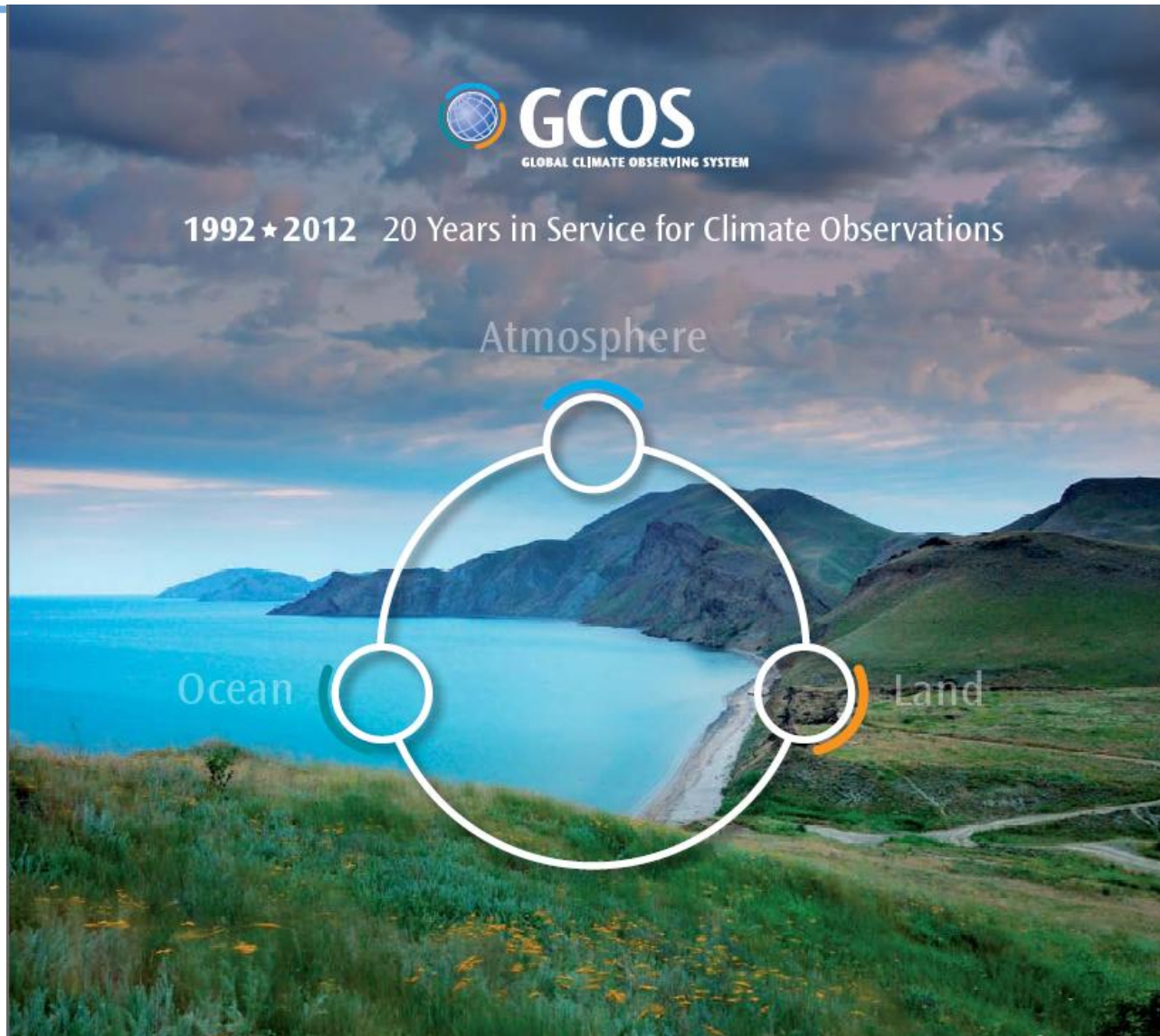


## Bericht des GCOS Sekretariats

### 1. GCOS Rundtisch in Austria 28 September 2012

**Carolyn Richter, Direktorin, GCOS Sekretariat,  
c/o WMO, Genf, Schweiz**

# Concept of the Global Climate Observing System



## GCOS encompasses the climate components of:

- the **WMO observing systems (WIGOS: GOS, GAW, WHYCOS, ...)**
- the **IOC-led co-sponsored Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)**
- the **FAO-led co-sponsored Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS)**
- observational elements of **research programmes (WCRP, IGBP, ...)**
- other systems contributing climate observations, data management or products

which together form our overall global observing system for climate, and the climate-observing component of the GEO System of Systems

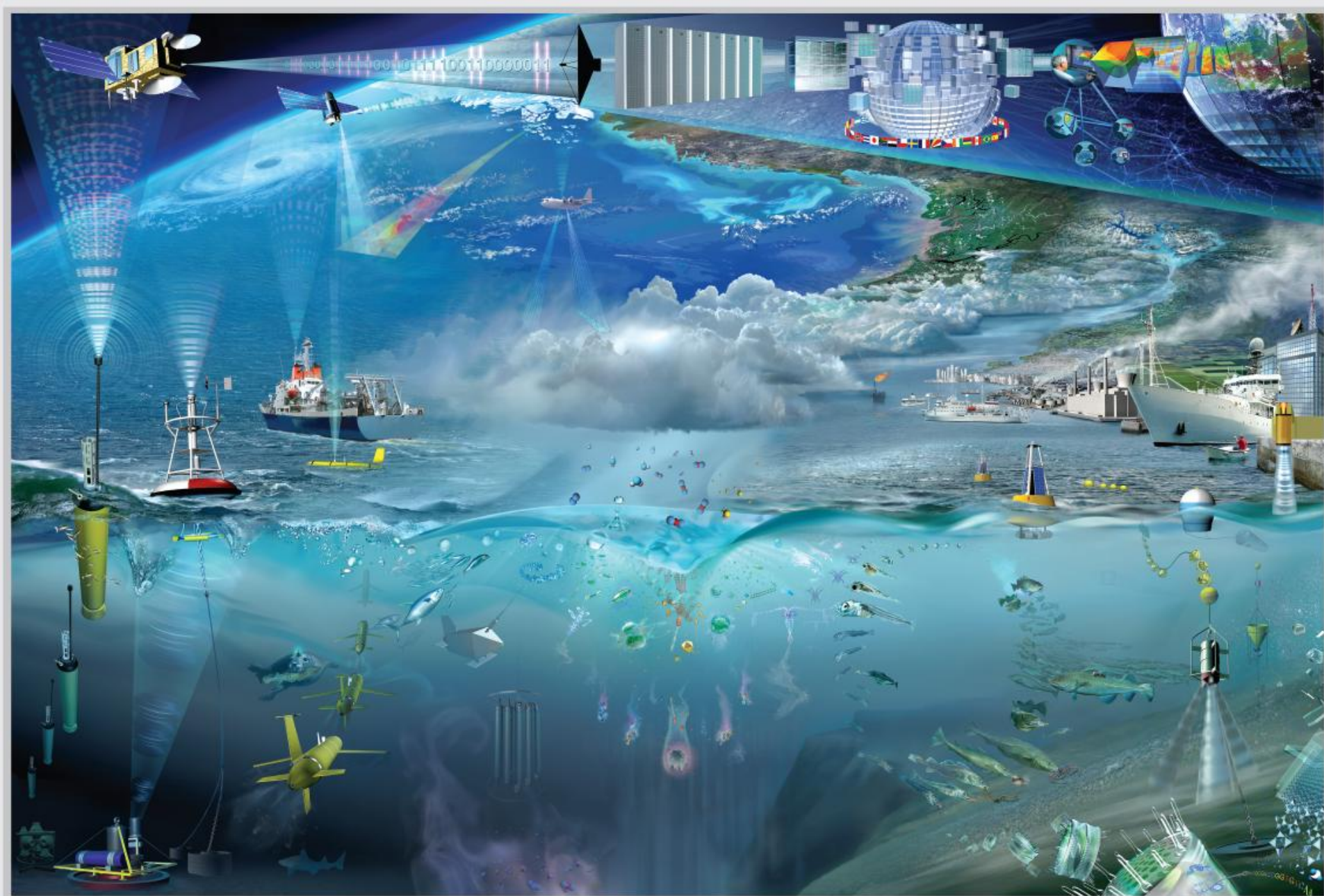
## The GCOS programme:

- assesses and communicates overall requirements
- advises on implementation and reporting
- reviews and promotes progress

covering the observations, transmission and management of data, establishment of fundamental climate data records and the formation of products from them





