

Fourteenth Session of GOOS Steering Committee, SC-14

UNESCO HQ, ROOM IX, Paris, 19-21 February 2025

[Event webpage](#)

DRAFT AGENDA

([Meeting Link](#))

GOALS

- Setting GOOS Priorities for 2025 and 2026-2027
 - Draft GOOS SC 2 year workplan (2026-2027)
 - Prioritizing activities, outreach and engagements including partners
 - Deliverables and resource needs
- Elaborate further the approach and proposal to IOC assembly on GOOS Reform

READING MATERIALS

Priority reading materials listed here with additional reading materials listed under each agenda item.

1. [Action table](#) from GOOS SC-13
2. Background papers (1 page): [Carbon](#), [Biodiversity](#), [EOV Ocean Indicators](#), [RRR/GBON](#)
3. [OCG Cross-Network Data Implementation Strategy](#)
Background paper (1-2 pages): [Updates from OCG, OceanOPS, Carbon/IOCCP, and OBIS/BioEco](#)
4. [IODE/GOOS Data Workshop Report](#) ([Executive Summary](#) only)
5. [Draft](#) governance reform document
6. [Proposal for GOOS projects](#)
7. Background papers (1-2 pages) on [GOOS Regional Alliances \(GRAs\)](#) and [National Focal Points \(NFPs\)](#)
Background paper: [ETOOFS Revised ToR and project plan](#)
8. [Outline GOOS Workplan](#)

PRESENTATION TEMPLATE

Available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1e1q3CcpbTagw_jODOiPGYsUld3he6QDO

DECISIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Early drafts of some decisions/recommendations provided in green boxes below and to be expanded and completed as part of discussions under each agenda item.

OUTLINE

	Day 1 (Wed Feb 19)	Day 2 (Thurs Feb 20)	Day 3 (Fri Feb 21)
09:00 - 10:30	1. Opening	4. Working Session on GOOS reform	5a (cont) 5b. Outreach: Communications
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	2. Observation system design and development	4. (Cont.)	6 a System implementation at national and regional level
12:30 - 13:30	Group Photo Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Lunch Break
13:30 - 15:30	2. (cont) 3. Strengthening data integration and delivery	4. (Cont.)	6 b. System implementation and applications
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
16:00 - 18:00	3. (cont) 2. (cont)	5a. Outreach: Engagement priorities	7. Looking forward
19:30 -	Cocktails (location tbc)	Dinner (Le Coucou)	

GOOS Steering Committee, SC-14

Annotated Agenda

Moderators: Balakrishnan Nair and David Legler (GOOS SC Co-Chairs)

DAY 1 - Wednesday 19 February 2025 | 09:00 - 18:00 (In local time GMT+1)

Call in link:

1. Opening

Aim: Welcome to participants, introductions, updates on GOOS, updates on expert panel work, set the stage for the GOOS SC meeting focus and goals.

Background documents

- [Action table from GOOS SC-13](#)
- [Report from GOOS SC inter-sessional](#) meeting December 2024
- [Report from GOOS SC-13](#), April 2024

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Jing Li**)

[5 mins]

- 1.1 Opening and Welcome (Vidar Helgesen)
- 1.2 Meeting goals and SC-14 Agenda approval (SC Co-chairs)
- 1.3 GOOS Updates and preparations for IOC Assembly (Joanna Post)
- 1.4 Outcomes from the GOOS cross-panel meeting (18 Feb 2025)¹ (Belén Martín Míguez)
- 1.5 Why the ocean matters: WMO observations impact workshop (Albert Fischer, WMO)

Discussion / Q&A

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomes and approves Audrey Darnaude as the new co-chair on the Bioeco expert panel.
-

¹ Internal meeting between representatives from the 3 GOOS expert panels and other GOOS representatives. [Agenda](#)

2. Observation system design and development

Aim: Consider and provide feedback on the plans to continue to develop GOOS as a fit-for-purpose observing system. Identify the needs and deliverables for observation system design that are inclusive of stakeholder needs, and describe how the work links across the value chain to realise the value of investments. e.g. Optimum observation system requirements towards services. The SC will also consider resource requirements, reflecting ongoing work on EOVs, carbon and biodiversity plans, expansion of GBON, which must consider UN mandates². Finally, how will these plans help GOOS engage in implementation opportunities leading to a (modular) sustained observation system design (linking with GBON), and eventual future GOOS basic network.

