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Agenda Item: 6.6

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**INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC  
COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION**

**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT  
PROGRAMME**

**INTERNATIONAL  
COUNCIL FOR  
SCIENCE**

**Ninth Session of the Global Ocean Observing System  
Scientific Steering Committee (GSSC-IX)**  
Paris, France, 6 – 8 March 2006

**Third Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRA)**  
**14 – 17 November 2006, Cape Town, South Africa**  
**Draft**



**DRAFT****Third FORUM OF THE GOOS REGIONAL ALLIANCES  
14-17 November 2006, Cape-Town, South Africa****Linking the REGIONAL GOOS ALLIANCES with the LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS  
towards Implementing Sustained Coastal Ocean Observing, Monitoring and Forecasting  
Systems worldwide in the Benefit of Humankind****Background and Rationale**

The Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) is the key GOOS activity between two consecutive Sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee for GOOS (I-GOOS).

The Third Forum will be organised from 14-17 November 2006 in Cape Town in South Africa, back-to-back with key African GOOS and LMEs related activities, all to be held in November 2006 in Cape Town in South Africa. These GOOS and LMEs interrelated meetings are the following:

- 1- Pan-African LMEs/GOOS-AFRICA Leadership Workshop on Operational Oceanography and Remote Sensing in Africa, 6-10 November 2006;
- 2- The Second Pan-African LMEs Forum, 13 November 2006;
- 3- The Third Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances, 14-17 November 2006.

**Historical Background**

The First Forum was organised by MedGOOS in 2002 in Athens in Greece in the context of the EuroGOOS Conference. The Second Forum was organised by the Pacific Islands GOOS in 2004 in Nadi in Fiji. The Third Forum (the present Forum) is now being organised and hosted by GOOS-AFRICA in cooperation with the African LMEs from 14-17 November in Cape Town in South Africa. The IO-Caribbean GOOS has already offered to host the 2008 Forum of the GRAs.

**Justification**

In broad terms, GOOS-AFRICA is very pleased to be able to host the Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances in Africa in 2006. The COOP implementation strategy for the coastal module of GOOS highlights the importance of collaboration between GRAs and LME programs in the implementation of coastal GOOS.

In this context, it is fortunate that the Third Forum will take place in Africa, a region where the LMEs are extremely active. Now, the three Cape Town meetings (the LME/GOOS-AFRICA Leadership Workshop, the Pan-African LME Forum, and the Third Forum of the GOOS Regional Alliances) provide a unique framework to bring together the key stakeholders interested in promoting sustained coastal ocean observing, monitoring and forecasting systems to achieve the objectives of the Coastal Ocean Observing Strategy Plan of the IOC/UNESCO. Whilst each meeting has its own objectives, there is an LME thread linking all the meetings together. Through common participation and appropriate reporting from one meeting to the next, this LME thread becomes clear and valuable to all. Thus, the GOOS-AFRICA/Pan-African LMEs experience can be of value to the GOOS Regional Forum as a whole. Positives for the LMEs include (i) the potential for enhanced coastal ocean and basin scale observations in support of ecosystem-based management, (ii) improved data management and (iii) modeling capabilities, and (iv) closer ties to the development of GEOSS – especially in view of the adoption of the Coastal Theme proposal as a "Community of Practice" by the GEO this December. Thus, the Third GOOS Regional Forum

provides a unique opportunity to initiate LME-GRA collaboration as proof of concept effort that other GRAs can learn from.

The overall goal of the Forum is to initiate the establishment of a global network of GRAs that will enable regional development of coastal GOOS and oversee the establishment of the Global Coastal Network (GCN) as recommended in the COOP implementation strategy. Representatives from GRAs, LMEs and other GOOS stakeholders will have an opportunity to meet and exchange experiences, achievements and lessons learned.

## **Objectives**

- 1- Establish mechanisms to cultivate links and synergy between the GRAs and the LMEs for mutual benefits (a major recommendation in the COOP Implementation Strategy);
- 2- Adopt a blueprint document to serve the GRAs and the International Waters and Biodiversity Operational Programmes of the Global Environment Facility. This will help the GRAs to tap on some of the available international sources of funding;
- 3- Identify means for implementing the GRAs Regional Strategy completed under GRAND: How to bridge the gap in scale between global observations and local needs, and how to add the ecosystem-based information;
- 4- Identify means for implementing the COOP implementation strategy approved by I-GOOS and endorsed by JCOMM. In this context, review and take action as appropriate on recommendations from the JCOMM/GSSC/GRA Task Team on coastal GOOS and the GRAs;
- 5- Position GOOS and GRAs as implementing bodies for the Ocean and Coastal components of GEOSS. As a first step toward this end, prepare a plan to implement the GEO Coastal Community of Practice.

