

Friday 29th May

Discussion (Part 1)

- **How do we bring the remote sensing and in situ communities together?**

These communities generally work well together for the open ocean and at the level of specific projects/instruments (e.g. JASON-Argo and DBCP-GHRSST collaborations). However there seems to be a disconnect between RS and in situ in the coastal community. Also, it can be difficult to align the funding between the two communities when it comes to calibration/validation of RS data. Blue Planet could play a role in bringing together managers and funding agencies to tackle this problem.

- **How can we increase efficiency and impact of our capacity building/social awareness programmes?**

The Blue Planet Component C6 could play a role in helping the other Components and the community-at-large to strengthen and coordinate their CB and outreach efforts.

- **Who are the user groups we need to engage with? How can we better elicit user needs?**

There needs to be a paradigm shift in the way data providers operate. User engagement is difficult to conduct at the level of Blue Planet but not so difficult for specific services. In some cases the users are readily identified when data become unavailable (e.g. a website/portal crashes). We need users to assess how pilot projects are progressing and whether they are fit-for-purpose. We need a problem-motivated approach as well as one that is pragmatic and based on the tools that are available. Not all users are equal therefore we need to conduct a proper analysis of who the users are and what are their needs. Blue Planet should share best practices in user engagement and this could be led by a dedicated User Engagement Group.

Friday 29th May

Discussion (Part 1)

- **What are and how do we exploit synergies across components?**

The forecasting component (C3) could be useful to the other components by helping them to evaluate and communicate the uncertainties associated with observations. We need to establish metrics for progression.

- **How do we link from Blue Planet to Blue Economy?**

The Blue Economy can be defined as the process of using the ocean to sustainably enhance the local economy. It generally refers to small-scale economies, e.g. in developing countries, and is linked to societal benefits such as poverty alleviation, jobs for women, and sustainable livelihoods. The Blue Economy has a high return on investment at the small-to medium scale and benefits from a strong multiplier effect. There are generally two sides of the same industry that are often in conflict: the development side and the compliance/sustainable exploitation side. This makes industry engagement challenging, but also provides an opportunity for Blue Planet to provide advice as a scientific community.

It would be relevant to engage with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) has a Working Group on Ocean and Fisheries. APEC holds Ministerial Meetings. Also of relevance to the Blue Economy is the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

- **Policy linkages (e.g. UNFCCC, SDG, MSFD...)**

Blue Planet should position itself to provide advice and input to these processes.

Friday 29th May

Discussion (Part 2)

- **Where should Blue Planet sit in the new GEO Work Programme?**

It was agreed that it should be proposed as a GEO Initiative, but it would aspire to spin off a number of Flagships i.e. operational end-to-end services (e.g. sea level rise, water quality...)

- **Inclusive versus focussed?**

It was agreed that these do not need to be mutually exclusive. Blue Planet can be inclusive while also having specific targets and an Implementation Plan. New activities can be brought in that will help to deliver on Blue Planet's objectives.

- **Does Blue Planet need an Implementation Plan?**

Yes, this is a requirement to become a GEO Initiative, and is necessary for Blue Planet to progress.

- **Better articulation of the value of Blue Planet**

- Sharing of best practices
- Benefit from experience of established programmes (lessons learnt)
- Avoid duplication/reinventing of wheels
- More efficient use of limited resources
- Enhanced visibility (esp. for small/emerging programmes)
- International connections (esp. for national/regional programmes)
- Synergies through integration

Friday 29th May

Discussion (Part 2)

- **Sustainability of best-effort organisation?**

To be successful the organisation should be built on trust. Best-effort does not necessarily mean without funds. As a community we should try to obtain funds for specific activities. We should make use of the resource person in the GEO Secretariat. The financial and in-kind contributions provided by the Symposium hosts are also invaluable.

- **Should the Blue Planet Mission be updated, in particular to include stronger emphasis on user engagement?**

Yes, this should be an outcome of the Symposium. We will need to seek input from the participating organisations.

- **Input to Ministerial Declaration?**

Blue Planet should try to provide some input on ocean observations to the Ministerial Declaration. There will be a call for input in July. Zdenka Willis and Hans-Peter Plag are both on the Ministerial Summit WG.

