



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Meetings of Experts and Equivalent Bodies

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

First Session

9 – 10 March 2006
Paris, France

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ABSTRACT

The 1st session of the Board of the IOC-WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System (I-GOOS Board), was held in Paris, France, from 9-10 March 2006. The Board agreed to interim Terms of Reference governing its activities while recognizing that these Terms of Reference must be considered, amended as required, and endorsed by the full Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS (I-GOOS) at its next meeting pursuant to IOC resolution XXIII-5. The Board endorsed the program and budget of the GOOS project office for the 2006-2007 biennium noting its consistency with both IOC resolution XXIII-16 on program and budget as well as the program and budget agreed by I-GOOS VII. The Board discussed planning for the 3rd Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) to be held in Cape Town in November 2006. The Board endorsed the proposed formation of a joint GOOS-GTOS coastal panel and decided to seek formation of this panel by the IOC Assembly or Executive Council. Finally, the Board discussed preparations for the I-GOOS VIII meeting to be held in early 2007.

The Board noted that the two major expected results for GOOS during the 2006-2007 biennium are (i) increased member state contributions to operational open ocean observing systems; and (ii) establishment of clear principles and guidelines for GRAs.

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

The chair, François Gérard, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. He noted that vice chair Mary Altalo would be able to attend only the first morning and that item 6 from the planned agenda, preparations for the GRA forum, would be moved forward to 2bis in order to accommodate her schedule. All board members, Chair, F. Gérard, Vice Chairs, K. Affian, M. Altalo and S. Lin, GSSC chair, J. Field and GPO director, K. Alverson, were present. T. Aarup, J. Ahanhanzo and A. Fischer attended as additional professional support from the secretariat.

2. DISCUSS AND APPROVE TOR AND RULES FOR THE I-GOOS BOARD

The draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the I-GOOS Board prepared by the GPO were discussed in detail, edited and finally approved both for interim use and consideration by the next I-GOOS plenary.

Decision: *The Board adopted interim TOR for the I-GOOS Board*

These draft, interim TOR are as follows (*in italics*):

*I-GOOS Board
Interim Terms of Reference
IGOOS-Board approved*

The I-GOOS Board was established in 2005 by IOC resolution XXIII-5. The Board is not a subsidiary body of the IOC in its own right. Rather it “serves to provide guidance and advice on the implementation of the decisions of I-GOOS to the Chair during the inter-sessional period”. Thus, any and all substantive decisions or actions taken by the Board are taken on behalf of, and as interim decisions of, the Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS (I-GOOS). No decision of the Board can remain valid beyond the date of the next occurring full I-GOOS meeting without explicit endorsement by I-GOOS. The ensuing I-GOOS decision, not that of the Board, will in all instances remain the decision of record.

The I-GOOS Board will:

- (i) Provide a fast and flexible intersessional decision making mechanism on behalf of I-GOOS for the use of the Chair and the GPO director.*
- (ii) Provide guidance and advice on the implementation of the decisions of I-GOOS to the Chair and GPO during I-GOOS intersessional periods.*
- (iii) Support and aid the chair in providing leadership during I-GOOS sessions.*

The I-GOOS Board consists of the chair and four vice chairs of I-GOOS as well as the chair of the GOOS Scientific Steering Committee (GSSC) as an ex-officio member. The director of the GOOS Project Office (GPO) or his designee serves as technical secretary for the group. Experts may be invited as observers as necessary. Planning, organization and secretarial support for meetings of the Board is provided by the staff of the GOOS project office (GPO). An information document summarizing decisions of the Board will be distributed electronically to I-GOOS members and sponsor agencies after each meeting and tabled as a background document at subsequent I-GOOS meetings.

The group meets at least twice per intersessional period. The GPO will cover all hosting costs expenses for the meeting, including travel for the GSSC chair and technical secretary. However costs associated with the attendance of I-GOOS chair and vice chairs will not be provided with funding from the regular budget of the IOC secretariat.

Invitation to the meeting of this group will be by formal letter signed by the Executive Secretary of the IOC and mailed by the GPO three months before the date of the meeting. A quorum, consisting of four of the six members plus the technical secretary, is required to hold a meeting of the Board. The GPO director may consult the Board by email and such decisions are considered valid if a quorum is in favor.

In the event at least one meeting of the Board is not held during a given intersessional period, the Board will be

dissolved and may not be reformed until such time as there is an explicit decision of a governing body to do so. The Board may be terminated at any time by explicit decision of I-GOOS, the IOC Executive Council or the IOC Assembly.

