

**Update on the GEO Coastal Zone  
Community of Practice (CZCP)**

Hans-Peter Plag, Paul M. DiGiacomo, Michael Bruno, Jimmy Adegoke

12<sup>th</sup> GEO User Interface Committee Meeting  
Melbourne, Australia, 15 November 2009

# Objectives and Tasks

The **GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice (CZCP)** objectives are to:

- Engage coastal users and data providers in the specification of requirements for *in situ* & remote coastal observations and derived Information products in support of integrated coastal zone management
- Evaluate current and projected observational capabilities against these requirements, identifying gaps, redundancies and activities that need to be strengthened;
- Advise the **GEO User Interface Committee**, other CPs and GEO on matters relating to coastal zone observations and related societal benefits, and identify priority needs as well as areas for linkage, collaboration and support.

The **CZCP** tasks include:

- Organize workshops and develop “proof of concept” pilot projects that both address these gaps and enable data integration for the provision of new or improved decision support tools;
- Promote development or strengthening of networks of institutions globally, regionally, and across the CoPs that contribute to and benefit from GEOSS;

# Participation

- \* CZCP Organizing group:

Jimmy Adegoke

Michael Bruno

Robert Christian

Franciscus Colijn

Paul DiGiacomo (co-chair)

Thomas Malone

Liana Talaue-McManus

Jose Muelbert

Hans-Peter Plag (co-chair)

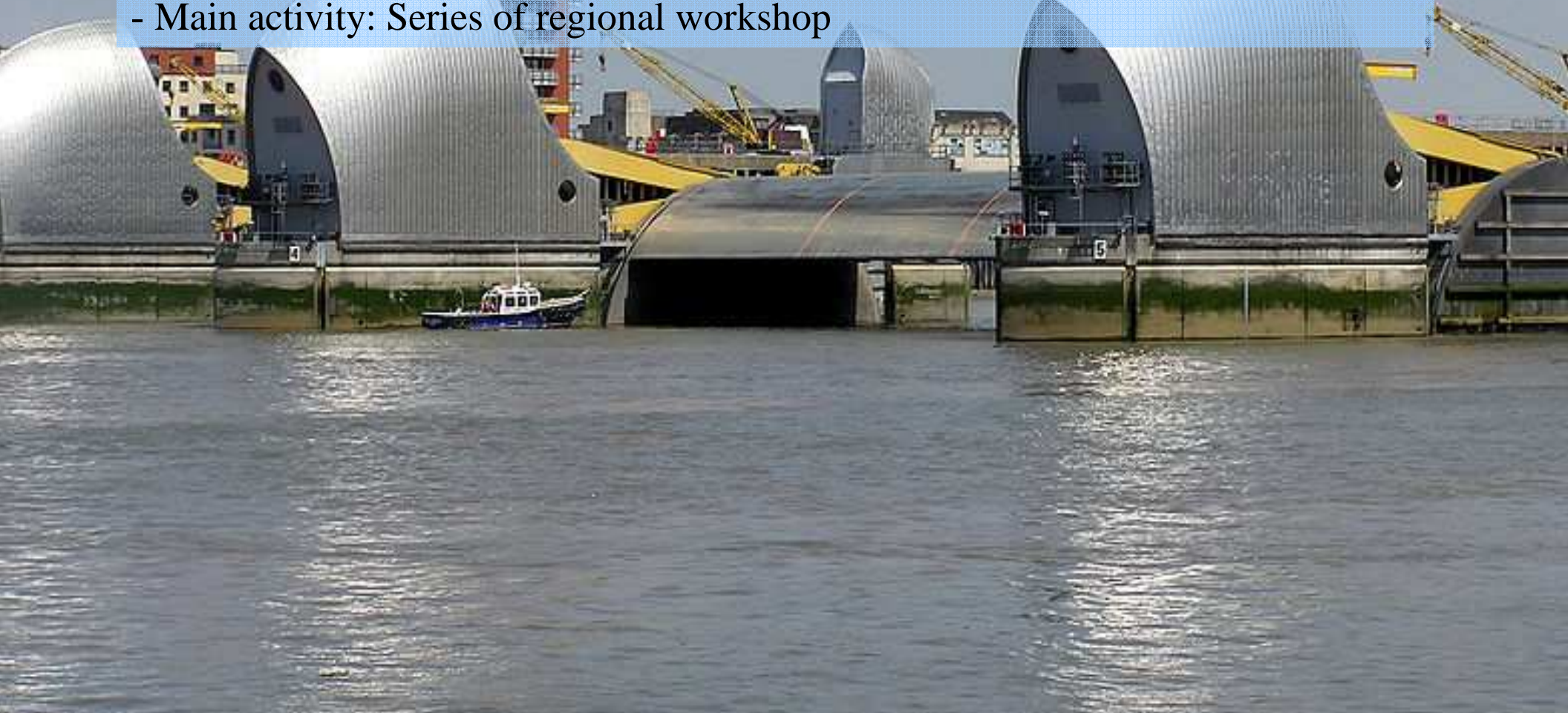
- \* Numerous GEO member nations, as well coastal user interests & applications (e.g., sea level rise and inundation; water quality; habitat, resource and integrated coastal area management) are represented within the CZCP.

