



# UNEP/GRID-Arendal Marine Programme



The earth's oceans play a crucial role in maintaining the global environmental equilibrium. Healthy and functioning oceans provide essential services to human communities, supporting economic wellbeing, and human health. This includes providing food, shoreline protection, a source of non living resources for energy and trade, recreation, culture and playing a critical role in regulating the earth's climate.

Human activities are putting the oceans under increasing pressure. The resulting changes in the marine environment are occurring at a faster pace than anticipated, affecting especially the most vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Through capacity building and assessment initiatives, the Marine Programme promotes responsible and sustainable management of oceans and coasts by addressing issues of sovereignty, resource management and protection of the marine environment in the context of global issues, including climate change.





## Environmental Knowledge for Change

**GRID-Arendal is a collaborating centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**

Established in 1989 by the Government of Norway as a Norwegian Foundation, our mission is to communicate environmental information to policy-makers and facilitate environmental decision-making for change. We are located in Arendal, Southern Norway, with outposted offices in Geneva, Ottawa and Stockholm.

GRID-Arendal's activities are organised into three major programmes (marine, polar and capacity building and communications) and relate to the six thematic priorities outlined in UNEP's Medium Term Strategy: Climate change, Disasters and conflicts, Ecosystem management, Environmental governance, Harmful substances and hazardous waste and Resource efficiency – sustainable consumption and production.

### The Marine Programme activities are centred around three components

**1** The UNEP Shelf Programme. UN General Assembly Resolution 57/141 (paragraph 38) calls on UNEP to use existing competence in the GRID-network to assist developing states in completing the activities required to establish the outer limits of their continental shelves according to Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); [[www.continentalshelf.org](http://www.continentalshelf.org)]

Following up on the assistance provided through the UNEP Shelf Programme, the Marine Programme will work with developing coastal states and SIDS on issues of:

**2** Marine and Coastal Sustainable Development – activities focus on ecosystem-based management and sustainable development, to ensure

that the world's coastal, marine and deep sea environments are valued and conserved; attention to climate change issues related to ocean and marine coastal environment are addressed and measures are taken to reduce environmental and socio-economic impacts;

**3** Building Capacity for responsible and sustainable management of Oceans and Coasts – identify opportunities for capacity development to strengthen management of marine resources and integrate considerations of the marine environment into national development planning; support organisations with sound marine and coastal information that will contribute to improved conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources.





**Morten Sørensen**  
Head of Programme

Geography/resource management and landuse accounting; mapping, GIS, natural resource management and environmental information systems.



**Emily Corcoran**  
Marine Biology

Aquatic resource management; marine biodiversity assessment; marine habitat assessment (biological); poverty and vulnerability mapping; sustainable development.



**Elaine Baker**  
Environmental Science

Sedimentology/oceanography/geochemistry; contaminant fate and transport in the marine environment, habitat mapping and coastal zone management.



**Lars Kullerud**  
Capacity building/Geology

Higher Education Network cooperation, president in University of the Arctic, a networks of Geology; Regional Petroleum Resource Assessments; geochronology, geostatistics; Arctic Marine and climate, international law issues.



**Christian Nellemann**  
Environmental Science

Environmental degradation, rapid response assessments, biology and investigative reporting.



**Tina Schoolmeester**  
Geology/Applied Geophysics/Geotechnics

Glacial sedimentation and erosion; submarine canyons; mass transport/slope (in)stabilitygeohazards; interpretation and use of marine geological and geophysical data/tools; UNCLOS (Art 76); marine remote sensing and GIS.



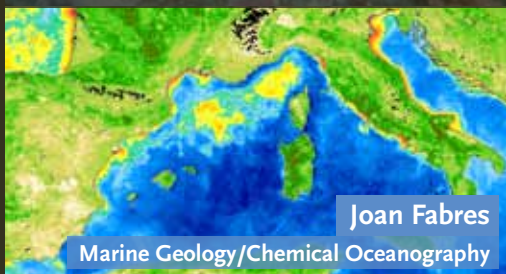
**Øystein Halvorsen**  
Physics/Cybernetics

Software engineering, development and programming; information communication technology, GIS/map production; data and database management; Server/network systems maintenance.



**Yannick Beaudoin**  
Marine/Economic Geology

Hard rock geology; mineral exploration geology; marine geology; deep ocean hydrothermal systems, GIS, UNCLOS (Art 76).



**Joan Fabres**  
Marine Geology/Chemical Oceanography

Marine Geology/ Chemical Oceanography: sedimentary processes in continental margins and their role in carbon sequestration, data acquisition, analysis and interpretation. UNCLOS (Art 76)



**Kristina Thygesen**  
Geology/Applied Geophysics

Hydrology; geophysical study; oil and gas sector; offshore industries, GIS, UNCLOS (Art 76).



**Jean-Nicolas Poussart**  
Physical Geography and Ecosystem Analysis

GIS use, application & development; modelling; data management and visualisation; marine pollution.

**UNEP/GRID-Arendal**

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# The Team

The Marine Programme Team consists of 11 professionals with a broad range of expertise in natural and social sciences. Between us we have experience of living in 18 countries and more than 1500 days at sea. We have worked across all continents and in all major oceans, polar, tropical and temperate and speak 8 languages (Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, French, Norwegian, Spanish and Swedish). Before working for UNEP/GRID-Arendal, we have been working in academia and research, consultancies, government and intergovernmental agencies and not for profit sector and private sector.