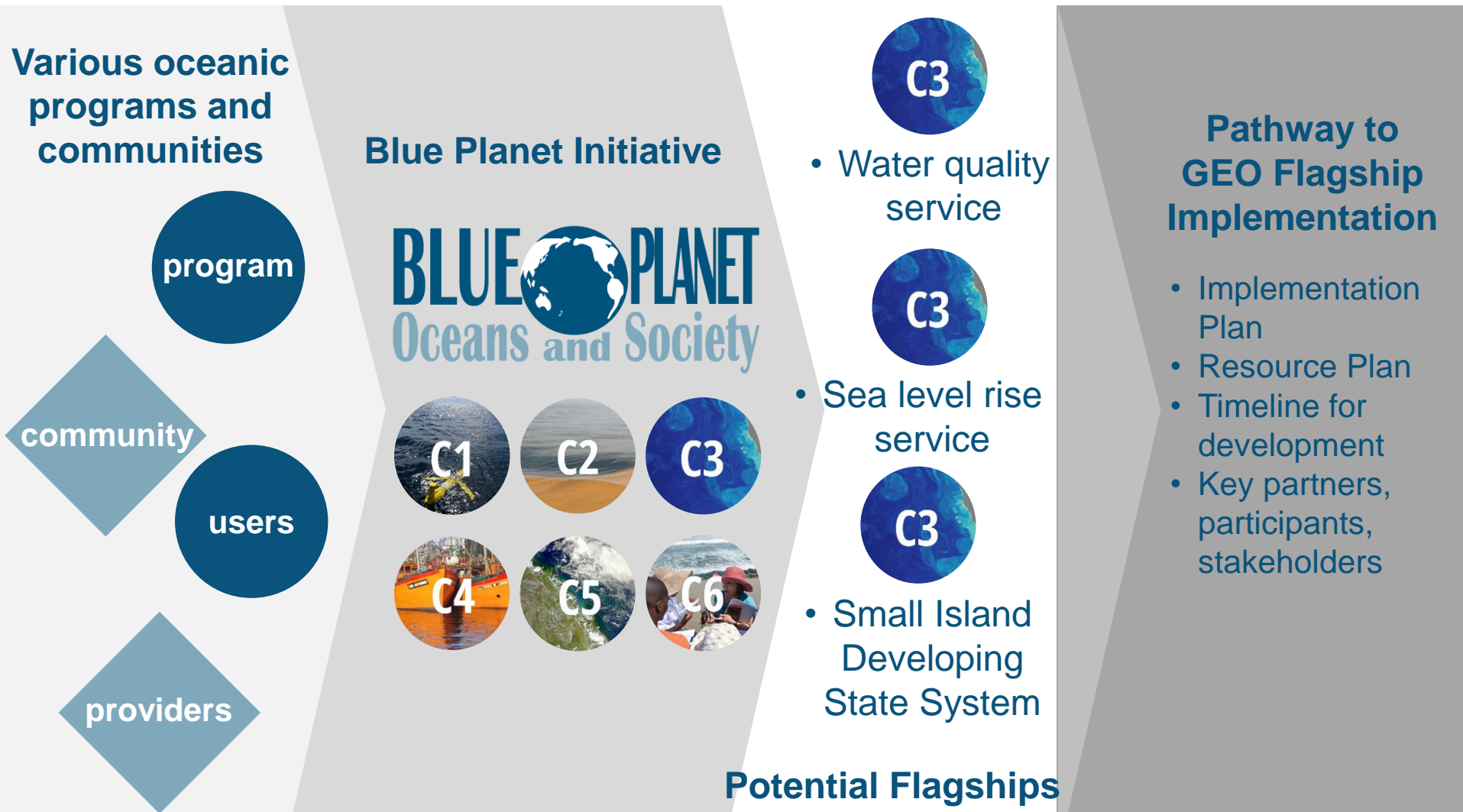
- **Publication**

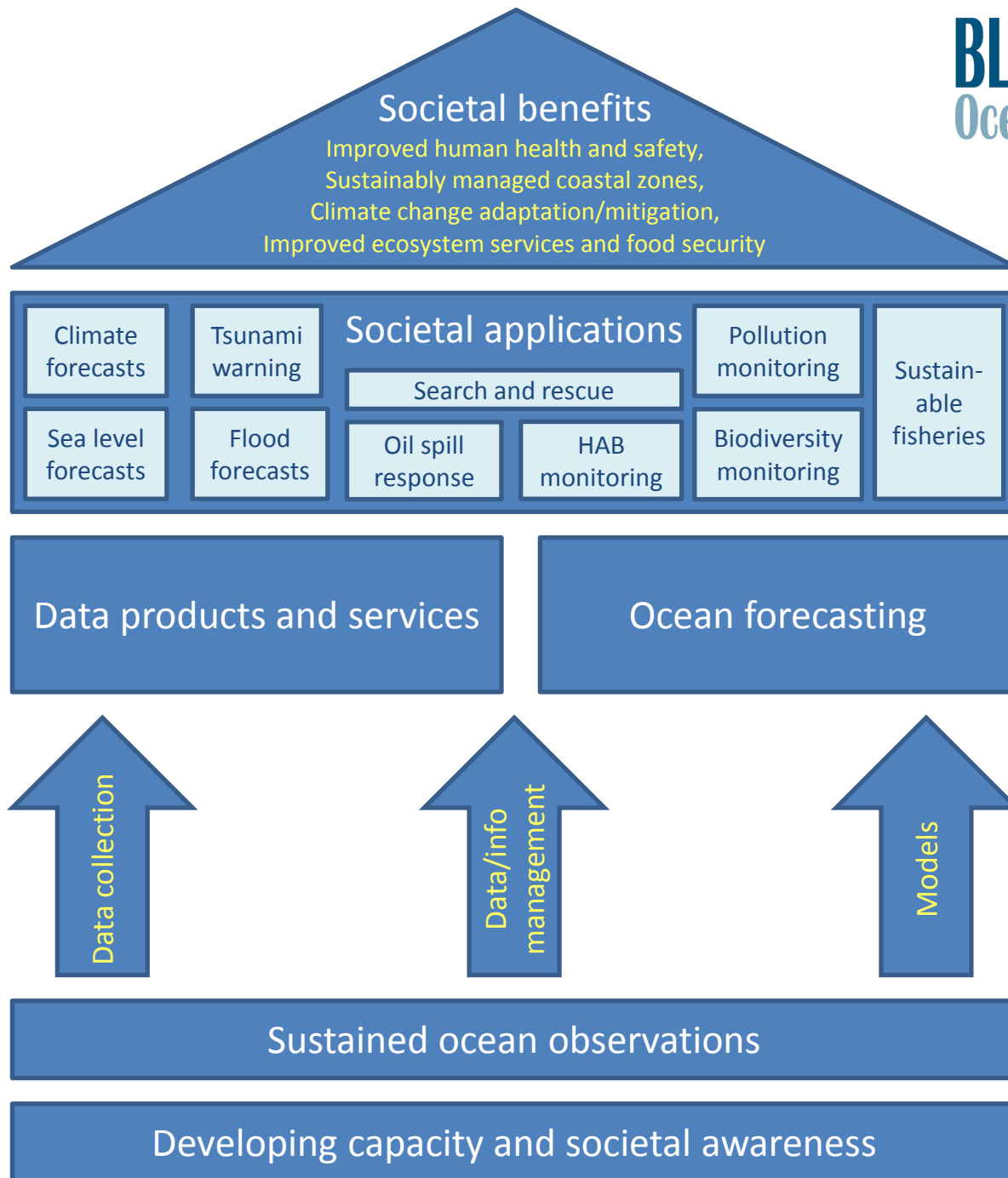
It was agreed that it would be desirable to publish a special issue (or more) on specific topics that were highlighted during the Symposium; e.g. ocean acidification, water quality monitoring, mangrove and other ecologically sensitive ecosystems. A summary report in EOS would be an option but would need to be focussed on scientific outcomes (could be linked to same topics as special issue). Another option (less scientifically-focussed) would be Oceanography.

- **Symposium presentations**

These will go on the Blue Planet website. Details to be circulated via the mailing list.

