

2.1 GCOS Origin

2.2 The history of GCOS

31st Session of the GCOS Steering Committee
Geneva, 2-5/07/2024

Thelma Krug and Peter Thorne



Supported by the European Union



The United Nations System

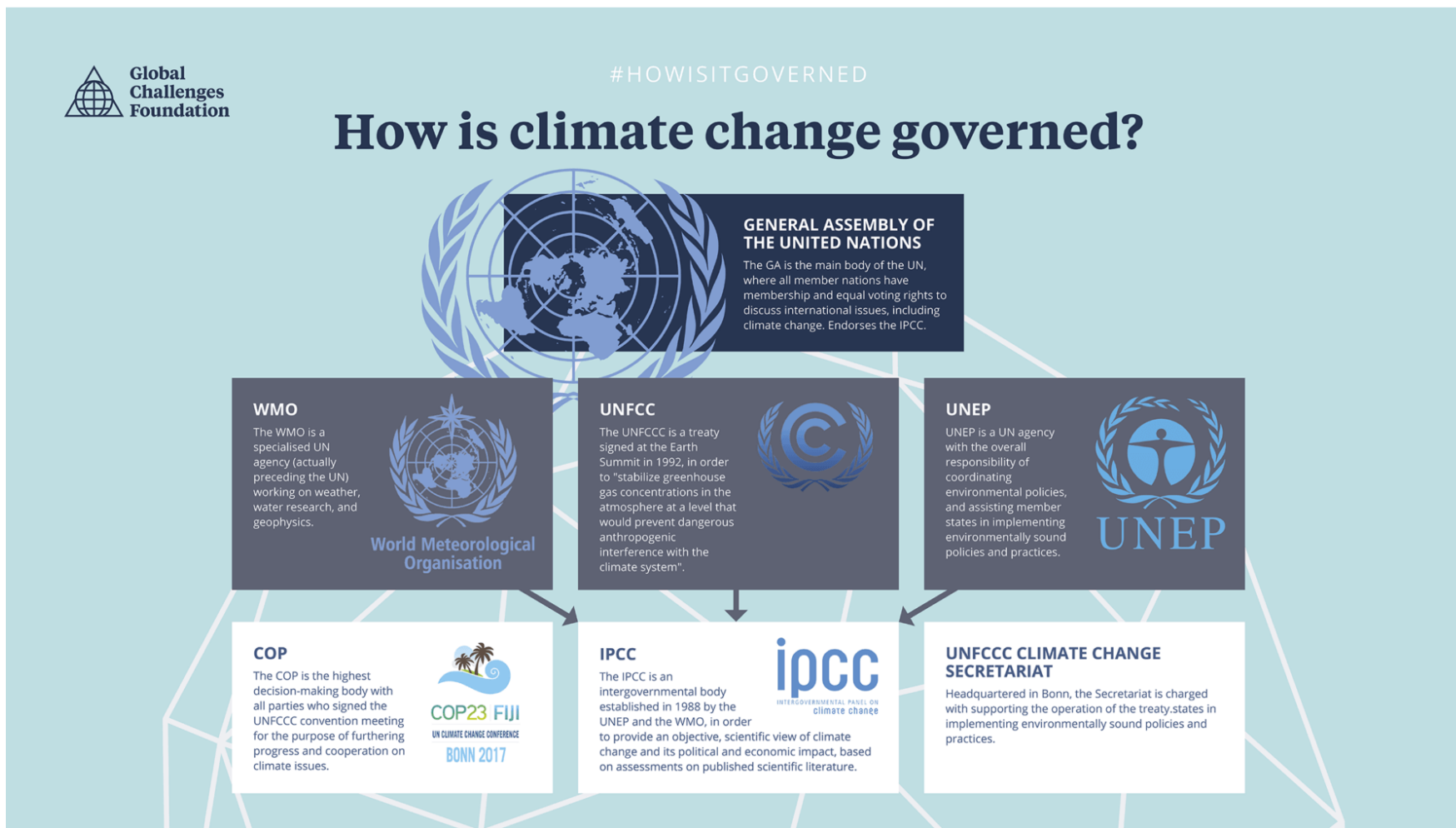


Who takes care of climate?

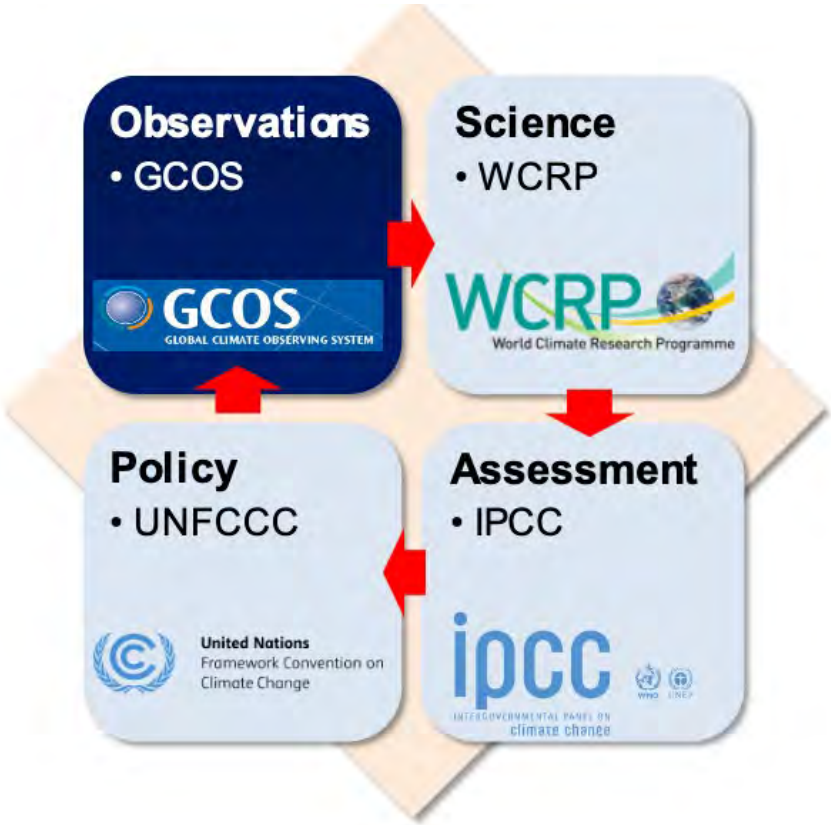
- Specialized Agencies^{5,6}**
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
 - IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
 - ILO International Labour Organization
 - IMF International Monetary Fund
 - IMO International Maritime Organization
 - ITU International Telecommunication Union
 - UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
 - UNWTO World Tourism Organization
 - UPU Universal Postal Union
 - WHO World Health Organization
 - WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
 - WMO World Meteorological Organization
 - WORLD BANK GROUP⁷
 - IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 - IDA International Development Association
 - IFC International Finance Corporation



Who takes care of climate CHANGE?