Background documents

Background paper for each of the 4 agenda items (1-2 Page):

- [Carbon](#)
- [Biodiversity](#)
- [EOV Ocean Indicators](#)
- [RRR/GBON](#)

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Belén Martín Míguez**)

[5-7 min presentation (see template) + 20-25 min discussion each]

- 2.1 Introduction from the co-chairs
- 2.2 Biodiversity Plan - Gabrielle Canonico/Clive McMahon, BioEco panel co-chairs
- 2.3 EOV-led Ocean Indicators - Karina von Schuckmann and Sabrina Speich, OOPC.
- 2.4 RRR and Evolving GBON - Emma Heslop, OOPC and WMO

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

- Are the goals/deliverables identified and what does the SC wish to see from this work for GOOS?
- Is the audience identified/clear?

² Mandates include: Weather/Forecasting -WMO, IMO; Carbon - GCOS Implementation Plan, Global Greenhouse Gas Watch, UNFCCC; Biodiversity - Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, UN Agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), UNFCCC, FAO, UNEP. IOC-focus identified in IOC medium-term strategy 2022-2029.

- Who are the stakeholders and how are their needs being assessed, and prioritised in the planning process?
- Do we have confidence that we are engaging the correct stakeholders?
- Do we need a cross GOOS (ie panels, GRA) approach (ie workshop) to stakeholder engagement?
- How do the regional and national activities feed into these plans?
- What are the resource needs and can they be prioritised/met?
- How does the work link to mandates and across value chain to realise value of investments?
- What are the implications / actions for Member States?

- Additional guiding question on EOV/Indicators: What can GOOS uniquely contribute on the EOV/Indicator topic that can be recognised by the GOOS SC as an area of work/application space?

- Additional guiding questions on GBON: How do we work with WMO to define a timeline and actions towards WMO GBON expansion (as agreed by the Joint Collaborative Board)?
- Does the SC accept an ocean GBON as a concept that GOOS will commit to defining through the JCB GBON TT work?
- Should we have a focused GOOS SC (virtual) workshop to consider the SC input into the JCB GBON task team?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomes the progress of the work by the panels as reported to the SC-14.
- The SC notes the need for sustained resourcing for scientific support officers for the expert panels.
- The SC welcomes the suggested work plans and processes for biodiversity, EOVs and RRR/GBON
- Invites colleagues to revise their work plans according to the feedback from the SC by 20 March (template to be provided by co-chairs).

- Noting the need to review the biodiversity plan, decides that the following members of the GOOS SC: X,X, and X, will organise the SC review.

- The SC notes the following needs for the work undertaken on Ocean Indicators: ...

- The SC recommends that the GOOS engagement on the ocean application area of the RRR process continues under the OCG, including production of Statements of Guidance (SoGs) and consideration of updated/additional SoGs by GOOS
- Noting the need to review the SoGs when available in March 2025, decides the following members of the GOOS SC: X and X, will organise the SC review.
- ...

3. Strengthening data integration and delivery

Aim: Discuss and provide guidance for a unified vision for GOOS data integration and delivery. Discuss the updates on activities to strengthen the coordination of GOOS data flow, end-to-end data systems including standards, best practice and metrics. Consider the plans, process, needs and deliverables on data flow and integration and the evolving IOC data architecture and how it will be implemented.

