View results

Respondent

6 Anonymous

241:03
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** *

AFFIAN kouadio

3. **Your email** *

k_affian@yahoo.fr

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

Chair

GRA Overview

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

"Harnessing ocean Observation to protect Africa's coasts, empower communities, and unlock sustainable blue economy opportunities

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

- [x] Governments/Member States
- [x] Academia
- [x] Research Institutions
- [x] Regional organisations
- [x] Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- [x] Private sectors
- [ ] Other

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

Meteorogic centers, research Institutions, Universities

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/

Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Tunisia, Rep Congo, Morrocco, Kenya. It can be noted that 21 african countries and small islands citizen are involved in GOOS AFRICA activities

9. **Governance of the GRA.** *

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

Chair, Vice-chair, Advisory Board, Coordinating Committee, Head of Working Group and members

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.

1- (MOU) is currently under review and undergoing revision
2- Mandate
Building up the African Critical Integrated Infrastructures and Human Capital for Ocean Observations, Forecasting, and Predictions Services for a Robust Blue Economic for Society and People as a contribution to the relevant African Agendas and Conventions, and international frameworks. GOOS-AFRICA is first and foremost the African Union Framework for a united integration of African Oceans and Coasts through ocean sciences, observations, monitoring, forecasting and predictions services for sustainable development in Africa.
With the establishment of the IOCAFRICA Sub-Commission, GOOS-AFRICA contributes to its operationalization from inception, achieving its institutional building for a robust sustainability.
Objectives
GOOS AFRICA aims to provide Ocean and Coastal Services to Africa, including:
• Effective management of coastal environments and resources
• Controlling pollution and safeguarding human health
• Supporting expansion of economic activities in the coastal and offshore areas
• Protection of the growing coastal populations and infrastructure, especially in the Great Harbour Cities of Africa
• Effective management of living marine resources
• Mitigation of natural disasters and extreme events and the impacts of climate change
• Promoting operational oceanography with a multi-modular mechanism including stand alone and interconnected work packages.
• In-situ observing stations in the coastal areas
• Satellite remote sensing of marine and coastal environments
• Ocean data assimilation, modelling & forecasting
• End-to-end communications & information delivery systems
• Strategic Business and Industry Partnerships
Project management integration and coordination.
3- Action plan: is currently under review and undergoing revision
4- GOOS Africa does not have its own data policy. However, the affiliated institutions each have their own data policies
5- Each of the five working groups has been requested to develop its own work plan

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

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

a draft of website is available. The coordinating committee is in charge to update it

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

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

Countries and Africa Union through GMES & Africa project

Achievements since last GRA Forum (April 2024)

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

1. May 2025: The African Scientific Conference dedicated to the Blue Economy
2. November 2025: second training course on remote sensing applied to oceanography

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)
- [x] Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS)
- [ ] OceanSITES
- [ ] Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Moored Buoys (MB)
- [x] Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP)/Tsunami Buoys
- [ ] 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)
- [x] 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?**

Several partner organizations conduct observation activities. Through GMES&Africa project one can note:
1. MarCOSIO
Full name: Marine and Coastal Operations for Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean
Region covered: Southern Africa and Western Indian Ocean
Focus areas:
• Ocean state monitoring (SST, sea level, currents)
• Marine safety and maritime surveillance
• Coastal vulnerability and erosion
• Water quality and harmful algal blooms
• Fisheries and marine resource management

2. MAMI WATA
Full name: Marine and Coastal Area Management in North and West Africa
Region covered: North Africa and West Africa
Focus areas:
• Coastal erosion monitoring
• Marine water quality
• Oil spill detection and pollution monitoring
• Fisheries support services
• Marine spatial planning
3. SAFARI
Full name: Safety of Navigation and Fisheries in Africa
Region covered: Pan-African (with strong West and Southern Africa components)
Focus areas:
• Maritime safety
• Fisheries monitoring and illegal fishing detection
• Vessel tracking and ocean monitoring services

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

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

- [x] Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)
- [x] IODE National Ocean Data Center (NODC)
- [ ] IODE Associate Data Unit (ADU)
- [ ] IODE Associate Information Unit (AIU)
- [x] 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. *

