:** [The African Kick-Off Conference for the UN Decade of Ocean Science](#)
- **16-17 December 2021:** [Regional Kick-off Conference for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021–2030 for the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean Region](#)
- **9-11 March 2022 :** UNDOS Laboratory - [A Healthy and Resilient Ocean](#)
- **5-7 April 2022:** UNDOS Laboratory - [A Safe Ocean](#)
- **10-12 May 2022:** UNDOS Laboratory - [An Accessible Ocean](#)
- **June 2022:** UNDOS Laboratory - [A Productive Ocean](#)
- **18-23 September 2022,** Republic of Korea: [7th International Marine Debris Conference \(7IMDC\)](#) - The call for Technical Sessions open until 07 January 2022
- **31 October - 5 November 2022:** GEO Week 2022
- **7-18 November 2022,** Egypt: UNFCCC COP 27

Upcoming opportunities

- [John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program](#): Closes February 18

Have an update for next month? Send your update to the Secretariat at info@geoblueplanet.org.

[Click here to view past GEO Blue Planet updates](#)

GEO Blue Planet Update

September 2021



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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Secretariat

- The Secretariat is working to recruit [Sea Grant Knauss Fellow](#) for next year
- The Asian office at the Korean Maritime Institute is in the process of being launched and further developed.

Activities and Working Groups

Governance and Operations

- Activities in August and September have focused on updating the governance and operations plan for GEO Blue Planet.
- The updated plan will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in September. The plan includes a revision of GEO Blue Planet's core actions (draft below).



Marine Litter Working Group

- The [marine litter white paper](#) is in the process of being finalized with UN Environment. The final publication of the paper is expected in October.
- The IEEE OES Plastics in the Ocean Initiative had a series of virtual working sessions between August 31 – September 2. For additional information, see: <https://www.gstss.org/plastics/>.

Eutrophication Working Group

- The working group is working to engage with member countries to determine how best to format and present global indicators to increase their usefulness.
- In collaboration with CEOS COAST and other partners, the working group will be engaging with regional partners to expand regional and national satellite-derived eutrophication indicators.

Coastal Flooding Working

- The WaveForce team is working on a Marine Flooding Viewer. The demonstration version of the viewer and an accompanying user tutorial is expected to be completed by the fall.

Sargassum Working Group

- The revamp of the Sargassum Information Hub is underway.
- Working Group member Kwasi Appeaning Addo led the organization of a Webinar on Sargassum Challenges and Management in the Gulf of Guinea.

Fisheries Working Group

- The fisheries working group will be identifying projects to pursue that are aligned with the newly revised core actions.

Upcoming Events

- **15 – 17 September:** [UN Decade Laboratory on a Predicted Ocean](#)
 - [Check out the satellite events on Co-designing integrated ocean observing and prediction capabilities September 16th and 17th!](#)
- **20 – 23 September:** [EuroGEO Workshop 2021](#)
 - Audrey Hasson from the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat will present about GEO Blue Planet
- **21 – 22 September:** [GEO Climate Policy and Finance Workshop](#)
 - Emily Smail from the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat will present on September 22nd
- **31 October – 12 November:** [COP 26](#)

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GEO Blue Planet Update

July 2021



GEO Blue Planet's Mission

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Secretariat

- [The Korea Maritime Institute](#) (KMI) has agreed to host a regional GEO Blue Planet Secretariat office for Asia. Details for the new Secretariat office will be developed over the coming months.



- The Secretariat is working with the Patrons and Steering Committee to update the Strategy and Terms of Reference.
- Two successful All-Atlantic 2021 Conference [side events](#) were hosted by GEO Blue Planet.
- GEO Blue Planet co-organised with the GEO secretariat and moderated the Ocean-Climate Nexus plenary session to the GEO Symposium on June 23rd. The replay can be found [here](#).

Activities and Working Groups

GEO and the UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Working Group

- The first meeting (in 2 time zones sessions) was held in early July.
- As a next step, the group will be putting together a summary of what GEO can offer to the decade and potentially working with a few Decade programmes as pilots to foster interest.
- All files (members, notes, recording, presentations) can be accessed [here](#).

Operations Review Working Group

- The first meeting of the working group was held on July 8th.
- The working group will propose a template for standardized terms of reference for all working groups, procedures for project selection and review by the Fall 2021
- All files (members, notes, recording, presentations) can be accessed [here](#).

Marine Litter Working Group

- The official side event at the [All-Atlantic 2021 Conference](#), which took place online from 2 – 4 June 2021 brought in 125 participants from 33 countries around the world. Another 240 participants have watched the replay of the event. Hosted by the GEO Blue Planet, the event facilitated a dialogue between Atlantic key partners to identify needs, issues and opportunities around the monitoring and mitigation of marine debris. For information on the programme, speakers ppts, replay and feedback, please visit the [event webpage](#).
- A parallel event to the GEO Symposium entitled “Building a community to address the challenge of marine debris” took place on June 23rd. This event was co-organized by members of the WG, which was presented by Audrey Hasson (lead of the WG). You can watch the replay [here](#).

