



AIR CENTRE  
ATLANTIC INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE

# The AIR Centre: a framework for scientific and technological collaboration across and along the Atlantic Ocean

Jose Luiz Moutinho, Samuel Djavidnia

Atlantic from Space Workshop, Southampton, January 23-25, 2019





# AIR Centre / AD AIR Centre

## Who are we?

- Atlantic International Research Centre (AIR Centre) is the outcome of a long process of scientific diplomacy: Atlantic Interactions
- Association for the Development of the AIR Centre (AD AIR Centre) is a Portuguese not for profit association based on Terceira Island, created under Portuguese law.

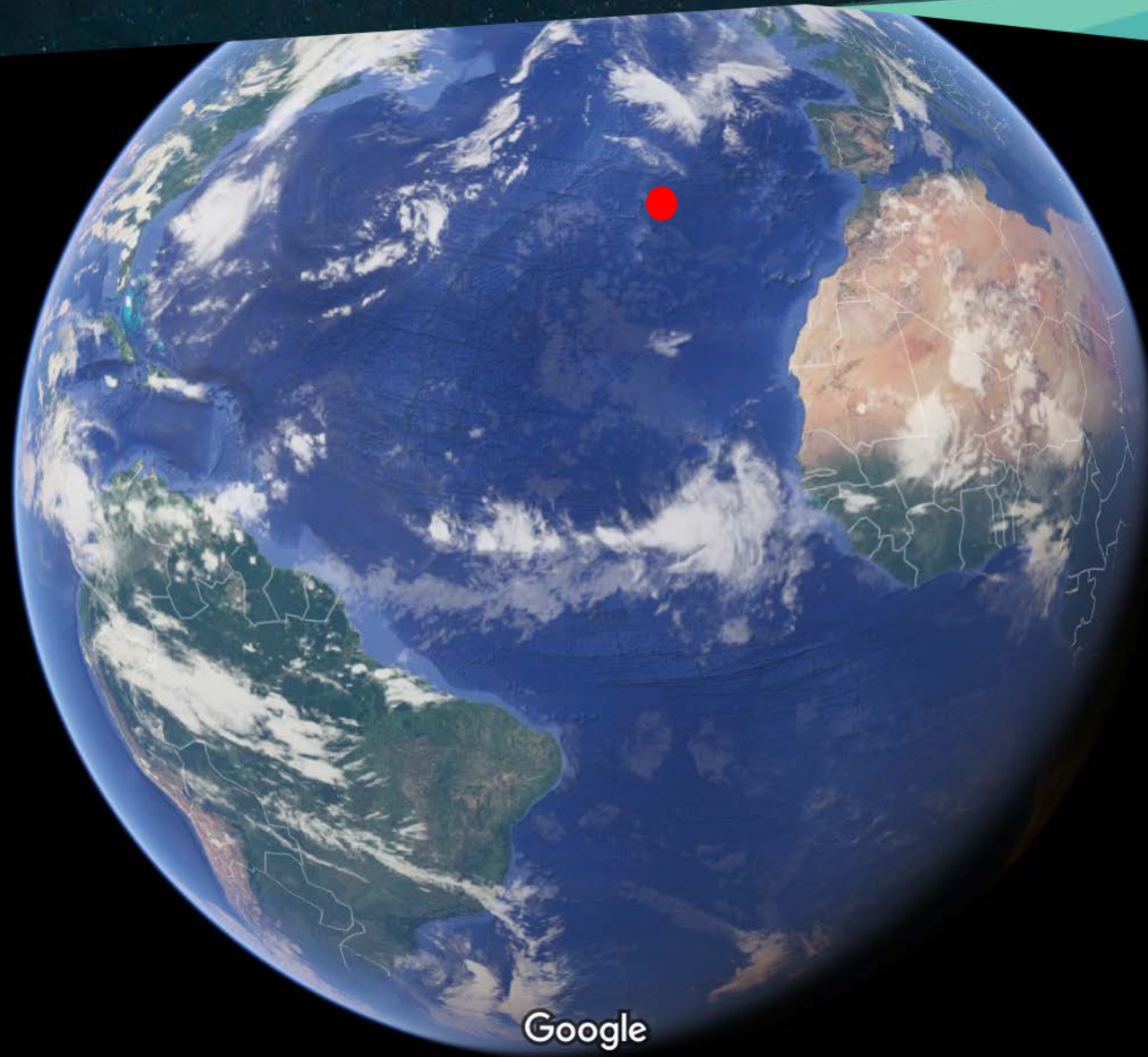




AIRCENTRE

# Headquarters

Casa da Roda, Praia da Vitoria, Ilha Terceira, Azores





AIR CENTRE

# Countries Involved

## Core and associated countries



USA

UK

SPAIN

PORTUGAL

SENEGAL

CAPE VERDE

GHANA

NIGERIA

SAO TOME  
