Science for Society: The GEO Blue Planet and AquaWatch Initiatives

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Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

- GEO is a voluntary partnership of 100+ governments and 100+ organizations that is working to link Earth observation resources world-wide for the benefit of society.

Countries have borders. Earth observations don’t.

- The GEO community seeks to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).
GEO Implementation and Strategic Objectives

Engage – Advocate – Deliver

GEO Initiatives

- GEO Community Activities: Develops concepts and applications. Community building.
- GEO Initiatives: Demonstrates pilot or prototype services. Members / PO coordinate.
- GEO Flagships: Develops pre-operational services. Members / PO operate.

GEO Foundational Tasks

- Coordinated by GEO Secretariat.
Blue Planet’s mission is to:

- advance and exploit synergies among ocean and coastal observational programmes
- increased integration of and access to in situ and remote sensing ocean observation data
- improve engagement with a variety of users for enhancing the timeliness, quality and range of services
- raise awareness of the societal benefits of ocean observations at the public and policy levels
Blue Planet is a network made up of participants from a variety of existing international organizations, regional organizations, national institutes, universities, government agencies, project groups and other stakeholders.
Blue Planet has four working groups that are tasked with identifying and sharing best practices and supporting Blue Planet projects.
Current Focus

• Connecting users to providers
  – Engaging with users to identify data and information needs
  – Clarifying the “seascape” of ocean and coastal observations for user groups
Caribbean SDG Workshop

Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean: The Role of the Ocean

Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean: The Role of the Ocean

- The workshop is being planned in a collaborative effort of GEO Initiatives, governments of the Caribbean Small Island States, United Nations Agencies, and regional non-governmental organisations.

- The workshop will bring together stakeholders engaged in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in the Caribbean Small Island States with the goal to link these efforts to required ocean observations and to engage in the co-creation of the knowledge supporting these efforts.
The Caribbean workshop will be a pilot for future workshops in other regions.
Support of Regional Projects

• 4M – Multipurpose Marine Monitoring Mechanism
• Project concept (for implementation in Barbados and Grenada) currently being developed by UNDP Barbados and the OECS, IOCARIBE-GOOS and GEO Blue Planet
• The 4M project will provide data and information necessary for successful implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean
AquaWatch’s **mission** is to: 

Improve the coordination, delivery and utilization of water quality information for the benefit of society
AquaWatch participants presently include individuals from various organizations including state, federal, and international governmental agencies, private consulting companies, nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations and academic institutions.

Working groups
Water Quality Information Service

Work Package 1
Project initiation

0-1 year

Work Package 2
Ongoing and developing water quality project inventory

0-2 years

In progress

Work Package 3
Development of baseline global water quality products

3 & 4

Work Package 4
Local/regional end-to-end prototype project demonstration

1-3 years

Work Package 5
Develop initial demonstration global water quality monitoring service

3-5 years

Work Package 6
Transition to routine and sustained global water quality monitoring service

6 & 7

Work Package 7
Expand water quality monitoring service to include forecasting service

5-10 years
Booklet:

• AquaWatch recently completed an informational booklet on water quality monitoring.

• The booklet is available on the AquaWatch website www.geoaquaawatch.org
Blue Planet (2018 – 2019)
• Build users and networks working group and identify priority user engagement activities
• Complete the infographic for the ocean observing “seascape”
• Secure funding for additional SDG workshops and other regional activities
• Compile “success stories” for ocean observations

AquaWatch (2018 – 2019)
• Continue to build on the water quality information service
• Increase engagement with the water quality monitoring and forecasting community
• Populate formal Steering Committee and set priorities for Working Group activities
• Identify and begin capacity building activities
Thank you

Questions?

www.geoblueplanet.org

www.geoaquawatch.org

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