Global Ocean Observing System

Executive Board of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS Board-II)

Second Session

18 November 2006
Cape Town, South Africa

GOOS Report No. 156 **UNESCO 2006**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

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Paris, December 2006
English only

.   *ABSTRACT*

The 2nd session of the Executive Board of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS Board) was held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 18 November, 2006. The Board considered recommendations arising from the 3rd GRA forum held 14-17 November 2006 also in Cape Town, South Africa and discussed preparations for I-GOOS-VIII to be held 13-16 June, 2007 in Paris, France.

The Board endorsed the formation of a GOOS Regional Council (GRC) and a GOOS Coastal Advisory Panel (PICO).

(SC-2006/………………………)

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The Chair, François Gérard, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. All board members, F. Gérard (Chair), K. Affian, M. Altalo, S. Lin and H. Soldi (Vice-Chairs), J. Field (GSSC Chair), and K. Alverson (GPO director), were present. J. Ahanhanzo, J. Baker and E. Cabrera attended as additional professional support from the IOC and WMO secretariats. P. Dexter attended as an invited expert. The Chair thanked the host John Field for the generous arrangements.

1.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The Chair elected to move items 5.4 and 6.2 earlier to become items 4.1 and 4.2 respectively. The agenda was then adopted.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 REVIEW OF I-GOOS BOARD-I ACTIONS

The GPO Director reviewed the 25 action items from the first Board report. Actions 4.5 and 6 were ongoing. The Committee agreed to close actions 9, 10 and 16 without completion due to changes in circumstances. All other actions were completed successfully.

3. FOLLOW UP TO THE 3RD GRA FORUM

The Chair provided an overview of the main outcomes of the 3rd GRA forum, held 14-17 November 2006 in Cape Town and attended by all Board members. The primary recommendations to I-GOOS from this meeting were to form a GOOS Regional Council and a Coastal Scientific Advisory Body.

The Board decided to recommend that create an *ad hoc* Subsidiary Coastal Scientific Advisory Body ‘’ at its next session. In the future, should joint sponsorship of this panel by any other body be desired, a proposal would have to be presented to the IOC Asssembly.

The GSSC Chair, John Field, tabled a set of draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the proposed GOOS Regional Council based on the original proposed ToR from the second GOOS Regional Forum and revised through input from the GOOS Regional Alliances at the 3rd forum. The Board endorsed, in principle, the formation of a GOOS Regional Council but did not endorse the ToR.

Action 1. *Hector Soldi to rework the ToR to (1) be less prescriptive and (2) conform to relevant previous decisions of the Assembly and IOC rules governing subsidiary bodies and send them to the GPO director. Deadline: 15 December 2006.*

Action 2. *GPO Director to circulate to the ToR to Board members and GRAs for further comment and, after incorporating comments whenever possible, to make ToR available as a document for consideration by I-GOOS-VIII. Deadline: 1 April 2007.*

3.1 GRA ACCREDITATION PROCESS

Vice-Chair, Mary Altalo, introduced this item. She stated that although it remained important to develop clear milestones and performance metrics that the community of GRAs was not yet developed to a stage where an accreditation process could be put in place efficiently. It was additionally pointed out that accreditation was more appropriate for Regional Ocean Observing Systems (ROOS) than for GRAs. The Board therefore decided to suspend efforts to put such a process in place until the GRC is installed and active.

3.2 PROCEDURE FOR RECOGNIZING GRAS

The GPO Director introduced the existing, Assembly adopted, GOOS regional policy clearly stating the procedure for becoming a recognized GRA as well as the list of GRAs that had already been adopted by the Assembly. He also introduced a letter from Western Australia GOOS requesting recognition as a GRA.

It was noted that several GRAs present at the 3rd GRA Forum, such as Oceatlan and GRASP have not been recognized by IOC. The Board decided that the list of recognized GRAs should be expanded.

Action 3. *GPO Director to send Oceatlan, GRASP, South East Asia GOOS, Arctic GOOS and West Australia GOOS the Assembly endorsed GOOS regional policy, drawing their attention to the procedure for becoming recognized as a GRA, and inform them that the I-GOOS Board will support them if they chose to seek formal IOC recognition. Deadline 1 January 2007.*

Action 4. *GPO Director to place GOOS regional policy on the I-GOOS-VIII agenda with a view to possibly recommending changes to the Assembly. Deadline 1 April 2007.*

4. PREPARATION FOR I-GOOS-VIII

The Chair, François Gérard, provided his views on how the I-GOOS meeting should be structured. The Committee agreed to commence the next Board meeting the afternoon before I-GOOS to prepare for the meeting, and finish the Board meeting the day after I-GOOS. The Committee agreed to a three-day meeting with two days for substantive issues and a third day for adoption of the report. The Committee instructed the GPO director to prioritize spending for the I-GOOS meeting on translating key documents into all four IOC languages and providing simultaneous interpretation into all four languages if at all possible. The Committee agreed to limit the agenda to four items:

1. GOOS implementation and sustainability, in which national responses to CL 2199 will be discussed;
2. GOOS implementation at the regional level, in which the GRA forum report, formation of a GOOS regional council, PICO, and new GRA proposals will be discussed;
3. The GOOS programme and budget; and
4. Capacity building.