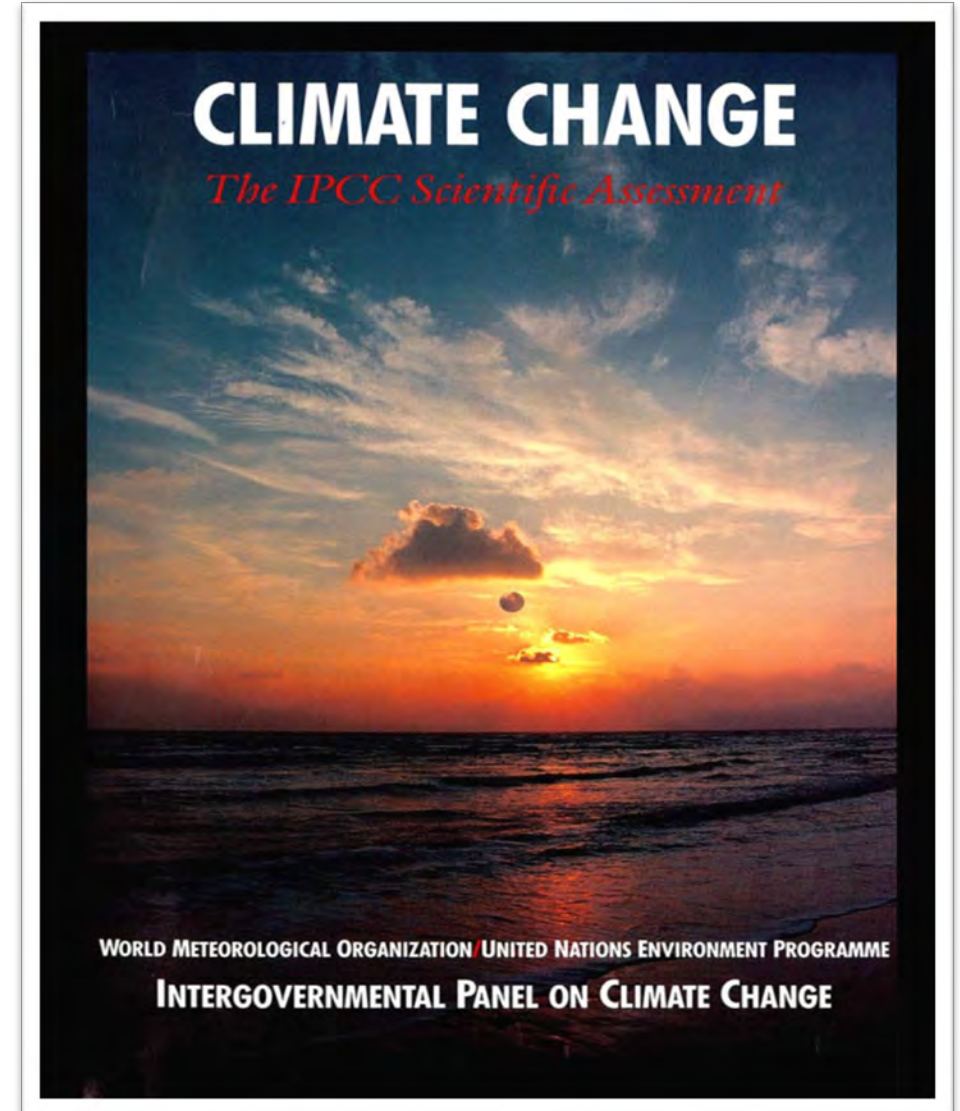
Who takes care of climate CHANGE?



Importance of observations for Climate

IPCC First Assessment Report (1990)

IPCC concluded „that improved predictability of (human induced) climate change would require improved systematic observation of climate related variables on a global basis“



Second World Climate Conference (WCC-2) Ministerial Session



WMO UNEP UNESCO FAO ICSU

CLIMATE CHANGE: SCIENCE, IMPACTS AND POLICY

“Present observational systems for monitoring the climate system are inadequate for operational and research purposes. They are deteriorating in both industrialised and developing regions...”

“There is an urgent need to create a **Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)** built upon the World Weather Watch Global Observing System and the Integrated Global Ocean Service System and including both space-based and surface-based components.....”.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE

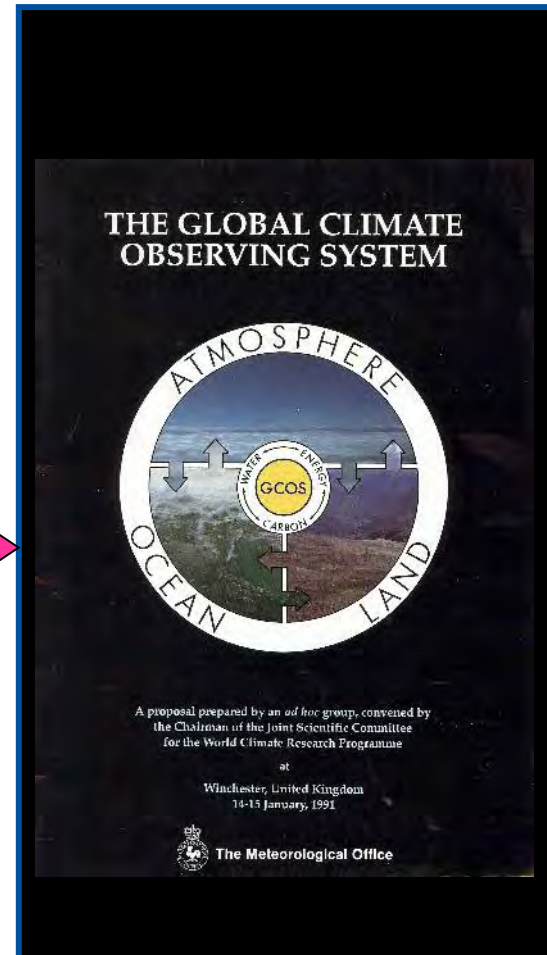
EDITED BY J. JÄGER AND H.L. FERGUSON

Establishment of GCOS

WCC-2 Ministerial Declaration 7 November 1990



Winchester Proposal January 1991



GCOS MOU April 1992

WMO IOC of UNESCO UNEP ICSU

- Noting 1-6
- Recognizing.....
- Considering...
- Agree 1-5
- Agree further....
- Approve:
 - Annex A
 - Annex B
 - Annex C
- Agree....
- Agree....
- Agree....