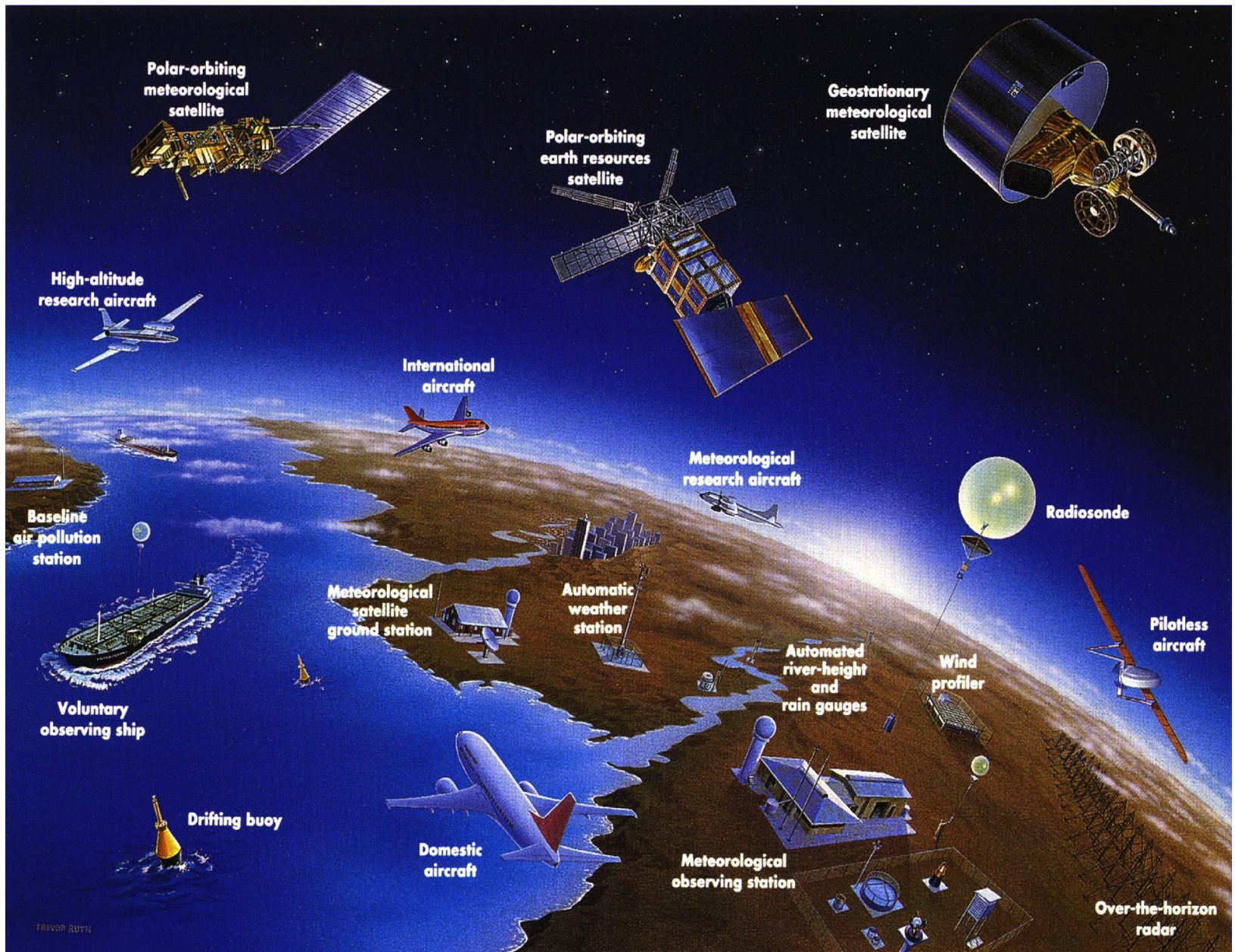


GLOBAL OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM [www.ioc-goos.org](http://www.ioc-goos.org)

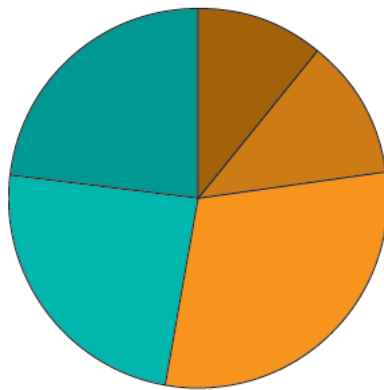




# Integrated Global Climate Observing System



# How well are we doing in implementing a global observing system for climate ?



- Low progress or no progress at all: 11%
- Moderate-to-low progress: 12%
- Moderate progress: 30%
- Good-to-moderate progress: 24%
- Good progress: 23%

The 2004 Implementation Plan detailed a total of 131 actions, and the 2009 Progress Report listed the status of these actions: good progress, 23%; good-to-moderate progress, 24%; only moderate progress, 30%; moderate-to-low progress, 12%; and low progress or no progress at all, 11%.



# Cost estimates for the Global Climate Observing System

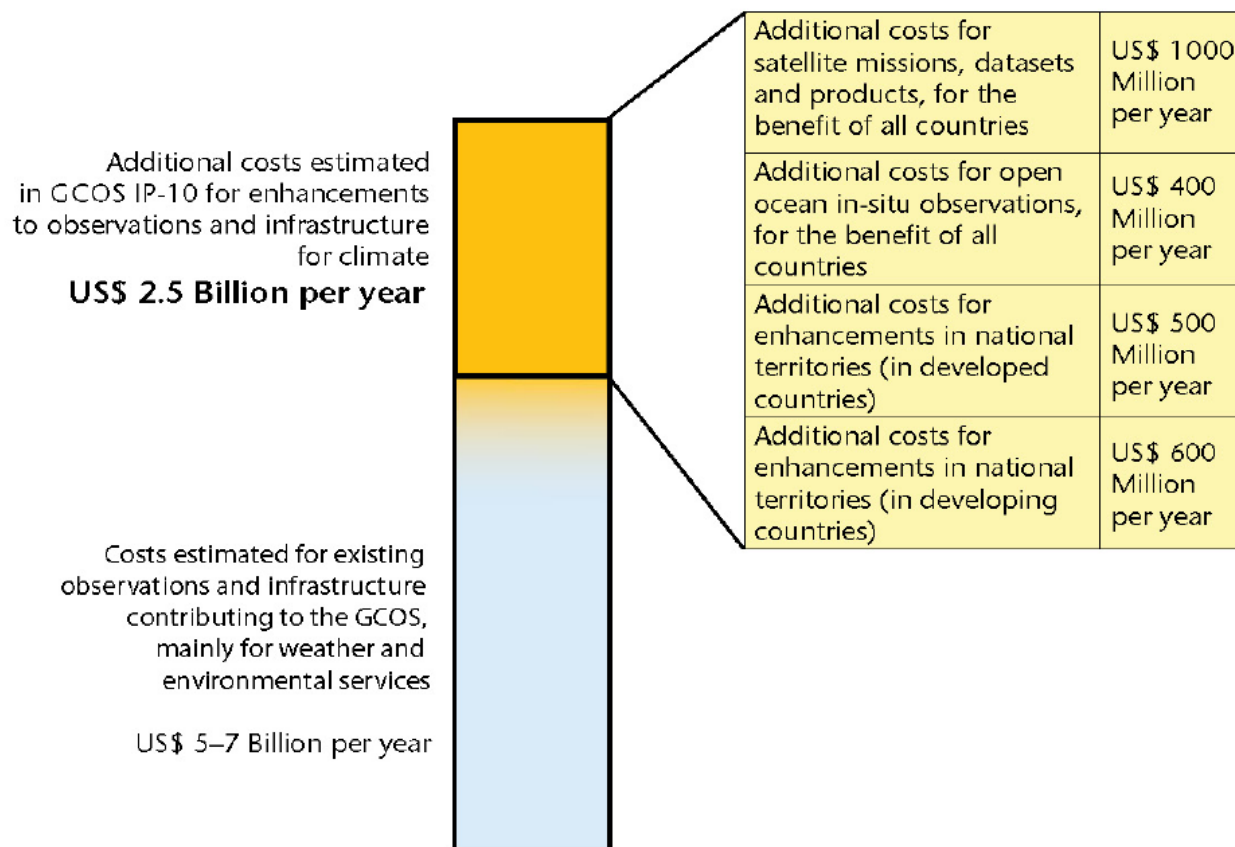
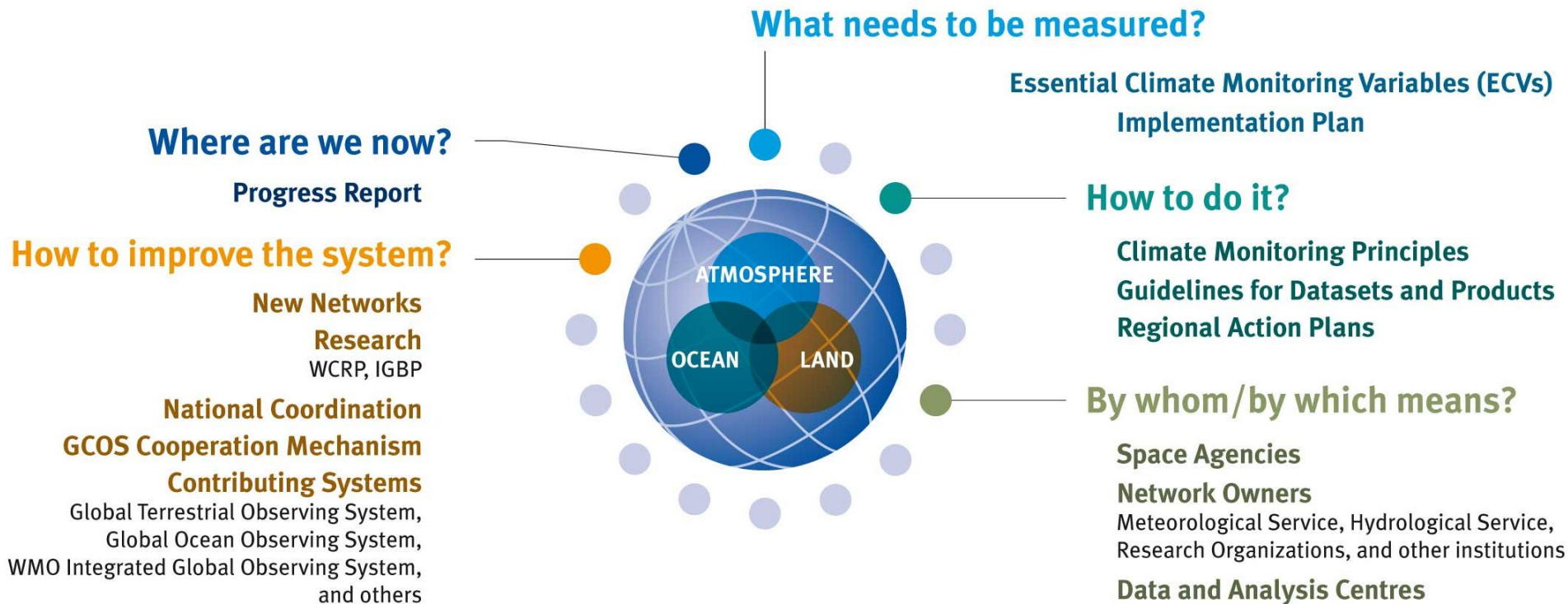


