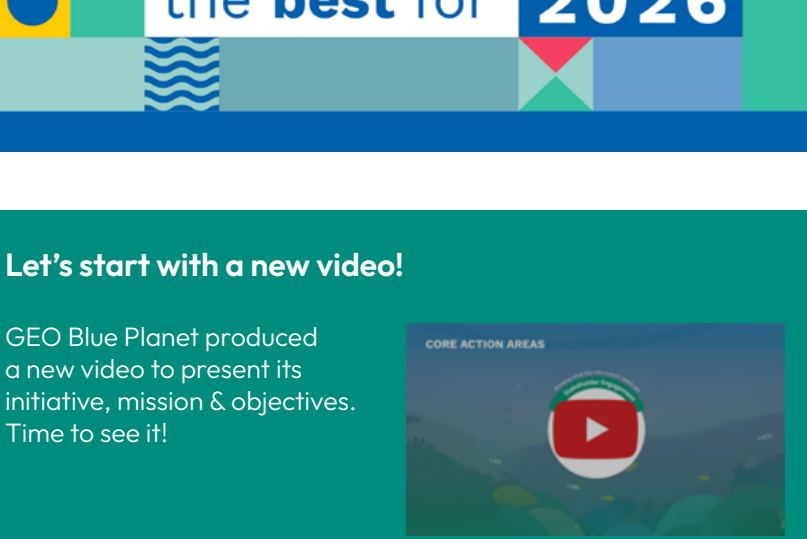


Bridging the gap between ocean & coastal data and societal needs to deliver actionable information

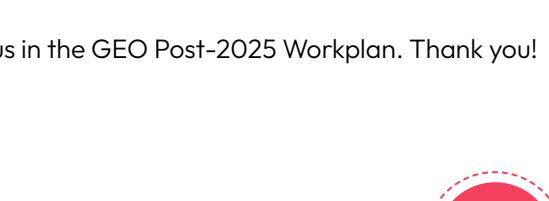
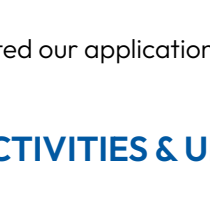


As we look back at everything we accomplished in 2025, we also look forward to continue addressing challenges the Ocean and our communities are facing.

Entering 2026, GEO Blue Planet extends best wishes to you all as we advance science, innovation, and stewardship of coasts, seas and the ocean.

### Let's start with a new video!

GEO Blue Planet produced a new video to present its initiative, mission & objectives. Time to see it!



GEO Blue Planet will host its 7th Symposium in January 2027 in the Caribbean. More information coming soon!

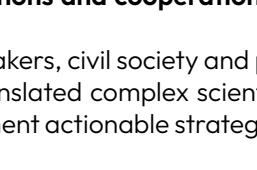
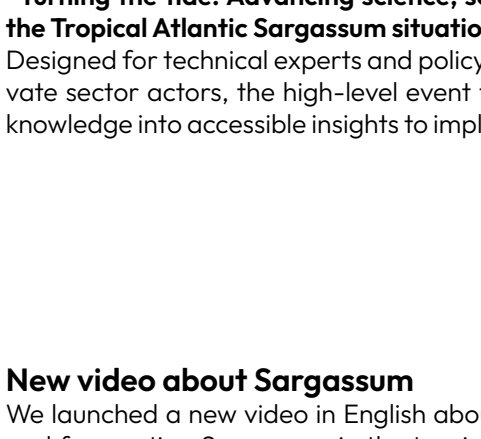
## GEO BluePlanet became a GEO Convener

In May 2025, GEO officially accepted our application for Convener Status in the GEO Post-2025 Workplan. Thank you!

