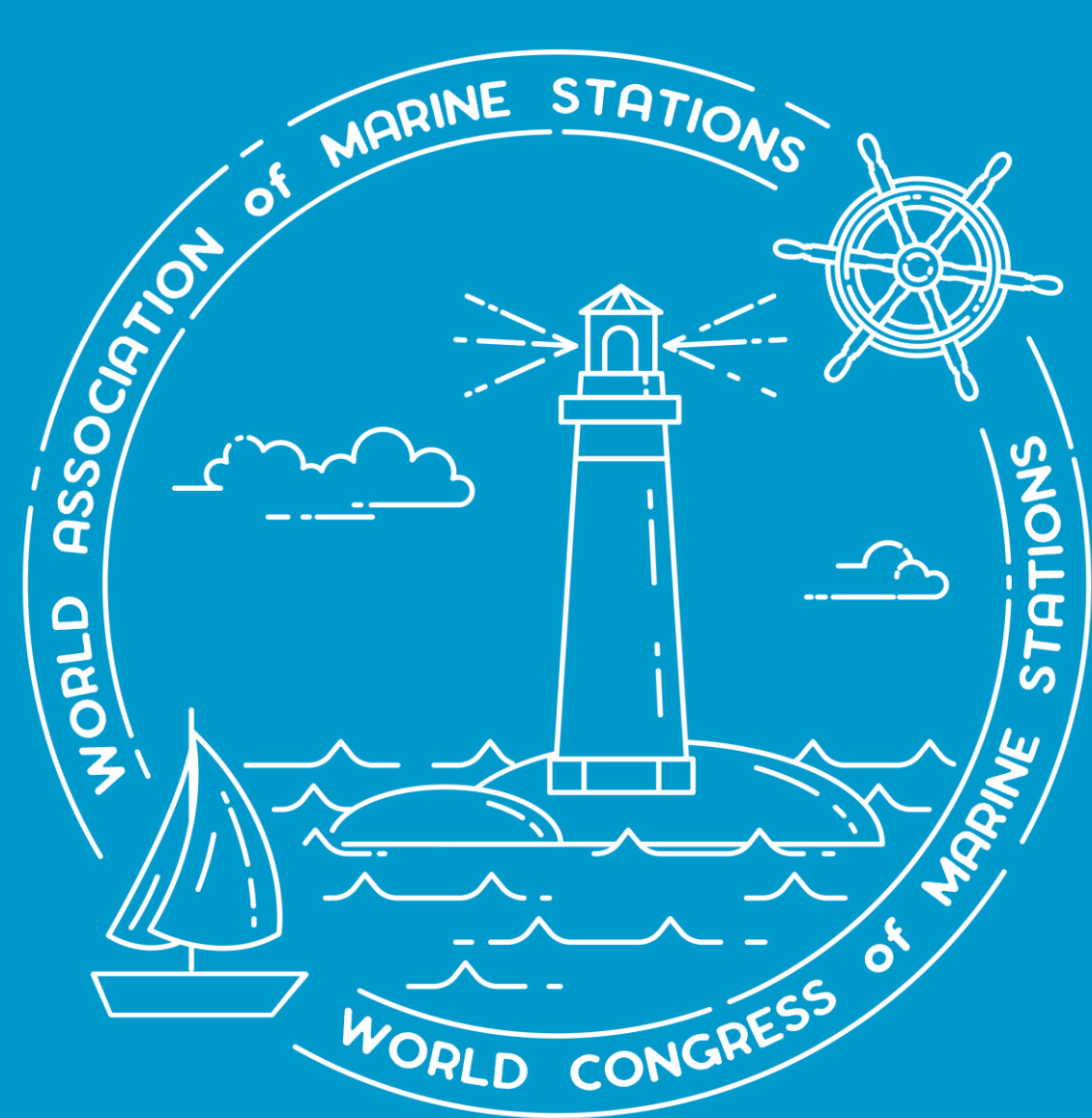




Mobilising the World's Marine Stations

The World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS) for international collaboration, ocean diplomacy and capacity sharing

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The issue: The ocean is under threat — yet the global research landscape is still fragmented and inequitably distributed, and key global capacity remains untapped

Globally coordinated ocean science is required to support the delivery of a multitude of ocean-related international legal and policy objectives and to address the environmental challenges impacting the ocean on a global scale. There is therefore an urgent need to mobilise global capacity in a way that is equitable and supports international cooperation and diplomacy. The world's marine stations represent a significant resource in terms of global capacity.