## **Scope**

LMEs  
COOP Implementation Plan  
Joint JCOMM-GSSC Task Team on Coastal GOOS and GRAs  
IGOS Coastal Theme and the GEO Coastal Community of Practice  
Tsunamis and Disasters Reduction efforts of IOC (Sea Level Observatory)  
GRAND and GRACE  
Other regional Stakeholders and interests: Oil/Gas/Mining  
GEOSS

TASKS TEAM: Emerging problems:

Composition: How to ensure that the Group reflects the priorities and needs of each GRA?

## **Workshop Format**

The workshop will include keynote, plenary presentations and technical demonstrations and breakout sessions on Oceans Observing, Monitoring and Forecasting Systems including *in situ* observations; satellite imagery, modelling and the LMEs components.

Day 1 – Morning Plenary to agree on goals, objectives and deliverables and to set the stage (keynote address on results of the Pan-Africa LME/GOOS Africa Leadership Conference and LME Forum); afternoon breakout sessions with working groups to begin work toward achieving objectives and preparing deliverables.

Day 2 – Morning Plenary to discuss results of the previous day's working groups; plenary presentation(s) to set the stage for the next round of working group activities.

Day 3 – Morning Plenary to discuss results of the previous day's working groups; plenary presentation(s) to set the stage for the next round of working group activities.

Day 4 (half day) – Morning Plenary to finalize deliverables and agree on the way forward (including the creation of working groups such as the Joint Coastal GOOS-GTOS Panel).

The breakout sessions would be organized to achieve the objectives given above and prepare the deliverables.

### **Workshop Output**

The Workshop Report will include *inter alia* the following:

- White paper: Organization of the GRAs network into the IOC legal body (role, criteria, reporting) for overseeing implementation of the coastal modules of GOOS and GTOS (the equivalent of JCOMM for coastal??): What is the progress status? (FG/MA);
- Review/adoption of the blueprint from GOOS-AFRICA/LMEs Meetings at its November 2006 meeting to serve the GRAs and the International Waters and Biodiversity Operational Programmes of the GEF for fast-tracking and implementation containing the following elements:
  - (i) Detailed assessment of the requirements and recent developments in LME programmes in respect of operational oceanography (including observing and monitoring and forecasting), and restraints);
  - (ii) Description of recent developments and specification of requirements of GOOS in respect of observing systems and their implementation, and restraints;
  - (iii) Potential strategies to address the identified needs in ways that are affordable, implementable and sustainable;
  - (iv) Details of capacity strengthening and closer links established between key players in the LMEs and GOOS in respect of operational oceanography;
  - (v) Role of GRAs in GEOSS.
- Role and contribution of the GRAs to the development of Multi-hazards Integrated Systems for Tsunamis and Disasters Mitigation;
- Review of recommendations from the JCOMM/GSSC/GRA Task team, in particular relating to JCOMM/GRA interactions in the context of coastal GOOS implementation, and specification of follow-up actions, if any;
- Final report of GRAND;
- Kick off Meeting of GRACE.

## **Sponsorship**

GOOS Project Office of IOC  
Global LMEs  
African LMEs:  
GRAND/GRACE (Gerard/Vallerga) - IOOS (Malone) -  
**Finances/Budget : 100k**

GPO: Tentatively earmarked \$38k

## **Participation**

The success of the meeting will depend on good attendance from GRAs worldwide, hopefully as many as were present in Fiji.

## **International Scientific Committee**

Chair: I-GOOS Chair +  
Co-Chair: GOOS-AFRICA Chair+  
Members of I-GOOS board including GSC Chair +  
The past Chairperson of I-GOOS +  
A Representative of J-COMM -  
A Representative of LME programmes in Africa +  
Chairman of past COOP\* +  
The GRAs Chairs and Coordinators +  
Technical Secretary: GOOS-AFRICA Coordinator +  
Representatives of Global LMEs (Kenneth Sherman)  
+: KNOWN, - UNKNOWN; ? Shouldn't we consider other Stakeholders to be included?  
COOP\* does not exist anymore, however the inputs of past Chair are crucial for success.