Annex A Concept of the Global Climate Observing System
Annex B Terms of Reference, Structure and Functions of the JSTC and JPO
Annex C Financial Arrangements

The Concept of GCOS

Goal

To provide comprehensive information on the total climate system, involving a multi-disciplinary range of physical, chemical and biological properties and atmospheric, oceanic, hydrologic, cryospheric and terrestrial processes.

Objectives

To support all aspects of the World Climate Programme and relevant aspects of other climate-related global programmes.....

Needs to be met

Climate system monitoring. Climate change detection and attribution. Operational climate prediction. Research towards improved understanding, modelling and prediction. Applications and services. Requirements of IPCC and UNFCCC.

Design philosophy

Build on existing operational and scientific observing, data management and information distribution systems (especially GOS, GAW, GOOS, GTOS, IGBP) and further enhancements of these systems



GCOS



WMO



unesco
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission



International
Science Council



UN
environment
programme

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

(May 1992)

Article 4 Commitments

All Parties shall:

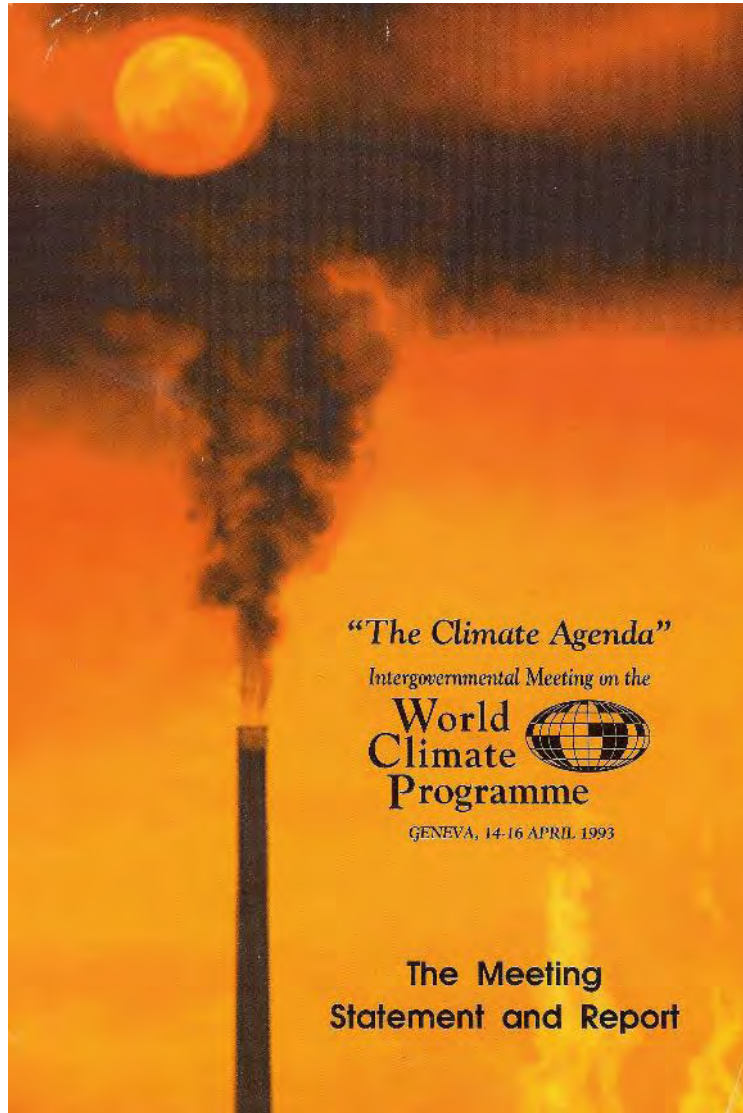
- 1(g) Promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, **systematic observation** and development of data archives related to the climate system.....**

Article 5 Research and Systematic Observation

In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(g), the Parties shall:

- (a) Support and further develop...programs and networks or organizations aimed at defining, conducting, assessing and financing research, data collection and **systematic observation**, taking into account the need to minimize duplication of effort;**
- (b) Support international and intergovernmental efforts to strengthen **systematic observation**....particularly in developing countries, and to promote access to, and the exchange of, data and analyses thereof.....**

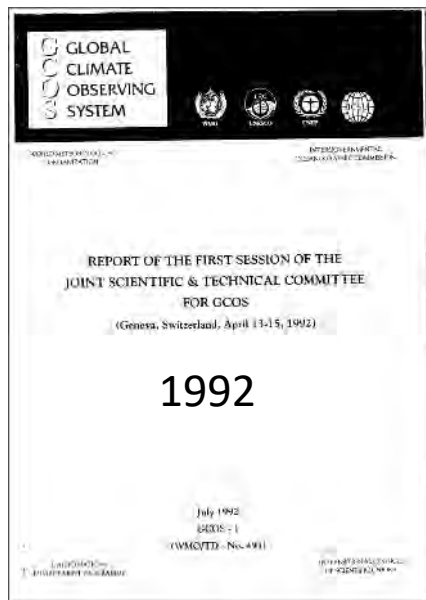
Intergovernmental Meeting (1993) and the Climate Agenda



Statement on the Climate Agenda (16 April 1993)

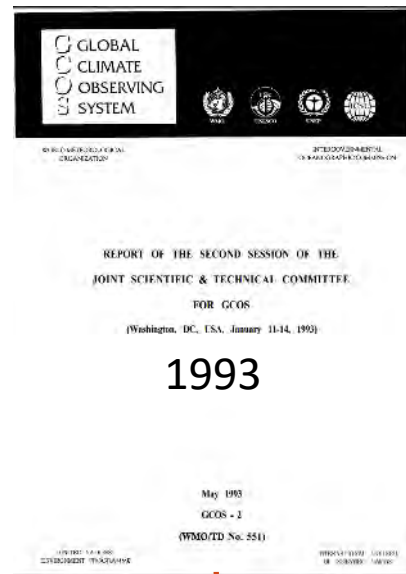
The Meetingendorsed the proposed four main thrusts of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its associated activities:

- Climate services for sustainable development;
- New frontiers in climate science and prediction
- **Dedicated observations of the climate system**
- Studies of climate impact assessments and response strategies to reduce vulnerability.