### WORKING GROUPS ACTIVITIES & UPDATES

#### Marine Litter

Secretariat Lead: Daphné Lecellier



IMDOS Steering Committee elected its 2 co-chairs, congratulations Prof. Alexander Turra and Amy Lusher! UNOC was also an opportunity for the Steering Committee to meet in-person and online to showcase inspiring examples from its members during an official side event (watch replay here). Past interventions also include presentations at the One Ocean Science Congress and the Global Plastic Marine Litter workshop organized by UNEP with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

#### Sargassum

Secretariat Lead: Audrey Hasson

At UNOC-3 in June 2025, we organized an official side-event called "Turning the tide: Advancing science, solutions and cooperation on the Tropical Atlantic Sargassum situation". Designed for technical experts and policymakers, civil society and private sector actors, the high-level event translated complex scientific knowledge into accessible insights to implement actionable strategies.

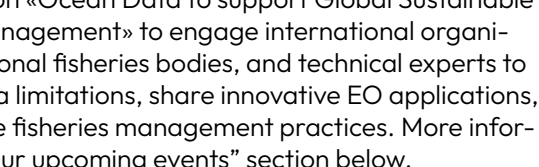


#### New video about Sargassum

We launched a new video in English about the impacts of monitoring and forecasting Sargassum in the tropical Atlantic. We also released the video with French and Spanish subtitles.



Our director Dr Audrey Hasson attended the 3rd Global Gateway Side-Event on Sargassum on the 8th of October 2025 in Brussels, Belgium. It offered a vital platform for regional and international stakeholders to address growing Sargassum blooms and their socio-economic impacts.



We are currently updating the Sargassum Information Hub, stay connected!



#### Fisheries

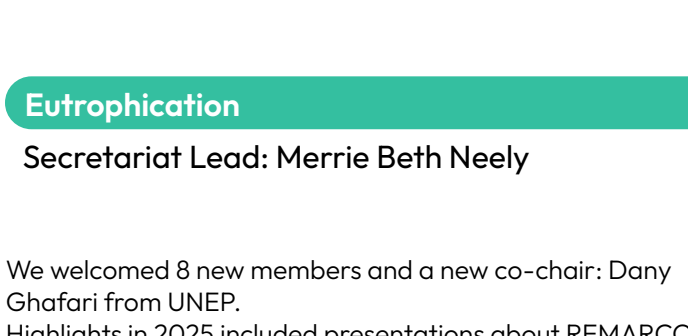
Secretariat Lead: Daphné Lecellier

The GEO Blue Planet Fisheries Working Group is supporting advanced fisheries resource management through enhanced Earth observation (EO) technologies. The group's activities have been presented to several conferences in 2025 such as the GEO Global Forum and the One Ocean Science Congress.

Looking ahead, we are planning to host a workshop in April 2026, an «Ocean Data to support Global Sustainable Fisheries Management» to engage international organizations, regional fisheries bodies, and technical experts to address data limitations, share innovative EO applications, and enhance fisheries management practices. More information in "Our upcoming events" section below.

#### Climate Adaptation

Secretariat Lead: Audrey Hasson



We co-authored with GERICs (Climate Service Center Germany) a guide for countries and managers on Ocean & Coastal adaptation for National Adaptation Plans that was launched at the NAP Expo (8-11th of August 2025 in Zambia).

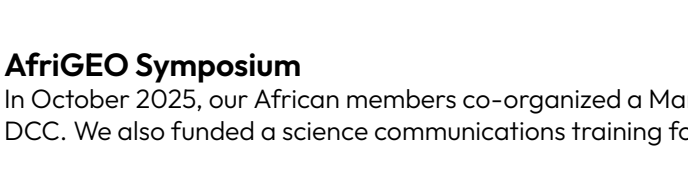
#### Eutrophication

Secretariat Lead: Merrie Beth Neely

We welcomed 8 new members and a new co-chair: Dany Ghafari from UNEP. Highlights in 2025 included presentations about REMARCO (Research Network of Marine-Coastal Stressors in Latin America and the Caribbean), newly funded UNEP projects in Sierra Leone, Seychelles and Zambia, and recent publications of ocean color data quality comparisons between cubesats (small, lightweight space satellites that fit into a cube) and traditional agency-launched satellite sensors.

