

A Brief History of IOCARIBE-GOOS



The Global Ocean Observing System
Regional Alliance for the Wider
Caribbean

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Bogota, Colombia

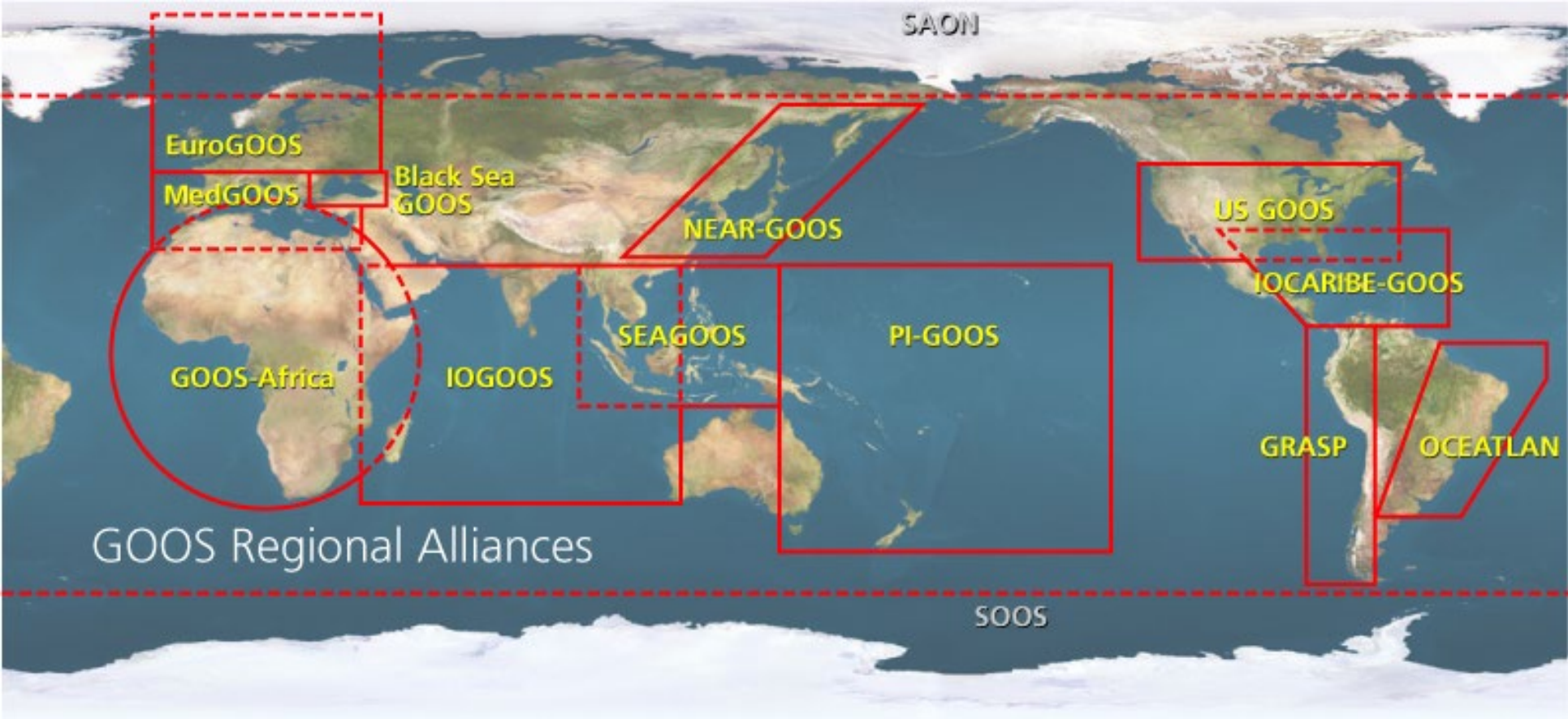
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The mandate to establish a Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) was formally articulated and ratified in 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. Specifically, Agenda 21 calls for the establishment of a global ocean observing system that will enable effective management of the marine environment and sustainable utilization of its natural resources.