Eutrophication Working Group

- Final revisions to the SDG goal 14 storylines were submitted to the UN
- The working group is working on an analysis of global trends of the chlorophyll-a sub indicators that were developed for the [SDG 14.1.1a methodology](#).
- The working group will be working with countries to utilize the data from the two sub-indicators to demonstrate the utility of the indicators and identify capacity development needs.

Oil Spill Working Group

- The training of government staff in Trinidad and Tobago to detect oil spills using satellite data has been completed. Testing is ongoing to determine the operational capacity of monitoring for the region.
- AmeriGEO is working to develop a prototype oil spill toolkit for the Caribbean. The training and toolkit could potentially be replicated in other geographical regions.

Fisheries Working Group

- The fisheries working group had a demonstration from the SEPAL platform from FAO (<https://sepal.io/>). The platform has to date been used primarily for forestry applications but is open to working with the GEO Blue Planet working group on a project using marine data.
- The working group will be discussing ideas for a potential project that can leverage the SEPAL platform.

Coastal Flooding Working Group

- The WaveForce team is working on a Marine Flooding Viewer. The demonstration version of the viewer and an accompanying user tutorial is expected to be completed by the fall.

Sargassum Working Group

- The All-Atlantic Conference June 2nd side event on Sargassum brought in 85 attendees from 29 different countries around the world participated in this event. Another 240 participants watched the replay online. Hosted by GEO Blue Planet and moderated by Audrey Hasson, 18 speakers/ panelists have presented and discussed the challenges, solutions, and opportunities behind the spread of Sargassum across the Tropical Atlantic. For information on the programme, speakers ppts, replay and feedback, please visit the event [webpage](#).
- The event also introduced the Sargassum Information Hub (sargassumhub.org) co-organised by GEO Blue Planet and the [UNEP – Cartagena Convention White Paper on Sargassum](#).
- Following this event, a Trans-Atlantic Sargassum Efforts Workshop on July 21st. Bringing together all sargassum stakeholders: scientists, UN agencies, policy makers and practitioners to get an overview of existing resources, identify leads for providing information on topics and create a user committee.
- A formal list of members and co-chairs of this working group will then be established.

Have an update for next month? Send your update to the Secretariat at info@geoblueplanet.org.

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GEO Blue Planet Update

May 2021



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Secretariat Update

- The GEO Blue Planet Summit took place on April 22nd online using a digital white board (miro.com). Twenty-six members of the steering committee (and WG co-chairs) actively participated, which made it a great success. Thank you all! The Secretariat will be working with GEO Blue Planet leadership over the next few months to update our strategy and focus.
- Audrey Hasson participated in the Ocean Visions Summit (19-20th of May) as Moderator of the ECOPs Discussion with Heidi Savelli and Marta Ottogalli (UNEP) and main session “Healthy Ocean Healthy People”.
- Emily Smail participated in the Second Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounts.

Activities and Working Groups

UN Decade on Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

- GEO Blue Planet contributed to two articles that have been published in the [ECO Magazine Supplemental Issue on the Ocean Decade](#):
 - [The Unprecedented Sargassum Challenge](#)
 - [Forecasting Floods on Reef-Lined Coasts](#)
- How GEO Blue Planet should support the Ocean Decade was a discussion topic for the Summit. This will be discussed further over the next few months including at a session on the GEO and the Decade of Ocean Science at the 2021 GEO Symposium.

Marine Litter Working Group

- A session was proposed at the GEO symposium - June 2021
- Invitations to attend the All-Atlantic Conference side event on June 3rd are out. We would appreciate if you could circulate the announcement in your various relevant networks. For information on the programme, speakers and event description, please visit the [event webpage](#).

Eutrophication Working Group

- The storyline on the coastal eutrophication indicator has been finalized for the 2020 UN SDG report.
- The working group is planning to support the roll out of a [Global Eutrophication Watch App](#) in development by the Northwest Pacific Action Plan and Google Earth Engine once the app's methodology is finalized. The roll out will be done in collaboration with various regional space agencies in collaboration with [CEOS COAST](#).

Oil Spill Working Group

- Staff at Trinidad and Tobago's Institute for Marine Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and Environmental Management Authority are in the process of being trained to detect oil spills in the Caribbean using satellite data.
- Emily Smail presented progress on the Caribbean oil spill project at the [Sixteenth Session of the IOC \(of UNESCO\) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE](#).