Figure 1: Estimates of the additional annual costs of implementing the IP-10 Actions (in orange), compared to estimates of total annual costs for existing observations and infrastructure contributing to GCOS (in blue).

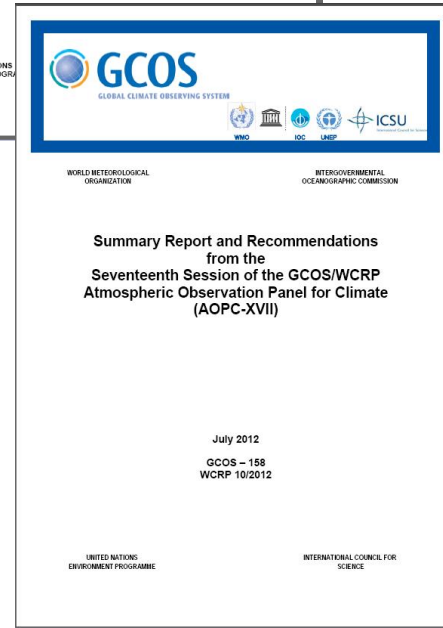
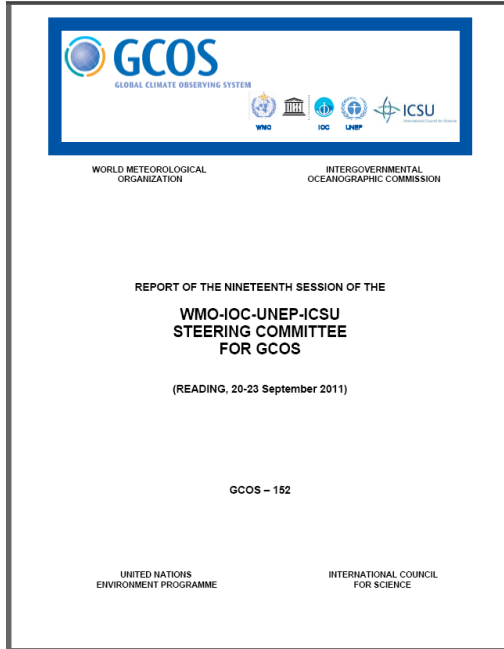
# GCOS Continuous Improvement and Assessment Cycle





# Core activities

## Steering Committee, Panels and GCM Board

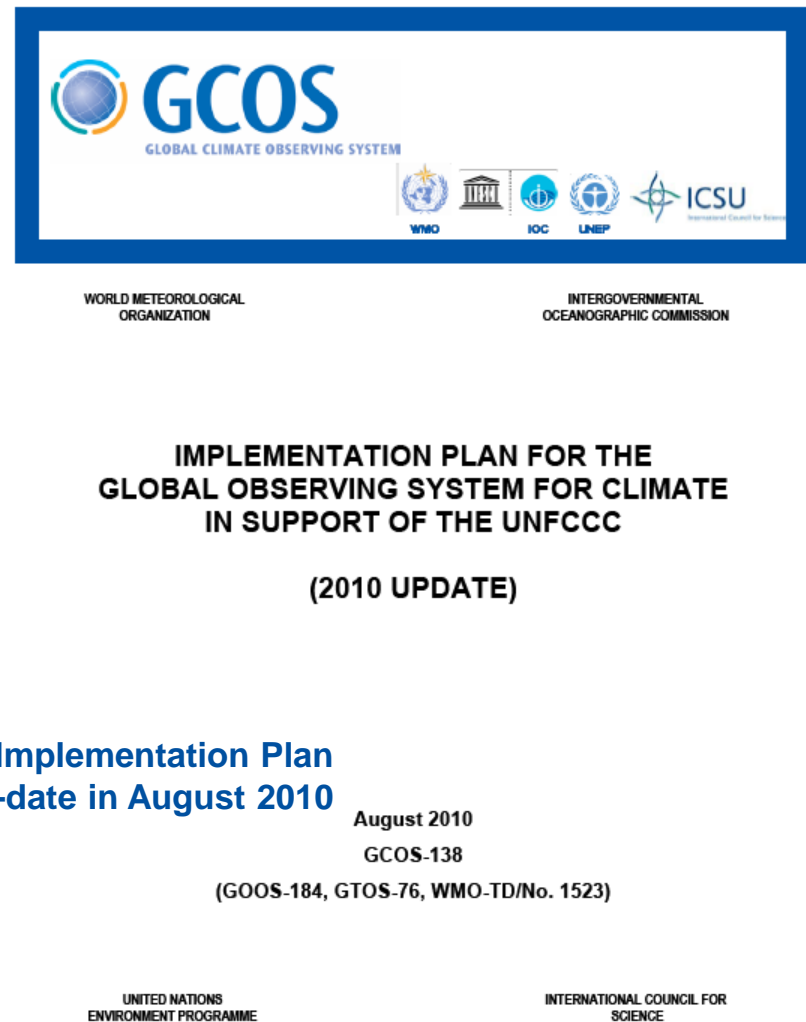
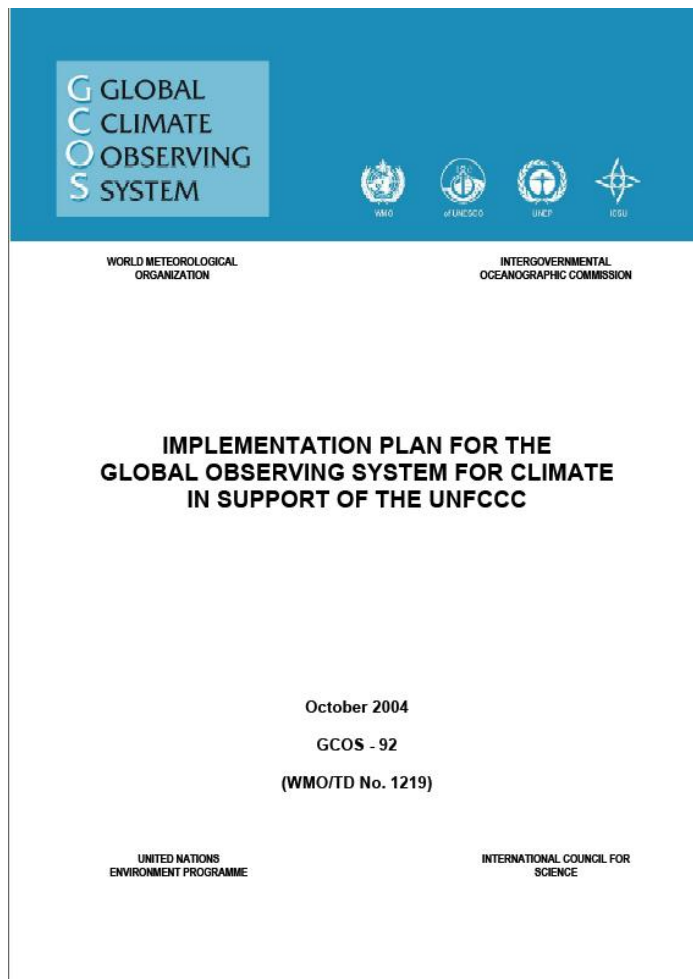


