

## **GEBCO ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES**

Submitted by Secretary

### **SUMMARY**

Executive Summary: This document provides details of International Programmes with which the GEBCO Project is currently involved, seeks to confirm the appropriateness of this engagement and whether to broaden this engagement.

Action to be taken: See paragraph 5

Related documents: GGC ToRs and RoPs dated 11 September 2015; GGC33/4/2/2

1. The current Terms of Reference (ToR) and Rules of Procedure (RoP) for the Joint IHO-IOC GEBCO Guiding Committee include, in the goals, the GGC is to:
  4. Encourage and facilitate ocean mapping cooperation leading to the exchange and preservation of bathymetric data and associated metadata;
  5. Foster collaboration among individuals and organizations with established and developing expertise so as to assist local and regional mapping efforts to attain a global standard of quality;
  6. Identify oceanic areas that are insufficiently mapped and recommend to appropriate ocean-going organizations and institutions that such areas are surveyed;
  8. Bring together the ocean mapping community and users of bathymetry thereby leading to products that are more widely used.
2. The ToR also state, in articles, that the GGC shall:
  5. Stimulate the flow of data relevant to the GEBCO Project by actively identifying sources of new data and encouraging and promoting the release of data to appropriate data banks, with the objective of ensuring that maximum available data are provided to the IHO Data Centre for Digital Bathymetry (DCDB);
  11. Engage with regional mapping projects to encourage their compatibility with, and eventual inclusion in, GEBCO products; and
  14. Take all practical opportunities to advocate the scientific and societal benefits of mapping the seafloor.
3. The list of those International and Regional Programmes with which the GEBCO Project currently has some knowledge includes: ICSU WDS, IODE, POGO, IRSO, WRI, GEOSS, IIOE2, Atlantos, EMODNet, AORA, GEO, WOC and ISA. It is considered there are a number of other programmes with which engagement could be of benefit and which

could result in the provision of additional bathymetric data not already included in the GEBCO\_Grid.

4. It is felt this is an initiative which falls under the remit of the Seabed2030 Outreach activities, thus the GGC could task the Project Director to report at future meetings with which organizations and international programmes he has had contact and detail any outcomes relevant to GEBCO and the Seabed2030 project. The GGC also provides the opportunity to review this engagement and make any proposed adjustments in focus.

5. The GGC is invited to:

- a. **Note** the information provided;
- b. **Identify and prioritise** International and Regional Programmes with which engagement is deemed advantageous for the Seabed2030 project;
- c. **Direct** the Project Director to initiate engagement with identified organizations or international programmes and report of outcomes; and
- d. Take any other **Action** deemed appropriate.

Glossary:

ICSU WDS – International Council for Science's World Data System

IODE – International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange

POGO – Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans

IRSO – International Research Ship Operators

WRL – Water Research Laboratory

GEOSS – Global Earth Observation System of Systems

IIOE2 – Second International Indian Ocean Expedition

AtlantOS – Optimizing and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System

EMODNet – European Marine Observation and Data Network

AORA – Atlantic Ocean research Alliance

GEO – Group on Earth Observations

WOC – World Ocean Council

ISA – International Seabed Authority