



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

**Contribution by UNESCO/IOC to the Report of the Secretary General to the 58th Session of the
General Assembly on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

January 2003

CONTRIBUTION BY UNESCO/IOC TO THE REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO
THE 58TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON "OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA"

MANDATE:

The 31st General Conference of UNESCO authorized the Director-General (a) to implement the
to increase scientific knowledge and understanding of oceanic

Policy activities

... of IOC governing bodies and the

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their resources". Even if Oceans are not mentioned in the Political Declaration, many statements call for the reinforcement of the current policies.

RESULT:

Adoption of relevant decisions and Resolutions on strategic or policy issues

A Special Committee held in HQs 4-14 June approved 8 resolutions on

[REDACTED]

... *... Ocean Science Programme critical scientific* ...

[REDACTED]

RESULT: **Research, monitoring and assessment for improved understanding of the responses of the marine ecosystem to global change are facilitated**

A significant progress has been achieved on linking physical indices to pelagic fish stocks. A GEF Targeted Research programme on climate change impacts on coral

To further develop within the GOOS and GCOS, the monitoring and

and coastal ocean

DESCRIPTION: The IOC, leading a partnership with WMO, UNEP and ICSU, began implementing GCOS in 1998. GCOS is part of an Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS).

wider community; Successful development of pilot projects designed to test new

management.

RESULT: The Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment (GODAE), and the Argo

relevant for the GOOS.

RESULT:

Expanded access to and application of remote-sensing technology as a contribution to building the capacity of developing countries to participate in and benefit from GOOS

Remote sensing of the ocean surface by a wide and growing variety of sensors on orbiting satellites is a fast growing source of ocean information. It is important that developing states make as much use as possible of this data, which is obtained by satellite overflights of their territories. Many Member States do not realise what is

of services on ship and buoy and float data to the wider community.

RESULT:

Effective functioning of the newly formed regional GOOS bodies

There are a number of GOOS regional bodies with specific interests in a common body of water. The GOOS Project office works with them to ensure that they can function effectively and are developing according to GOOS Principles so as to contribute to the overall global observing system.

Achievements in Some of the regional bodies are much more advanced than others, for example those around Europe and the United States, and require little or no attention. Most effort

for initial GOOS for the Indian Ocean

Main Line of Action 3: To further develop and strengthen the IODE system as a global mechanism to ensure open and full access to ocean data and management of relevant information for all

projects such as GODAR, GTSP, ASFA, GLODIR, SSSL.

Work has been finalized enabling scientists to describe

related to their ocean and coastal activities in Africa. The OceanPortal for the Caribbean and South America regions will be developed in cooperation with the Ocean Data and Information Network for the Caribbean and South America regions (ODINCARSA) project. Accordingly the focus countries will initially be the 15 IOC Member States cooperating in this project. Thematically the Portal will concentrate on management and sustainable development of the coastal. The training course for both, African and Caribbean/South American groups, was held on 13-17 May 2002.

RESULT:

OCMAP: regional bathymetric charts

Development of 6 regional international bathymetric charts such as IBCM, IBCWP, IBCWIO, IBCEA, IBCCA, and IBCAO as a contribution to GEBCO- information concerning the relief of the World Ocean and its geological/geophysical parameters provided to decision-makers and scientists

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RESULT:

ITSU/IDNDR: Tsunami warning system developmen t

Strengthening of the tsunami warning system in the Pacific to become