The Board agreed to remain as flexible as possible in scheduling its meetings and to try in principle to meet one day before the I-GOOS meeting in odd years and after GSSC meetings in even years. They further agreed to meet after the 3rd GRA Forum on either the 18th or 19th of November 2006 in Cape Town. Finally, they agreed to investigate the possibility of combined telecon/internet conferencing.

- Action 1.** *Keith Alverson to ensure I-GOOS Board TOR are tabled for discussion and approval at the next I-GOOS meeting. Deadline: I-GOOS VIII.*
- Action 2.** *Keith Alverson to send invitations to November Board meeting. Deadline: 1 June 2006.*
- Action 3.** *John Field to arrange hosting of 2nd I-GOOS Board meeting in Cape Town in November. Deadline: 3rd GRA Forum.*
- Action 4.** *Albert Fischer to investigate hosting web conferencing facility at the GPO. Deadline: 1 June 2006.*
- Action 5.** *Keith Alverson to send invitations to the 2007 I-GOOS Board meeting. Deadline: 3 months before I-GOOS VIII.*
- Action 6.** *Keith Alverson to arrange hosting of 3rd I-GOOS Board meeting in Paris one day before I-GOOS VIII.*

It was agreed to invite Admiral Soldi-Soldi from Peru to serve as the 4th vice-chair and Board member.

- Action 7.** *François Gérard to contact Admiral Soldi, determine if he would be willing to serve, and inform the GPO director. Deadline: 31 March 2006.*
- Action 8.** *Keith Alverson to send official appointment letter to Admiral Soldi. Deadline: one month after successful completion of Action 7.*

Topics of responsibility for the members of the Board were assigned as follows:

- K. Affian – Africa and capacity building
- M. Altalo – GEOSS and coastal GOOS/GRAs
- S. Lin – Asia region and coastal GOOS
- F. Gérard – Law of the Sea
- S. American member – hazard warning and mitigation
- J. Field - GSSC

2bis. DISCUSS PREPARATION FOR GRA FORUM

The concept document on an accreditation process for GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) developed by Mary Altalo and introduced orally at GSSC-IX and as a working document to this board meeting was discussed. The Board stressed that GRAs should not be subjected to a top down, uniform accreditation process without allowing sufficient flexibility to account for bottom up activities and a very broad diversity of regional scientific drivers and regional political considerations.

The Board agreed to accept in principle to the concept of an accreditation process outlined in the document. They asked that Mary Altalo use the existing document as a working draft but obtain detailed feedback on the draft from all the GRAs, the JCOMM task team on GRA's, and this Board. The Board suggested that GRAs perhaps should be viewed as a two tiered structure with a limited number of 'political' structures – eg GOOS Africa, EuroGOOS – and below them a larger number of specific technical level implementing organizations and agencies.

Action 9. *Mary Altalo to obtain feedback on her draft, version 1, from this Board and the JCOMM task team and develop version 2. Deadline: 21 April 2006.*

Action 10. *François Gérard to send out version 2 to all GRAs, JCOMM task team on the GRAs, Westpac chair, all regional IOC bodies, etc. Deadline: 1 month after Action 9 is completed.*

Action 11. *Justin Ahanhanzo (with input from Kouadio Affian and François Gérard) to contact all 13 GRAs and ask them to do their homework in preparation for the 3rd GRA Forum including preparing a ten-minute presentation. He should additionally provide them with a template to ensure that their presentations address a specific set of key questions (why did they establish their GRA, what are their main achievements, what are any challenges they are facing?). Deadline: 31 March 2006.*

GRA contacts were discussed. The group agreed to the following list of GRA contacts:

EuroGOOS – Peter Ryder (Chair), Hans Dahlin (secretariat)
Med GOOS – Sylvana Vallerga (Chair)
GOOS Africa – Geoff Brundrit (Chair)
Black Sea GOOS – Valery Fremeiev (Chair), Sukru Besikpte (secretariat)
Indian Ocean GOOS – Radakrishnan (Chair)
South East Asia GOOS – Somkiat Khokiattiwong (secretariat)
North East Asia GOOS - Yoshida San (Chair)
Pacific Island GOOS – Cristelle Pratt (Chair), Sarah Grimes (secretariat)
US GOOS/IOOS – Mary Altalo (secretariat)
IOCARIBE GOOS – Doug Wilson co-chair, Garcia-Montero co-chair
GRASP – Rodrigo Nunez (Chair)
Oceatlan –Janice Trotte (secretariat)

It was pointed out that there are many more member states participating in GRAs than there are participating in GEOSS so viewing GRAs as a component of, or contribution to, GEOSS was perhaps not ideal. The Board discussed how to best word the idea that the GRA's are working consistently with GEOSS goals.