- 20th Session of the GCOS Steering Committee, WMO, Geneva, Switzerland, 4-7 Sep 2012.
- **Next: SC-21, Sep/Oct 2013**
- 8th Meeting of the GCM Board, Geneva, WMO, 3 Sep 2012. **Next: 9th GCM Board, May 2013 in conjunction with UNFCCC SBSTA38.**

- 14th Session of the GCOS/GTOS/WCRP Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate (TOPC) Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 March 2012. **Next: 15th TOPC 7-8 March 2013**
- 17th Sessions of the GCOS/WCRP Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate (AOPC), Geneva, Switzerland, 30 April - 3 May 2012. **Next: 18th AOPC 2-5 April 2013**

# What needs to be measured ?

## How to do it ?



Implementation Plan  
up-date in August 2010

# What needs to be measured ?

## How to do it ?



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

### SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE-BASED DATA PRODUCTS FOR CLIMATE

2011 Update

Supplemental details to the satellite-based  
component of the "Implementation Plan for the  
Global Observing System for Climate in Support  
of the UNFCCC (2010 Update)"

December 2011

GCOS – 154

UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
SCIENCE

### Satellite Supplement up-date in January 2011

GLOBAL  
CLIMATE  
OBSERVING  
SYSTEM



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

### Guideline for the Generation of Satellite-based Datasets and Products meeting GCOS Requirements

March 2009

GCOS-128  
(WMO/TD No. 1488)

UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
SCIENCE

### Climate Monitoring Principles Guidelines for Datasets and Products



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION

### Guideline for the Generation of Datasets and Products Meeting GCOS Requirements\*

\*An update of the "Guideline for the Generation of Satellite-based Datasets and  
Products meeting GCOS Requirements" (GCOS-128, WMO/TD-No. 1488),  
including *in situ* datasets and amendments

May 2010

GCOS-143  
(WMO/TD No. 1530)

UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR  
SCIENCE



## GCOS CLIMATE MONITORING PRINCIPLES

### BASIC PRINCIPLES

1. Assess changes before implementation
2. Overlap of new and old systems
3. Meta-data important
4. Quality data on extreme events
5. Meet needs of IPCC etc
6. Uninterrupted station observations
7. Priority for data-poor regions
8. Specify long-term requirements
9. Promote research to operational transition
10. User-friendly data management systems

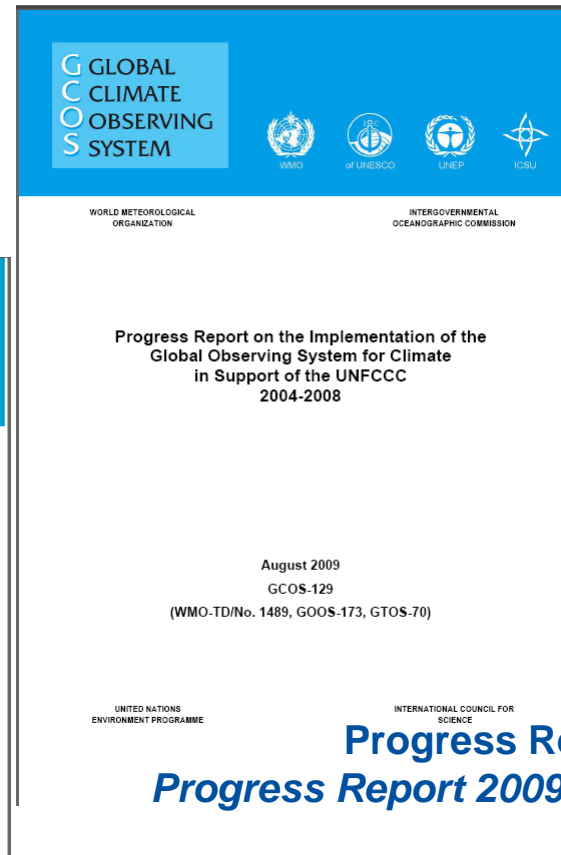
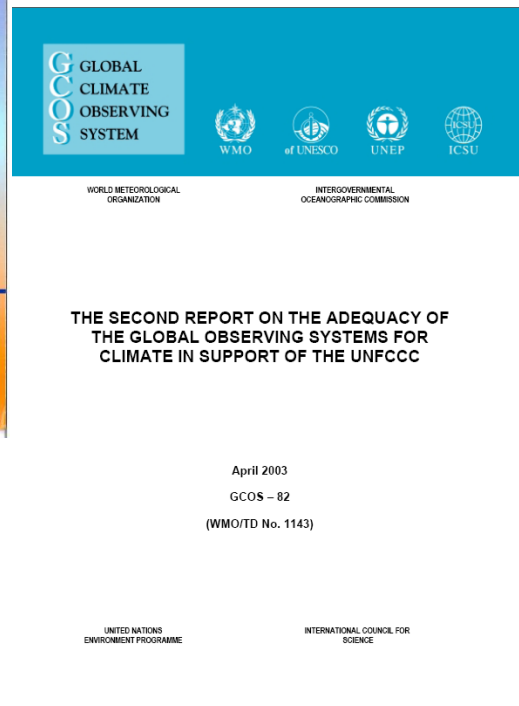
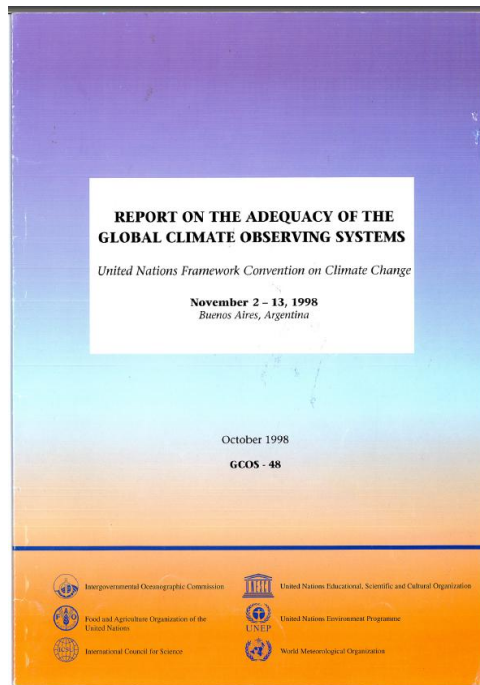
### SATELLITE SYSTEMS

11. Constant sampling within diurnal cycle
12. Overlap of new and old systems
13. Continuity through launch strategies etc
14. Pre-launch instrument calibration
15. On-board calibration
16. Sustain operational climate products
17. Data systems for user access
18. Keep baseline instruments as long as possible
19. Complementary in situ baseline observations
20. Identify random errors and biases.