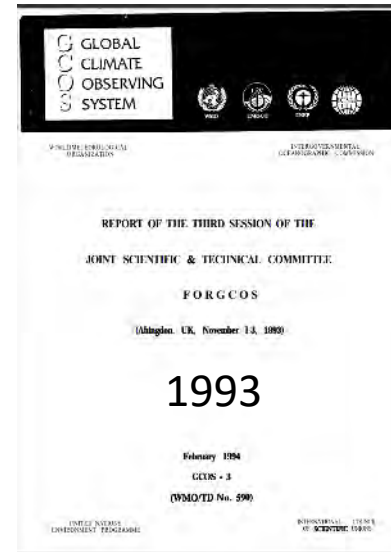
1992

- Plans for a GCOS Implementation Plan
- Establishment of Task Groups
- Publishing of a brochure
- Funds



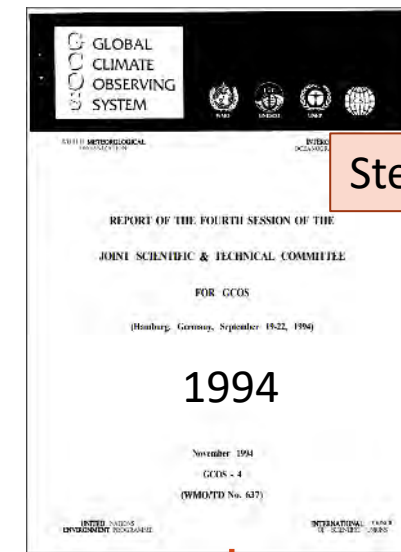
1993

- Presentation of national Plans for GCOS: Germany, UK, Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Nigeria, China
- Establishment of groups to address the atmosphere, ocean, land surface processes and the data system



1993

- Establishment of the 3 panels for atmosphere, terrestrial and oceanic observations
- Task groups on data management and space-based observations
- Reports of national activities



1994

- Report of the GCOS Data System Task Group
- Report of the GCOS Atmospheric Observation Panel: first session
- Report of the GCOS Space-based Observation Task Group
- Report of the GCOS/GTOS Terrestrial Observation Panel: first session
- Report of the GCOS Working Group on Socio-economic Benefits, first session

Steering Committee

The GCOS Plan 1995

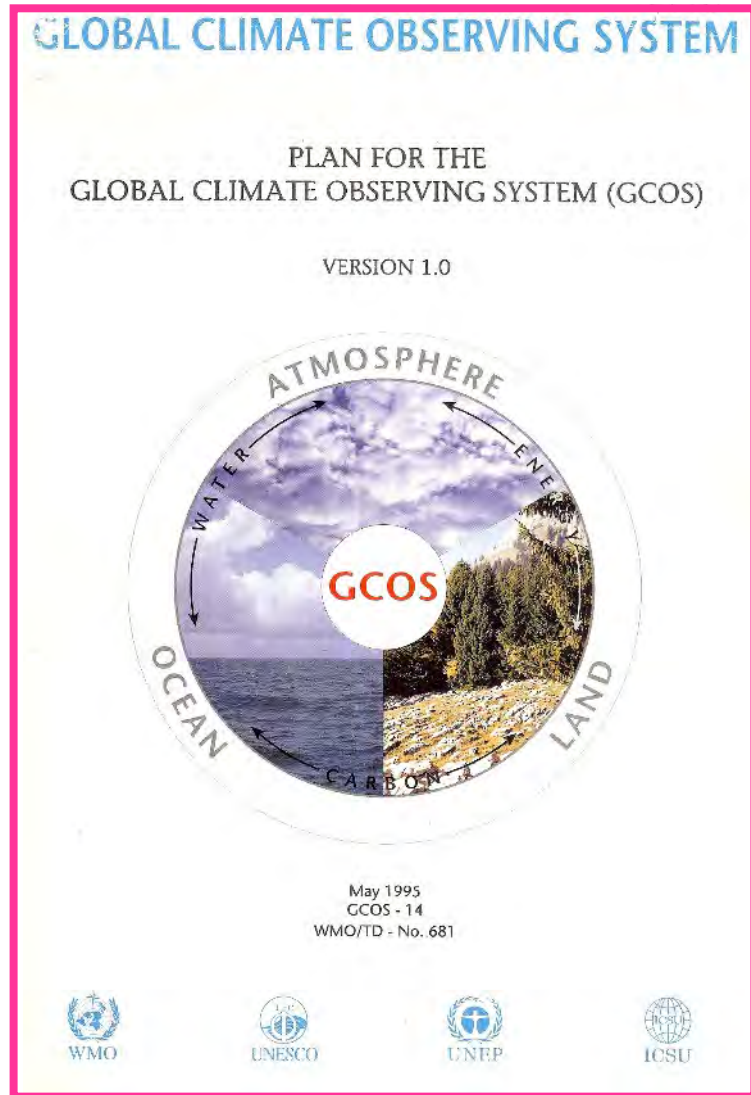
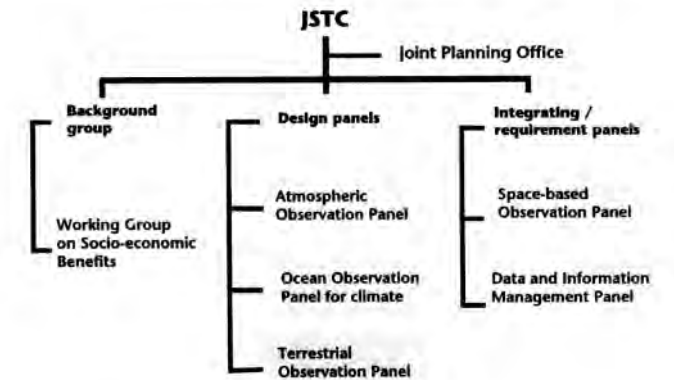


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The plan was the basis for the evolving activities of GCOS and presented the detailed plans for GCOS, including overall concepts, strategy, relevant scientific issues, recommendations and toles for participating organizations.

STRUCTURE OF THE JOINT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ANNEX II

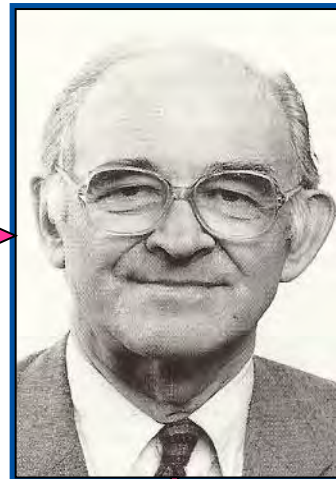


WCRP Conference, Kyoto, First Adequacy Report, Regional Workshops and Action Plans