Possible outputs of the GRA Forum were discussed and the Board agreed to focus on three main outputs:

1. GRA implementation including accreditation process
2. LME links
3. Coastal GOOS implementation including timetable for GRA activities and clarity on global governance structure associated with GRAs

Inputs to the GRA Forum were discussed and the Board agreed on the following:

1. 2ND GOOS Regional Forum report (GOOS Report No. 139)
2. COOP implementation strategy (GOOS Reports No. 125 and 148)
3. Report of JCOMM task team (working document)
4. Accreditation process (working document)
5. GRA presentations (oral)
6. Report from the LME meeting scheduled to directly precede the Forum

Invitations to the GRA Forum were discussed. The following should be invited:

- A representative from each GRA
- I-GOOS Board members, prior to its 2nd meeting
- IOC Member States
- IOC regional bodies including WESTPAC (by cc)
- LMEs (by cc)
- JCOMM, IODE and TEMA (by cc)
- Sponsors (IOC, WMO, UNEP, ICSU) (by cc)
- Partners (ICES, PICES, CCAMLR, etc.)
- Members of the GSSC (by cc)

The International Organizing Committee was reviewed (25 names in total). A core 'working' Executive Committee consisting of F. Gérard, G. Brundrit, T. Malone, P. Dexter, J. Ahahanzo was selected. The Board stressed the need for the executive committee to involve LME representatives in their planning.

The agenda for the GRA forum was discussed:

- Day 1am: Keynote talk on COOP (?) and 6 GRA presentations.
- Day 1pm: 4 Working groups (based on the three outputs and regional needs)
- Day 2am: 7 GRA presentations
- Day 2pm: Working groups
- Day 3 am: African keynote (?)

The Executive Committee will finalize the agenda including consideration of possible parallel sessions or working groups.

Action 12. *Justin Ahahanzo to circulate this meeting plan and then send to core committee and extended international organizing committee. Deadline: 1 April 2006.*

3. UPDATE ON GPO PROGRAM AND BUDGET

The director of the GPO introduced the budget document. Decisions were deferred until the recommendations from GSSC had been studied (agenda items 4 and 5).

4. DISCUSS AND APPROVE FORMATION OF INTERSESSIONAL GROUPS

Decision: *The Board endorsed the formation of the GOOS/JCOMM Industry Task Team.*

Decision: *The Board endorsed the report of the "communications and outreach" GSSC sessional working group.*

Decision: *The Board endorsed the report of the "actions and priorities" sessional working group.*

Decision: *The proposal to form a J-PICO was endorsed with the understanding that likely GPO contributions to the working group might include approximately 25k per year for activities, 20k per year as a contribution to their annual meetings, and 25% of a professional's time in the GPO – all only if matched by GTOS. The cost of annual meetings was thought to be neutral given that supporting 6 members of the coastal panel could be balanced out if the GSSC would simultaneously be shrunk from 'up to 18' down to 'up to 12' members. In accordance with the statutes of the IOC, joint bodies with other organizations must be approved by the IOC Executive Council or the IOC Assembly.*

Action 13. *Keith Alverson to ensure the proposal to form J-PICO and shrink GSSC is reported to, and if possible resolved by the Executive Council or Assembly of IOC. Deadline: EC39 or Assembly24.*

Decision: *The formation of a JCOMM-GSSC-GRA task team on GRA coordination and coastal GOOS implementation was endorsed on the understanding that it would exist for less than one year.*

The Board expressed concern regarding the suggestion by the GSSC to form an independent global body of GRAs reporting independently to I-GOOS. However, the Board recommended establishment of a global coordination mechanism for GRA's and that this be further considered at the 3rd GRA forum.

5. CONSIDER ANY OTHER PROPOSALS FROM GSSC

Decision: *The Board endorsed the global chlorophyll GOOS pilot project. The GPO director stated that if GEO pays money into the IOC trust fund for the global chlorophyll pilot project he would find extrabudgetary support to match GEO's contribution.*

Decision: *The Board endorsed an intersessional subgroup on communications and development of a preliminary communications plan.*

Decision: *The Board approved the reduction of the GPO's annual 'governance and guidance budget' from \$90k to \$62k.*

Decision: *The Board noted the interesting recommendations of the JCOMM-GSSC industry task team. They instructed the GPO to provide no financial support for meetings of the task team, but to remain open to the possibility of sharing some of the costs of implementing their plans using regular budget funds earmarked for 'communications'.*

John Field asked the Board to nominate a vice chair for the GSSC who could fill in for him as required, including during meetings of this Board. He suggested several possibilities. After discussion, the Board chose to ask Dong-Young Lee to serve as vice chair of GSSC.