Background documents:

- [OCG Cross-Network Data Implementation Strategy](#)
- [IODE/GOOS Data Workshop Report](#), 29 Sep-2 Oct 2024, including [executive summary](#)
- [Background paper: updates from OCG, OceanOPS, Carbon/IOCCP, and OBIS/BioEco](#)
- [Report](#) and [Executive Summary](#), Fifteenth Observations Coordination Group Meeting (OCG-15) May 2024

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Ann Zinkann**)

[5-10 mins (see template) + 20 min discussion each]

- 3.1 Introduction from the co-chairs
- 3.2 OCG Implementation plan and update from the data task team (5-7 min) - Kevin O'Brien
- 3.3 IOC data architecture (10min) - Emma Heslop, Kevin O'Brien, Lotta Fyrberg, Pier Luigi Buttigieg, GOOS/IODE

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

- What are the key outcomes of this work for GOOS and its stakeholders, and any missing elements/aspects in the planning?
- How will users be able to access specific information (e.g. in a specific geo-location) and how?
- What are the resource needs and can they be prioritised/met?
- What is the vision for GOOS in terms of a data infrastructure and mandate and what is the role of GOOS in the broader, eg IOC, data activities?

- How can GOOS facilitate and support a deeper engagement between OCG, BioEco Panel and OBIS to align data workflows and enable interoperability of the systems, and any metrics?
- How do we support creation of best practices, what are the incentives?
- How do GRA data connect to other GOOS data activities? Does GOOS need more (less?) attention towards data infrastructure and deliverables?
- How can we evolve the IOC data architecture to deliver GOOS EOVS data? What is the role of the different GOOS components (OCG, OceanOPS, panels) in this context.
- What is needed to identify and strengthen provenance of GOOS EOVS data to recognise the value of investment in ocean observation?
- Are there priority delivery spaces / case studies for the IOC data architecture?
- What are the implications / actions for Member States?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomed the results of the IODE-GOOS Data Workshop that represented a first step towards a holistic approach to data sharing across the entire IOC value chain. The Committee notes the importance of coordinating across GOOS Observations Coordination Group, Expert Panels, OceanOPS, IODE, OBIS on the IOC data architecture and relevant resource needs.
- The SC identified strengthening data integration and delivery as a needed new area of emphasis for GOOS
- The SC recommends that GOOS components focus on work towards achieving the proposed IOC Data Architecture, bearing in mind the following key priorities for GOOS:
 - that OCG and OBIS work together to align workflows and interoperability
 - emphasis on crystallising how users will access real-time and delayed mode data and tools available

2 (cont)

2.5 Carbon and GHG Plan - Adrienne Sutton BGC panel co-chair

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

- Are the goals/deliverables identified and what does the SC wish to see from this work for GOOS?
- Is the audience identified/clear?

- Who are the stakeholders and how are their needs being assessed, and prioritised in the planning process?
- Do we have confidence that we are engaging the correct stakeholders?
- How do we deal with the mCDR challenge?
- Do we need a cross GOOS (ie panels, GRA) approach (ie workshop) to stakeholder engagement?
- How do the regional and national activities feed into these plans?
- What are the resource needs and can they be prioritised/met?
- How does the work link to mandates and across value chain to realise value of investments?
- What are the implications / actions for Member States?

2 (cont) Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomes the progress of the work by the panels as reported to the SC-14.
- The SC notes the need for sustained resourcing for scientific support officers for the expert panels.
- The SC welcomes the suggested work plans and processes for carbon and GHGs
- Invites colleagues to revise their work plan according to the feedback from the SC by 20 March (template to be provided by co-chairs).
- ...

DAY 2 - Thursday 20 February 2025 | 09:00 - 18:00 (In local time GMT+1)

Call in link:

4. Working Session on GOOS 2.0

Aim: The aim of this session is to have interactive open discussions about the future direction of GOOS (2030 and beyond) and identify key areas of change to accomplish this goal. Key questions will be discussed in breakout group style to stimulate conversation and elucidate the concept/unique value proposition for the future GOOS that will answer the questions and needs of society (science/government/business) of tomorrow.