WCRP Conference August 1997



Prof Bert Bolin



UNFCCC
COP-3
Kyoto Dec 97

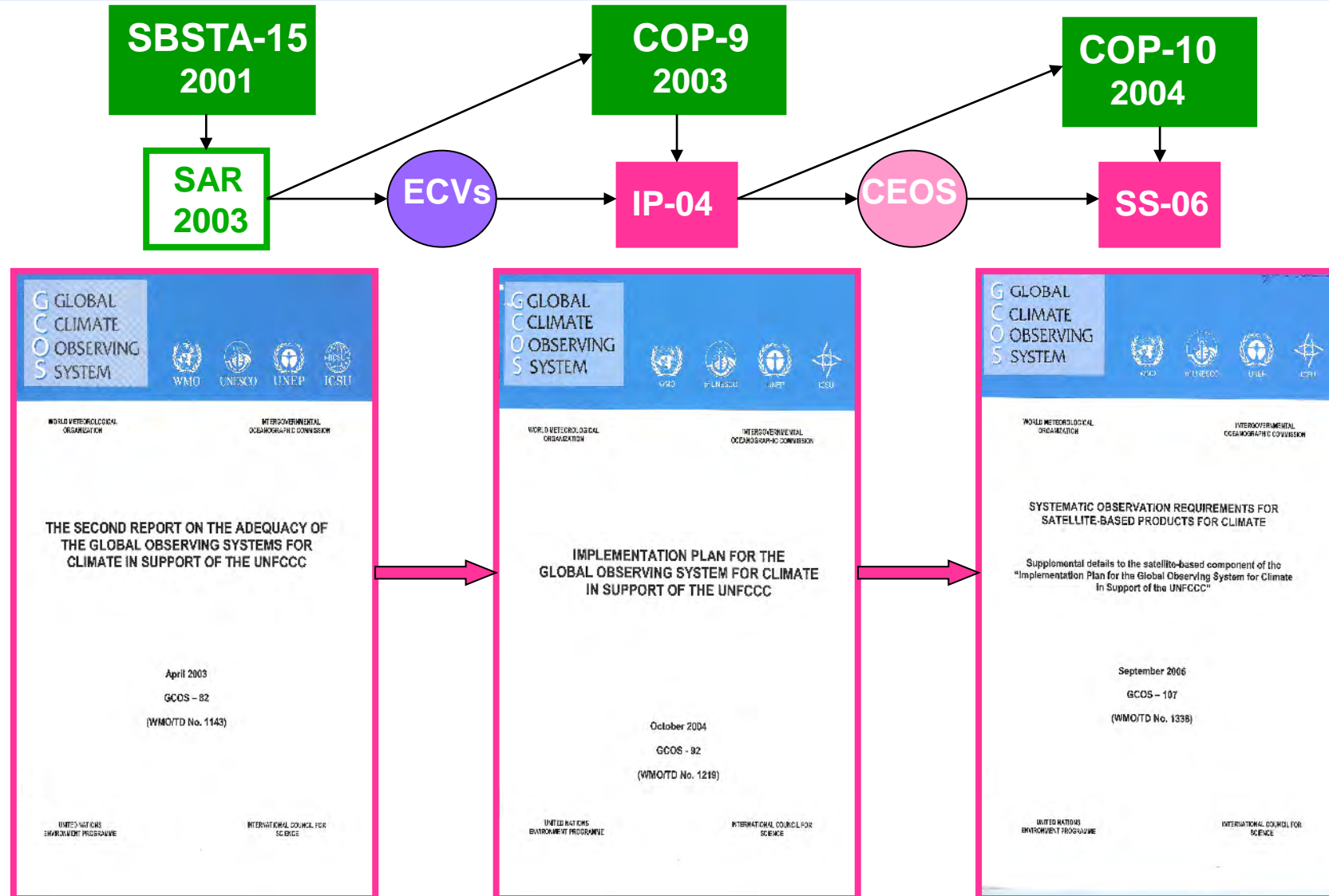
First Adequacy
Report (FAR)
(1998)

Regional Action Plans

- Pacific Islands
- Eastern and Southern Africa
- Western and Central Africa
- Central America and the Caribbean
- East and Southeast Asia
- Central Asia
- South and Southwest Asia
- South America
- Eastern and Central Europe
- Mediterranean Basin

Regional
Workshops (2000-06)
(UNDP, GEF)

Second Adequacy Report (2003), Implementation Plan (2004) and Satellite Supplement (2006)



The Essential Climate Variables

Conclusion 1: Achieving global coverage and climate-quality observations for the variables in table 1 is essential to ensure that the needs of the UNFCCC and the IPCC for systematic climate information are addressed (2004)

Table 1. Essential Climate Variables that are both currently feasible for global implementation and have a high impact on UNFCCC requirements.

Domain	Essential Climate Variables
Atmospheric (over land, sea and ice)	<p>Surface: Air temperature, Precipitation, Air pressure, Surface radiation budget, Wind speed and direction, Water vapour.</p> <p>Upper-air: Earth radiation budget (including solar irradiance), Upper-air temperature (including MSU radiances), Wind speed and direction, Water vapour, Cloud properties.</p> <p>Composition: Carbon dioxide, Methane, Ozone, Other long-lived greenhouse gases⁵, Aerosol properties.</p>
Oceanic	<p>Surface: Sea-surface temperature, Sea-surface salinity, Sea level, Sea state, Sea ice, Current, Ocean colour (for biological activity), Carbon dioxide partial pressure.</p> <p>Sub-surface: Temperature, Salinity, Current, Nutrients, Carbon, Ocean tracers, Phytoplankton.</p>
Terrestrial	<p>River discharge, Water use, Ground water, Lake levels, Snow cover, Glaciers and ice caps, Permafrost and seasonally-frozen ground, Albedo, Land cover (including vegetation type), Fraction of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (FAPAR), Leaf area index (LAI), Biomass, Fire disturbance.</p>

GCOS Status Report - the assessment cycle

Following the Second Adequacy Report in 2003, GCOS produced:

- an Implementation Plan in 2004
- a Supplement to the Plan in 2006 on requirements for satellite-based data products
- a Progress Report in 2009
- an updated Implementation Plan in 2010
- an updated Satellite Supplement in 2011

UNFCCC/SBSTA:

- welcomed the 2010 Plan and urged Parties to work towards implementation
- invited a subsequent progress report and encouraged a review of adequacy
- welcomed the timetable proposed by GCOS for
 - a Status Report in 2015
 - a further Implementation Plan in 2016

Latest Documents

- Status Report 2021
- Implementation Plan 2022

Sponsors: WMO, IOC, UNEP, ISC

3 panels (Atmosphere, ocean, terrestrial); 2 cross-panel: data and information management (dissolved in 2000) and space/satellite observations (dissolved in 2000)

GCOS Secretariat: full director and administrative support, 3-4 scientific officers

Reporting to UNFCCC with status reports and implementation plans; GCOS monitoring principles 1999)

ECV concept: Implementation Plan in 2004 uses the ECV concept for 44 variables

National GCOS:

- Informal meetings with national Coordinators were held in 2000
- Brief summaries of GCOS-related activities in their respective countries, including Australia, China, Germany, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States were presented to GCOS SC (ex of 2000)
- Regional workshops to identify the priority capacity-building needs of developing countries related to participation in systematic observation were initiated (first regional workshop in 2000)
- National Communications on systematic observations for climate which are to be submitted to the UNFCCC/COP initiated