The Committee further decided that only three reports should be allowed at the meeting :

1. The report of the I-GOOS Chair;
2. The report of the GSSC Chair; and
3. A report on the GOOS Regional Forum.

Any additional requests to report to I-GOOS shall be advised to submit background documents.

Action 5. *Chair, with help of GPO director, to draft a timetable for the meeting based on the agreed agenda topics. Deadline January 15, 2007.*

Action 6. *GPO director to ensure that draft decisions and recommendations are in the action paper for the I-GOOS meeting. Deadline April 1, 2007.*

Action 7. *Members of the Board to provide GPO director with feedback on the draft template for benchmarking national observing contributions. Deadline: December 15, 2006.*

Action 8. *Members of the Board to ensure their national responses filling in the benchmark template are completed early so as to be useful to other countries as an example. Deadline: February 15, 2007.*

Action 9. *Members of the Board to contact countries in their regions to ensure they have (i) responses to CL 2199 nominating their I-GOOS representative and (ii) have filled in the template* *benchmarking their contributions to GOOS in response to the CL to be distributed in early January. Deadline: March 31, 2007.*

4.1 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

The GPO director, Keith Alverson, presented the programme and budget document for this meeting. The Board adopted the past and projected regular budget spending as presented. The Board did not agree to the proposed extrabudgetary call for voluntary unearmarked national contributions to GOOS following the UNESCO contribution scale and instead suggested a targeted call for earmarked contributions.

Action 10. *Jim Baker to prepare a CL requesting earmarked support for specific GOOS activities. The letter should follow, amending as appropriate, the extrabudgetary priorities outlined in the GPO director's report. Deadline December 15, 2006.*

4.2 PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS DURING I-GOOS-VIII

Members of the Board all expressed their willingness to stand for election at the coming I-GOOS meeting. It was noted that for K. Affian and H. Soldi, if elected, this would be their first election, and hence their first official term on the Board, whereas for the others, if elected, it would be their second and final term.

Action 11. *Thorkild Aarup to ensure the credentialing of I-GOOS participants and the elections both run smoothly, including ensuring that an open call for interest in Board positions is contained in the action paper for the meeting. Deadline: Immediate and continuing through I-GOOS-VIII.*

5. GOOS IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 CHLOROPHYLL PILOT PROJECT PROGRESS

The GSSC Chair introduced this item. He reported on the Chlorophyll Ocean Global Integrated Network, specifically the recent Plymouth Chlorophyll Meeting and Workshops (Extended Antares Network) sponsored by GOOS, GEO, IOCCG, PML and POGO held from 18 - 22 September 2006.

The meeting consisted of three components: 1) a plenary planning meeting; 2) a satellite remote sensing technical workshop; and 3) an *in situ* observations technical and calibration workshop. The 44 participants represented Latin America, southern and east Africa, China, India, Thailand, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and the sponsors: the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, GOOS, GEO and POGO. Over 90% of the participants were under 50 years old and more than half under 40. Most had been previously trained under the auspices of the IOCCG and POGO.

The aim of the project is to deliver products, namely maps of ocean chlorophyll and sea surface temperature, as indicators of the state of the ecosystem needed for ecosystem and fisheries management, in addition to a measure of light penetration into the ocean needed, along with the other two variables, to calculate plankton primary production. These are three of the core variables recommended for the Global Coastal Network listed in the GOOS Coastal Panel strategic plan. The value of decades-long time series is illustrated by two case studies relating fish catch fluctuations to inter-annual ocean chlorophyll variations in a spatial context. The meeting and workshops were outstanding successes, resulting in many technical recommendations given in the full report. Amongst the most important general recommendations are: The project should have three initial principal regional centres, in Latin America, southern Africa, and India linked by good communications to three northern centres in UK, the European Commission, and USA. During the first five-year phase, map products would be regularly updated on a web site at each centre, while the infrastructure is improved and personnel trained at new centres. During the second five-year phase, the existing centres would become fully operational with a range of products suited to local needs, and new centres developed. Several case studies of existing uses for remotely-sensed ocean chlorophyll products are given in the full report: (i) Monthly State of Environment Reports for fisheries management (Namibia), (ii) Maps of Ocean Chlorophyll around Latin America (Antares Network), (iii) Short-term forecasts of harmful algal blooms for fisheries (BCLME programme, South Africa), (iv) Directing research vessels to dynamic ocean phenomena for process studies (Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK), and (v) Fuel-saving by directing fishing vessels to ocean fronts and convergences (India). The meeting concluded that there is enormous synergy to be gained from linking national and regional centres together to form an integrated network including both satellite and in situ observations, and suited to local needs.