Action 14. *John Field to ask Dong-Young Lee if he would be willing to serve as vice chair and Inform GPO. Deadline: 1 April 2006.*

Action 15. *GPO to request GSSC sponsors appoint Dong-Young Lee as vice-chair of the GSSC. Deadline: one month after completion of action 14.*

Action 16. *John Field to contact Bob Dickson to ascertain if he is interested in serving on the GSSC or not and inform the GPO. Deadline: 1 April 2006.*

The GOOS representative on JCOMM Management Committee was discussed. The Board noted that Worth Nowlin was currently representing GOOS on JCOMM-Man, after appointment by GSSC-VIII. After thorough discussion the Board decided that the representative of GOOS shall be a member of the Board, or appointed by the Chair. Therefore it decided to thank Worth Nowlin for his major contributions to GOOS and J-COMM and ask François Gérard to be the new GOOS representative to JCOMM-Man.

Action 17. *Keith Alverson to inform JCOMM secretariat and co-presidents that the GOOS representative on JCOMM-Man is, until further notice from François Gérard or his representative, chosen from membership of I-GOOS Board or GSSC. Deadline: 1 April 2006.*

Action 18. *François Gérard to ask Philippe Dandin if he can represent GOOS at the next JCOMM-Man meeting (October 5, 2006) since François Gérard is unable to attend this particular meeting.*

7. DEFINE KEY GOALS OF THE NEXT I-GOOS MEETING

The Board noted that I-GOOS is a primary subsidiary body of IOC and that all IOC Member States in principle can attend. The chair noted that I-GOOS meetings in the past have listened to too many official reports – he noted that the GSSC also encountered this problem – and that discussion must be enhanced. The group discussed how to improve national participation in the meeting. One possibility would be to hold the meeting directly before the IOC Assembly. John Field pointed out that it was moved away from the Assembly to ensure that ‘operational’ rather than ‘political’ people were there. K. Affian pointed out we need to have GOOS committees in more countries to ensure I-GOOS representatives exist. S. Lin pointed out very few member states were present at the last meeting compared for example to IODE. S. Lin renewed her suggestion for a carefully worded circular letter to Member States asking them to renew their I-GOOS representatives.

K. Alverson pointed out he was trying to get I-GOOS to be a high-level commitments body not a technical body. Which one do we want?

J. Ahanhanzo pointed out that IODE Plenary Sessions were well attended because country representatives’ attendance was supported by Flanders funds. GOOS attendance may be low because of lack of money. I-GOOS agenda should provide room for political debates and decisions, not technical decisions. S. Lin pointed out that IODE has a national coordinator at a high level in many Member States – for example in China it is the deputy of SHOA. I-GOOS should ask Member States to establish national GOOS committees following past IOC decisions. We should send a circular letter to determine how many IOC Member States have been active members of I-GOOS and how many national GOOS committees have been set up. A. Fischer said a commitments mechanism would require showing nations what is being done by who. Most nations did not reply to our last questionnaire asking them what they are contributing to GOOS. J. Field said this would require outreach. K. Affian agreed representation to I-GOOS was weak and that few countries have a GOOS national representative. How can we formally establish GOOS in countries? He pointed out we need to invest for the future by finding funding to help countries come to I-GOOS – for example by having the GPO raise funds for this. A. Fischer pointed out there were two kinds of contribution – commitments to the system and commitments to the coordination. J. Ahanhanzo pointed out that, in many countries, the ministry of Fisheries is most important for marine data gathering and high level access to budgets, and that research ministries are not always the best source of funds for development programs. J. Field pointed out there was a complicated myriad number of agencies that GOOS needs to tie in to. J. Field agreed that we need to publicize two levels of national commitments – to observations and to coordination. J. Ahanhanzo suggested that national GOOS committees be established and regional users be invited to the GRA forum. S. Lin pointed out there were often multiple agencies interested in GOOS. She thought the IOC Assembly should request that each Member State have a GOOS committee. China has such a committee for IOC – with members from many agencies and the academy of sciences. K. Affian agreed. In Côte d’Ivoire, there are interagency meetings before the Assembly but not for I-GOOS. A. Fisher pointed out national committees will only form if they see a benefit to do so, so we need to show them an example. S. Lin pointed out that GEOSS had very high-level representation from China. T. Aarup pointed out we have tried forming national committees before and it did not work. There is no incentive to come to I-GOOS meetings. He suggested that the next I-GOOS meeting should have controversial issues to draw nations’ interest. He suggested two highly controversial questions: (i) Should we form a global GRA body? (ii) Should I-GOOS continue? In order to gain credibility, we need to narrow our focus on a few products and services rather than pushing forward the broad coalition. If we cannot attract the right people to the IOC Assembly we cannot attract them to I-GOOS.