GCOS Cooperation Mechanism: established in 2004

Networks: GUAN and GSN established (1993), GTN-G, GTN-P established; no reference networks



GCOS Reviews

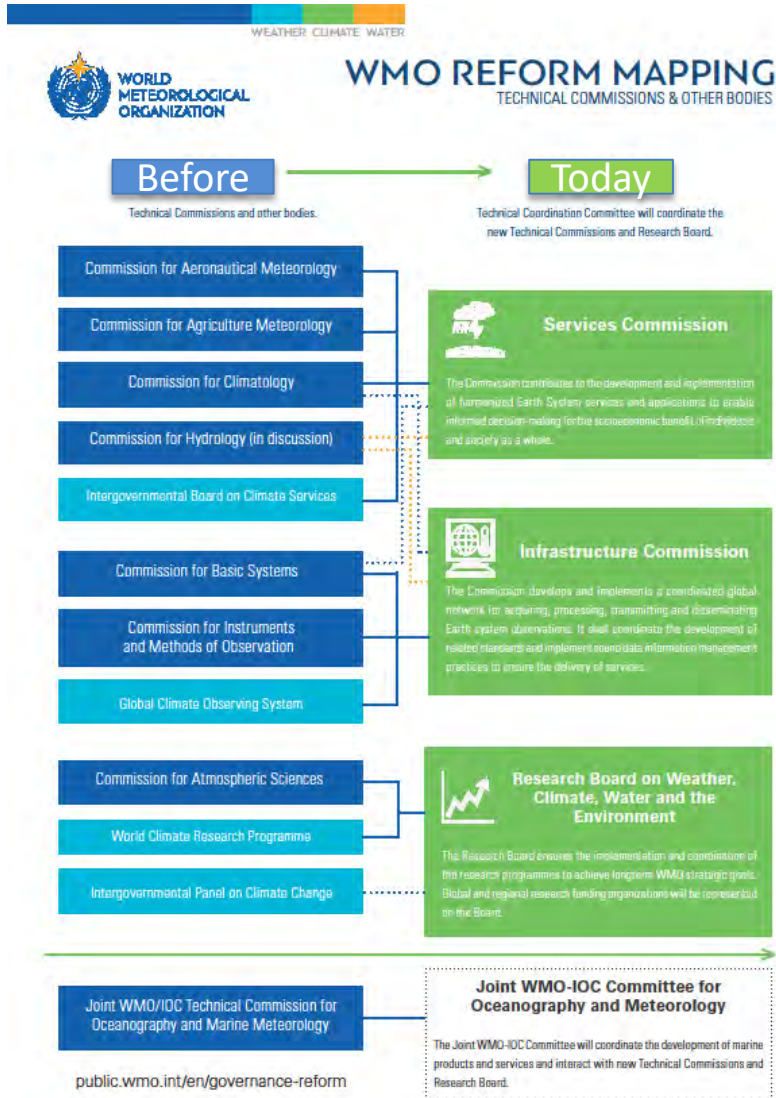
GCOS Review – 2012-2014

- **The climate community needs GCOS**
- Revision of the MoU: commitments from sponsors, optimized structure for the GCOS Secretariat, the Steering Committee and the Panels
- Support by a more stable financial foundation
- Increase visibility
- Improve terrestrial observations
- Better approach to capacity building
- Strengthen its ties to national governments by promoting the role of national and regional coordinators
- Develop a communication strategy to communicate the unique value of GCOS
- elaborate the ECV concept to specify its key deliverable and outputs

Joint Study Group on GCOS - 2020-2022:

- **GCOS is recognized as a powerful and authoritative mechanism for the international coordination, planning, developing and review of Climate Observing Systems and networks.**
- Revision of the MoU
- GCOS should improve its engagement with stakeholders and partners
- continue to address new challenges (energy, water and carbon climate cycles, support climate adaptation and mitigation measures and policies, and address the biosphere, biodiversity and biogeochemistry)
- Build close linkages with INFCOM and SERCOM

WMO REFORM



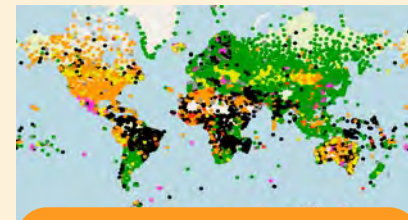
GCOS – Today

Climate-related infrastructure – must be designed and managed globally

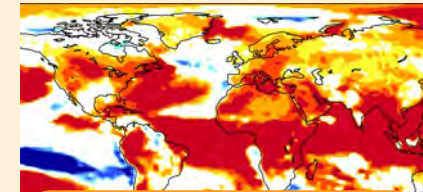
GCOS addresses observations and data exchange but is informed by the needs of the whole value chain



Observations from the entire globe



International exchange of observations



Global climate modelling

GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

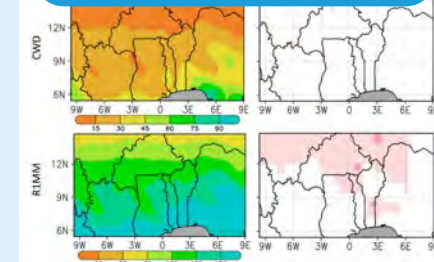
Effective decision making and action



Delivery of climate services



Local Data Processing, forecast, warning and advisory products



Last-mile activities undertaken at regional, national and local level

GCOS role and impact

Climate Monitoring:

GCOS:

- works across systems and across domains ensuring the monitoring of all components of the climate system.
- provides priorities in terms of observations and reanalysis
- provides guidance on the design of future satellite missions and of in-situ networks (including reference networks)

Climate Services:

- GCOS supports the delivery of climate data, underpinning services.
- GCOS work on historical data exchange and data archive supports the Copernicus Climate Data Store and the provision of in-situ data required for reanalysis.
- C3S/Copernicus contractual agreements with services providers are determined by the list of ECV/ECV quantities defined by GCOS (and now being reviewed)

Climate policies:

- GCOS responds to the UNFCCC, periodically delivering the GCOS Status Report, the Implementation Plan and participating in the Earth Information Day
- Through its work in stewardship ECVs, GCOS provides information that is used in reports and assessments useful for decision making

Climate research:

- GCOS has ensured the continuity of global climate observations, resulting in reliable climate data records that are fundamental for climate research and for IPCC.
- The prioritization provided by the ECV framework helps streamlining funding to support research projects.
- Many of the long-standing GCOS-supported initiatives are done in collaboration with research partners such as the World Climate Research programme.

