

## OceanNETs Stakeholder Reference Group – Activity Description & Data Protection Policy

The impacts of climate change are projected to increase unless much more action is taken to limit warming to “well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels” (Paris Agreement 2015). This requires reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to a net zero level as soon as possible. However, it is extremely difficult, and potentially impossible, to achieve the Paris Agreement by reducing greenhouse gas emission alone. Modelling scenarios that keep global warming within the limits of the Paris Agreement require the large-scale application of negative emission technologies (NETs) to achieve a net zero level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or to additionally remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

**NETs** are a range of methods that aim to reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels. This can be done either by seeking to engineer the removal and subsequent storage of CO<sub>2</sub> or by deliberately enhancing land or ocean carbon sinks to increase the removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

### **The OceanNETs project**

OceanNETs is funded through the European Commission research funding program Horizon 2020 under a call aiming to assess the feasibility of negative emissions for climate stabilization. The project aims to determine to what extent, and under what conditions, the deployment of ocean-based negative emission technologies could contribute to realistic, sustainable and effective pathways for Europe and the world to achieve climate neutrality and reach the goals established in the Paris Agreement. OceanNETs intends to identify and prioritize options with the most potential in regard to CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation, environmental impact, risks, co-benefits, technical feasibility, cost effectiveness, and political and societal acceptance. The project also aims to establish a tight dialogue with stakeholders, with the purpose to not only inform them about research activities but involve them in the project and collaborate with them to co-develop research outputs.

OceanNETs will contribute to major international, national, and EU assessments of possible climate mitigation options. The project breaks new ground by bringing together recognized NET experts from economic, political, legal, social, and natural sciences. The strength of OceanNETs lies in its transdisciplinary approach as opposed to existing disciplinary studies.

The project started in July 2020 and will run for four years. You can find more information here: [www.oceannets.com](http://www.oceannets.com)

## Reference Group Activity Description

### The aim of the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG)

OceanNETs aims to establish a tight dialogue with stakeholders including marine policy experts, professionals active in regional and global ocean governance processes, civil society, NGO's, business and industry, and research communities.

The project scientific experts will synergistically work in parallel and together, whilst interacting with stakeholders, to evaluate ocean-based NETs within a UN sustainable development goals framework. The stakeholder dialogue will be facilitated by establishing a Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) to maintain a two-way communication between the project's research team and the stakeholders. Formalized approaches, such as impact and activity planning, will be used to maintain and maximize communication with stakeholders. Through the dialogue, OceanNETs expertise and results will be reflexively combined with existing stakeholder knowledge and expertise, i.e., exploring the co-development of products with relevant constituencies.

### Who should be involved?

Stakeholders interested in 1) increasing their knowledge and understanding of OceanNETs, 2) engaging in a dialogue with the OceanNETs consortium and 3) collaborating to co-develop research approaches and products, are invited to join the Reference Group. We strive to ensure that the SRG is balanced, i.e., between various stakeholder groups such as those from policy, industry, academia, NGOs, civil society; regional/global; gender, etc.

### Benefits

All stakeholders can expect the following benefits from the participation in the OceanNETs SRG:

- Networking opportunities across Europe, the US and beyond
- Acquiring better knowledge and understanding of ocean-based NETs
- Gaining insights into the degree of (and factors affecting) social and political acceptance, affordability, and societal impacts and risks of ocean-based NETs
- Obtaining information on the most effective ocean-based NETs with low environmental and ecological risks (e.g., to biodiversity, ecosystem services) and high co-benefits
- Having access to cutting-edge research and the latest information on ocean-based NETs
- Gaining information and feedback that can be utilized immediately when making decisions and for strategic planning
- Opportunities to co-development research with the OceanNETs consortium and contribute to our project's outputs through your input, ideas and desires

## Expectations

Throughout the project, participation in the OceanNETs SRG may include some or all of the following activities:

- Participation in face-to-face or virtual meetings with academic experts and other stakeholders to exchange ideas (meetings can also be one-on-one)
- Participation in surveys and/or workshops to gather stakeholders' input and feedback on ideas and research conducted within the project

**If you want to apply to join the OceanNETs Stakeholder Reference Group, please complete the online form [here](#).**

If you have any questions, please contact us:

Dr Judith Meyer, Project Manager at OceanNETs: [jumeyer@geomar.de](mailto:jumeyer@geomar.de), +49 (0)431 600 1538

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## Data protection information for OceanNETs stakeholders and other comparably affected persons in conformity with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

With the following information, we would like to give you an overview of the processing of your personal data and of your rights under data protection law.

### Who is controlling the data processing and who can you contact? (Art. 13 (1) (a) and (b) GDPR)

The responsible controlling authority is:

*OceanNETs Project at GEOMAR Helmholtz-Zentrum für Ozeanforschung Kiel*

*Wischhofstraße 1 – 3*

*24148 Kiel*

You can reach our Project Manager (Dr. Judith Meyer) at [jumeyer@geomar.de](mailto:jumeyer@geomar.de), +49 (0)431 600 1538

### Which data sources will be used and what kind of data do we process?

Only personal data included in your stakeholder reference group application will be processed by us. The application procedure requires the stakeholders to communicate certain data to us.

Necessary personal data is:

- address data (name and address)
- contact data (phone number, email address)

**For which purposes and on what legal basis is your data being processed? (Art. 13 (1) (c) GDPR)**

The purpose of processing your data is the decision about your participation in the OceanNETs SRG and to get in contact with you. The main means of interaction with the SRG will be online tools (virtual conferencing, mails).

**Who has access to your data? (Art. 13 (1) (e) and (f) GDPR)**

At OceanNETs, only the Project Coordinator and Project Manager that need your data to get in contact with you, will have access to your data. We might also share your data with other members of the OceanNETs consortium should they wish to get in contact with you. A transfer of data to third parties and to people outside of the OceanNETs consortium is not done.

**How long will your data be stored? (Art. 13 (2) (a) GDPR)**

Your data will be stored for the project duration of OceanNETs (July 2020–June 2021). Your personal data will be deleted 6 months after the project ends. Storage of your data for more than 6 months takes place only when you have consented to it according to Art. 6 (1) (a).

**Which data protection rights do you have? (Art. 13 (2) (b) – (d) GDPR)**

Every data subject has the right of access according to Article 15 GDPR, the right to rectification in accordance with Article 16 GDPR, the right to erasure according to Article 17 GDPR, the right to restriction of processing in accordance with Article 18 GDPR, the right to object according to Article 21 GDPR as well as the right to data portability in accordance with Article 20 GDPR. A given consent to the processing of your personal data can be revoked at any time. This also applies to the withdrawal of declarations of consent given to us since the entry into force of the GDPR on May 25th 2018. Please note that your withdrawal only works for future processing. Data that has been processed before your revocation will not be affected by the withdrawal.

**Is there an obligation for the provision of data? (Art. 13 (2) (e) GDPR)**

The provision of your data is necessary for the conduct of the application procedure and in order to get in contact with you. It is also needed for a potential involvement in stakeholder meetings and surveys.

**Will your data be further processed for other uses? (Art. 13 (3) GDPR)**

In case that we intend to further process your data for other uses than the intended purpose, we will provide you with all necessary information about these further purposes.