

## Synopsis



As the interface between land and sea, coastal zones are home to complex ecosystems, providing nesting grounds for iconic species such as marine birds and turtles on the land side, and nursery grounds and shelter for much of our marine life on the sea side. At the same time, as home to an ever-larger proportion of the human population, coastal zones are key to a plethora of economic activities. The equilibrium between the need for economic development and the need to protect the environment often hangs by a fine thread, balancing between conflicting interests.

The extent and complexity of interest revolving around coastal environments is mirrored in the EU policy framework: Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Flood Directive, Water Framework Directive, Bathing Water, Habitats & Bird Directives, Maritime Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Common Fisheries Policy, Green Deal, to name but a few.

Two workshops already took place in 2017 and 2018<sup>1</sup>, focusing on climate change, extreme events and blue economy development. Based on the input from the user community, the Copernicus User Forum endorsed a coastal roadmap<sup>2</sup> in 2018, currently under implementation by the Copernicus Land and Marine services, also supported by the Copernicus Climate Change and Emergency Management services, to ensure coordinated development.

The main aim of this third workshop is to illustrate what Copernicus can offer in relation to biodiversity and coastal ecosystems, in response to the urgent need to protect and restore our biodiversity<sup>3</sup>. Numerous products are available across several Copernicus services to describe and monitor various elements related to biodiversity and ecosystems, including the effects of climate change, recognised as being the main driver of global biodiversity loss. The impact of climate change is expected to accelerate over the coming decades, in some cases surpassing the impact of all other drivers.

The EU's new biodiversity strategy for 2030<sup>4</sup> aims to build our societies' resilience to future threats such as climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks..., by protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade. In parallel, in the frame of the international Group on Earth Observation, the GEOBON

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<sup>1</sup> Conclusions of last workshop: <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/events/events/copernicus-land-marine-coastal-workshop>

<sup>2</sup> <https://land.copernicus.eu/user-corner/technical-library/roadmap-for-coastal-zone-monitoring-activities>

<sup>3</sup> <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/we-need-urgent-action-to-protect-biodiversity/>

Kunming Declaration: Declaration from the High-Level Segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020 under the theme: "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth"

<sup>4</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives, COM/2020/380 final, 20.5.2020

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working group aims to establish the notion of Essential Biodiversity Variables (EBVs) to monitor biodiversity health based on space data.

This workshop will address these knowledge gaps, EBVs and new 2030 policy requirements. It will help reviewing the existing assets that Copernicus services can deploy to address biodiversity in coastal zones and look at how this can be improved, taking into account the resources available.

The workshop will be split in dedicated sessions to discuss and prioritize user needs, as well as learn from existing experiences, examine what the Sentinels and new EO opportunities could bring, identify which mature areas of science coupled with digital technologies could transition to sustained services, and consider what industry and business could offer. This should help consolidate the existing coastal roadmap with a new set of biodiversity-focused products and any existing products that may be tailored to biodiversity monitoring and forecasting needs.

## Draft Agenda



### Day 1, 11 October 2022

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**Opening** **14:00**

**Session 1 – Biodiversity and coastal resources – Setting the scene** **14:15**

*This session will present the state of play in policy development and needs from national scale to international one, in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living resources at coast*

**Session 2 – Biodiversity and economic development** **16:00**

*This session will showcase examples of best practices to develop blue economy or support territorial development, implement EU policies along coasts while protecting and fostering biodiversity, based on the use of space technologies combined with science and digital intelligence*

**End day 1** **17:30**

### Day 2, 12 October 2022

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**Welcome and summary of highlights day 1** **14:00**

**Session 3 – Biodiversity conservation in a context of climate change** **14:10**

*This session will showcase best practices in using Copernicus and EO to better understand, monitor and predict changes in biodiversity in a context of climate change, environmental pressures, conservation of natural heritage, at short to long term, in coastal areas*

**Session 4 – A future Green Copernicus at coast** **16:15**

*This session will address Copernicus evolution and perspectives at short to long term linked to biodiversity in coastal areas.*

**Conclusions** **17:30**