# Essential Climate Variables - ECVs

ESSENTIAL CLIMATE VARIABLES		
OCEANIC	ATMOSPHERIC	TERRESTRIAL
<b>Surface (10)</b> Sea-surface temperature Sea-surface salinity Sea level Sea state Sea ice Surface current Ocean colour Carbon dioxide partial pressure Ocean acidity Phytoplankton	<b>Composition (3)</b> Carbon dioxide Methane and other long-lived greenhouse gases Ozone and Aerosol supported by their precursors	<b>Biological/Ecological (6)</b> Land cover FAPAR Leaf area index Above ground biomass Soil carbon Fire disturbance
<b>Sub-surface (8)</b> Temperature Salinity Current Nutrients Carbon dioxide partial pressure Ocean acidity Oxygen Tracers	<b>Upper-air (5)</b> Temperature Wind speed and direction Water vapour Cloud properties Earth radiation budget (including solar irradiance)	<b>Hydrological (5)</b> River discharge Water use Ground water Lakes Soil moisture
	<b>Surface (6)</b> Air temperature Wind speed and direction Water vapour Pressure Precipitation Surface radiation budget	<b>Cryospheric (4)</b> Snow cover Glaciers and ice caps Ice sheets Permafrost
		<b>Other (1)</b> Albedo

# Where are we now ?



**Report on the Adequacy of the GCOS, 1998**  
**Second Report on the Adequacy of the GCOS, 2003**  
**Third Report on the Adequacy, (?) 2014/2015**



# Where are we now ?

## GOSIC Global Observing Systems Information Center



Facilitating Access to Global Observing Systems Data and Information

Search

[Home](#)

[GCOS](#)

[GOOS](#)

[GTOS](#)

[Publications](#)

[Acronyms](#)

[About GOSIC](#)

[Contact Info](#)

**Purpose of the GOSIC:** provides convenient, central, one-stop access to data and information identified by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) and their partner programs, such as the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) and regional observing systems, such as the GOOS Regional Alliances (GRA).

**Note from the GOSIC Administrator:** The GOSIC Portal was converted into Drupal and deployed August 31, 2012. The content is presently being updated and not all pages are available. Your patience is appreciated.

[More About the GOSIC](#) - [What's New on the GOSIC Portal](#)

How do I find  
Climate Datasets  
Quickly?

- [Search Data by GCOS Essential Climate Variable \(ECV\)](#)
- [Text Search](#)
- [Metadata Search](#)

Access to  
Observing System  
Data, Metadata &  
Information

- [GCOS - The Global Climate Observing System](#)
- [GAW - The Global Atmosphere Watch](#)
- [GOOS - The Global Ocean Observing System](#)
- [National Activities Summaries of Operational & Planned Observation Programs](#)
- [Overview of the GOOS Observation Programs' Growth](#)
- [GRA - The GOOS Regional Alliances](#)
- [GTOS - The Global Terrestrial Observing System](#)

Where can you get your data ?

[www.GOSIC.org](http://www.GOSIC.org)  
(acts as data access service)



GOSIC is supported and hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), and the U.S. GCOS Program on behalf of the global observing community.



# Where are we (GCOS) now ?

We know quantitatively and qualitatively about the adequacy of climate networks and the availability of climate data records.

We know about how well the GCOS` « agents of implementations » made progress in following the recommended actions of the Implementation Plan and its Satellite Supplement.

We know how much it would cost to observe all required ECVs.

We achieved that space agencies respond to GCOS` plans and even take them into account for their systems planning.

We achieved that National Meteorological Services giving high priority to operation of GCOS Surface Stations and the GCOS Upper-Air Stations.

We achieved that Governments represented by their delegations to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change acknowledge GCOS reports and findings.

We are managing a significant system improvement trust fund which enables us to renovate climate stations which are not operational anymore.

# GCOS – Outreach

(Brochures published in 2010 - 2011)

- Available from the GCOS website: [gcos.wmo.int](http://gcos.wmo.int)

- In general

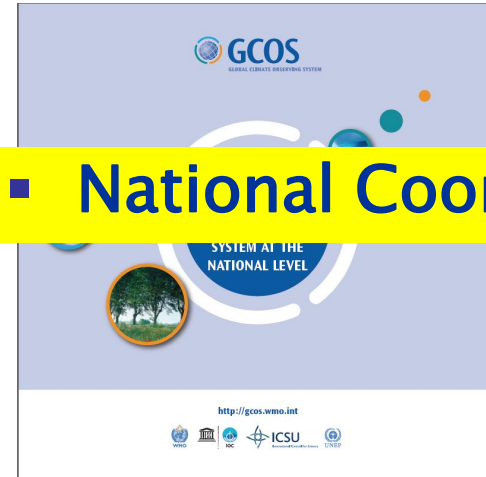
- Cooperation

- National Coord.

- ECVs

- UNFCCC

- Exec Summary IP-10



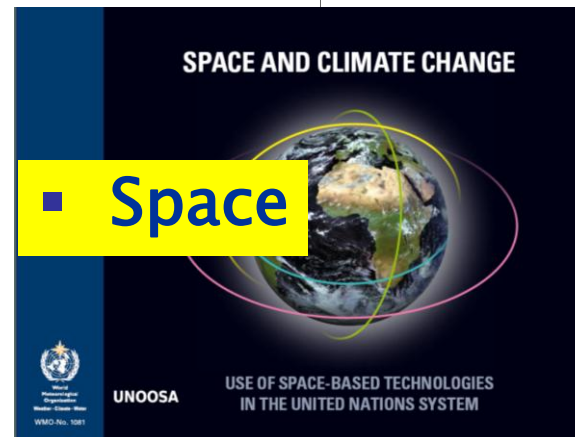


# Continuation of the series: GCOS – Outreach


(Brochures published since last SC in Sep 2011)



<http://gcos.wmo.int>



# GCOS Newsletter in 2012



## Newsletter – 1 / 2012

Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> issue of the GCOS newsletter.

### Observing Domains, Networks and Measuring Systems

#### CBS Lead Centres Meeting

The Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) [Lead Centres for GCOS](#) held their bi-annual meeting in Hamburg, Germany, from 11-13 October 2011. Christiana Lefebvre from the German Meteorological Service, Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), was elected chair of the meeting. Each Lead Centre provided an update of its activities during the last two years, and several items from the World Weather Watch and from the GCOS Secretariat were discussed. The performance reports for the GCOS Upper-Air and Surface Networks (GUAN and GSN) were analysed, with a focus on the most recent reports produced by the DWD, which include all of the WMO Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN) stations.

One of the recommendations from the meeting was that the newly-appointed Lead Centre representative from Mozambique should be introduced to the use of the performance reports. Subsequently, a short training session was held at the GCOS Secretariat for the new representative, Jose Sequeira. Feddoud el Ouazzany from Morocco and Bryant Korzenewski from the US also joined for the training.

The full meeting report is available here: [GCOS-156](#).

#### GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

The GCOS Cooperation Mechanism (GCM) is a multi-governmental funding mechanism, established to identify and make the most effective use of resources available for improving global observing systems for climate in developing countries, particularly in order "to enable them to collect, exchange, and utilize data on a continuing basis in pursuance of the UNFCCC." A number of implementation and renovation projects recently funded by donor countries to the GCM can be found under the item 'Implementation Projects' below.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism Board was held on 19 September 2011 at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in Reading, UK, immediately preceding the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the GCOS Steering Committee. The report of the Meeting is available from the GCOS website: [GCOS-151](#). The GCOS Director noted that the application of funds to projects undertaken through the GCM is one of the most visible things that the GCOS Secretariat does to facilitate improvements in climate observing systems in developing countries.

#### Implementation Projects

Several projects aimed at expanding and improving the GCOS Upper-Air and Surface Networks (GUAN and GSN) have continued or been launched in recent months:

- The upgrade of the GSN stations in Madagascar, managed by the UK Met Office, will be initiated in a few months with the installation of equipment. Staff from Madagascar visited the Met Office in Exeter for initial training. Met Office staff will lead the first few installations and then have staff from Madagascar do the remainder.
- Two surface stations have been upgraded in the Cook Islands, and radiosondes to restart the upper-air soundings from Rarotonga have been supplied. Radiosondes were also provided last year to Kharitoun, Dar es Salaam, and Mauritius.
- The project to upgrade surface stations in Angola has been delayed several times, but installations should begin in May.
- The telecommunications capability of Zambia will be addressed next, and the request for proposals has been sent out.

GCOS newsletter – April 2012 | 1



## Newsletter – 2 / 2012

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the GCOS newsletter.