Fisheries Working Group

- The fisheries working group is discussing what the working group should focus on next. The working group has started initial discussions with OceanPredict to explore activities related to ecological fisheries forecasts that can inform sustainable fisheries management.

Coastal Flooding Working Group

- The working group identified coastal bathymetry as a key information gap in many regions for the successful development and implementation of coastal flood forecasts.
- Emily Smail and Paul DiGiacomo are working to organize an international community of practice to share information on satellite derived bathymetry. The group will be tasked with developing pilot projects with the support of [CEOS COAST](#) in the Chesapeake Bay, Bay of Bengal and Marshal Islands.
- Launch of the ECO Magazine (UN Decade Special Issue) on WaveForce: [Forecasting Floods on Reef-Lined Coasts](#).

Sargassum Working Group

- Emily Smail provided an update on the Sargassum project at the [Sixteenth Session of the IOC \(of UNESCO\) Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions IOCARIBE](#).
- Invitations to attend the All-Atlantic Conference side event on June 2nd are out. We would appreciate if you could circulate the announcement in your various relevant networks. For information on the programme, speakers and event description, please visit the event [webpage](#)
- The side event will also be the launching event for the UNEP Catagena Convention White Paper on Sargassum – will catalyse future collaborations between GEO BP and UNEP
- Launch of the ECO Mag (UN Decade Special Issue) article on Sargassum: [The Unprecedented Sargassum Challenge](#)

- Meetings to bring the Hub to the next level (translations, region/country pages, data display...) with usual partners and new ones (Cartagena Conv, Abidjan Conv, University of Ghana, SPAW CAR, CLS).

Upcoming Events

- [All-Atlantic Conference 2021](#) (2 to 4th of June)
 - [Sargassum Official Side Event](#) - June 2nd
 - [Marine Litter Official Side Event](#) - June 3rd
- EU Green Week (29 May- 13 June)
 - [A digital Ocean for a clean Ocean Online Event](#) June 4 - Online (Audrey Hasson speaker)
- [EMODnet Open Conference and Symposium](#) (14-16 June) (Audrey Hasson panellist)
- [GEO Symposium \(21-24 June\)](#)

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GEO Blue Planet Update

April 2021



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Secretariat Update

- The GEO Blue Planet Secretariat has been working to plan a GEO Blue Planet Strategy Summit for Steering Committee and Working Group leads.
- In preparation for the summit, the Secretariat is conducting interviews with major related organizations to gather feedback about stakeholder needs and our niche in the ocean observing community.
- [Networking Friday with GEO Blue Planet](#): The Secretariat will be participating in Networking Friday Event, hosted by the Atlantic International Research Centre, on April 16th, 1-2 PM UTC. The session will include an introduction to GEO Blue Planet and a showcase of on-going success stories.
- The EU4OceanObs Foreign Policy Instrument of the European Commission which partners with GEO Blue Planet by supporting the EU Office (lead by Audrey Hasson) went live with its [website](#). Information in the collection to the use of European and international Ocean Observations can be found there as well as a description of the Eu Office for the G7 FSOI (Future of the Seas and Ocean Initiative).

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- [A side event](#) for the All Atlantic 2021 Forum is being organized (2nd or 3rd of June).
- Heidi Savelli (UN Environment) will speak at the [Ocean Visions 2021 Summit](#) ECOPS Healthy Ocean Healthy People moderated by Audrey Hasson.

Eutrophication Working Group

- Emily Smail (GEO Blue Planet) and Keith VanGraafeiland (Esri) participated in the launch event for "[Understanding the State of the Ocean: A Global Manual on Measuring SDG 14.1.1, SDG 14.2.1 and SDG 13.5.1](#)".
- GEO Blue Planet worked with UN Environment and Esri to draft the storyline on SDG indicator 14.1.1a for the 2020 SDG report. The group is working to expand/update information on the [SDG 14.1.1 Chlorophyll Hub](#). Update plans include inclusion of riverine discharge in visualizations the sub-indicator results.

- The working is planning a publication on the [SDG 14.1.1a indicator methodology](#) and a case study publication on the implementation of the SDG indicator in a UN member country.
- Discussions on future projects in collaboration with [CEOS COAST](#), Esri and UN Environment are ongoing.

Oil Spill Working Group

- The working group is collaborating with AmeriGEO on the development of a pilot workbench for oil spill information in the Caribbean using the [AmeriGEO terra platform](#).
- Trinidad and Tobago's Institute for Marine Affairs (IMA), Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) and Environmental Management Authority (EMA) have expressed interest in being trained to analyze satellite imagery for potential oil spills. The working group has identified experts who can deliver the training and are working to sort out logistics.

Fisheries Working Group

- The fisheries working group is completing a workshop report on the [EO for Tuna Fisheries Management](#) workshop series.

