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## LET'S OBSERVE TOGETHER!

**Introducing LandSeaLot, a Horizon Europe project that seeks to integrate and enhance existing observation efforts -including *in-situ*, satellite, modelling and citizen science- to better study the land-sea interface, where terrestrial and marine habitats meet**

26, March 2024, Delft, The Netherlands... Scientists from around Europe gather this week in Delft for the official Kick Off Meeting of the newly minted LandSeaLot project, taking place the 26-28 of March, hosted by Dutch research institute Deltares. LandSeaLot seeks to defragment communities, actors and scientific fields, to achieve an integrated, optimal, cost-effective, and robust observation of the land-sea interface. The four year project comprises 20 partners spanning 12 European nations and will bring together communities involved in river to coastal sea as well as carbon observing Research Infrastructures, with citizen science networks and the consortium's leading scientific expertise. The project will bring novel approaches to help achieve the goals of the **Water and Marine Strategy Framework Directive** as well as the **EU Mission "Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030"** and the wider objectives of the **EU Green Deal**.

### **Why is observing the Land-Sea Interface so important?**

Coastal regions sustain dense populations and vital economies, hosting a multitude of activities in the land-sea interface, the area that links the terrestrial and marine landscapes. However, this prosperity comes with its own set of challenges. Balancing conflicting interests and uses, such as fisheries, aquaculture, energy production, tourism and transportation, is key to maintaining the delicate ecological balance of these regions, allowing coastal communities to thrive. Adding to the existing pressures, the resources produced in coastal regions and shelf seas are expected to increase dramatically, as much as six times for food and 40 times for energy. The need to reconcile ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation with the increasing demand for energy, food and bioresources from the sea is more pressing than ever. Coastal observations of both salt and fresh water systems play a key role in supporting the generation of science-based knowledge needed to inform decisions, enable communities to evaluate trade-offs, discuss desirable futures, and take action.

**The "Let's Observe Together" mission**

Recognizing the potential of the land-sea interface to enhance biodiversity, promote carbon sequestration, and strengthen climate resilience in coastal regions, the LandSeaLot project is **bringing together** the best existing **scientific expertise** in various domains to co-design a strategy on how to observe the land-sea interface, and will engage with all **key stakeholder groups** to establish better integration and collaboration between communities working in the land-sea interface; in addition the project will link *in situ* observations and **citizen science** with satellite observations and models. Leveraging low-cost observation technology (sensors), LandSeaLot will generate new observational data and integrated information products, which will be available through their assimilation into European Initiatives such as EMODnet and Copernicus services and to the observation component of the European Digital Twin of the Ocean (EDITO, ILIAD).

At the core of LandSeaLot's mission to develop an observation strategy along the land-sea interface are the **LandSeaLot Integration Labs**. These unique labs are being designed as test centres to pilot the proposed actions and improvements derived from the project as well as to inform a community-based observation strategy, including citizen science groups in **nine locations** in the Black, Aegean, Mediterranean, Atlantic, North, and Baltic seas.

“Delft, with its rich history in science and technology, is the ideal setting for the first time the consortium partners are connecting in person to plan the achievement of the innovative LandSeaLot mission,” said Jos Brils of Deltares, LandSeaLot’s coordinator. “By mutual education and sharing of strategies, standards, key takeaways and best practices through policy briefs, training sessions, and engagement of key-stakeholders as well as those leading European and global initiatives in a carefully designed co-creation process, LandSeaLot will bolster European leadership in land-sea interface observation.”

Interested stakeholders, including citizen science groups are invited to visit the LandSeaLot website at: <https://landsealot.eu> and/or contact us at: [hello@landsealot.eu](mailto:hello@landsealot.eu)

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LandSeaLot is being coordinated by **Deltares**, a non-profit, world-leading, and mission-driven Dutch knowledge institute for water and the subsurface. <https://www.deltares.nl/en>

LandSeaLot communications are being coordinated by **Seascope Belgium**, a multidisciplinary consulting firm providing high-level advice and sustainable solutions for key stakeholders in the rapidly developing blue economy, including maritime industry, policymakers, regulatory bodies and civil society. [www.seascopebelgium.be](http://www.seascopebelgium.be)