AND PRINCIPE

ANGOLA

BRAZIL

NAMIBIA

URUGUAY

SOUTH AFRICA

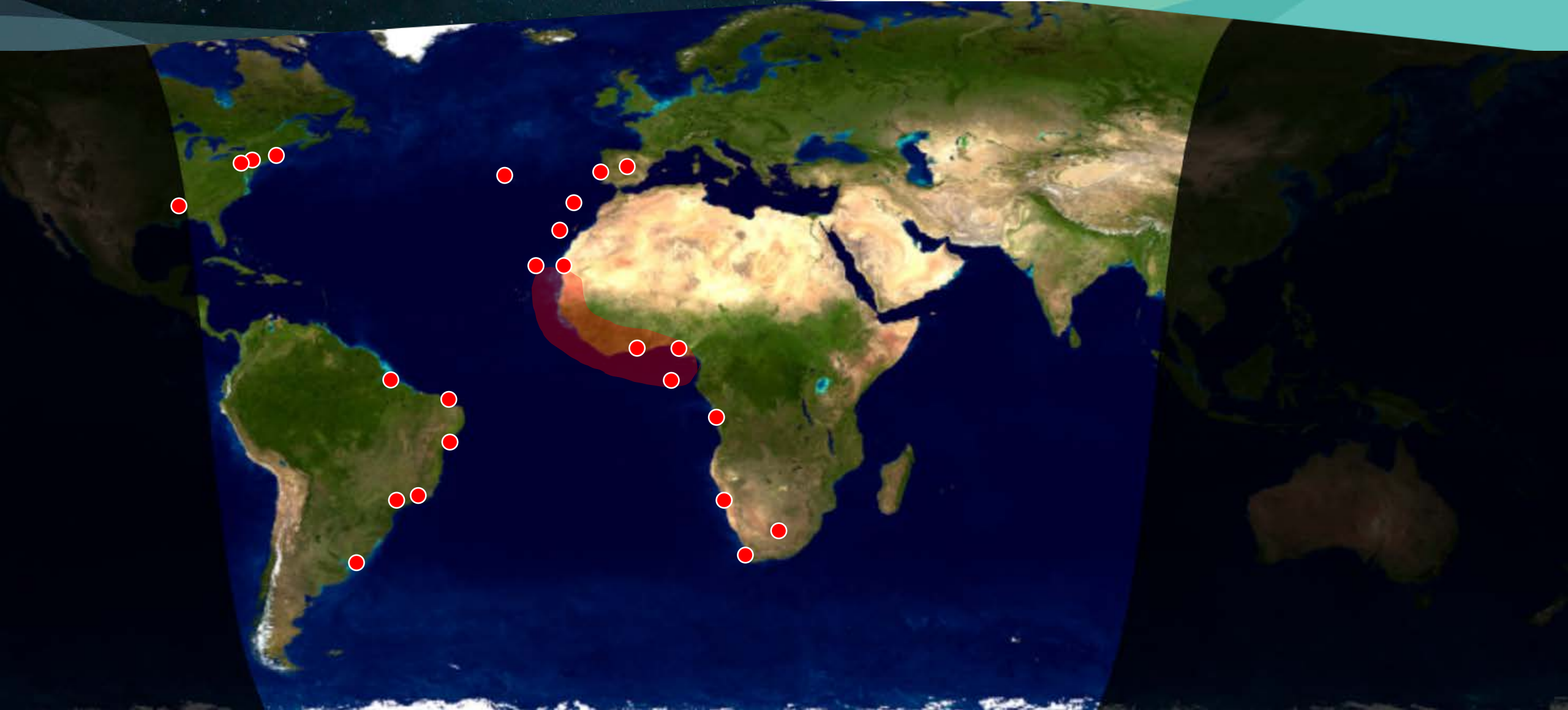
ARGENTINA



AIR CENTRE

# Network of Affiliated Institutions

Academia, industry and government





# Las Palmas de Gran Canaria MoUs signed



UNITED NATIONS  
Office for Outer Space Affairs

**MBON**

Marine Biodiversity  
Observation Network

**UFRJ**



**GOVERNO DO  
ESTADO DO CEARÁ**

*Secretaria da Ciência, Tecnologia  
e Educação Superior*



**GEO** GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

**BLUE PLANET**  
Oceans and Society

**LifeWatch**



**PennState**



# Agreements under negotiation

## MoUs and Lols



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



**UNAM**  
UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA



science  
& technology  
Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





# Main areas of interest

## Convergence is key

Marine Resources  