### Scientific Highlights

[4<sup>th</sup> World Climate Programme \(WCP\) International Conference on Baseline, Silver Spring, USA, May 7-11](#)

### Observing Domains, Networks and Measuring Systems

#### CBS Lead Centres

#### BSRN

The 12<sup>th</sup> bi-annual meeting of the Baseline Surface Radiation Network (BSRN) was held at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Potsdam, Germany, from 1-3 August 2012. Called a 'science and review workshop', the BSRN meeting was an interesting mixture between a scientific conference and a network coordination workshop that brought together BSRN scientists, station managers, data users, and experts in areas related to BSRN. Anna Mikalsen from the GCOS Secretariat provided an overview presentation from the international programme perspective, in which she concentrated on the GCOS implementation strategy and how the BSRN fits into this concept. This strategy involves a hierarchy of complementary types of observing networks that will provide the *in situ* and satellite observations needed to monitor the global climate system, and BSRN has been designated as the GCOS baseline network for the Essential Climate Variable (ECV) 'surface radiation' in 2004. More information is available on the BSRN website: <http://www.bsrn.awi.de>

#### GRUAN ICM-4 and Network Design Workshop

The 4<sup>th</sup> Implementation and Coordination Meeting (ICM-4) of the GCOS Reference UpperAir Network (GRUAN) was hosted by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) in Tokyo, Japan, from 5-9 March 2012. The annual ICMs afford an opportunity for the Working Group on GRUAN (formerly the Working Group on Atmospheric Reference Observations: WGO-ARO), the GRUAN Lead Centre, and representatives from current and prospective GRUAN sites, as well as other stakeholders, to review progress, highlight issues and plan the way forward for GRUAN. The meeting report is available here: [A PDF](#)

GRUAN sites will provide long-term, high-quality, error-characterized upper-air climate records to address the needs of four main scientific user communities, viz. climate change detection and attribution, satellite validation, understanding of atmospheric processes, and numerical weather prediction. The initial network, currently consisting of 15 sites, is expected to eventually expand to 35-40 sites. To carefully plan its expansion and to most effectively advance GRUAN's scientific objectives, a [Network Design Workshop](#) was held in Furtwangen, Germany, from 12-15 June 2012. Bringing together representatives from the four user communities, the workshop aimed to define the criteria which should guide GRUAN as it expands to the full suite of sites. These criteria were captured in four white papers, which will be synthesized into a GRUAN Report later this year.

For further information visit the GRUAN homepage: <http://www.gruan.org>, or the GRUAN Communication Platform (blog) at: <http://gruan.wordpress.com>.

#### GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

The GCOS Cooperation Mechanism (GCM) is a multi-governmental funding mechanism, established to identify and make the most effective use of resources available for improving global observing systems for climate in developing countries, particularly in order "to enable them to collect, exchange, and utilize data on a continuing basis in pursuance of the UNFCCC." A number of implementation and renovation projects recently funded by donor countries to the GCM can be found under the item 'Implementation Projects' below.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism Board will be held on 3 September 2012 at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, back to back with the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the GCOS Steering Committee.

GCOS newsletter – September 2012 | 1

To be published after the SC-XX

International assistance  
by Richard K. Higgins

## PROGRESS REPORT An update on worldwide GCOS projects

The Global Climate Observing System has accelerated its program to help implement a number of renovation projects in developing areas around the world



Flamantour - the old tower  
the left will be removed

Since the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) was established by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1992, it has been a half-century old. For about half of this time, the GCOS Co-ordinating Mechanism (GCM) has been implementing renovation projects in developing areas of the world. These activities were first reported in this magazine in May of 2011 and the GCOS was invited to address the MTI World Technology Expo 2011 in Brussels last year. With many representatives of international companies about the progress of some of the major projects and about the possibilities for the GCM.

One of the major renovation projects is the replacement of equipment at 11 stations in Madagascar. The surface

observing network there has deteriorated over the years and has been further damaged by several typhoons. The renovation will consist of replacement with automated weather systems made by Campbell Scientific.

The project is managed by GCOS by the US Met Office (USMO), which has extensive experience in such international projects. In this case, staff from the USMO have visited some of the stations to determine requirements, and some staff from Madagascar have visited the USMO in Boulder for initial training. The Met Service of Madagascar has built the five wind masts as shown in the picture above - it is not exactly a typical mast, but meets the requirements. The USMO will participate in the initial installation and then the staff from Madagascar will install the remainder.

This is not the first time the USMO has assisted the GCOS, having also carried out renovations at Garm in the Maldives, and at Sorsogon, Amman. The project is funded through the GCOS by the Met Service of the Netherlands (RSM).

**Continental support**  
Several other air stations were supported last year through the GCM. Switzerland funded the supply of radiosondes and balloons for the GCOS upper air network (GUAN) stations at Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; Niamey, Mauritania; and Khartoum, Sudan. A competitive international tender procedure was used in the WMO, and MetService provided the winning offer. MetService's technical staff went to each of the stations for the installation and training. The renovation of stations in

WMO	WMO	WMO	WMO	WMO	WMO
GCOS	GCOS	GCOS	GCOS	GCOS	GCOS
Journal Name	Journal Name	Journal Name	Journal Name	Journal Name	Journal Name
Volume	Volume	Volume	Volume	Volume	Volume
Issue	Issue	Issue	Issue	Issue	Issue
Page	Page	Page	Page	Page	Page

## The GCOS at 20 years: the origin, achievement and future development of the Global Climate Observing System

John Houghton,<sup>1</sup> John  
Townsend,<sup>2</sup> Kirk  
Dawson,<sup>3</sup> Paul Mason,<sup>4</sup>  
John Zillman,<sup>5</sup> Adrian  
Simmons<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Former Chief Executive of the UK  
Meteorological Office  
<sup>2</sup>University of Maryland, USA  
<sup>3</sup>Former Executive Director of the  
Canadian Institute for Climate Studies  
<sup>4</sup>University of Reading  
<sup>5</sup>University of Melbourne, Australia  
<sup>6</sup>European Centre for Medium-Range  
Weather Forecasts

### Introduction

Scientists concerned with climate variability and change have, from the very beginning, recognized the importance of observations to our understanding of the atmosphere and the application of atmospheric science to human affairs. Without accurate, high-quality observations on all time and space scales, climate science and services could make only limited progress. Systematic international coordination of weather and climate observations began around the middle of the nineteenth century, and advanced rapidly in the 1960s and 1970s as the advent of digital computers and Earth-observing satellites inspired the establishment of the operational World Weather Watch and the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. But the really great step forward came in the 1980s with the realization that understanding and predicting climate would require the involvement of a much wider set of scientific communities and comprehensive observation of the entire atmosphere-ocean-land-ice system. This inspired the vision for an integrated Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). The GCOS was formally established in 1992 as an international interagency, interdisciplinary framework for meeting the full range of national and international needs for climate observations. Its goal is to provide comprehensive information on the total climate system, involving a

multidisciplinary range of physical, chemical and biological properties and atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic, cryospheric and terrestrial processes. It is co-sponsored by three United Nations System organizations, under the leadership of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the non-governmental International Council for Science (ICSU), and it consists mainly of the climate-relevant components of their established global observing systems for the atmosphere, ocean and land. It serves as the climate component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and supports all components of the World Climate Programme (WCP), the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCSS), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The purpose, objectives, concept of operation, governance and financial arrangements for GCOS are set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) amongst its sponsors. The MOU originally provided for a Joint Scientific and Technical Committee (JSTC); this was replaced in 1998 by a Steering Committee (SC). To regulate the overall concept and scope of the GCOS and to provide scientific and technical guidance to climate observing organizations and agencies for its planning, implementation and further development. The initial GCOS Plan was completed in 1995 and its further planning and implementation have proceeded, under the guidance of expert domain-based observing-system panels for the atmosphere, ocean and land, through the sponsor's established observing system coordination mechanisms as well as through the various national operational and research observing agencies of the member countries. Following a comprehensive assessment of the observational needs of parties to the UNFCCC, a specific Convention-focused Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC was finalized in 2004 and updated in 2010, and a series of Regional Action Plans (RAPs) for GCOS implementation for ten separate groups of developing countries were prepared over the period 2001-2006. The 2009 Third World Climate

Conference (WCC-3) identified GCOS as an essential element of the new GFCSS and its further development in support of climate services worldwide is an important focus of the GFCSS Implementation Plan called for by the May 2011 World Meteorological Congress.

Much has been achieved, over the past 20 years, through the establishment of the GCOS and its support for the WCP, the IPCC and the UNFCCC. But the need for reliable climate observations has grown rapidly. Climate observing networks in most parts of the world remain inadequate for meeting important current needs for climate information and they fall far short of what will be required over the coming decades to support a scientifically sound response to the adaptation and mitigation challenges of human-induced climate change.

As successive Chairs of the GCOS JSTC/SC over the past 20 years, we consider it timely to remind the international climate community of the origin and early planning of GCOS, to identify a few of the highlights and lessons learned from its early years, and to offer some views on its future development.

In the available space, we can tell only a very brief version of the GCOS story and must therefore refer interested readers to the extensive series of GCOS publications for the full picture. We include a short glossary at the end to facilitate navigation through the sea of acronyms that link the GCOS with the wider worlds of Earth observation and climate.