## **Working means of the Committee**

Consultative, inclusive and iterative approach via E-mail  
Preparatory meeting in the framework of the I-GOOS Board/GSC Meeting 6-10 March 2006 at IOC Headquarters.

## **Forum Host**

The host of the Forum is GOOS-AFRICA through its network of the Marine Research Partnership of the University of Cape Town and the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem. A Local Organising Committee is being drawn from the UCT Marine Research Partnership, the Environmental Variability Secretariat of the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem and the Marine and Coastal Management Division of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa.

## **Venue and Date of Workshop**

The venue will be the Breakwater Lodge of the Graduate School of Business of the University of Cape Town, in the V&A Waterfront, Cape Town. The provisional dates are as follows, 14-17 November 2006. The Workshop will conclude late on Thursday 17 November 2006.

## **Language**

The official language of the Forum will English.

## **Execution and Administration**

The GOOS Project Office of the IOC/UNESCO in partnership with the BCLME Programme's PCU (Programme Coordination Unit) will facilitate all arrangements for Forum and administer the relevant finances. GOOS Director will liaise closely with the various sponsors, with the other interested and affected parties and will be assisted and advised by the ISC and LOC and other experts as appropriate.

## **Work Plan and Timetable**

Initial Forum Concept: 2004

Preliminary arrangements: March-October 2005

Concept Document: First draft (this document): December 2005.

Concept Document: Revised version: 31 January 2006

Tentative agenda: First Draft by I-GOOS: 31 January 2006

White Paper by Mary: 1st Draft by 31 January 2006 to be circulated to the Committee

Appoint International Scientific Committee: 15 January 2006

Appoint Local Organising Committee: February 2006

Approval in principle by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and African LME Chief Technical Advisors: March 2006

Sourcing sponsorship and funding: March 2006

Contract with the Local Organizing Committee: January 2006

Finalisation of documentation, detailed budget and endorsement by sponsors: June 2006

Finalise list of invitees and issue invitations: June 2006

Follow-up activities by ISC and LOC: July-October 2006

Hold the Forum and draft Report: November-December 2006

Finalise and submit Forum Report: December 2006

Implementation by Large Marine Ecosystems worldwide and GOOS Regional Associations: 2007 onwards.

## **Contacts**

Chair: François Gérard (I-GOOS Chair) [francois.gerard@meteo.fr](mailto:francois.gerard@meteo.fr)

Vice-Chair: Geoff Brundrit (GOOS-AFRICA Chair) [brundrit@ocean.uct.ac.za](mailto:brundrit@ocean.uct.ac.za)

Technical Secretary: Justin Ahanhanzo (GOOS-AFRICA Coordinator) [j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org](mailto:j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org)

Local Manager: Emlyn Balarin (Manager, UCT/MRP) [cms@ocean.uct.ac.za](mailto:cms@ocean.uct.ac.za)

## **Task team on JCOMM-GRA Coordination and Coastal GOOS Implementation**

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Propose a long-term coordination mechanism or mechanisms between JCOMM, GSSC and the GRAs, to address all areas of mutual interest and avoid overlap and duplication of effort;
2. Based on the COOP IP, and in the light of existing expertise and structures, propose possible immediate and specific actions for GSSC, JCOMM and the GRAs to further the implementation of coastal GOOS;
3. Consider and make proposals concerning possible longer-term actions by GSSC, JCOMM and the GRAs for the implementation of coastal GOOS, e.g. where additional expertise and/or subsidiary mechanisms may need to be developed;
4. Recommend what observations should be taken on by JCOMM and what should be left to the GRAs. It is important to remember that before a measurement or product can be turned over to JCOMM for regulation and coordination it must be in pre-operational phase with agreed standards and protocols for measurement, data management and product production, and it must have a group that is currently responsible for the measurement or product.

The TT should report to the JCOMM co-presidents and Management Committee, the GSSC and the GOOS Regional Forum or equivalent. The TT will work primarily by email, with an occasional meeting if convenient and necessary. Such a meeting is suggested tentatively to take place in association with the planned third GOOS Regional Forum, September 2006 in Cape Town.

### **Membership**

GRAs: Hans Dahlin (EuroGOOS)  
K. Radhakrishnan (IOGOOS)  
Geoff Brundrit (GOOS-Africa and GSSC)

GSSC: Tom Malone  
Ed Harrison

JCOMM: Robert Keeley  
Philippe Dandin  
Johannes Guddal