& Biodiversity



Clean and  
Healthy Oceans



From Deep Sea  
to Outer Space



Mitigation, Adaptation  
to Climate Change



Renewable  
Offshore Energies



Data Science,  
Deep Learning



Infrastructures, Capacity Building, Knowledge for All





# Focus on societal impacts

## National priorities aligned with global challenges





# Emphasis on capacity, institution building

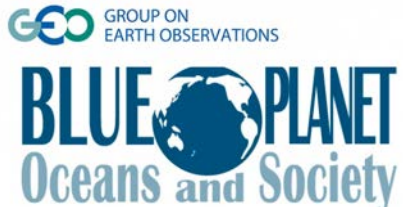
## Workshops, fellowships, mobility of researchers



**PennState**



# Workshop on Ocean and Coastal Information Macaronesia + Sao Tome and Principe



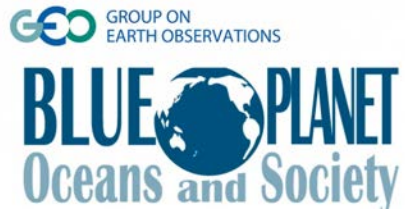
Preliminary meeting at Faial, Azores, October 29, 2018



Preliminary meetings at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, November 15, 2018



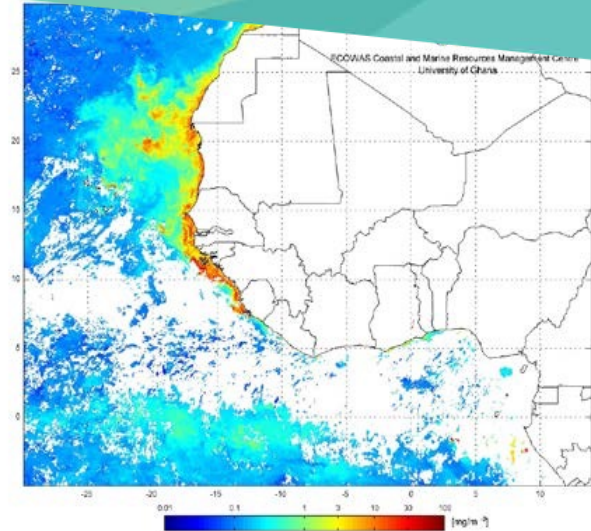
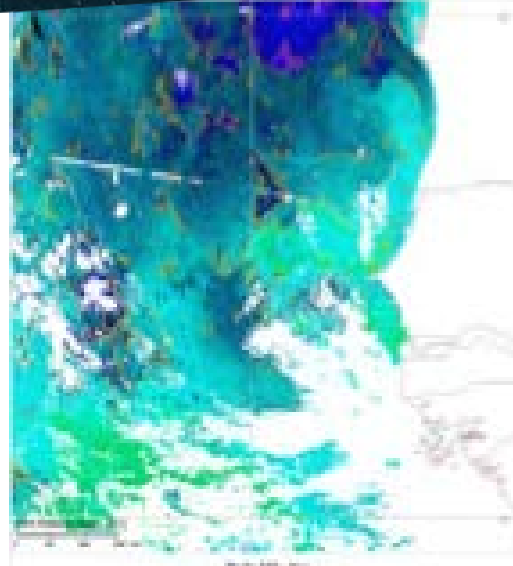
# Leveraging existing applications, services ECOWAS MESA



