IAF EARTH OBSERVATION SYMPOSIUM (B1)
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Author: Mr. Angelo Amodio
Planetek Italia, Italy

Dr. Giulio Ceriola
Planetek Italia, Italy
Dr. Daniela Drimaco
Planetek Italia, Italy
Dr. Cristoforo Abbattista
Planetek Italia, Italy

THE ESA GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT & BLUE ECONOMY

Abstract

The European Space Agency has launched the Global Development Assistance Programme implemented in cooperation with World Bank and Asian Development Bank to provide EO-based information in support of the banks' action plans in the developing countries. To achieve this mission, the GDA programme focuses on targeted Agile EO Information Development (GDA AID) applied to eight thematic areas: Urban Sustainability, Disaster Resilience, Climate Resilience, Fragility Conflict and Security, Marine Environment and Blue Economy, Agriculture, Water Resources and Clean Energy.

Marine Environment Blue Economy are essential for the well-being of populations, since they provide food security and climate resilience for billions of people worldwide, support biodiversity, and foster sustainable socio-economic growth. Therefore, the Action Plans of International Financial Institutions, on one hand, focus on ensuring the economic growth of developing countries, through the promotion of inclusive livelihood opportunities and the sustainable development of key oceanic sectors such as tourism, maritime transport and renewable energy. On the other hand, they are interested in preserving the health of coastal and marine ecosystems, through the management of marine litter and pollution, and the improvement of sustainable fisheries governance.

The ESA GDA AID Marine Environment Blue Economy activity aims at delivering value-adding products and services to assist the IFIs teams involved in the framework of their current operation and their strategic goals over the coming years on the marine environment and Blue Economy activities. The major themes addressed are improved fisheries governance, marine litter and pollution management, integrated seascape management and 'blueing oceanic sector' through investments, policy reforms and coordination strategies that are built on coastal and marine assets protection. EO products and related information technical development are expected to support different use cases, e.g.: ecosystem protection and management, water quality and pollution assessment and monitoring, assessment and tracking of environmental damages from maritime disasters, detection and assessment capabilities for fishery resources, shoreline and riverbank erosion mapping, assessment of marine environmental impacts from port infrastructure and operations.

The GDA AID Marine Environment Blue Economy project started in June 2022, and is led by Planetek Italia with the support of AirCentre (Portugal), Climate Impact (Italy), EOMAP (Germany), Geoville (Austria), Terrasigna (Romania), and the University of Palermo (Italy).