Blue Planet in the post-2015 GEO Work Programme





Components revisited

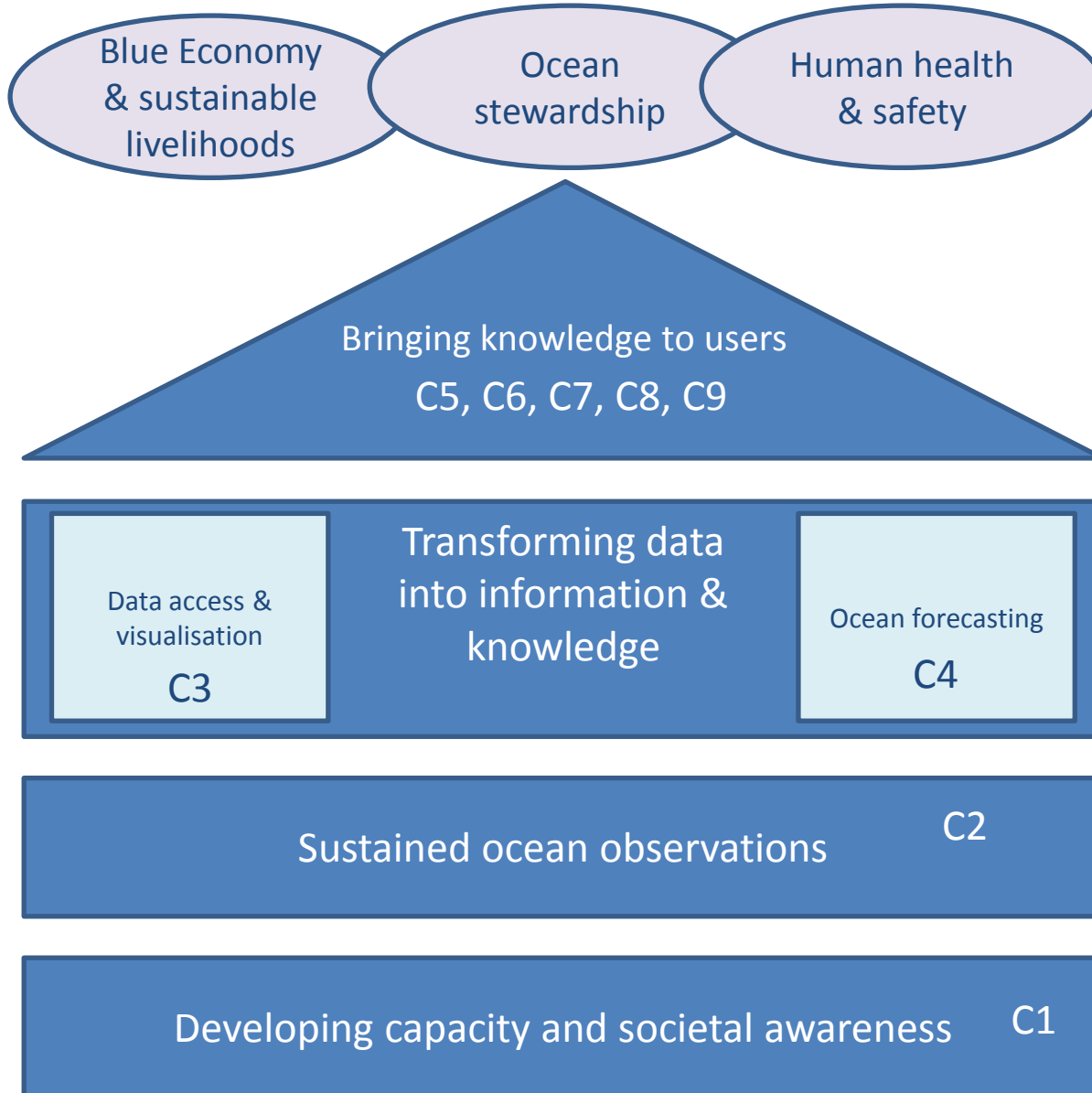
- Current 1: Sustained ocean observations
- Current 2: Healthy ecosystems and food security
- Current 3: Ocean forecasting and services
- Current 4: Services for the coastal zone
- Current 5: Ocean climate and carbon
- Current 6: Developing capacity and societal awareness

Possible new ones:

- Current 7: Integrated maritime services
- Current 8: Data access and visualisation
- Current 9: User engagement

BLUE PLANET

Oceans and Society



GODAE OceanView



The Global Ocean Observing System