UNEP published the online methodology for SDG 14.1.1.a in multiple new languages. In 2026 the team looks forward to analysing recent eutrophication indicator 1 and 2 datasets for global trends, and to publishing the methodology and the results of confirmative field assessments. We are actively seeking a second Working Group co-chair: email [mbneely@geoblueplanet.org](mailto:mbneely@geoblueplanet.org) if you are interested

#### International Ocean Colour Science Meeting



On the 4th of December 2025, the Eutrophication Working Group co-hosted with GEO AquaWatch an important hybrid ocean color community conversation with Commercial Data Service Providers.

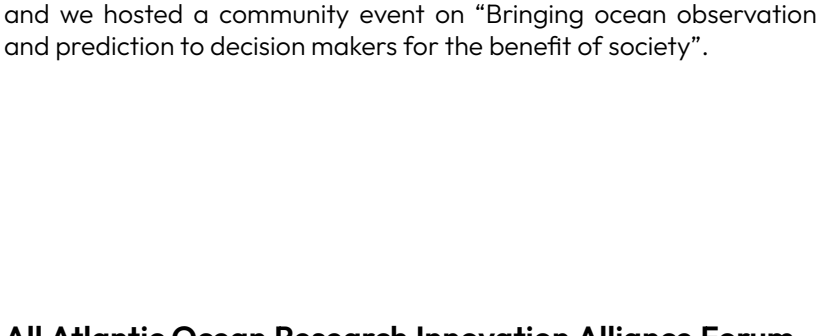
### REGIONAL NODES UPDATES

#### New: EuroGEO Marine & Coastal Action Group

We launched the EuroGEO Marine & Coastal Action Group during EuroGEO Workshop in October 2025 at The Hague, Netherlands. We also have a new webpage on our website about it!

#### AfriGEO Symposium

In October 2025, our African members co-organized a Marine & Coastal management session with Ocean Prediction DCC. We also funded a science communications training for ECOPs.



### OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

#### GEO Global Forum

In October 2025, we went to Rome to actively participate at the GEO Global Forum. GEO Blue Planet was highlighted at the plenary session and we hosted a community event on "Bringing ocean observation and prediction to decision makers for the benefit of society".



#### All Atlantic Ocean Research Innovation Alliance Forum - AAORIA

In September 2025, we were in Brussels for the Intergenerational Dialogue Session prior to AAORIA. We supported 2 ECOPs (Early Ocean Career Professionals) to go and take part in policy briefs production and international cooperation discussions.



### OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



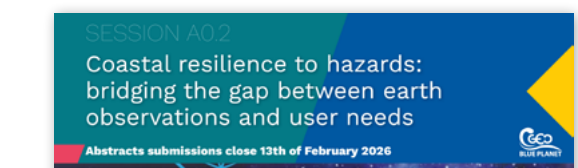
**IMDOS Steering Committee**  
IMDOS is organizing the 2nd annual meeting of its Steering Committee in Sopot, Poland. The event will take place on the 19-20 March 2026 in hybrid format, to reflect on the activities implemented in 2025 and discuss the timeline for future actions.



**Intergenerational Hackathon and AAORIA Forum**  
Through our partnership with the ECOP Programme and Ocean Bridges, we created and will support Challenge n°6 on Real-time monitoring of Sargassum Blooms during Intergenerational Ocean Hackathon on 13-14th April 2026, prior to AAORIA Brazil (15-16th).



**Data for Fisheries workshop**  
The Fisheries Working Group will co-organize a workshop in London with the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) to promote the use of ocean data to support global sustainable fisheries management.



**EuroGEO Marine & Coastal Action Group workshop**  
The newly launched EuroGEO Marine & Coastal Action Group will be co-organizing with GEO Aqua Watch a workshop on "Data to intelligence: cro-creating Strategies with EU Initiatives" in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Secretariat in WMO Headquarters on the 6-7 July.



