

14th GOOS Steering Committee meeting (SC-14) | 19-21 February 2025 (Paris)  
**Background paper**

**Session:**

6.a System implementation at national and regional level

**Agenda item:**

6.2 GRAs

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**Introduction/Background**

Including links to relevant documents, mandates etc.

The GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs) continue to engage to advance GOOS principles and goals and strengthen connections through learning and sharing. The GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) Council is actively working to develop a work plan:

1. To have a clear procedure of GRA designation
2. To develop standard GRA reporting mechanisms
3. To have a clear guidance on how GRAs could connect and contribute to GOOS
4. To identify how GOOS could better support GRAs

**Current status**

In November 2024, the GOOS Regional Council convened a meeting with 26 participants representing 13 out of 14 GRAs, three partner programmes and the GOOS Office. Chaired by Carl Gouldman and Alvaro Scardilli, Chair and Vice Chair of the GOOS Regional Alliance (GRA) Council, the meeting featured a presentation by Joanna Post, Director of GOOS on the priorities and governance evolving of GOOS. A review of progress on actions from previous GRA forums followed. Five GRAs shared the updates on their achievements, challenges, opportunities and future plans, including: IOGOOS (Nagaraja Kumar), GOOS Africa (AFFIAN Kouadio), IOCARIBE GOOS (John Cortinas), PI GOOS (Jerome Aucan) and GRASP (Edwin Pinto).

During the call, the Chair reviewed the progress of actions from GRA Forum XI (April 2024, Barcelona) which have been categorized into three bins - Communication (Action 1-3), Strengthening GRAs (Action 4&5), and Collaboration/Coordination among GRAs (Action 7-9).

The GRAs are also working to further strengthen the connections with NFPs and with other GRAs. The Chair and Vice Chair of GRA Council as well as the representative from PI GOOS were invited to the [2<sup>nd</sup> NFP online forum](#) in October 2024 to discuss the role of GRAs and opportunities for GOOS NFPs to engage with GRAs. Joint NFP-GRA sessions at the regional level are also being explored.

GRA Meeting Report - [November 13, 2024](#)

Details of progress of GRA actions are available in [GRA Action Tracker](#).

The GRAs have also created a [GRA Event Tracker](#).

The GRA leadership team is planning for another GOOS Regional Council call in March 2025.

Progress developing GRAs:

- GRASP - Alvaro Scardilli (OCEATLAN) attended the GRASP annual meeting, observed that people have strong interest in GRA and connection with GRASP strengthened.
- IOCARIBE GOOS - in process of re-establishing the Working Group was established in November 2024, The 1st Working Group meeting was organized online on 8 November 2024. The 2024-2025 workplan for IOCARIBE GOOS was developed and will be used to shape the Roadmap (2025+).
- IOGOOS - IPA signed with INCOIS (host of IOGOOS) to support 3 Working Components.

Follow up on SC-13 Actions:

Action 7.1 Encourage connections between GRAs and WMO Regional Associations, including inviting the appropriate representative to GRAs or WMO regional meetings (no progress)  
Status: Focus has moved to engaging with the GOOS NFPs and GOOS Panels

Action 7.2 Invite the GRAs Council to review the TOR of GRAs, identify clear deliverables to GOOS and reporting to GOOS SC (no progress)  
Status: Collected TOR and other governance documents from GRAs. As part of the work plan that is under development, we plan to review and update the GOOS Regional Policy to create a Terms of Reference and governance document for the GRAs.

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Action 11.1 Consider surveying the GOOS NFP and GRA to understand national necessities and priorities for the future (no progress for GRA)  
Status: Focus has been on identifying GOOS NFPs and establishing relationships between the NFPs and GRAs.

### Work/Project plan

Including Deliverables (e.g. Activities/Actions/ KPIs) and Budget / Resource needs

→ 2025

→ 2026-2027

#### 2025

- Aligning actions with the GOOS 2030 Strategy
- Develop Work Plan for Evolving GRAs (including GRA reporting)
- Enhance GRAs and NFPs connection to GOOS components
- Revisit GRA Terms of Reference and GOOS Regional Policy and ensure alignment with evolving GOOS Governance
- Further development of the Benefits of Ocean Observing Catalog
- Planning for 12<sup>th</sup> GOOS Regional Alliance Forum

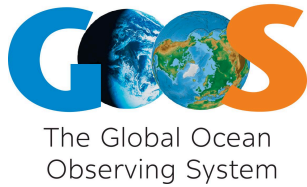
#### 2026-2027

- Hold 12<sup>th</sup> GOOS Regional Alliance Forum (GRF-XII)
- GRA Council Chair Election
- GRA/NFP Joint Meeting and continued engagement

### Expected outcomes for GOOS

- Foster GRA progress while recognizing we need to meet the GRAs where they are on their development journey.
- Advance the GOOS system and the GRAs - progress as community members and contributors
- Develop and publish use cases (using Ben. of Ocean Observing Catalog)
- Develop Action Plans at all scales (bound by practical capacity constraints and SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound))
  - What do those metrics of success look like? What is the metric for “networking”? Should we have an ask to GRAs to report out on any regional alliance meetings?

### Considerations for the GOOS Steering Committee



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**Opportunities:**

- Garner Steering Committee support on 1 or 2 focus areas for the GRAs (Development of use cases; development goal-oriented action plan)
- Build upon past successes which have come from allowing the GRAs to identify emerging technologies that could and should be adopted by GOOS. (HF radar, AniBOS, Underwater gliders etc.)
- Guide and fit above items into GOOS SC recommendations.
- Seek win-win outcomes for GOOS and GRAs

**Risks:**

- Geopolitical concerns impeding participation/representation from the GRAs
- Some GRAs are impacted by unresolved barriers to sending funding - GOOS Africa and PI GOOS
- Some GRAs less engaged in GOOS than others

**Proposed decisions/recommendations**

- ...
- ...
- ...