J. Field suggested the second controversial question should be reworked to have two possible outcomes eg. “either member states commit to GOOS or we disband I-GOOS”. Commitments here refer to two types of commitments: (i) observations, products and services and (ii) contributions to the IOC trust fund for coordination.

F. Gérard summarized: IODE and JCOMM also have an intergovernmental character, with national buy in and practical goals. Much IOC activity in ocean observations has moved to tsunamis, including formation of five new regional intergovernmental primary subsidiary bodies competing and conflicting with GRAs. Neither GTOS nor GCOS is steered by intergovernmental committees. Therefore GOOS must be a coherent global observing system with related services and products. GRAs may be the future for strengthening GOOS meaning that GRAs should be part of I-GOOS. We presently have two clubs in GOOS – the G8 type club interested in the global aspects and the G77 type club interested in coastal aspects – with very different perspectives. We have to make these two clubs’ interest converge towards GOOS.

Action 19. *Keith Alverson (w/consultation with all members of this Board) to write a circular letter to IOC member states seeking I-GOOS nominee renewal, ask them if there is a national GOOS committee, remind them that GOOS is the ocean component of GEOSS and inform them of the two main agenda items for the next I-GOOS meeting.*

Suggested main agenda items were:

- (1) Should we form a new coordination mechanism for GRAs or use I-GOOS for this purpose?
- (2) Shall we establish contributions (describe two kinds) of a given level with optional signatures or disband I-GOOS?

8. REVIEW GOOS LIAISON COMMITMENTS AND PRIORITIES LIST

The Board reviewed the GSSC document on Liaison. The Board suggested several additions and alterations: OGP, SCOR coordination group, ICGs, break down GEOSS into many groups, break down IGBP and WCRP into their core projects relevant to ocean.

Decision: *The Board decided that GPO funds should not be used to cover any representation on any GEO groups for anyone from developed countries.*

Action 20. *Albert Fischer to complete the liaison sheet for further refinement by Board at its next meeting. Deadline: 2nd I-GOOS Board, November 2006.*

Action 21. *Keith Alverson to circulate these minutes to entire Board for comments. Deadline: 1 April 2006. Done.*

Action 22. *GPO to distribute finalized minutes to I-GOOS members and sponsors. Deadline: 1 May 2006.*

Calendar in 2007

GSSC-X:	late February/early March 2007, Korea
I-GOOS Board-3:	one day before IGOOS-VIII, Paris
I-GOOS-VIII:	late March/early April (avoid Easter, etc.)
IOC Assembly:	June

Keith Alverson noted that running all these major meetings in relatively quick succession simply can not be done properly given the existing financial, and more importantly staff, resources available to the GPO. Low quality is inevitable given this schedule. He urged the Board to endorse fewer meetings and thereby allow them to be run more efficiently and more productively. He specifically asked that GSSC-X be cancelled.

Decision: *The Board decided not to cancel any meetings.*

Action 23. *Keith Alverson to schedule I-GOOS-VIII.*

The Board suggested translating key documents for I-GOOS-VIII into all IOC languages.

The Board suggested I-GOOS-VIII should be interpreted into four languages.

The Board suggested I-GOOS should meet every four years, rather than every two years, to allow these additional costs to be met. It could meet, for example, alternating with JCOMM.

No decision was taken in this regard.

Action 24. F. Gérard and K. Alverson to meet in April 2006.

Action 25. F. Gérard to write second letter from the chair. No Deadline.

Decision: *The Board decided that the decisions and actions in this report do not imply GPO financial support or staff time support unless it is explicitly stated.*

The Chair thanked the participants and looked forward to seeing them in Cape Town in November at the 2nd I-GOOS Board meeting. He closed the meeting at 12.30 on 10 March 2006.

List of Actions

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