



IOC Circular Letter No 3024
(Available in English, French and Spanish)

IOC/VR/OOS/LJ/lj
3 February 2025

To : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with the IOC (IOC Member States)

C.c. : Permanent Delegations to UNESCO of IOC Member States
National Commissions for UNESCO of IOC Member States
IOC Officers
GOOS National Focal Points
Chairs of GOOS Steering Committee

Subject: Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS): Updates and Call for Nominations for GOOS National Focal Points (NFP)

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) supports, builds on, and adds value to national and regional sustained ocean observing efforts, and provides a global framework to ensure that the many significant national ocean observing systems deliver the information needed by society for climate, weather and hazard warnings, ocean health and management, and the blue economy.

National Focal Points (NFPs) of GOOS play a pivotal role as a channel of communication between GOOS and the national organizations and individuals involved in your Member State's sustained national ocean observing system infrastructure. Recognizing the important role of NFPs in developing a fit-for-purpose, integrated global ocean observing system at national level, the GOOS Steering Committee adopted the updated [Terms of Reference](#) (TOR) in April 2023.

The key roles of NFPs include fostering connections at the national level among elements involved in ocean observing, government stakeholders and beneficiaries of ocean information. NFPs are also responsible for fostering the integration of national data, modelling and ocean assessment activities to support the delivery of information to key national users through a national coordination mechanism (or national hub). Additionally, NFPs are tasked with ensuring the national priorities, plans, implementation status, needs and gaps related to sustained ocean observing system, are brought to the attention of GOOS.

There are currently 76 designated GOOS National Focal Points, with the [current list](#) of NFPs last updated in 2023 through [Circular Letter, 2931](#). The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) kindly requests Member States to update, as appropriate, the list of National Focal Points or, if no focal point has been appointed yet, to nominate their GOOS NFP using the attached Nomination Form (Annex 1). Although the NFP list may be updated at any time, the Secretariat would appreciate receiving updates to the current list or new nominations before 28 February 2025 by email to goos@unesco.org.

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In addition, an [NFP Survey](#) is currently being conducted with responses already received from 29 countries (marked with an asterisk in Annex 2). The Secretariat requests Member States to call on their designated NFPs (if already have one) to complete this survey by **28 February 2025**.

Any questions can be address to the Head of Ocean Observation and Services Section, Dr Joanna Post (j.post@unesco.org) with copy to GOOS liaison staff for NFP, Dr Jing Li (ji.li@unesco.org).

With the assurances of my highest consideration, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

Vidar Helgesen
Executive Secretary

Enclosures (2): 1/ GOOS National Focal Point Nomination Form (*English only*)
2/ List of GOOS National Focal points (as of 31 December 2024) (*English only*)

1/ GOOS National Focal Point Nomination Form

Name:

Position:

Institution:

Tel:

Email:

Postal Address:

Additional comments:

Nomination submitted by:

Signature:

Position

Government Department/Agency:

Date:

Nomination Forms duly completed and signed should be sent by **28 February 2025** to the IOC Secretariat by email to goos@unesco.org through one of the following channels:

1. The coordinating body for liaison with IOC
2. Head of UNESCO National Commission
3. Permanent Delegate to UNESCO

Note: Any question can be address to the Head of Ocean Observation and Services Section, Dr Joanna Post (j.post@unesco.org) with copy to GOOS liaison staff for NFP, Dr Jing Li (ji.li@unesco.org).

2/ List of Countries with GOOS National Focal Point Nominated

Detailed information of GOOS NFP is available via <https://oceanexpert.org/group/231>.
76 Member States have already nominated GOOS NFPs.

Country	NFP last updated	Country	NFP last updated	Country	NFP last updated
Argentina*	2023	Ghana	2023	Philippines	2020
Australia*	2023	Greece	2017	Poland	2023
Bangladesh	2023	Guinea	2017	Portugal*	2023
Belgium	TBC	Iceland	2023	Republic of Korea	2023
Benin	2017	India*	2023	Romania	2017
Brazil*	2023	Indonesia*	2017	Russian Federation	2023
Bulgaria	2023	Iraq	2018	Saudi Arabia	2023
Canada	2023	Ireland	2023	Seychelles	2023
Chile*	2023	Italy	2023	Singapore	2023
China	2023	Japan*	2023	Slovenia*	2023
Colombia*	2023	Kenya*	2023	South Africa	2023
Cook Islands	2017	Kuwait*	2023	Spain*	2023
Côte d'Ivoire*	2023	Libya*	2023	Sri Lanka	2017
Croatia	2017	Madagascar*	2023	Sweden*	2023
Cyprus	2023	Malaysia*	2023	Suriname	2017
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2017	Maldives	2019	Tanzania*	2023
Denmark	TBC	Mauritania	2019	Thailand	2023
Ecuador*	2023	Mauritius	2020	Togo*	2023
Egypt*	2023	Mexico	2023	Trinidad & Tobago	2017
El Salvador*	2017	Morocco	2017	Türkiye	2023
Finland	2023	Myanmar	2019	Ukraine*	2023
France*	2023	Netherlands	2017	United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland	2021
Gabon	2017	Nigeria*	2023	United States of America	2023
Gambia*	2023	Norway	2023	Uruguay	2023
Georgia*	2023	Oman	2017		
Germany	2023	Pakistan*	2023		

*Note: Countries with * have completed the 2024 GOOS NFP [Survey](#).*