United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

Addressing the issue: WAMS - mobilising global capacity and enabling connectivity for the ocean

The World Association of Marine Stations (WAMS) is an international coordination mechanism to mobilise the capacity of marine stations globally. It provides a vital forum for strengthening collaboration, sharing knowledge and establishing inclusive partnerships which foster, and further, transformative marine research and education. Through its network it fosters worldwide collaboration, capacity sharing, and mobility between marine stations. It actively works on the integration of indigenous and local knowledge, and the co-production of science.

The importance of WAMS as the global marine station network

Marine stations are a globally distributed scientific infrastructure, spanning every continent and long recognised for their essential role in addressing ocean challenges.

From the earliest established marine stations in the middle of the 19th century to those recently built or currently in development, marine stations play a crucial role in: delivering fundamental marine research; supporting sustained ocean observations; acting as a hub for citizen science and public engagement; and providing a science-policy interface whilst promoting opportunities for science-diplomacy.

Increasingly, marine stations are also centres of applied science and innovation, providing data services and technological support that contribute to a sustainable blue economy. At the same time, they play a vital role in training the next generation of ocean scientists and fostering global scientific exchange.

Together, they play an important role in global efforts to meet the ambitious targets in international agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their ocean observations are also essential for achieving the UN Ocean Decade outcomes.

Importantly, marine stations were always intended to be part of a larger network 'with marine 'stations' being equivalent to train 'stations', connected and allowing opportunities for movement between locations. The WAMS network seeks to realise this ambition establishing a global network to facilitate capacity sharing and global cooperation.



Research vessel Plymouth Quest at the Western Channel Observatory in Plymouth, UK



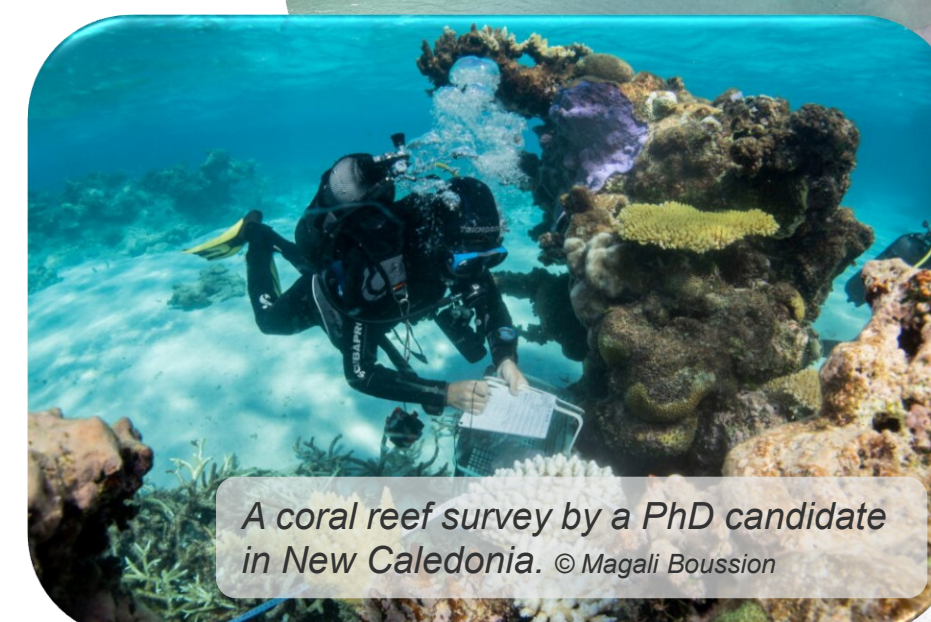
Marine stations and WAMS at the UN Climate Change Meeting COP28 with ICESCO



