

The Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans, POGO, is a consortium of major oceanographic institutions around the world with a commitment to sustained, integrated ocean observations for societal benefit, as well as for addressing information needs of decision-makers, researchers, service providers, and the general public. POGO sees GEO as an essential partner in achieving these goals.

In 2011, POGO led the creation of the “Oceans and Society: Blue Planet” Task within GEO, to raise the visibility of ocean observing efforts in this arena and to bring attention to the relevance of oceans to all societal benefit areas of GEO.

To understand, predict and perhaps limit possible adverse effects of climate change on oceans and society, we must observe the oceans completely, regularly and in an integrated fashion, using in situ as well as remote-sensing devices. The Blue Planet initiative brings together many ocean-observing programmes already within GEO as well as bringing new ones into the GEO portfolio. This Task has gathered momentum over the last two years and continues to grow, with collaboration from the major contributing organisations: the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS), the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE) OceanView and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), as well as POGO. Australia, as the new Chair of CEOS in 2015, will host the next Blue Planet Symposium in May 2015. Blue Planet is currently run on a voluntary basis, but we are actively seeking funding for its coordination, and believe that this will be key to its success as a global initiative. We request the continued support of member nations and participating organizations to help Blue Planet realize its full potential.