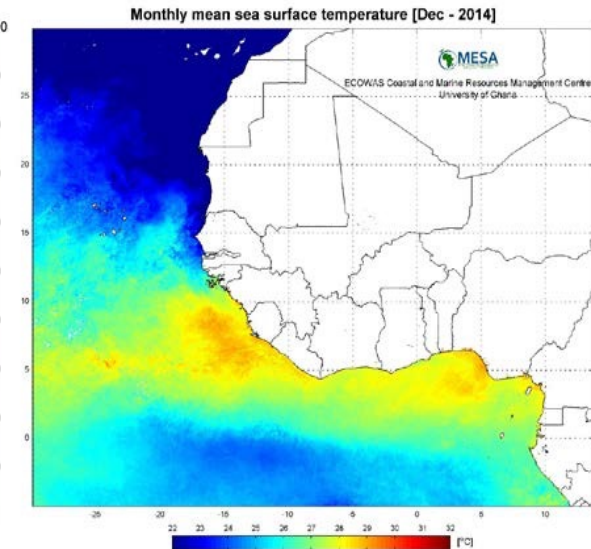
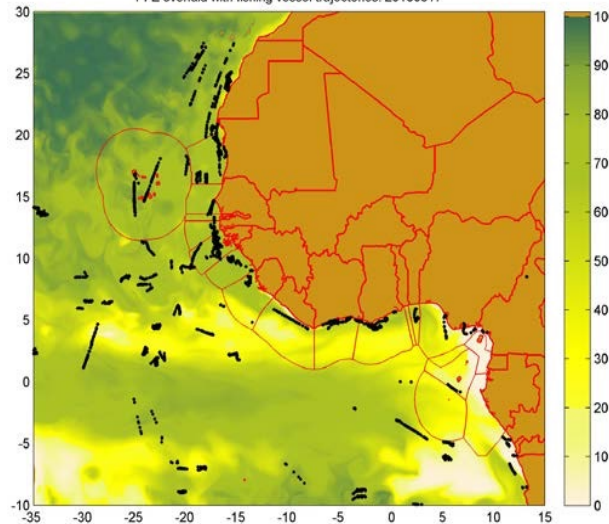
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA



Courtesy of MESA/Kwame Adu Agyekum, ECOWAS Coastal & Marine Resources Management Centre



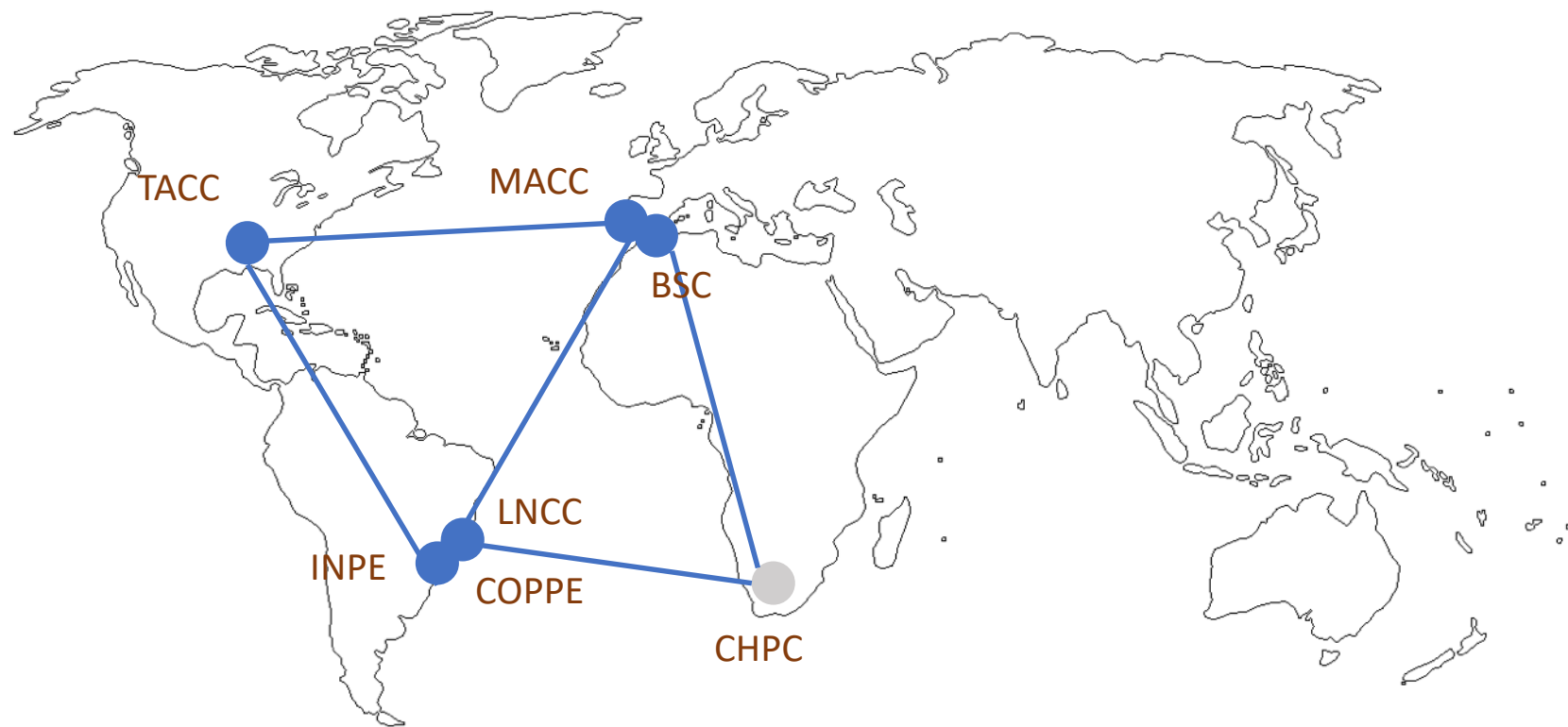
PFZ overlaid with fishing vessel trajectories: 20160517