The Shimoda Marine Research Center (SMRC), Japan



Training and outreach in Singapore



A coral reef survey by a PhD candidate in New Caledonia. © Magali Bouvier



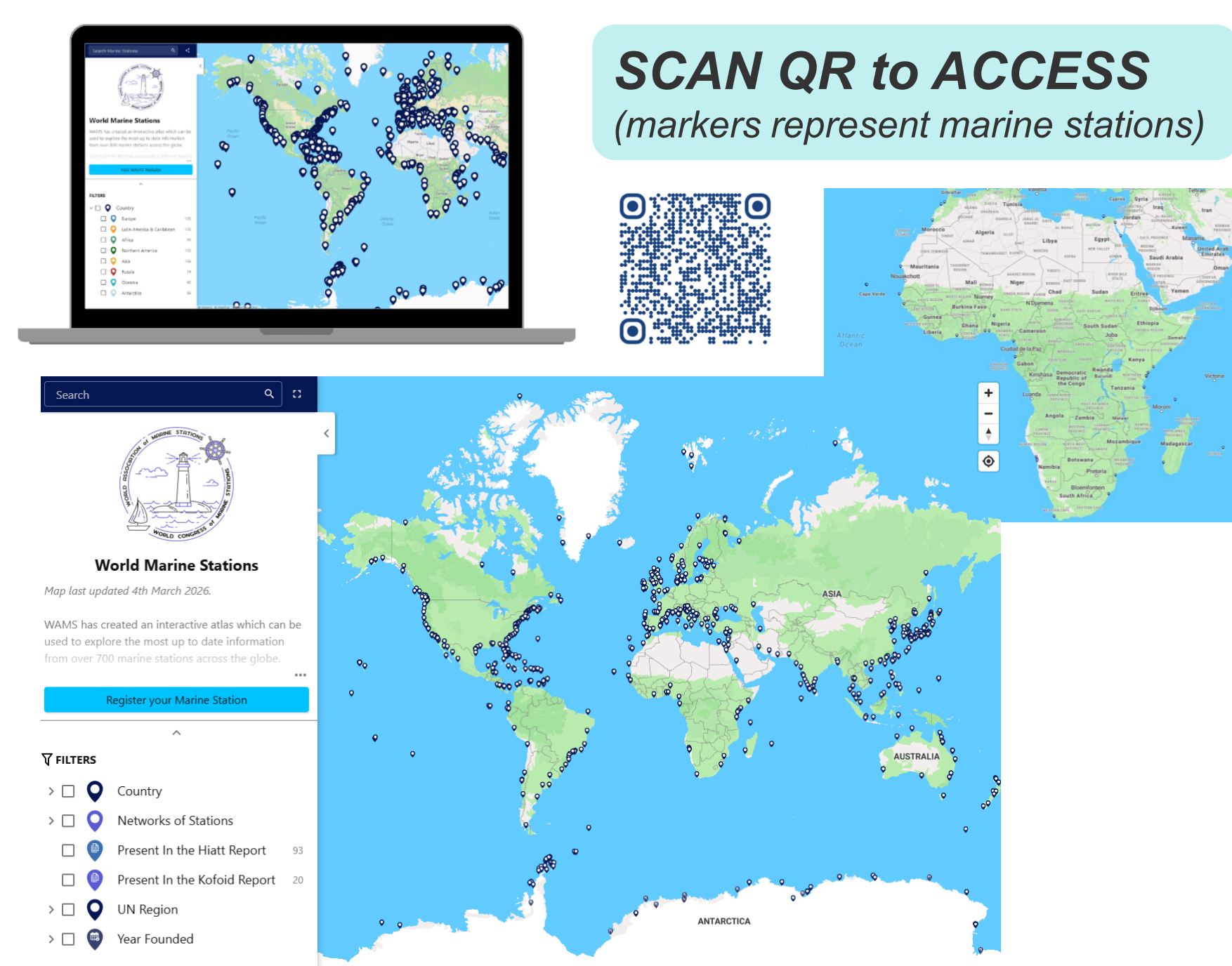
Researcher at Pitcairn Cluise Healy, Project Blue



World's first marine station, Ostend, Belgium



Sharjah Marine Science Research Centre, UAE, recently opened Marine Station



SCAN QR to ACCESS
(markers represent marine stations)

The WAMS Atlas: the world's most comprehensive platform connecting marine stations and enabling access to data and infrastructure

WAMS developed and stewards an interactive global map bringing together marine stations, enhancing visibility of infrastructure and resources including data, whilst fostering opportunities for global collaboration.