GCOS – Global Climate Observing System



**GLOBAL CLIMATE
OBSERVING SYSTEM**
KEEPING WATCH OVER OUR CLIMATE

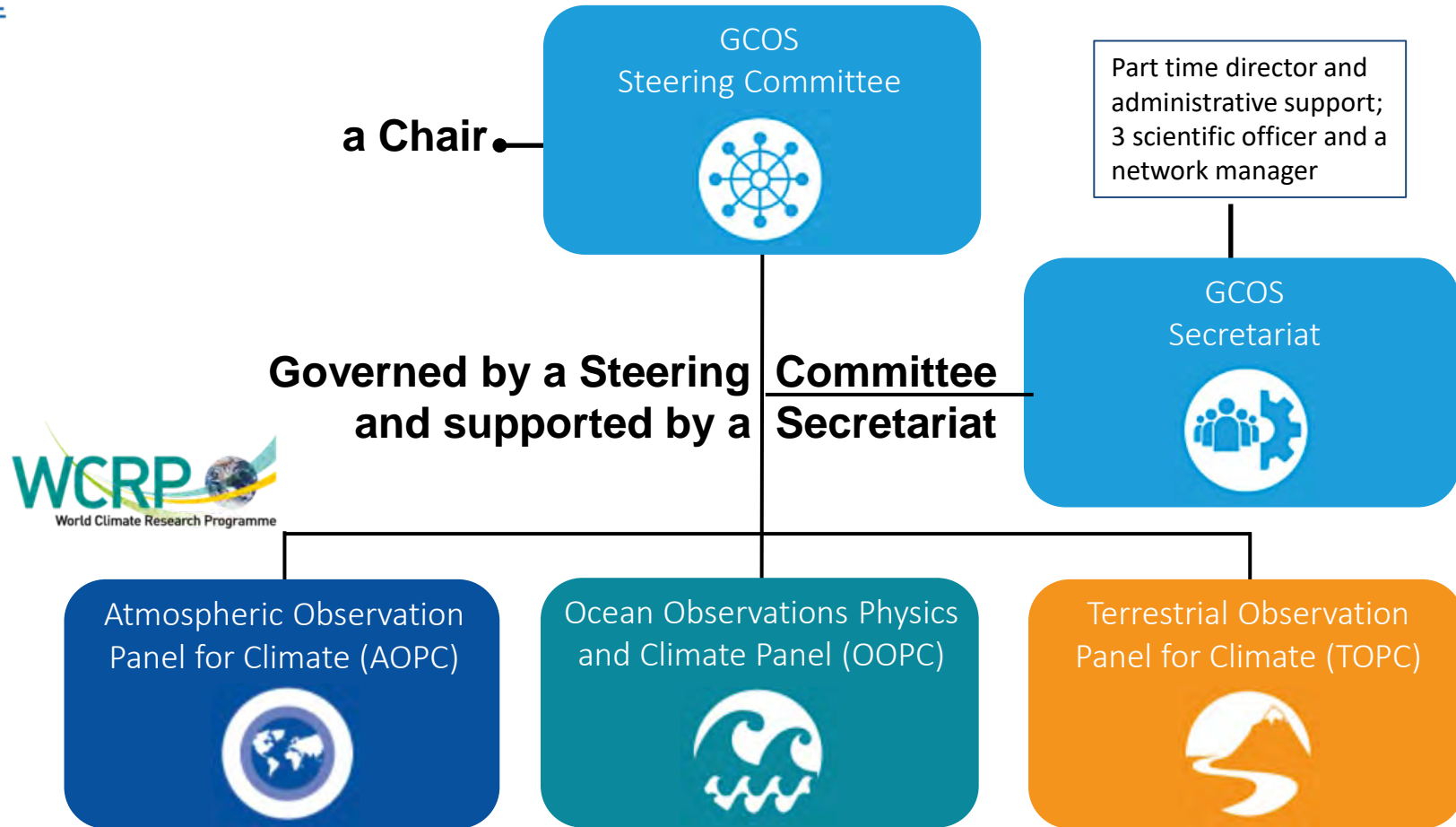
GCOS is a joint programme of:

- WMO
- IOC/UNESCO
- UNEP
- ISC

Major contributors:

- US State Dept.
- NOAA
- EU Commission

**Established in 1992
to address the UNFCCC
systematic observation agenda**



Guided by 3 panels of experts: AOPC, OOPC, TOPC

Reporting to UNFCCC

GCOS STATUS REPORT



Assess if the status of the observing system for climate meets those requirements

Identify what we need to measure

GCOS ECVs REQUIREMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



≈ 5 years cycle

Propose actions to address gaps and improve the observing system for climate

ECVs - Essential Climate Variables

GCOS developed and implemented the concept of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) which are widely endorsed by the community and scientific programs.

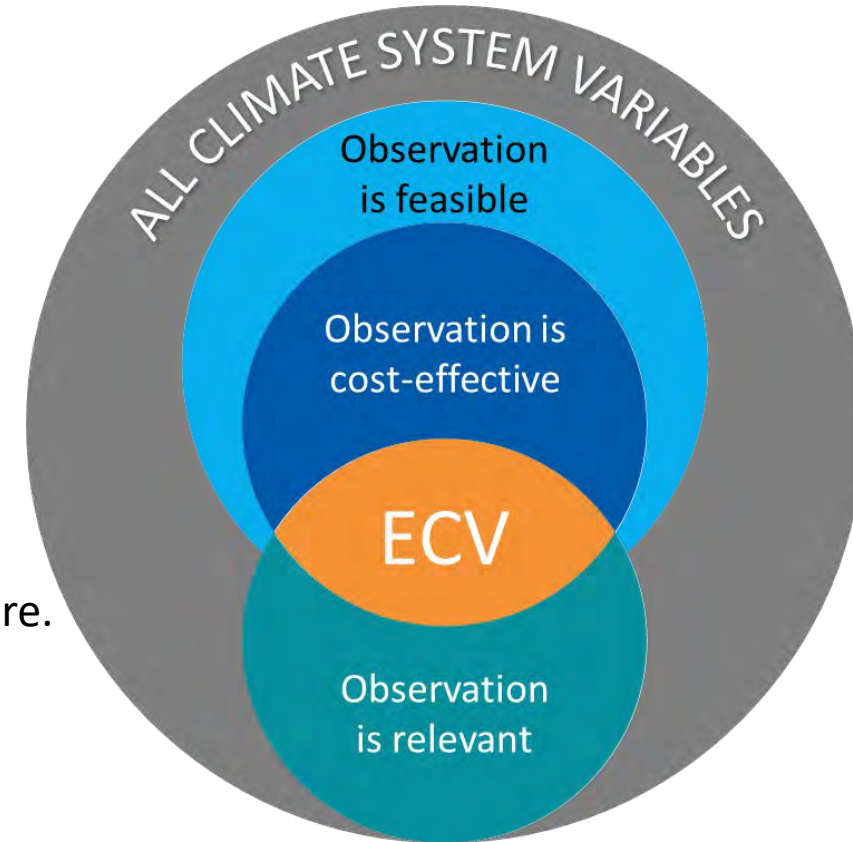
Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)

- are physical, chemical or biological variables that critically contribute to the characterization of Earth's climate.
- are not stand-alone variables; they are part of a wider concept.
- are founded on climate science and observational capability and infrastructure.