In collaboration with GMES&Africa, information, Products and Services are delivered to end users
in addition in term of Data assimilation and operational forecasting systems.
The African Regional Team of the Ocean Prediction Decade Collaborative Centre contributed to two Copernicus State of the Planet articles for the special edition entitled: 'Ocean Prediction: present status of the art. Jennifer Veitch (co-chair of African Regional team) led the paper: 'A description of ocean forecasting applications around the global' (https://doi.org/10.5194/sp-5-opsr-6-2025) and contributed to another: 'A description of ocean forecasting applications around the globe (https://doi.org/10.5194/sp-5-opsr-6-2025)'. In both publications her contributions were to describe the landscape of ocean forecasting and downstream applications in Africa and these publications can be referred to for a review of ocean forecasting activities in Africa

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
- [x] Sustainable fisheries
- [x] Coastal resilience
- [x] Climate resilience mitigation and adaptation
- [x] Sustainable ocean planning
- [ ] Marine carbon capture and storage
- [x] Safety of life at sea
- [x] Coastal hazard warnings
- [x] Disaster risk reductions
- [x] 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.

Capacity development • Organization of the second GOOS-AFRICA training session: Remote Sensing Workshop at CURAT (November 2025); • Compilation of national and institutional training activities related to ocean observation. ●Two participants sponsored by IOC-Africa did a cruise in SeaMester cruise- South Africa organized the cruise and several participants from the region participated. ●The South African Environmental Observation Networks SOMISANA (https://somisana.ac.za/) team ran workshops on operational oil spill tracking, using open and freely accessible tools at both the South African Marine Science Symposium as well as at WIOMSA. In addition, they ran a two week long workshop on ocean modelling using the Coastal and Regional Community Ocean Model (CROCO) in Cape Town.

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.**

No answer provided.

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.

Challenges
 Limited Financial resources to undertake more in situ onboard measurements and monitoring
 Purchasing of new equipment – resources are low
 Weak maintainance of equipment already installed
Opportunities
 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIM Strategy)
 UN Decade for ocean science and sustainable develop
 OPERA project : (Ocean Prediction Enhancement in the Regions of Africa)

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

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

 the implementation of the GOOS-AFRICA program, as adopted by the IOC assembly,
 Finalize the GOOS Africa website
 Finalize the GOOS Africa three-year strategic plan

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.

1. Communication Support
Priority: High (Immediate – 0–6 months)
GOOS-AFRICA requests strengthened communication support to enhance its visibility, coordination, and stakeholder engagement across the continent.
Specific needs:
• Technical and editorial support to finalize and operationalize the GOOS-AFRICA website
• Development of a communication strategy aligned with the global GOOS framework
• Design support (branding templates, newsletters, policy briefs, infographics)
• Support in amplifying African ocean observation activities through global GOOS channels
• Media and advocacy support during major global ocean events
Conclusion: Increased visibility will improve resource mobilization, stakeholder engagement, and political recognition of ocean observing in Africa.

2. Capacity Building Support
Priority: Very High (Immediate and Continuous)
Strengthening technical and institutional capacity remains critical for sustainable ocean observing systems in Africa.
Specific needs:
• Training programs on ocean observing standards, data management, and quality control
• Support for early-career ocean professionals (mentorship, exchange programs)
• Assistance in developing regional centers of excellence
• Support for proposal development and fundraising capacity
• Technical guidance for implementing the GOOS monitoring framework in African contexts

3. Partnership Building Support
Priority: High (0–12 months)
GOOS-AFRICA seeks support in strengthening strategic partnerships at regional and global levels.
Specific needs:
• Facilitation of formal collaboration between GOOS-AFRICA and global GOOS panels
• Support in engaging UN agencies, regional economic communities, and development banks
• Brokering partnerships with research institutions and operational oceanography agencies
• Support in aligning with the UN Ocean Decade initiatives

4. Leveraging Support from Member States
Priority: Very High (Immediate Political Engagement Needed)
Political buy-in and national commitment are crucial for long-term sustainability.
Specific needs:
• Support in high-level advocacy with African Member States
• Development of policy briefs targeted at ministers and national agencies
• Assistance in organizing ministerial or high-level side events