AIR CENTRE

# AIR\_DataNET Global Data processing





# AtlanticGEOSS

## Ocean- and coastal-based data



- Curate data for Ocean and Coasts
- Serve as a test bed and a tool for the coordination for EO All-Atlantic initiatives
- Gather user needs taking into account local / national capacities
- Develop ocean-or coastal-related products for decision makers and end user

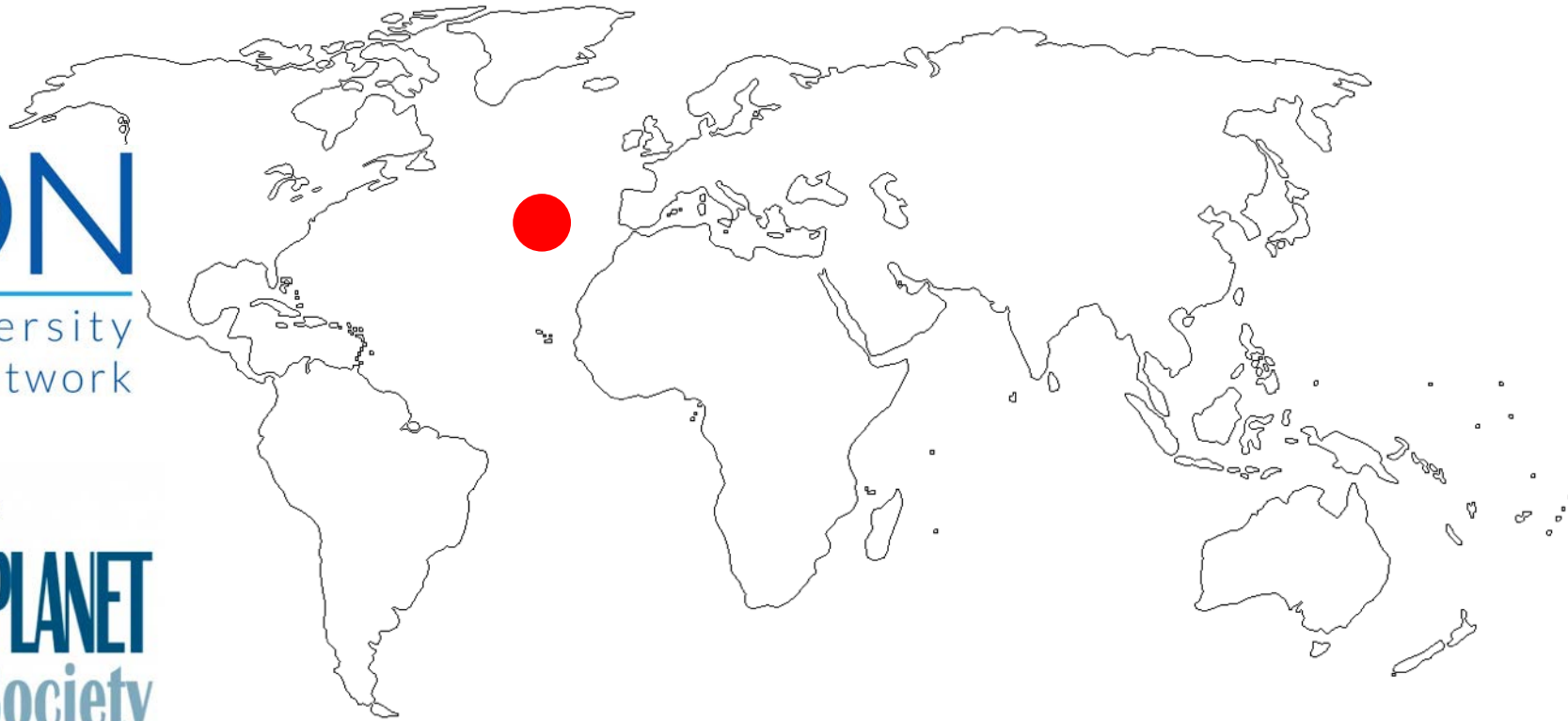


# GEO MBON Secretariat Geo Blue Planet Biodiversity Thematic Node

**MBON**  
Marine Biodiversity  
Observation Network

**GEO** GROUP ON  
EARTH OBSERVATIONS

**BLUE PLANET**  
Oceans and Society





## Engaging approach on EO Partnerships, leveraging existing

- Partnering with global/regional actors
- Participating in global/regional networks
- Understanding user needs
- Supporting the integration of satellite imagery, in-situ observation data through assimilative, predictive numerical models
- Stimulating new sensing technologies and methods
- Fostering cutting-edge data science: AI, Deep Learning
- Deploying new satellite constellations
- Promoting capacity and institution building
- Providing, facilitating new services and products
- Foster policies for resource economics and service value





# Typical collaboration framework

## Bottom-up approach with strong Top-down support

Definition of high priority topics

Countries / affiliated organizations and AIR Centre

Identification of key needs/requirements

AIR Centre and international stakeholders

Elaboration of the initiative

Countries / affiliated organizations and AIR Centre

Implementation of the activities

Industry / research organizations

Service Fruition

User communities

Impact evaluation (feedback loop)

AIR Centre and end users



