Respondent

5   Anonymous

74:10
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** *

   Alvaro Scardilli

3. **Your email** *

   asscardilli@hidro.gov.ar

4. Your role in the GRA *

> Representative

GRA Overview

5. Vision and mission of the GRA *

> The Regional Alliance in Oceanography for the Southwestern and Tropical Atlantic (OCEATLAN) represents the regional effort of institutions from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, committed to the planning and implementation of an operational oceanographic system aimed at monitoring and studying oceanic processes in the South and Tropical Atlantic. OCEATLAN was established through the signing of a Letter of Intent by representatives of institutions from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, dedicated to the development of activities related to operational oceanography.

6. Affiliated organisations and agencies of the GRA *

- ☑ Governments/Member States

- ☑ Academia

- ☑ Research Institutions

- ☐ Regional organisations

- ☐ Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

- ☐ Private sectors

- ☐ Other

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

> GOOS-Brasil
> Red de Observación del Servicio de Hidrografía Naval de Argentina
> Red de Observación del Servicio de Oceanografía, Hidrografía y Meteorología de la Armada de Uruguay

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/

> The GOOS National Focal Point (NFP) in Argentina is Alvaro Scardilli, with whom we maintain contact through our work at the same institution.
> Brazil´s NFP participates in OCEATLAN meetings

9. Governance of the GRA. *

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

> The Technical Secretariat of OCEATLAN is the structural element responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Alliance. The Technical Secretary is appointed by the Hydrographic Office that holds the Chair, being responsible for searching and achieving the required funds for the exercise of its attributions.
>
> Steering Committee composed of the heads of the Hydrographic Offices of the three representative countries. They serve as President, First and Second Vice-presidents, and rotate serving as the President every two years.
>
> Executive Committee consisting of three representatives, one from each member country. The Executive Committee will be assisted by a Scientific Advisory Group made up of representatives of participating institutions, programs and projects.

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.

Implementation Plan (last revision/update December 2024)

Letter of Intent (last revision/update December 2024)

Action Plan (last revision/update December 2024)

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

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

http://www.oceatlan.org/

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

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

OCEATLAN works under a self-supported participation basis and does not provide financial assistance to support its activities, included those of the Chair or the Secretariat.

OCEATLAN's Project Managers, with the assistance of the leaders of their affiliated institutions, are responsible for seeking and obtaining the necessary resources for implementation.

GOOS-BR is a National Program funded by the Brazilian Government and, eventually by other research funds

The SHN funds its observing systems with resources from the national government, including donations of instruments.

Achievements since last GRA Forum (April 2024)

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

Annual meetings have been held since the creation of OCEATLAN.

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'.

- [x] 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)

- [x] Global Ocean Ship-Based Hydrographic Investigations Programme (GO-SHIP)

- [x] Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)

- [ ] OceanSITES

- [x] Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Moored Buoys (MB)

- [ ] Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Tsunami Buoys

- [x] Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Drifting Buoys (GDA)

- [x] 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

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)
- [x] 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. *

> OCEATLAN fosters cooperation among its members. There are not specific actions of the GRA, but each organization of the involved countries has its own.
>
> The SHN delivers products and services focused on navigational safety and risk management. These include hourly tidal height data at multiple locations along Argentina's riverine and maritime coasts, seabed characterization (sediment types such as sand, gravel, clay, etc.), current measurements, wave forecasts, and astronomical tide tables. These services complement national activities by providing standardized, high-resolution oceanographic and hydrographic data that support regional coordination and integration within OCEATLAN. While each country may conduct its own observations for local needs, the GRA facilitates the sharing of data, products, and forecasts across borders, enhancing situational awareness, maritime safety, and regional ocean monitoring.

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
- [x] Sustainable ocean planning
- [ ] Marine carbon capture and storage
- [x] Safety of life at sea
- [x] Coastal hazard warnings
- [ ] Disaster risk reductions
- [ ] Human health
- [x] Ocean science
- [ ] Other

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

> None

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.

IODE Internships in 2024 and 2025. Online courses through OTGA initiative.

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://goosocean.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	◉	○	○
Ocean surface stress	○	○	◉
Sea ice	◉	○	○
Sea surface height	◉	○	○
Sea surface temperature	◉	○	○
Subsurface temperature	◉	○	○
Surface currents	◉	○	○
Subsurface currents	◉	○	○
Sea surface salinity	◉	○	○
Subsurface salinity	◉	○	○
Ocean surface heat flux	○	○	◉
Ocean bottom pressure	○	○	◉
Turbulent diapycnal fluxes (*pilot)	◉	○	○

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

	Yes	No	No info
Oxygen	●	○	○
Nutrients	●	○	○
Inorganic carbon	●	○	○
Transient tracers	○	●	○
Particulate matter	○	●	○
Nitrous oxide	○	●	○
Stable carbon isotopes	○	●	○
Dissolved organic carbon	○	●	○

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	○	◉	○
Zooplankton biomass and diversity	○	◉	○
Fish abundance and distribution	○	◉	○
Sea turtles abundance and distribution	○	◉	○
Seabirds abundance and distribution	○	◉	○
Marine mammal abundance and distribution	○	◉	○
Coral cover and composition	○	◉	○
Seagrass cover and composition	○	◉	○
Macroalgal canopy cover and composition	○	◉	○
Mangrove cover and composition	○	◉	○
Microbe biomass and diversity (*pilot)	○	◉	○
Benthic invertebrate abundance and distribution (*pilot)	○	◉	○

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	◉	○	○
Ocean sound	◉	○	○
Marine debris (*pilot)	○	◉	○

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

> None

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 <u>partnerships</u> with regional networks, programme/project, countries; <u>new funding opportunities</u> including cooperation with industries; emerging requirements for <u>delivery of information and services</u>, and etc.

> Challenges
> Regional data integration: Although national systems are robust, consolidating standardized data across Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay requires continuous technical resources and coordination.
> Sustained funding: Maintaining and upgrading ocean observing systems relies on government resources and instrument donations; securing additional funding remains a constant challenge.
> Technical capacity and human resources: Specialized training in operational oceanography and data management needs to be strengthened to meet regional requirements.
>
> Opportunities
> Strengthening regional partnerships: Closer collaboration with other GRAs, research programs, and international networks such as GO-SHIP, Argo, and OceanSITES.
> New end-user services: Expansion of products derived from observational data, including coastal forecasts, tide alerts, and guidance for sustainable fisheries and maritime safety.
> Innovative funding and industry cooperation: Opportunities to access international funding and cooperate with industry to develop sensors, buoys, and observing platforms.

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

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

> Expand the coverage and quality of ocean data: Improve temporal and spatial resolution of tidal, current, and seabed quality measurements.
> Strengthen regional integration: Consolidate data interoperability among Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, ensuring products are comparable and accessible.
> Capacity building and training: Organize workshops, courses, and exchange programs for technicians and scientists from the three countries.
> End-user services and decision support: Improve delivery of information for maritime safety, sustainable fisheries, and coastal risk management.
> Participation in global observing networks: Increase contributions to international programs (GOOS, Argo, GLOSS, OceanSITES, etc.) to enhance regional visibility on a global scale.

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.

> Communication and visibility support: Promote OCEATLAN's achievements and data at regional and international levels.
> Capacity building and training: Provide workshops, mentoring, and technical training, including EOV data management and emerging technologies.
> Strengthening partnerships and cooperation: Facilitate connections with other GRAs, regional networks, and international projects.
> Support for funding and resources: Access to international funding, industry collaboration, and resources to modernize instruments and observing platforms.