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Respondent

2

Anonymous

49:32

Time to complete

## Basic information

### 1. Name of GRA \*

- GRA: Black Sea GOOS
- GRA: CIOOS
- GRA: EuroGOOS
- GRA: GOOS Africa
- GRA: GRASP
- GRA: IOCARIBE-GOOS
- GRA: IMOS
- GRA: IOGOOS
- GRA: MonGOOS
- GRA: NEAR-GOOS
- GRA: OCEATLAN
- GRA: PI-GOOS
- GRA: SEAGOOS
- GRA: U.S. IOOS

### 2. Your name \*

Lorna Veronica Inniss

### 3. Your email \*

Linniss@unesco.org

#### 4. Your role in the GRA \*

Secretariat Support

### GRA Overview

#### 5. Vision and mission of the GRA \*

Deliver a comprehensive, interoperable ocean observation system to support early warning and sustainable development

#### 6. Affiliated organisations and agencies of the GRA \*

- Governments/Member States
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Regional organisations
- Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Private sectors
- ECOP

#### 7. Please list the national observing systems that the GRA is connecting to.

USA, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and other regional observing systems (CIMH)

#### 8. How does the GRA connect to GOOS National Focal Points (NFPs) in the respective countries? \*

If so, please specify GOOS NFPs in which countries you are currently connecting to). Link to current GOOS NFPs is: <https://goosocean.org/who-we-are/goos-national-focal-points/group/>

Several of the technical experts on the working group are not GOOS focal points, and we are working to make the connections in each country

#### 9. Governance of the GRA. \*

Please outline governing bodies of the GRA, including Chair, Secretariat, Steering Committee, etc.

Since the departure of the previous Chair, it was decided that GOOS needs to have an expert in ocean observations to lead the region's implementation. The working group has the following: Coordinator (in place of the Chair), IOCARIBE is the Secretariat, A core expert team overseeing implementation, and the full working group. It is expected that if the CoastPredict proposal is approved, a Task Team will be established under the working group to act as Steering Committee for the program.

#### 10. Strategic documents of the GRA. \*

Please list titles, dates, and relevant information of the most recently updated version of the governing documents, including the **links** if available. Strategic documents may include: MoU, Goals and Objectives, Planning documents (e.g. Strategic Plan, Work Plan, Implementation Plan), Data Policy, etc.

Terms of Reference that include goals and objectives, Ocean Decade project document, Proposal to the Caribbean Development Bank for funding the Ocean Glider Caribbean project, CoastPredict Concept Note, AAORIA Beacons Plus approved proposal

**11. Communication tools of the GRA. \***

Please list links of GRA website, contact person, newsletter, brochure, introductory video, etc., if any.

No longer relevant with the changes in IOC on communications

**12. Primary financial sources of the GRA. \***

Please consider the investment in the ocean observing system itself as well as for GRA coordination.

IOCARIBE CD funds and resources mobilized

## **Achievements since last GRA Forum (April 2024)**

**13. Meetings and workshops the GRA organised or sponsored. \***

First meeting of the revitalized GRA (Nov 2024); approval of the ToR, Second meeting of the working group discussions held on citizen science (FVON regional network), Caribbean Ocean Glider program, regional GOOS database inventory, Zero draft Implementation Plan

**14. Contribution/Integration to the Global Ocean Observing Networks. \***

If the GRA is currently contributing/integrating to other networks other than GOOS networks, please specify them in the field of 'Other'.

- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS)
- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/XBT-Ship of Opportunity Programme (SOOP)
- Ship Observations Team (SOT)/Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP)
- Global Ocean Ship-Based Hydrographic Investigations Programme (GO-SHIP)
- Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
- OceanSITES
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Moored Buoys (MB)
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Tsunami Buoys
- Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Drifting Buoys (GDA)
- Argo
- The Global High Frequency Radar Network
- Ocean Gliders
- Animal-Borne Ocean Sensors (AniBOS)
- Emerging: Fishing Vessel Observing Network (FVON)
- Emerging: Surface Ocean CO2 Observing Network (SOCONET)
- Emerging: Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications (SMART) Subsea Cables
- Emerging: SUN Fleet
- None
- Other

**15. Any other ocean observation projects and activities uniquely conducted by the GRA?**

No answer provided.