- \* Frequent communication is occurring within this group to facilitate discussion and plan CZCP activities.

- \* Outreach to other relevant groups and activities.

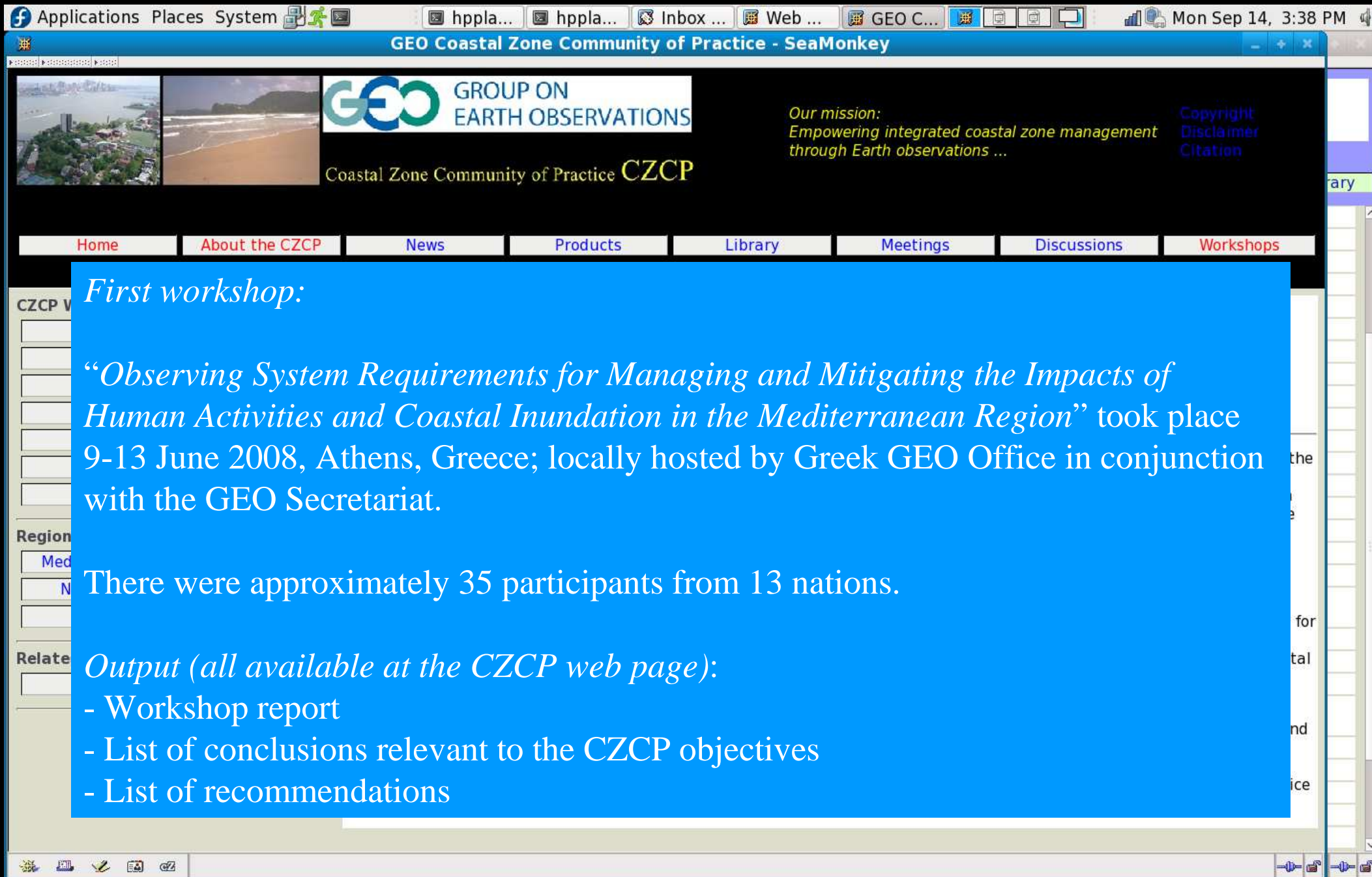
## Recent CZCP Activities

- Coastal users/organizations/needs are being identified by the organizing group.
- Focus on presentations of the CZCP at relevant regional conferences.
- Authored a Community White Papers to OceanObs'09.
- Potential update of the Coastal Theme Report – what would be the process?
- On-going strategy discussion for the next years.
- Meeting of core group in June in Washington, D.C.
- Potential CZCP meeting on November 20, 2009, Washington, D.C.
- Main activity: Series of regional workshop



# Main Activity

A series of CZCP regional users workshops is currently being planned and carried out:



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*First workshop:*

*“Observing System Requirements for Managing and Mitigating the Impacts of Human Activities and Coastal Inundation in the Mediterranean Region”* took place 9-13 June 2008, Athens, Greece; locally hosted by Greek GEO Office in conjunction with the GEO Secretariat.

There were approximately 35 participants from 13 nations.

*Output (all available at the CZCP web page):*

- Workshop report
- List of conclusions relevant to the CZCP objectives
- List of recommendations

# Main Activity

A series of CZCP regional users workshops is currently being planned and carried out:

Much work was invested into preparation of two subsequent workshops in Africa



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## (1) Egypt:

- follow up of an recommendation of the Athens Workshop;
- main goal: understanding decision processes and GEOSS decision support in Southern Mediterranean countries;
- local host: governmental organization (National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences)
- problem: not able to secure sufficient funding (~\$25,000)
- postponed, hopefully in 2010

[Mediterranean: Athens, Greece 2008](#)

[North Africa: Cairo, Egypt 2010](#)

[Africa: TBD, 2010](#)

### Related information:

[IGOS Background](#)

former IGOS Coastal Theme ([more background ...](#)), which provided a strategy for integrated observations across the land-sea interface, and aims to enable broader participation, improved linkage to users, coordinated implementation, and enhanced societal benefits.