**Session: Coastal resilience to hazards**  
GEO Blue Planet is co-organizing a Session on coastal resilience at COSPAR in August in Florence, Italia. See the section "Opportunities" below for more information about our call for abstracts

#### And also...

[GEO Symposium in May in Geneva, Switzerland](#)  
More events on the [GEO Blue Planet website](#)  
Other events on the [Ocean Decade Website](#)

### OPPORTUNITIES

**Call for abstracts!**  
Join us at **COSPAR 2026** in Florence, Italy, in August 2026 for our co-organized session: "Coastal Resilience to Hazards: Bridging the Gap Between Earth Observations and User Needs". Submission closes on 13th of February 2026.

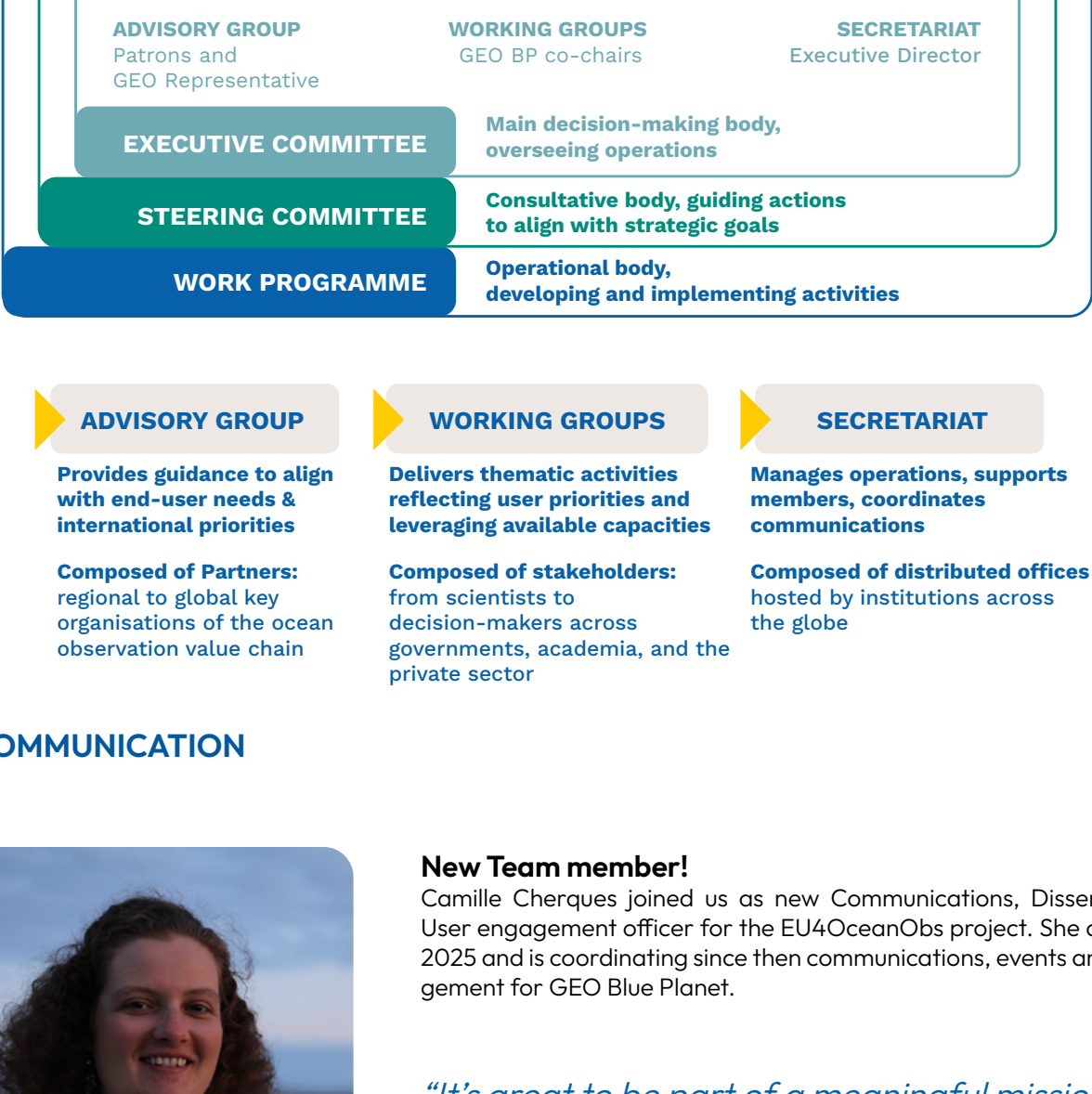
**Vacancy**  
A job opportunity has opened in our team to work as **Community Engagement officer** for the EuroGEO Marine & Coastal Action Group and ocean briefs tool.

