

Communicating the value of EO

GEO Week 2018

Maddie West / 29 October 2018 / Kyoto @madwst / mwest@geosec.org

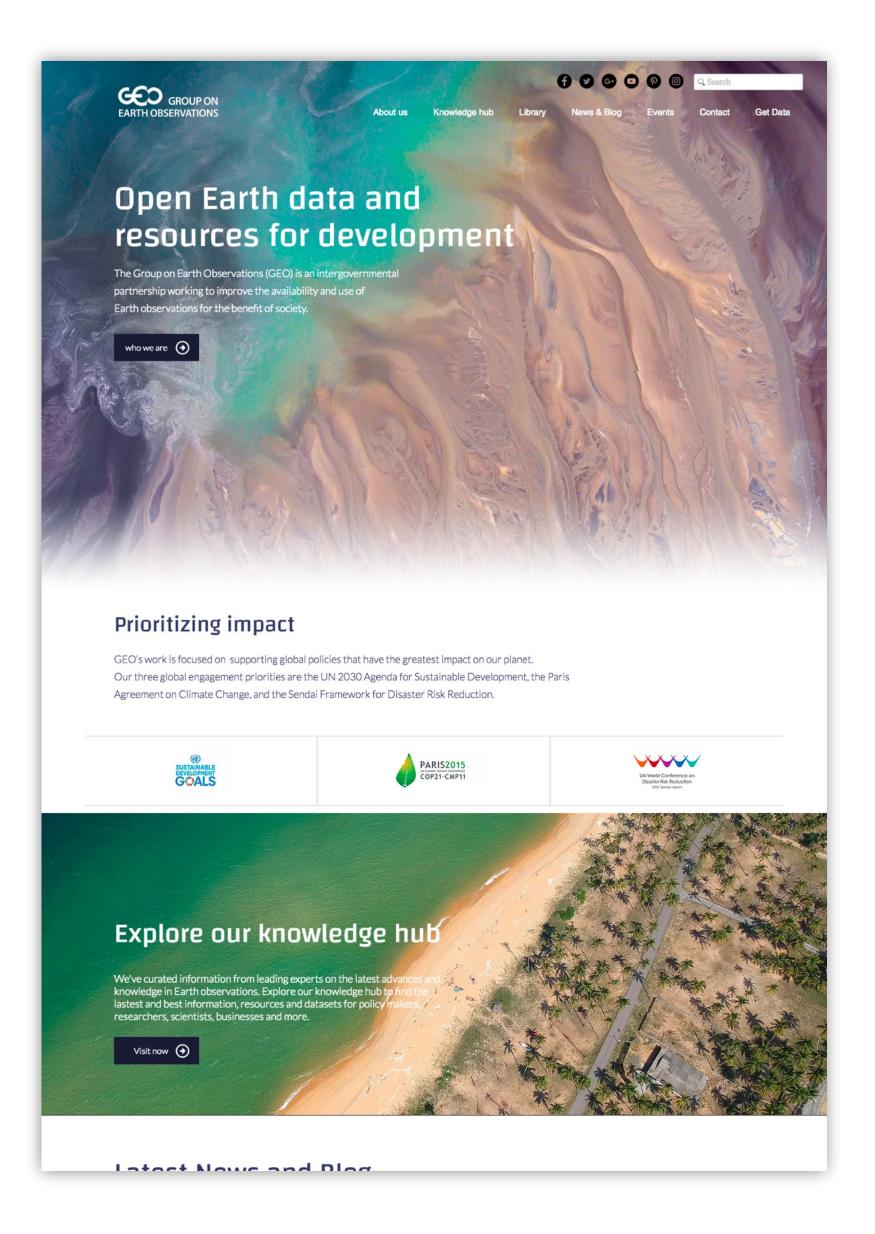


Coming soon

A website with purpose

A window to explore the value of Earth observations and the impact of the GEO community.





