

# Implementing GCOS: What are the established processes?

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- This presentation describes how the GCOS panels are undertaking their major tasks of reviewing and updating ECV monitoring, requirements and implementation actions.
- The Steering Committee (SC) is invited to consider this approach and provide additional guidance:
  - Approve Terms of Reference for Panel Members
  - Take note of and discuss the
    - Implementation Plan (IP) Action Rapporteurs, and
    - ECV Stewards (as introduced by AOPC & TOPC)



- Panel Member Terms of Reference
- Panel mechanisms
  - Monitoring ECVS
  - Monitoring implementation of IP
- Cross-Panel Task Teams



# Panel Members, ECV Stewards, IP Action Rapporteurs

=> Letter of nominations incl. ToR

=> Give visibility on GCOS website & reports



## TOPC roles to clarify tasks and increase visibility

- Panel Chair } nominated by GCOS Secretariat
- Panel Members } n.by Panel Chair & GCOS Secretariat
- ECV Stewards
- IP Action Rapporteurs
- ECV Data Repositories } n.by Panel Chair



## General Regulations on Panel Members and Chairs Members (as of March 2010):

8) New Members should be nominated by the Panel Chairman, in consultation with all secretariats of the sponsoring programmes and the Steering Committees as appropriate.

### Chair:

14) Potential candidates for a Panel Chair shall be nominated in consultation with all of the secretariats of the sponsoring programmes.

15) The GCOS Secretariat shall be authorized by all sponsoring programmes to submit the final list of candidates to all Executive Heads of the sponsoring organizations. The Chairman shall be appointed by mutual consent



- Currently no Terms of Reference
  - Due to the high profile of the members and their other commitments, their time dedicated to GCOS is limited
  - Their commitment is not clear to new members
- **ToR with clear explanation of role needed**



## **MEMBERS OF THE GCOS PANELS SHALL**

- 1. In agreement with the panel chair(s), take responsibility to report to the panel for one, or a few, Essential Climate Variables and/or networks on:
  - a) the ECV requirements for long-term monitoring of the Earth's climate**
  - b) the adequacy of observing networks (in-situ, airborne, satellite-based), compared with the ECV requirements**
  - c) progress on actions contained on the latest GCOS Implementation Plan****
- 2. Contribute to the revision of the ECV, based on user needs for climate monitoring, adaptation and mitigation, as required**
- 3. Contribute to the regular updating of the GCOS Status Report and Implementation Plan**



4. Liaise with relevant research and operational communities
5. Attend one panel meeting a year (usually in the first quarter of the year)
6. Take part in panel teleconferences as decided by the panel chairs,  
(expected to be at least 4 times a year)
7. The term of a panel member shall be 3 years with a possible extension of  
a further 3 years approved by the GCOS steering committee
8. Undertake, in agreement with the panel chair(s), other tasks in line with  
the panel Terms of Reference





**IN ADDITION, THE PANEL CHAIRS SHALL:**

- 1. Coordinate the panels and their meetings**
- 2. Attend the GCOS Steering Committee once a year and report on panel activities**
- 3. Attend the annual panel meeting and prepare the meeting report**
- 4. Manage panel teleconferences as needed (expected to be at least 4 times a year)**
- 5. Ensure all ECV observations are monitored by experts**
- 6. Ensure that all ECV requirements are reviewed and that all comments received from users, relevant scientific communities, and from public review are appropriately considered**
- 7. Ensure the panel works in line with its Terms of Reference**
- 8. The panel chairs shall serve a term of 3 years with a possible extension of a further 3 years approved by the GCOS steering committee**



- AOPC and TOPC have appointed ECV Stewards and IP Rapporteurs to distribute the responsibilities for monitoring and updating ECV requirements and the IP.
- OOPC has Panel member ECV/EOV contact points and works with other Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) panels, the Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology Observations Coordination Group (JCOMM OCG).



- Panel member contact points for every **physics ECV** and works with GOOS panels for **chemistry and biology ECVs**; and works with JCOMM OCG for reporting on IP network based actions, utilising JCOMM Observing Programmes Support Centre (OPS) capability
- Reps from GOOS Biogeochemistry and Biology Ecosystem panels attending Marrakech meeting to better understand GCOS approach and expectations.
- GCOS and GOOS Leadership to discuss and agree on guidance for OOPC to meet both programmes' needs, noting that GCOS expectations also affect other panels and constructs in GOOS (see GCOS-GOOS Paper).
  - GCOS TORs for Panel members, ECV Stewards, IP Rapporteurs useful input



## Current Terms of Reference:

1. To review how well each ECV product is monitored against the ECV product requirements and provide a short, written, report in advance of each panel meeting (this should be short ½ - 1 page, and highlight good points, developments any problems and issues, this can be updated annually and will be one basis of the update to the status report)
2. To review relevant comments on the panels web forum and report significant suggestions/problems/issues to the panels
3. To consider the adequacy of the ECV product requirements together with any comments received on the panel forum, make proposals for revising the requirements for public review in advance of the update of the Implementation Plan.
4. To report any significant issues to panel telecons
5. ECV Stewards should be reviewed by the Panel Chair every 3 years



## Current Terms of Reference:

1. To check the progress in the actions in the 2016 GCOS Implementation Plan allocated to them.
2. To prepare a ½ page report for panel meetings and update this annually. This will form the basis of an update to the status report and as input into updating the Implementation Plan to be finalized in 2022.
3. IP Action Rapporteurs should be reviewed by the Panel Chair every 3 years



- For the next GCOS IP foreseen for 2022, the observation requirements for the ECVs need to be updated
- The Panels started discussions on how to structure the process and the nature of the requirements (e.g. how to frame uncertainty requirements)
- The goal is to agree on a structure and process during the Joint Panel Meeting 2019 in order to allow extensive and detailed discussions with the different communities



- Fixed term, Cross panel task teams are established to facilitate panels working together:
  - Metadata, GSRN, ...
- Additional teams should be established as needed:
  - E.g. Air-Sea Fluxes, coastal, adaptation

**=> Guidance need from SC, panel chairs & secretariat  
towards Marrakesh 2019!**



The Steering Committee (SC) is invited to consider this approach and provide additional guidance:

- **Approve Terms of Reference for Panel Members**
- **Note the IP Action Rapporteurs and ECV Stewards**

Discussion points:

1. Are these mechanisms sufficient?
2. Should there be a specific group to monitor the climate cycle targets in the IP?
3. **Should ECV data repositories be officially recognized?**
4. How should contributions be recognized?