**Membership**  
Joins us! We are open to new members in our working groups so if you wish to be part of GEO Blue Planet impactful activities or if you want to contact us, send an email to [info@geoblueplanet.org](mailto:info@geoblueplanet.org)

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**Few changes for our governance**  
Endorsed by the Executive Committee, we updated our governance structure. Check below

## GEO BLUE PLANET GOVERNANCE

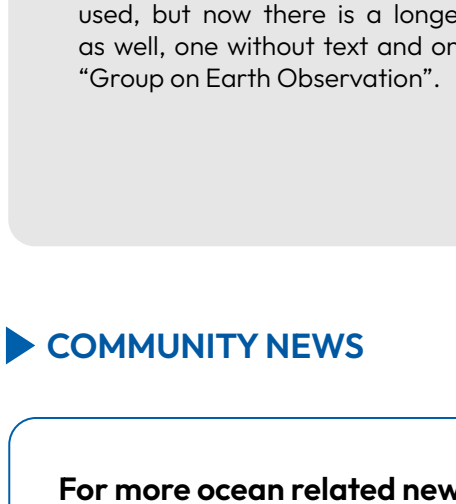


**ADVISORY GROUP**  
Provides guidance to align with end-user needs & international priorities  
Composed of Partners: regional to global key organisations of the ocean observation value chain

**WORKING GROUPS**  
Delivers thematic activities reflecting user priorities and leveraging available capacities  
Composed of stakeholders: from scientists to decision-makers across governments, academia, and the private sector

**SECRETARIAT**  
Manages operations, supports members, coordinates communications  
Composed of distributed offices hosted by institutions across the globe

### COMMUNICATION

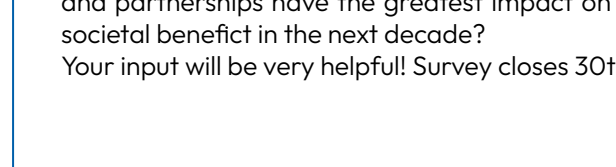


**New Team member!**  
Camille Chergues joined us as new Communications, Dissemination and User engagement officer for the EU4OceanObs project. She arrived in July 2025 and is coordinating since then communications, events and user engagement for GEO Blue Planet.  
*"It's great to be part of a meaningful mission, to make ocean science accessible to policymakers"*

### COMMUNITY NEWS

**For more ocean related news...**  
...you can explore our sponsor's project EU4OceanObs website

**Launch of the new Global Ocean Observing System 2025 Status Report**  
The report reveals both progress and gaps in world's critical ocean observation infrastructure.



**Monitoring Sea Level From Space**  
Our Executive Director, Dr Audrey Hasson, and Pierre-Yves Le Traon, Scientific Director at Mercator Ocean International were featured in this EUMETSAT video explaining how satellites data can help us monitor sea level rise.

**NASA Decadal Water Needs Survey**  
Help shape the next decade of water cycle science (including water quality) at NASA! The survey focuses on this critical question: where can space-based observations, missions, and partnerships have the greatest impact on water cycle science and applications for societal benefit in the next decade?  
Your input will be very helpful! Survey closes 30th of January 2026.

Thank you for reading!  
Don't hesitate to share this newsletter to spread the ocean word