# Outcome of the Canary Islands 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Dialogue

## Decision-making oriented / Problem-solving approach

Deploying new satellite constellations e.g. Cubesats & micro-launchers offer new low-cost & multi-lateral value & capabilities...

Maximising the value of Copernicus constellations through new network derived science products, calibration & validation

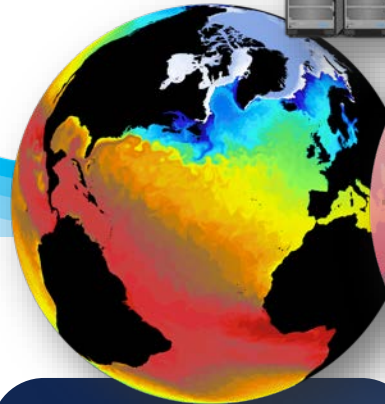
Big Data integration & fostering cutting-edge data science: artificial intelligence, deep learning, etc ...

New understanding of the earth system, from event-scale physics & biogeochemistry to climate & ecosystem variability...

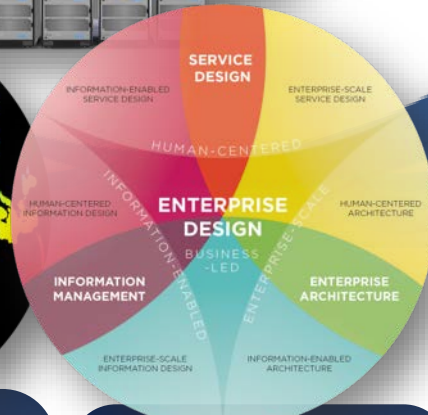
Develop new sensing technologies



Developing & exploiting innovative marine robotics, autonomous sensing technologies & applications...



Global and regional assimilative, predictive ocean models providing data integration, forecasting and a wide range of high value applications...



Developing user co-designed marine services to transition from research -> operations & realise value & impact...



Resource economics & establishing economic/socio-economic value and return on investment

Improved ocean governance, public/private partnerships, and inclusive blue economic growth...



AIRCENTRE

**Emphasis on capacity, institution building**  
Workshops, fellowships, mobility of researchers

## Secretariat

- **Joaquin Brito**

[joaquin.brito@aircentre.org](mailto:joaquin.brito@aircentre.org)

- **José Luiz Moutinho**

[jose.moutinho@aircentre.org](mailto:jose.moutinho@aircentre.org)

- **Frank Neumann**

[frank.neumann@aircentre.org](mailto:frank.neumann@aircentre.org)

- **Tania Li Cheng**

[tania.cheng@aircentre.org](mailto:tania.cheng@aircentre.org)

[www.aircentre.org](http://www.aircentre.org)