The CZCP is a user-driven community of stakeholders, the purpose of which is to develop a strategy, in the framework of GEO for engaging user groups across the land-sea interface in the development of those elements of the GOOS and GTOS that are required to provide and integrate data on terrestrial, freshwater, marine and atmospheric systems that converge in the coastal zone. Its specific objectives are to:

1. Engage data providers and users in the specification of requirements for in situ and remote observations
2. Evaluate current and projected observation capabilities against these requirements, and identify gaps, redundancies and activities that need to be strengthened;
3. Promote the development of workshops and "proof of concept" pilot projects;
4. Promote development or strengthening of networks of institutions globally, regionally, and across Communities of Practice (CPs) that contribute to and benefit from GEOSS to achieve the mutual goals of GOOS and GTOS.

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## (2) West Africa:

- Focus on regional CZ issues; goal to initiate a regional CZCP
- First scheduled for August 2009 in Accra Ghana
- Kind-off ad hoc approach to planning;
- Slow development of local organization; problems with local budget, change venue;
- Problems in securing sufficient funding (UNESCO, GEO, but no other sources);
- No strong support of regional organization due to reduced activities;
- postponed, hopefully in 2010;
- UNESCO has invitation from Minister of Environment of Benin;
- UNESCO is trying to move the 2009 funds to 2010;
- CZCP is investigating how to proceed;
- However, it is not clear whether all conditions for a successful workshop are met.

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### Recent development:

(3) In the America, most likely in the Caribbean:

- Supported by US-GEO, Canada, and other American countries;
- Discussed in the frame of the preparation of the “GEOSS in the Americas” Meeting, November 20, 2009, Washington, D.C.
- Will be a topic at the “GEOSS in the Americas” meeting;
- Call for Proposals for host/venue issued in a telecon/by e-mail
- Goal: Regional CZCP; interest expressed at the 2008 GEOSS in the Americas meeting
- CZCP is asked to provide a brief “business”-concept paper for a successful workshop.

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Recent development:

(4) In Asia: Potential focus on coastal Mega Cities

- Very early planning stage
- Initial contacts to Jakarta



# Preparation for Ministerial Summit

Declaration on GEOSS and the Coastal Zone?