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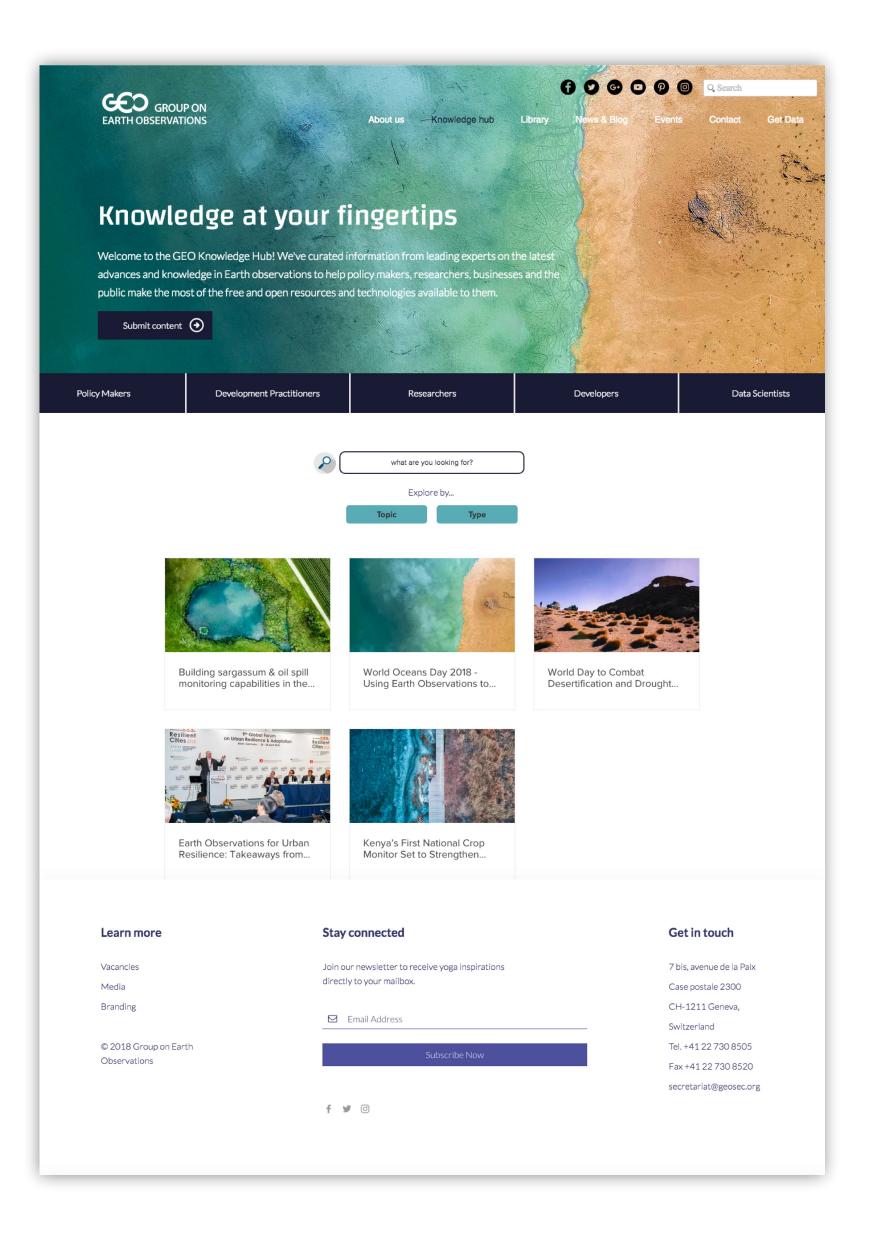




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GEO Knowledge Hub

With your support, the platform can become a one-stop-shop for value communications and knowledge from across the **GEO community.**







Maddie West

Manager,

in 🎔

Communications

Group on Earth

Observations (GEO)

New tool launched for water quality assessment

Cartagena, Colombia, 18 May 2018 - In recent years, the Caribbean region has faced challenges from oil spills and an influx of floating sargassum seaweed. Large-scale oil spill incidents have included an April 2017 spill at Pointe-à-Pierre, Trinidad and Tobago and a July 2017 oil spill in Kingston Harbor, Jamaica.

Illegal dumping of oil-contaminated waste by ships operating in the region is also a common occurrence. An increase in the frequency and volume of sargassum beachings publication or report name overabundance has caused another challenge for the region with mats preventing the deployment and retrieval of fishing gear and clogging popular beaches, harbors and bays.



Based on the amounts of sargassum detected in the Central West Atlantic and the Caribbean and in January - April 2018, researchers at the University of South Florida (USF) predict high amounts of sargassum in Caribbean in coming months. According to USF's Dr. Chaunmin Hu,

Caribbean by ocean currents, the high amounts of sargassum observed in these areas in recent months <mark>data set reference 1</mark> may see sargassum amounts in the Caribbean exceeding the record-high in 2015. The reasons behind these record-high blooms, however, are still unclear."

At the workshop, experts reviewed the existing technologies and challenges for monitoring and forecasting oil spills and sargassum in the Caribbean and adjacent regions and put together a plan to create an information system based on existing efforts. The system will help to inform local governments and communities so they are able to prepare for and respond appropriately to spills and sargassum events.

According to data set reference 2, which attended the workshop, the system will also support member states in unlocking sustainable benefits from the ocean and building resilience, managing for uncertainty and preserving and protecting the marine environment.

The workshop was organized by IOCARIBE of IOC UNESCO and its Global Ocean Observing System Regional Alliance, IOCARIBE-GOOS, and the GEO Blue Planet Initiative, and was hosted by the Ministry of Education of Mexico and Mexico National Council of Sciences. Over the coming months, the workshop organizers will be working with partners to begin implementation of the service and to identify long-term funding for the project.

You might also be interested in...



Building sargassum & oil spill monitoring..



World Oceans Day 2018 Using Earth Observation...



World Day to Combat Desertification and.



References and links

Document or Report Title Author: Group on Earth Observations Year: 2018 DOI: 838423u09

Data reference 1 Source: Group on Earth Year(s): 2018 DOI: 838423u09

& Access data set

(A) Download

Data reference 2 Source: Group on Earth Observation: Year(s): 2018 DOI: 838423u09

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