A consultancy has been brought on board to provide a proposal for revised scope and structure of GOOS, based on previous work, reviews of mission, scope and structure and considering what is the unique value proposition of GOOS.

Background documents:

- [Draft](#) governance reform document (which includes links to Smith report, GOOS 2030 Strategy, Terms of reference for GOOS components and a draft proposal for way forward)
- [Neville Smith Report](#), 2021 (GOOS-290) 'Study on Support Provided to Global and Regional Ocean Observing Systems'

Discussions (Breakout style) - Moderator: Terry McConnell

- 4.1 Introductions to the Topic (30 min)
 - Mandates and approach (Joanna Post)
 - Introduction to Consultancy (Lovisa Bergman)
 - Workshop Process, Intent & Desired Outcomes (Terry McConnell)
- 4.2 Crystal ball (60mins)
 - Future scenarios
 - Early signals
 - Scenario planning
- 4.3 What value and who cares? (60 mins)
 - Who and what is GOOS today?!
- 4.4 Between the Antipodes?
 - What might GOOS 2.0 look like?
- 4.5 What are our Guardrails?
 - How might GOOS 2.0 be brought into existence?
- 4.6 Final word

Decisions/Recommendations

It is NOT desired that the outcome of this session lead to decisions on what happens today, tomorrow or next year. Instead, this is an exploration of what GOOS might / should be in 2030 and beyond.

Desired outcomes are to hear the unbiased thoughts and opinions of the GOOS SC experts on what GOOS 2.0 should be, on what is needed to create a coordinated ocean observing activity that supports the needs globally, regionally and nationally.

These discussions, thoughts, recommendations, wild and wholly wishes that are catalogued from this meeting will be used as feedstock for the GOOS 2.0 consultancy on GOOS reform that will run for the next six (6) months.

5a. Outreach: Projects and partners

Aim: Consider and identify approach, procedures and engagement priorities for GOOS projects and partners: 6.1 will discuss the proposal for GOOS projects and partners identified by the GOOS task team set up in 2024 and future focus for partner engagement; 6.2 aims to explore the opportunities to further engage with the Satellite Community, to complement the *in situ* ocean observations to achieve a fully integrated global ocean observing system; 6.3 aims to review the progress of private sector engagement by GOOS and determine 1-2 areas of future focus.

Background documents

- [GOOS project analysis](#) (provided to SC-13)
- [Proposal for GOOS projects and partners: approach, suggested priorities](#)
- [Rules of Procedure for IODE Programme Components, Programme Activities and Projects](#) (note designations on page 7)
- Dialogues with Industry [roadmap](#) (and Ocean Enterprise Initiative plan)
- [OBPS Work plan](#)
- [Proposal for Extending the IOC-OBPS Scope](#)

Presentations (Rapporteur: Maciej Telszewski)

- 5.1 Revised approach and procedures for projects - Emily Smith/Veronica Garcon
- 5.2 Opportunities to engage with the satellite community - Steve Ramage
- 5.3 Opportunities identified through private sector engagement - Emma Heslop and Terry Mcconnell

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding Questions

- Can we accept the proposed approach for GOOS projects? Are the endorsement criteria specific enough? Is there a risk to having a long list of endorsed projects? Is there anything to be added/edited to the proposal?
- Who are the priority partners for GOOS moving forward and why? (Should we do a mapping of potential partners?) What are their current importance to GOOS and how can stronger engagement benefit both. How should GOOS engage?
- What is the best way forward to engage with the satellite community? Can we identify some priority intersecting areas that we can engage on together?
- How can GOOS best leverage and engage with other partners, such as the private sector, AI, emerging technologies? Who are key partners?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC recommended to revise the proposed approach to GOOS projects based on discussions and provide the revised proposal to the GOOS SC by end March 2025 for review.
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- ...