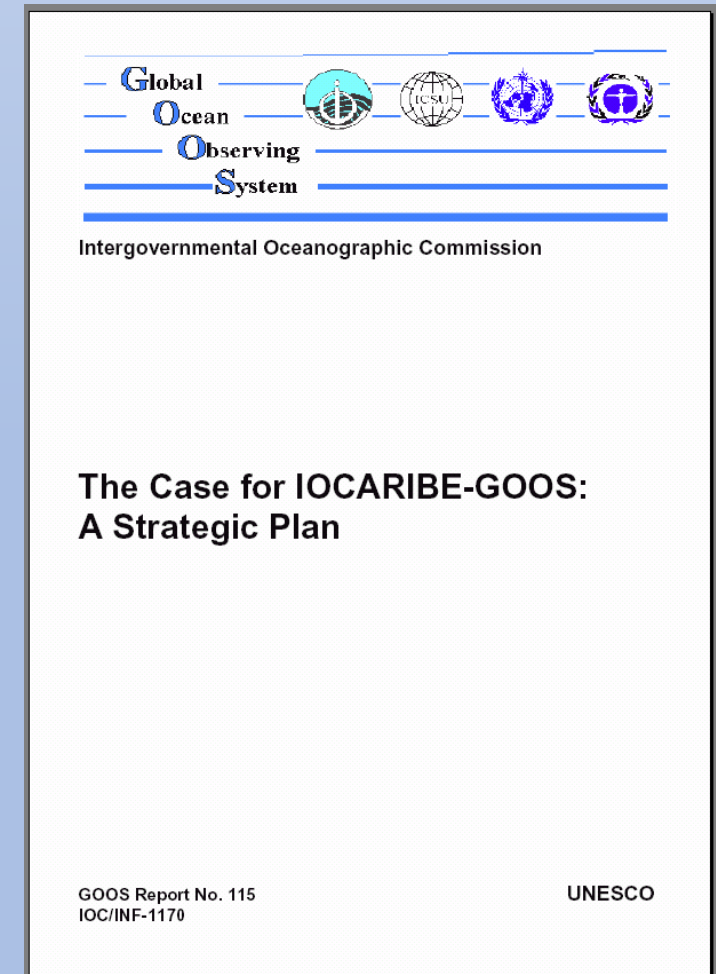
A Global Coastal Network is to be developed through the establishment and networking of GOOS Regional Alliances, National GOOS programs, and existing global programs

-Implementation plan for Coastal Module of GOOS





IOCARIBE-GOOS was established in 1999 at IOCARIBE VI, led by an ad hoc Group of Experts. The first task of the group was to produce a Strategic Plan (The Case for IOCARIBE-GOOS, GOOS Report No. 115, UNESCO, 2002). IOCARIBE-GOOS was accepted as a GOOS Regional Alliance by I-GOOS in 2003.



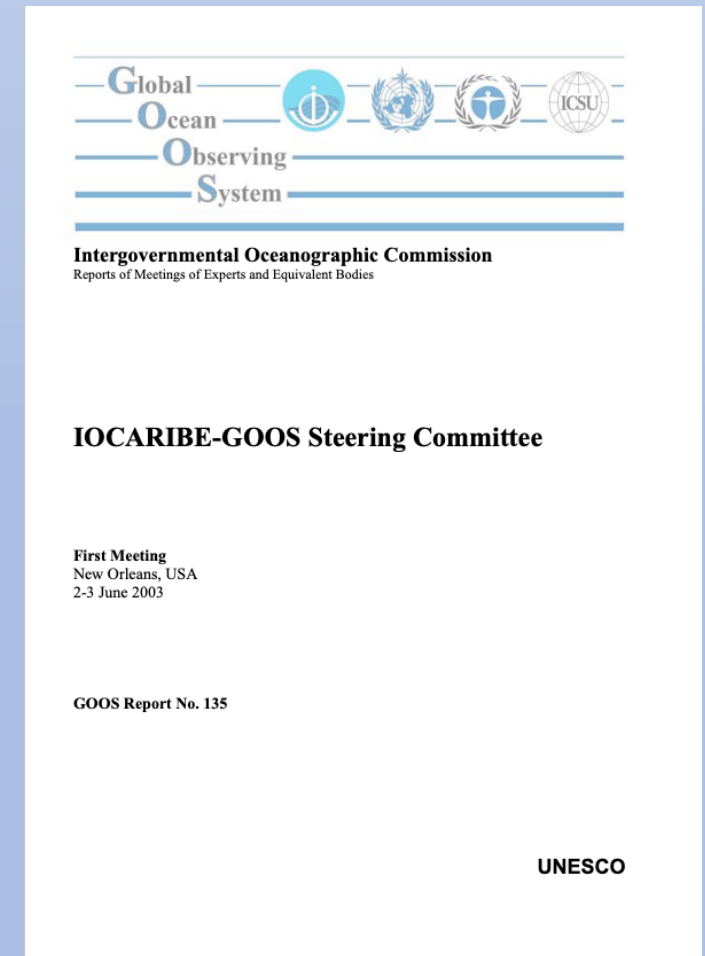
The Group of Experts charged with writing the Plan was replaced by an Interim Steering Committee, which continued with the GoE Co-Chairs.

Invitations were issued to member countries for representatives on the ISC, and the group met in 2003 to develop an IOCARIBE-GOOS Implementation Plan.

Countries were asked to nominate SC members to carry out the Implementation Plan.

The Implementation plan had four specific initial tasks, each led by a Steering Committee member: (1) Initial Observing System and Pilot Projects; (2) Assessment; (3) Capacity Building; (4) Program Development and Coordination.