Coastal Flooding Working Group

- The working group is collaborating with [CEOS COAST](#) to develop satellite derived bathymetry required for the further development of [WaveForce](#).
- An article on WaveForce will be included in the [ECO magazine UN Decade Special Edition](#).

Sargassum Working Group

- [A side event](#) for the All Atlantic 2021 Forum is being organized (for the 2nd or 3rd of June).
- The Sargassum hub will be presented in included in the [ECO magazine UN Decade Special Edition](#).
- Working with our partners to expand the [Sargassum Information Hub](#) (updates include translation into Spanish, Portuguese and French and the addition of country/region specific-pages)
- The group is developing partnerships with the Cartagena and Abidjan Conventions as well as with colleagues from Western Africa.

Upcoming Events

- [Networking Friday with GEO Blue Planet](#) (April 16th)
- [Second Global Dialogue on Ocean Accounting](#) (April 20)
- GEO Blue Planet Strategy Summit (April 22nd, Steering Committee and Working Group leads only)
- [Ocean Visions Summit](#) (May 18 – 21)
- [All-Atlantic Conference](#) Side Events (2-4 June)

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail from the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat gave a presentation on GEO and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development at the 54th GEO Executive Committee Meeting.
- Audrey Hasson gave a presentation at the UNEP Science Policy Business Forum Third Global Session and at the EuroGEO preparatory meeting for the 54th GEO Executive Committee Meeting.
- GEO Blue Planet is a partner for the [Ocean Visions Summit](#). Audrey Hasson will moderate the ECOPs (Early Career Ocean Professionals) Healthy Ocean Healthy People Session and be a panelist at the main session.
- Two papers are accepted for publication in the ECO magazine UN Decade Special Edition.

Opportunities

- [NASA PACE is looking for a Project Applications Deputy Coordinator](#)

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GEO Blue Planet Update

January 2021



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Secretariat Updates

- The secretariat is now hosting all GEO Blue Planet related documents and materials on Sharepoint. Stay tuned for connection information.
- Mijeong Kim and Simran Sinha from the Graduate Institute of Geneva delivered a capstone project evaluating various funding models for the GEO resource mobilization team. A case study on GEO Blue Planet can be found on page 32 of this document.

Projects and Working Groups

Marine Litter Working Group

- Audrey Hasson, head of the GEO Blue Planet European office, will be taking over leadership of the working group. She will be meeting the working group to review past projects and discuss future steps.

Global Eutrophication Monitoring Project

- GEO Blue Planet contributed to the drafting of the methodology for eutrophication indicators of SDG Target 14.1. The methodology will be published in Understanding the State of the Ocean: A Global Manual on Measuring SDG 14.1.1, SDG 14.2.1 and SDG 14.5.1 next month. Emily Smail from the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat will give a presentation at the launch.
- The working group is working with Esri to put together a story line on indicator 14.1.1a for the 2021 UN SDG report.

Oil Spill Information System

- GEO Blue Planet, NOAA Satellite Analysis Branch, AmeriGEO, Esri, and RAC-REMPEITC are discussing a pilot platform and the development of a pilot project for the Trinidad and Tobago area.

Fisheries Working Group

- The working group will discuss turning the information shared during the EO for Tuna Fisheries Management Workshop Series into a publication. View recordings from the workshop [here!](#)

Oceanscape

- [Orca Maritime, Inc.](#)
- [Morris Kahn Marine Research Station](#)
- [Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative](#)
- [World Climate Research Programme](#)
- [Climate Services Center Germany](#)

[More information about how to add your organization can be found here!](#)

Please continue to share the Oceanscape Portal within your user communities and organization.

The screenshot shows the Oceanscape portal interface. At the top, the logo 'oceanSCAPE' is displayed with the tagline 'identifying and connecting ocean organisations'. Below the logo is a world map with several colored pins (green, blue, red, purple) indicating the locations of member organizations. A 'Network view' button is located in the top right corner of the map area. Below the map, there are filter options for 'Organisation types', 'Geographical scope', and 'Specific areas of operation', each with a dropdown menu currently set to 'Nothing selected'. A 'Text search' field is also present with the placeholder text 'Type to search...'. The map data is attributed to ©2019 Google.

Upcoming Events

- [POGO Annual Meeting](#). 25 - 28 January 2021. Online.
- [From Sea to see - how satellites can help identify and combat plastic marine debris](#). 10 February 2021. Online.

Outreach and Engagement

- Emily Smail from the GEO Blue Planet Secretariat gave a presentation on GEO Blue Planet activities at the USGEO Meeting this month.

Opportunities

- C4IR Ocean is searching for a Postdoctoral position, HOFFMANN FELLOW, within Digital and Cultural Approaches to Building Trust in Ocean Data. Read more about the position [here](#) and share with your networks.

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