DAY 3 - Friday 21 February 2025 | 09:00 - 18:00 (In local time GMT+1)

Call in link:

5a (cont)

5.4 OBPS Update and work plan (OBPS co-chair)

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

- Does the GOOS SC approve the workplan and budget?
- Does the GOOS SC approve the request to the IOC to consider OBPS as an IOC wide activity?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC agreed to the proposed OBPS work plan and budget
- The SC, taking into consideration the changes in GOOS approach to projects and the relevance of OBPS to all IOC programmes, called on IOC to consider OBPS as an IOC-wide activity and on IOC programmes (global and regional) to co-fund OBPS with GOOS and IODE

5b. Outreach: Communications

Aim: To provide feedback on the new GOOS logo and Communication Toolkits (including, GOOS branding policy and usage guidelines, GOOS Messaging Guide, and communication assets that can be used by GOOS community) to be released in May 2025; to introduce the plan for evolution of GOOS Reporting Card 2025, with emphasis on selecting themes for this year's issue, as well as discussing reporting the Member States' contribution to GOOS (with information gathered from GOOS NFPs) and status of EOVs in future issues.

Background documents

- [Social listening report on GOOS](#)
- [Outline - GOOS Messaging Guide](#)
- [First draft - New GOOS Brand Guidelines](#)
- [Planning for the GOOS Ocean Observing Report Card 2025](#)
- Link to previous issues of the Report Card:
<https://www.ocean-ops.org/reportcard/>

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Signe Lencke**)

[5-7 min presentation]

- 5.5 Communications toolkit (Laura Stukonyte with Research for Purpose)
- 5.6 GOOS Report Card 2025 (Laura Stukonyte and Emanuela Rusciano)

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

Communications toolkit / Messaging Guide:

- Are there any relevant audiences missing in current GOOS communications? Is the current communications focus adequate, or should it be adjusted?
- What are the major success stories/case studies throughout the system that we want to tell? Which areas can provide ideas for new case studies?
- What are the priority outcomes for GOOS communications in 2 years time?

Report Card:

- What do you see as the ultimate goal and key audiences of the Report Card?
- What specific topics should be covered in this year's Report Card?
- How could we report on Member States' contribution to GOOS?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomed the ongoing work on the communications toolkit
- The SC welcomed the new GOOS brand guidelines
- The SC welcomed the approach for the GOOS report card 2025 and identified the following for its focus/content: ...

6. a System implementation at national and regional level

Aim: Review of status, challenges, and guidance for evolving GRA and NFP roles, functions, processes, priorities and reporting, taking into consideration outcomes from agenda item 4. Provide feedback and suggest priorities for NFP engagement activities. Provide feedback on scope, intent, and purpose of GRAs what the intent of revising GRA TOR and roles within GOOS.

As per their current terms of reference in the GOOS regional policy (2013), the GRAs “identify, enable, and develop sustained GOOS ocean monitoring and services to meet regional and national priorities, aligning the global goals of GOOS with the need for services and products satisfying local requirements”. However the only mandates under the IOC for GRAs are those recognising that the GRA has been formed without any accountability for operation identified. The NFP TOR were updated and accepted by the GOOS SC in 2023 and state that the “overarching objective of the GOOS National Focal Points will be to promote and support nationally and regionally coordinated strategies for the implementation of a sustained global ocean observing system that delivers the essential information needed for our sustainable development, safety, wellbeing and prosperity”. These TOR have not been presented to IOC governing bodies and provide a set of tasks not achievable for a single person/focal point but require set up of national committees for ocean observation.

Background documents

- Terms of reference [NFP](#)
- Terms of reference [GRA Council TOR](#)
- [Background paper on GRA](#): update on actions and recent meetings
- [Background paper on NFP](#): including NFP Survey preliminary result analysis

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Joanna Post**)

[5 min presentation]

- 6.1 NFPs (Jing Li)
- 6.2 GRAs (Jing Li, GRA Chair and Vice Chair)

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding questions

- How can we provide a framework for GRAs to contribute to GOOS?
- How should the GRAs interact with other components of GOOS?
- What are the key activities and outcomes needed from the work of NFPs for GOOS? Can we focus NFPs to support certain areas of engagement?
- What guidance/guidelines/ capacity could be provided for NFPs?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC invites the GRA Council to develop a workplan for evolving GRAs.
- GOOS SC invites the GOOS office, in collaboration with the NFPs, to develop

NFP focus areas of engagement.