The Principal recommendations of the meeting were:

1. That the ChlorOGIN network be implemented with immediate effect, linking existing national and regional centres;
2. That the appropriate bodies ensure that continuity of satellite ocean colour sensors is achieved to provide inter-calibrated long time series of surface ocean chlorophyll and SST;
3. That *in situ* time-series of surface and sub-surface observations be made at each regional centre to support the satellite measurements in a manner that suits local societal and scientific needs;
4. That physical infrastructure and human capacity be developed in existing and new centres to expand the network in two-five-year phases;
5. That communications bandwidth be improved in most developing countries, as this limits the delivery of ocean chlorophyll and related products and is more important than satellite ground receiving stations;
6. That funding be sought for development of the ChlorOGIN Network from national bodies, the Large Marine Ecosystem programmes, and other sources.

5.2 COASTAL GOOS IMPLEMENTATION

The Committee agreed that this item had been covered under agenda item 3.

5.3 GOOS and GEO

The I-GOOS Chair introduced this item. The Board considered the recommendations of the GRA forum and agreed that the IOC Executive Secretary as the principle IOC Representative to GEO, if possible, or if not GPO Director, as the principle GOOS Representative to the upcoming GEO plenary in Bonn, should make the following statement in the event there is an appropriate context in the agenda of the meeting: '*GOOS Regional Alliances, which are among the global implementing bodies of GOOS, will participate in the GEO Coastal Zone Community of Practice, thereby providing observational networks to help support the 9 GEO societal benefit areas'*.

Action 12. *GPO director to seek agreement of IOC executive secretary to make this statement in the GEO plenary on behalf of IOC, or make it himself on behalf of GOOS, if appropriate in the context of the meeting agenda. Deadline November 27, 2006.*

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 REVIEW OF GOOS LIAISON PRIORITIES LIST

The Board had no comment on, and adopted, the GOOS liaison priority list presented.

6.2 FINALIZE I-GOOS BOARD TOR

The Committee considered potential addition of members, or *ad hoc* members, to the I-GOOS Board. The Committee decided not to seek any change in the membership of the Board. The Committee decided to amend the draft ToR such that decisions of the Board, as an executive of I-GOOS, are by default considered decisions of I-GOOS unless otherwise decided by I-GOOS.

Action 13. *GPO director to amend draft ToR such that Board decisions are considered final unless otherwise decided by I-GOOS and ensure the ToR are tabled for decision by I-GOOS-VII. Deadline. April 1, 2007.*

6.3 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING

The GPO director reviewed the 13 action items arising from the meeting. All actions were adopted by the Board.

6.4 DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT SESSION

The Committee agreed that a Board meeting alongside the GSSC-X meeting was both unnecessary and unaffordable. As discussed in agenda item 4, the Committee agreed to commence the next Board meeting the afternoon before I-GOOS-VIII to prepare for the meeting, and finish the Board meeting the day after closing of I-GOOS-VIII.

7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The Chair thanked the local host for the facilities and the secretariat for preparation of the documents. All present thanked the Chair for his stewardship of the meeting. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 14:00.

8. LIST OF ACTIONS

ANNEX I

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ANNEX II

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ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS*

Agenda #	Code		Title	Upd. On
WORKING DOCUMENTS				
3			GRA ideas from I-GOOS chair (Draft)	06/11/06
3.2			WAGOOS Recognition Request	02/11/06
3.2			GOOS Regional Policy	03/11/06
3.2			Extract from Assembly XXII report endorsing GRAs	03/11/06
4			Draft National GOOS Questionnaire (for I-GOOS-VIII) (Draft)	09/11/06
2.1	GOOS-153		I-GOOS Board-I Report	28/08/06
5.1			GEOHAB letter suggestion cooperation	10/11/06
5.4			program and budget information document	09/11/06
6.1			GOOS Liaison Priorities	10/11/06
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS				
Agenda #	Code		Title	Upd. On
			New agenda and document system trial	09/11/06

* Meeting documents available here: http://www.ioc-goos.org/i-goos Board II

ANNEX IV

LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCLME	Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem
ChlorOGIN	Chlorophyll Ocean Global Integrated Network
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPO	GOOS Project Office
GRA	GOOS Regional Alliances
GRASP	GOOS Regional Alliance in the South Pacific
GSSC	GOOS Scientific Steering Committee
I-GOOS	IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
IOCCG	International Ocean Colour Co-ordination Group
Oceatlan	Regional Alliance for the Upper Southwest and Tropical Atlantic
PICO	Panel for the Integrated Coastal Observations
PML	Plymouth Marine laboratory
POGO	Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean
ROOS	Regional Ocean Observing Systems
SST	Sea Surface Temperature
WMO	World Meteorological Organization