Results of this meeting were published as GOOS Report No. 135.



Some Implementation accomplishments:



The SC chose to address Regional Sea Level as an Initial /Pilot system

- A comprehensive assessment and report to GLOSS in 2005 on the State of Sea Level Monitoring in the Caribbean Region;
- A lead role in the formation of the Caribbean Tsunami Early Warning System, including Founding Chair of the Working Group on Observations;
- Publication of *“Strategic Geographic Positioning of Sea Level Gauges to Aid in Early Detection of Tsunamis in the Intra-Americas Sea”*, used by the Caribbean Tsunami – Early Warning System to prioritize tsunami warning sea level sites;
- Leading to the creation of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (ICG/CARIBE-EWS)
- A workshop developing pilot IOCARIBE observing system proposals for GOOS and GCOS; and enabling the creation of the Caribbean Regional Association (CARICOOS) within the US GOOS Regional Alliance, IOOS.

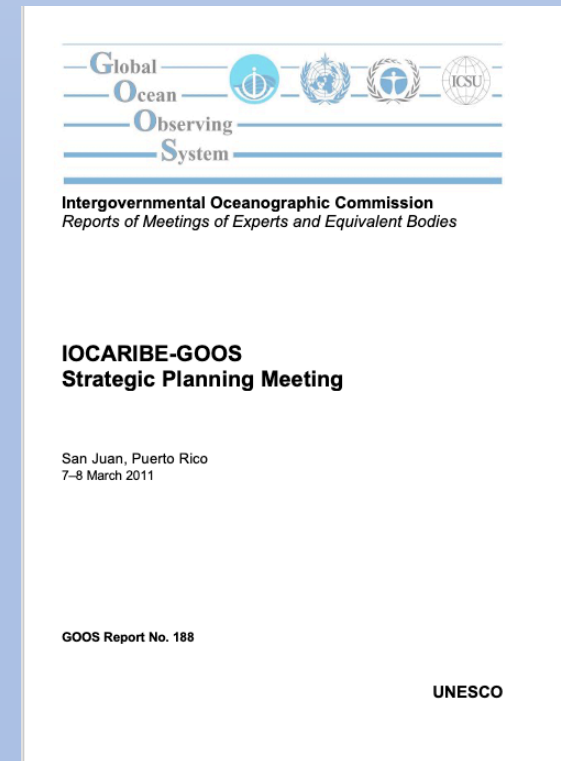
From presentation at IOCARIBE XII (2013, Panama City, Panama)



“Following 2006, further efforts at implementation, including Steering Committee meetings, were essentially stopped due to lack of funding. An IOCARIBE-GOOS Implementation Plan was never completed.”

At IOCARIBE XII (per recommendations at the 2011 IOCARIBE-GOOS Strategic Planning Meeting)

- Disbanded the existing IOCARIBE-GOOS Steering Committee, with its duties to be assumed by the IOCARIBE Sub-Commission;
- Established an IOCARIBE GOOS-Working Group of Experts (WG) to recommend priorities ... in accordance with the Terms of Reference;
- Requested IOCARIBE Secretary to seek Member State nominations for membership in the IOCARIBE GOOS-Working Group of Experts;
- Invited Member States to work with the Secretariat to engage an IOCARIBE-GOOS Project Coordinator...
- Established Terms of Reference for the Working Group, including its Purpose, Functions, Meetings, Coordination, Duration, Elections, Financing, and Amendments;
- Established Chair of IOCARIBE as Interim Chair of the WG until formation of WG.



However, very little progress was made towards these goals. Since then,



Countries are making significant progress developing national ocean observing capabilities, and this is making them more aware of the importance of regional products and data sharing.

One recent highlight was the convening of workshop in May 2018 “Sargassum and Oil Spill Monitoring and Forecasting Pilot Project for the Caribbean Sea and adjacent Regions”.

Challenges (noted in 2108 at GOOS SA Workshop):

- Budget: No source of stable / base funding [no Director, Meetings, Basic Infrastructure]; achievements to date tied to intermittent infusions;
- Management: Directly tied to governments through IOCARIBE (pros and cons; can be hard to access their ocean observing interests; difficult to engage NGO’s, research, commercial, other important active groups;
- Composition: large number of members states with range of economies, diverse levels of ocean observing emphasis, resources, and capabilities, varying attitudes towards data sharing.



Also suggested in 2018

Requirements

- Funds – specific to development of GOOS - with an investment strategy
- Review of Terms of Reference and ideal organizational structure
- Revisiting the needs and future direction of IOCARIBE-GOOS
 - o An outside review / advisory group?
 - o The community has much more experience with ocean observing and RAs
 - o Clearer examples for member states as to the value of Ocean Observing
 - o Easier to implement a system through applications of existing components

More Recently –

The UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development has provided new impetus to re-visit this and other IOCARIBE regional programs through a collaborative co-design process.