- ...

6. b System implementation and applications

Aim: Review of status and challenges, and guidance for evolvement of GOOS vis a vis system implementation and applications, particularly forecasting, taking into consideration outcomes from agenda item 4. Provide guidance to ETOOFS.

Background documents

- [ETOOFS Revised ToR and project plan](#)
- Ocean Decade [Challenge 7 white paper](#)
- [Background paper on GOOS Ocean Decade Programmes](#)

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Emily Smith**)

- 6.3 Update on ETOOFS and wider links- including proposed TOR and National operational Readiness Levels (5 mins) - Jing Li and ETOOFS co-chairs
- 6.4 Results from GOOS Decade Programmes that can support GOOS evolvement (5min) - Ann Zinkan and Emma Heslop, CoDesign and Coast Predict

Discussion / Q&A

Guiding Questions

General:

- What are the deliverables that the GOOS SC wish to see?
- Where should GOOS site itself and position itself along the value chain from observations to applications?
- How do we site GOOS and connect along the value chain to support operational applications, such as forecasting?
- How could we (better) engage with sponsors and others on applications / forecasting?
- What are the implications / actions for Member States?

ETOOFS

- How can ETOOFS play a joint role for IOC and WMO, with a functional connection to INFCOM's SC-WIPPS?

GOOS Decade Programmes

- How do we integrate the learning, processes and structures from the Decade Programmes into GOOS, including GRAs?

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomed the ETOOFS revised TORs and project plan
- The SC recommended that GOOS find pathways to connect Co-Design and CoastPredict Programmes to the GOOS Regional Alliances and NFPs in pilot areas.
- The SC recommended a topic-specific GOOS SC online session in 2025/2026 to have a deeper look at consolidated learning from these programmes and processes and discuss the integration pathways for Co-Design and CoastPredict elements, so as to influence the final output from these programmes. How will the transforming elements of these Decade Programmes help transform GOOS.
- ...

7. Looking forward

Aim: Elucidate with the GOOS SC the preparations for IOC Assembly, based on discussions during SC, and timeline for relevant documents. Discuss future opportunities to evolve a GOOS basic network. Identify any further engagement priorities - working groups, events and stakeholders - for GOOS moving forward.

Background documents

- [Outline GOOS Work plan](#)
(Part 1 Introduction; Part 2 Observation system design and development; Part 3 Strengthening data integration and delivery; Part 4 System implementation; Part 5 Outreach and Partners Part 6 Reform)

Presentations (Rapporteur: **Emma Heslop**)

- 7.1 Preparations for IOC Assembly and Regional Commission meetings (Joanna Post)
(all documents due by end April 2025)
Draft GOOS SC Work plan including deliverables/actions
GOOS Reform (agenda item 4) readout and next steps
Reporting to Regional Commission Meetings

Brief introduction to IOC Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Strategy (IOC) (Fanny Douvere, IOC)

7.2 Opportunities to identify a (modular) sustained observation system - a GOOS basic network (Co-chairs)

Discussion on how to identify and put in place a GOOS basic network? How would this complement the WMO's Global Basic Observing Network and potential further inclusion of ocean observations? How can we evolve plans to enable a global status report and implementation plan for EOVs?

7.3 Upcoming meetings (Co-chairs)

Where and how should GOOS be present at upcoming UN meetings in 2025 (UNOC, UNFCCC, UNEA)?

Next GOOS SC meetings (Joanna Post)

7.4 Close (Co-chairs)

Discussion / Q&A

Decisions/Recommendations

- The SC welcomed the outline for the GOOS workplan. It requested the GOOS office to provide a final draft by end of March for review by the GOOS SC and finalisation by the end of April.