### Origin of the GCOS

The design of the WMO World Weather Watch (WWW) and the WMO-ICSU Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP) in the 1960s and 1970s had envisaged an operational- and research-based observing system that would meet the need for observations for climate services as well as for weather purposes. During the 1980s, though, it became clear that the emerging challenges of human-induced climate change would require a more climate-focused and better integrated observing system than could be provided solely by the WWW Global

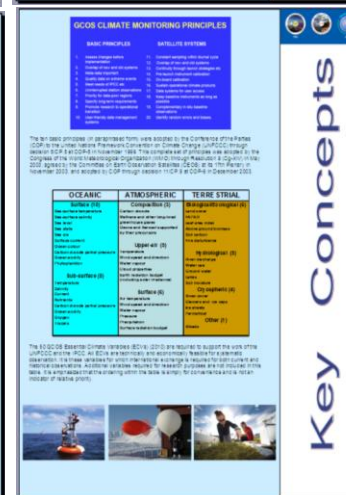
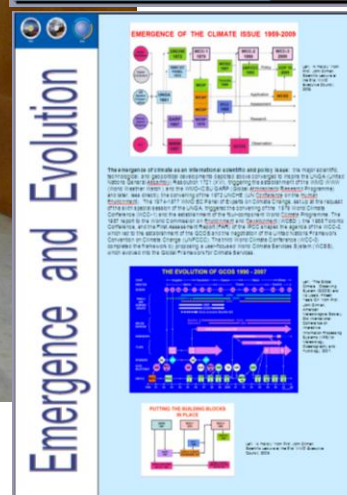
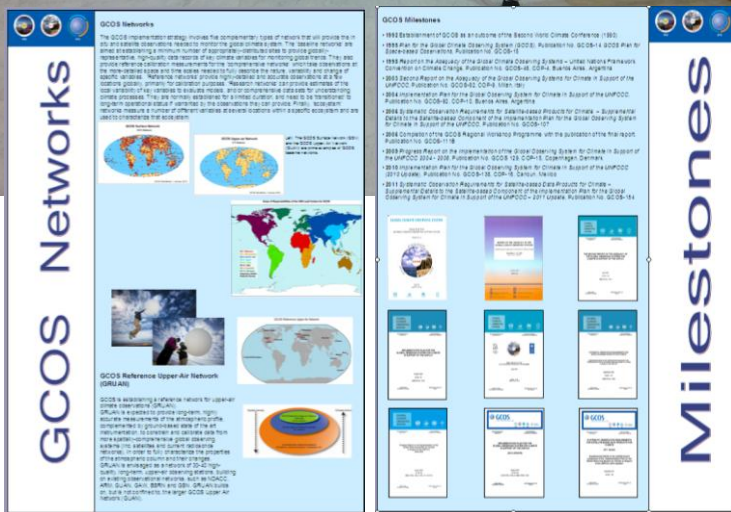


## Magazine International Innovation (September 2012)

## Article to be published in the RMetsS "Weather" in Sep 2012 issue



**There is now a range of about 20 posters available, which had been produced in relation to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibit.**





# Wie viele Leute arbeiten für GCOS?



**GCOS Secretariat (5)**

**GCOS Steering Committee (16 members, 1 Chairman)**

**GCOS Panels**

**für Atmosphäre, Ozeane und Land: (3 x 12 members, 3 Chairmen)**

**Cooperation Mechanism (2)**

**Mitarbeiter in den GTOS und GOOS Sekretariaten: (2)**

**National Coordinators: (23, plus staff)**

**Total: 90+**

**plus viele Experten, i.e., GRUAN, AGG, rapporteurs...**

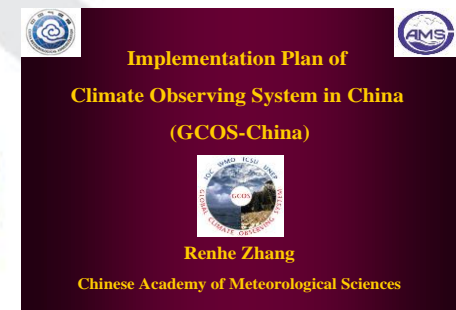
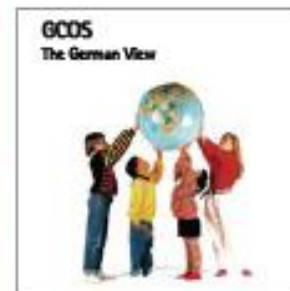
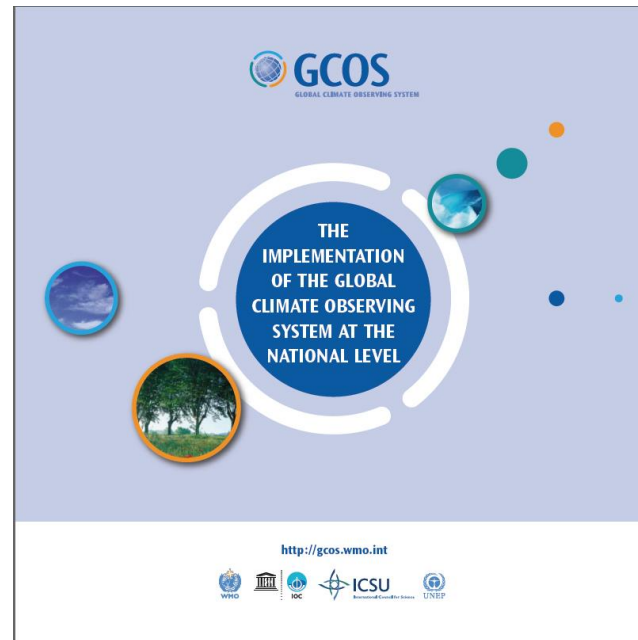
# Improving the global observing systems for climate ?



- Promote the actions in the GCOS Implementation Plan
- Operate a cooperation mechanism
- Develop Regional Action Plans
- Advocate national coordination



# Implementation – national



*Examples of effective coordination with Member countries:  
Switzerland, Australia, Germany and the United States of America.*

- <http://gcoss.wmo.int>



The screenshot shows the GCOS (Global Climate Observing System) website. The header features the GCOS logo and navigation links: News, Contact, Publications, Calendar, Site map. It also includes logos for WMO, IOC, UNEP, and ICSU, along with a Google Custom Search bar. A left sidebar lists menu items: News, About GCOS, Climate Observation Needs, Observing Systems and Data, Activities, Partners, Outreach, and Contact. The main content area is titled "News" and features a banner for "GCOS 1992-2012 - 20 Years in Service for Climate Observations". The banner includes three circular icons representing the years 1992, 2002, and 2012. Below the banner, the text reads: "GCOS 1992-2012 - 20 Years in Service for Climate Observations". The year 2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the system dedicated to ensuring provision of the observational data and information that is the foundation for decisions on climate. The GCOS Programme formally celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Global Climate Observing System on Friday, 29 June 2012 during the 64th WMO Executive Council meeting in Geneva. The celebration provided an opportunity to review the origins of the GCOS, to take stock of the accomplishments of GCOS in the first twenty years of its existence, and to think ahead about new opportunities and challenges for GCOS. Agenda of the Symposium "GCOS - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow": PDF. Download the presentations as zip-archive (92 MB). Download the brochure: "GCOS 1992-2012 - 20 Years in Service for Climate Observations". Below this, there is a section titled "Satellite Supplement up-dated in 2011". The supplemental details to the satellite-based component of the "Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC (2010 Update)" have been publicly reviewed and comments have been taken into account after consultation with the broader GCOS expert community. The so-called "Satellite Supplement" provides additional technical detail to the actions and needs identified in the in 2010 updated GCOS Implementation Plan related to satellite-based observations for climate for each of the Essential Climate Variables (ECVs). In particular, it details the specific satellite data records that should be sustained in accordance with the GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles, as well as other important supplemental satellite observations that are needed on occasion or at regular intervals. Download the document here: PDF. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Upcoming events".