The Atlas has recently been updated to reflect the addition of new stations as well as adding new historical data layers showing the development of marine stations

Global distribution of stations (by UN region) from the 2026 WAMS Atlas:

- 4.6% Africa
- 33.4% Americas
- 10.9% Antarctica
- 22.1% Asia
- 24.8% Europe
- 4.2% Oceania

Looking forward — opportunities and next steps

The global marine science community continues to build momentum on the WAMS network with future plans including a new cyber-infrastructure, enhanced features for the online ATLAS.

3rd World Congress of Marine Stations, September 2026, Canada

Building on the success of the previous two congresses, this event will bring together a diverse, international network of marine station representatives, researchers, educators, and key stakeholders. This is a unique opportunity to connect with leading experts, share best practices, and contribute to shaping the future of marine research and education worldwide.

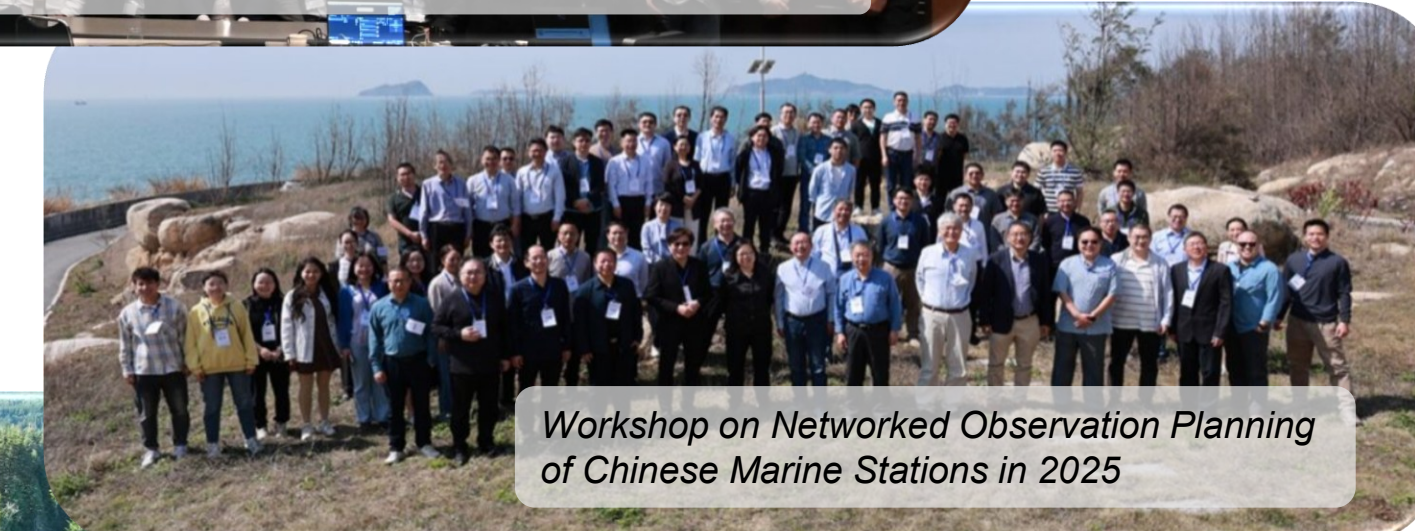
Registration & details at: <https://shorturl.at/rBV1X> or via the QR code below

WAMS MEMBERSHIP

To become part of the worldwide community of marine stations please contact the Secretariat at wams@pml.ac.uk or the WAMS Chair, Prof. Matt Frost at mafr@pml.ac.uk.



Participants at the 2nd World Congress of Marine Stations in 2024



Workshop on Networked Observation Planning of Chinese Marine Stations in 2025



Location of the 2026 Congress — the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre, Canada

CONTACT or FIND OUT MORE
WAMS@pml.ac.uk
www.worldmarinestations.com