16. **Contribution of data at local/national/regional/global level.** \*

Please indicate other data centers and repositories in 'Other', if applicable.

- Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)
- IODE National Ocean Data Center (NODC)
- IODE Associate Data Unit (ADU)
- IODE Associate Information Unit (AIU)
- WMO Information System (WIS)
- Other

17. Describe the primary roles of the GRA in facilitating the **delivery of Information, Products and Services to end users** and how these are different/complementary to national activities. \*

Delivery of capacity to national stakeholders to ensure ownership of future observing and early warning systems

18. **In what areas (checklist is below) does the GRA enable co-designed/co-produced ocean observing solutions?** \*

More detailed information & services, e.g. links, can be indicated in 'Other'

- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable fisheries
- Coastal resilience
- Climate resilience mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainable ocean planning
- Marine carbon capture and storage
- Safety of life at sea
- Coastal hazard warnings
- Disaster risk reductions
- Human health
- Ocean science
- Other

19. **Please list new Best Practice documents completed in 2025 (and submitted to the OBPS).** \*

None yet

## 20. Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

Please state the capacity building activities organised in 2024-2025, and # of beneficiaries; expertise/experience shared with other GRAs in terms of capacity building.

Training and ocean literacy activities surrounding the launch of the ocean glider from Barbados

## Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) Measurement

GOOS Essential Ocean Variables (EOVs) are defined as the **minimum set of ocean variables** that are needed to assess ocean state and variability for important global ocean phenomena, and to provide essential data for applications that support societal benefit. Please see more detailed information and specification sheet for each EOv via <https://goosocan.org/what-we-do/framework/essential-ocean-variables/>

21. Please indicate the **physics EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. \*

	Yes	No	No info
Sea state	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ocean surface stress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sea ice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sea surface height	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sea surface temperature	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface temperature	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Surface currents	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface currents	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea surface salinity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Subsurface salinity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean surface heat flux	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Ocean bottom pressure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Turbulent diapycnal fluxes (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

22. Please indicate the **biochemistry EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. \*

	Yes	No	No info
Oxygen	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nutrients	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inorganic carbon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Transient tracers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Particulate matter	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nitrous oxide	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stable carbon isotopes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Dissolved organic carbon	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

23. Please indicate the **biology and ecosystems EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. \*

	Yes	No	No info
Phytoplankton biomass and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Zooplankton biomass and diversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Fish abundance and distribution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sea turtles abundance and distribution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seabirds abundance and distribution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Marine mammal abundance and distribution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coral cover and composition	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seagrass cover and composition	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Macroalgal canopy cover and composition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Mangrove cover and composition	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Microbe biomass and diversity (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Benthic invertebrate abundance and distribution (*pilot)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

24. Please indicate the **cross-disciplinary (including human impact) EOVs** that have been/are being measured by your GRA. \*

	Yes	No	No info
Ocean colour	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ocean sound	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine debris (*pilot)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. **Additional comments on EOV measurement by your GRA.**

These measurements are being collected by national Governments but not necessarily shared

## Planning and Support

26. **Top 3 Challenges and Opportunities \***

To highlight the **challenges** for operation of GRA and how to address them; as well as the **opportunities** for new partnerships with regional networks, programme/project, countries; new funding opportunities including cooperation with industries; emerging requirements for delivery of information and services, and etc.

Needs: regional observing system platform, funding, channels for improved data exchange

27. **Planning for 2026-2027 \***

To highlight top 3-5 priorities of the GRA over next two years.

FVON acceleration, ocean glider Caribbean implementation, new observing node for SIDS, Basic observing system for SIDS

28. **Requested Support from GOOS \***

May include but not limited to communication support; capacity building support; partnership building support; leveraging support from member states, etc. Indicate priority or urgency.

leveraging support from Member States