**GCOS**  
GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM

News Contact Publications Calendar Site map

WMO IOC UNEP ICSU  
Google Custom Search Search

**News**

**GCOS 1992-2012 - 20 Years in Service for Climate Observations**

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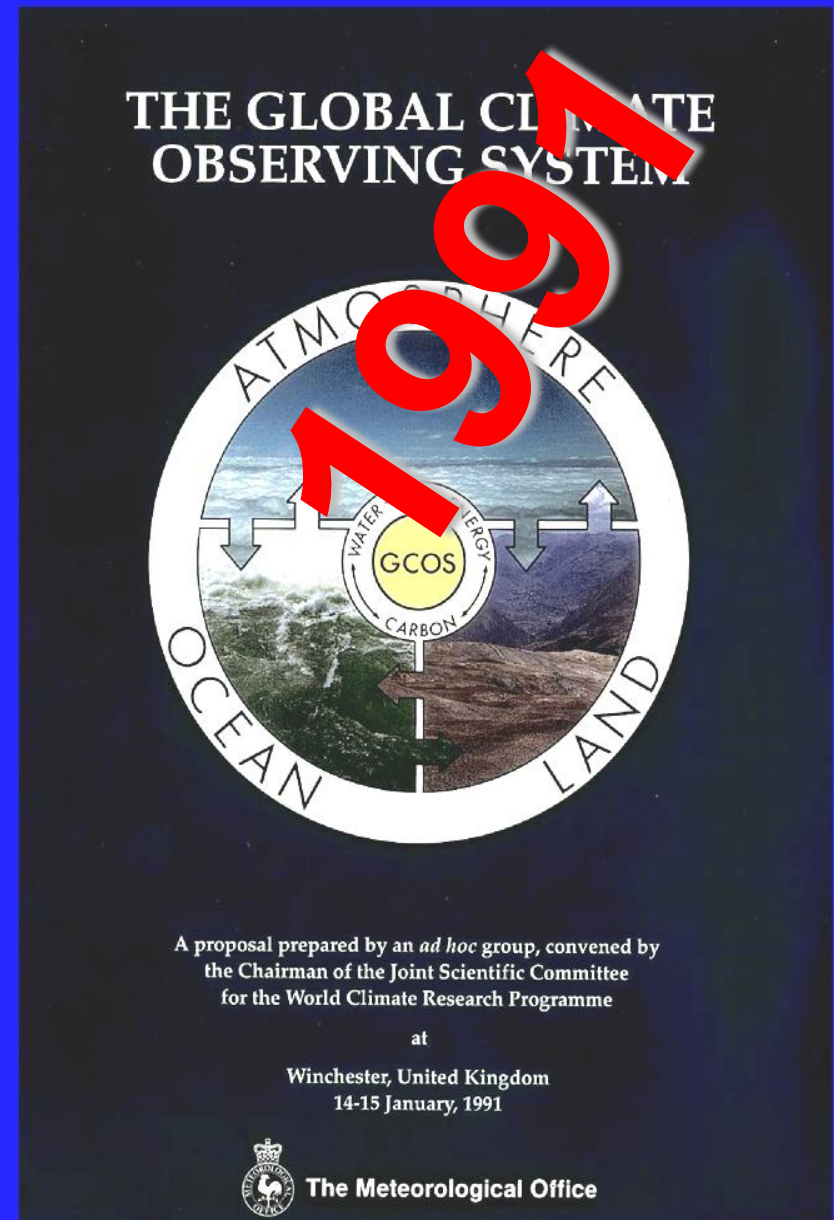
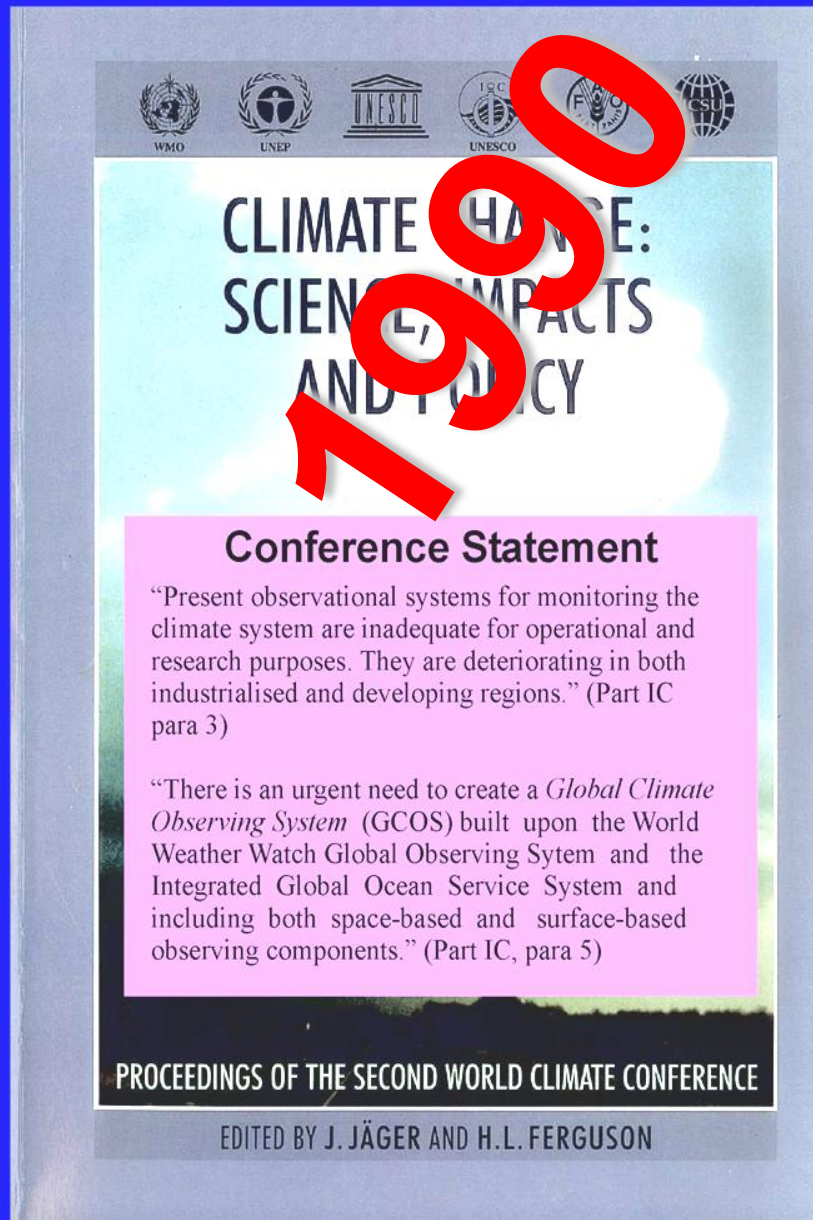
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Download the document here: [PDF](#)

**Upcoming events**



# ORIGIN OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS)



# GCOS – Space Based Observations

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## **Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS):**

### **(Research & Development Satellites)**

- CEOS Climate meeting, 1st Feb 2010 → establishment of an Working Group on Climate (chaired by Marc Dowell, JRC)

GCOS is invited as observer

- Strategic Implementation Team meetings
- Plenary, 24 – 25 October 2012, Bangalore, India

CEOS response to the GCOS Implementation Plan and its Satellite Supplement reported to COP18, SBSTA37, Doha, 25 Nov – 7 Dec 2012

## **Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS):**

### **(Operational Meteorological (and Climatological) Satellites)**

- Plenary 7 – 8 November 2012, Lugano, Switzerland

# GCOS – Space Based Observations

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- **ESA Climate Change Initiative (CCI)**
- **EUMETSAT – SCOPE-CM Sustained Coordinated Processing of Environmental Satellite Data for Climate Monitoring**
- **Architecture Requirements for Space based Climate Monitoring**

# GCOS – In-Situ Based Observations

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**GRUAN\* Meeting ICM-4, 5-9 March 2012, Tokyo, Japan**

**Next GRUAN meeting (ICM-5), 25-28 February 2013, Cabauw, The Netherlands.**

**GTN meetings: Global Terrestrial Networks**

**WMO Technical Commissions, in particular:**

- **Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) (every 2 years), currently met 2012, 2014...**
- **CBS-Lead Centre Meeting for GCOS, 10-14 Oct 2011, Hamburg**
- **Commission for Climatology (CCI) (every 4 years), next in 2014**

**GCOS Cooperation Mechanism (GCM): E.g., Madagascar**

**\*GRUAN = GCOS Reference Upper-Air Network**



**Table 1. Regional Workshop Programme Schedule**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Location of Regional Workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location of Action Plan Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Pacific Islands	Apia, Samoa	August 2000	Honolulu, Hawaii	October 2001
Eastern and Southern Africa	Kisumu, Kenya	October 2001	Nairobi, Kenya	January 2002
Central America and the Caribbean	San José, Costa Rica	March 2002	Bridgetown, Barbados	May 2002
East and Southeast Asia	Singapore, Singapore	September 2002	Beijing, China	March 2003
Western and Central Africa	Niamey, Niger	March 2003	Dakar, Senegal	September 2003
South America	Santiago, Chile	October 2003	Buenos Aires, Argentina	April 2004
Central Asia	Almaty, Kazakhstan	May 2004	Yerevan, Armenia	September 2004
South and Southwest Asia	New Delhi, India	October 2004	Isfahan, Iran	May 2005
Eastern and Central Europe	Leipzig, Germany	April 2005	Ljubljana, Slovenia	September 2005
Mediterranean Basin	Marrakech, Morocco	November 2005	Tunis, Tunisia	May 2006



## GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

revitalises key stations in baseline networks,  
using donations made for the purpose.

recent or forthcoming projects  
include support for:

- Climate Surface Network stations in Angola, Cuba, Madagascar and Zambia
- Radio sonde stations at Khartoum, Rarotonga and Yerevan
- Radiation network station in Nigeria