ECV datasets provide the empirical evidence

- to understand and predict the evolution of climate,
- to guide mitigation and adaptation measures,
- to assess risks,
- to enable attribution of climatic events to underlying causes,
- to underpin climate services.

SOURCE: Bojinski et al. 2014



GCOS is acknowledged as the leading independent reference in defining requirements for climate observations



GCOS





Hydrological Cycle

- ANTHROPOGENIC WATER USE
- SOIL MOISTURE
- RIVER DISCHARGE

- GROUNDWATER
- LAKES
- PRECIPITATION

- UPPER AIR WATER VAPOUR
- TERRESTRIAL WATER STORAGE
- SEA LEVEL RISE

- SURFACE WATER VAPOUR
- EVAPORATION FROM LAND
- OCEAN SURFACE HEAT FLUX

- EARTH RADIATION BUDGET
- SURFACE RADIATION BUDGET

Cryosphere

- ICE SHEETS & ICE SHELVES
- PERMAFROST
- SNOW
- GLACIERS
- SEA ICE

Carbon Cycle

- ANTHROPOGENIC GREENHOUSE GAS FLUXES
- INORGANIC CARBON
- SOIL CARBON
- CARBON DIOXIDE, METHANE AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES
- FIRE

Composition and Transport

- AEROSOLS
- TRANSIENT TRACERS
- SEA STATE
- LIGHTNING
- CLOUD PROPERTIES
- SURFACE PRESSURE
- OZONE
- SURFACE SALINITY
- SURFACE STRESS
- SURFACE CURRENTS
- UPPER AIR WIND SPEED & DIRECTION
- PRECURSORS
- SUBSURFACE SALINITY
- NITROUS OXIDE
- SUBSURFACE CURRENTS
- SURFACE WIND SPEED & DIRECTION

- ABOVE GROUND BIOMASS
- MARINE HABITAT PROPERTIES
- PLANKTON

Temperature

- LAND SURFACE TEMPERATURE
- UPPER AIR TEMPERATURE
- SUBSURFACE TEMPERATURE
- SURFACE TEMPERATURE
- SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE

- ALBEDO
- LEAF AREA INDEX
- LAND COVER
- FAPAR
- OXYGEN
- NUTRIENTS
- OCEAN COLOUR

Energy Balance

Biosphere

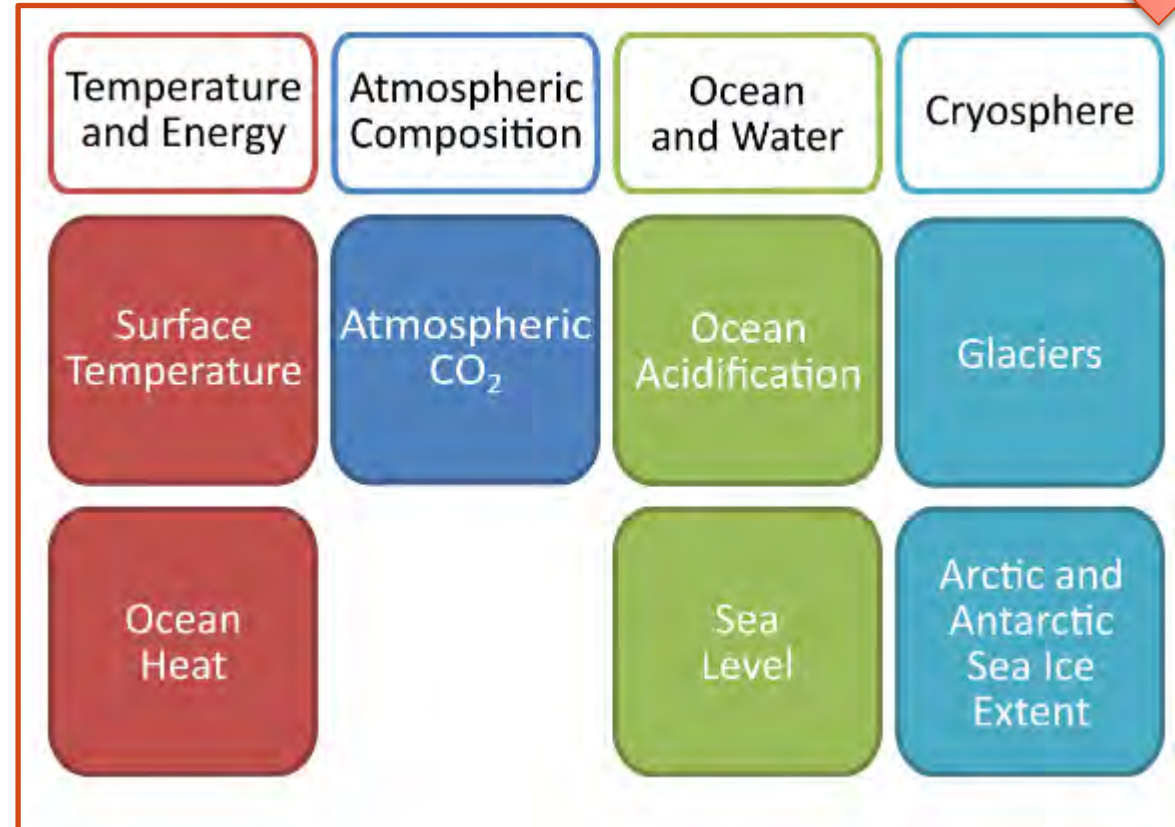
Workshop in 2017:

Identify a set of climate change indicators to be used as a basis for reporting climate change to the public.



Overview of some of the existing work on climate/adaptation indicators (in 2017)

- Joint CCI/WCRP(Clivar)/JCOMM Expert Team On Climate Change
- Detection And Indices (ETCCDI)
- WCRP
- WMO
- C3S
- NASA, NOAA (mostly US focused)
- UNEP/GEO
- IPCC/AR5
-



National GCOS and Regional Workshops

Some National GCOS still operate, but connection to GCOS Secretariat very limited.

Activities with national GCOS only recently resumed due to a lack of resources. Renewed TOR for GCOS National Coordinators and started contacts with National Coordinators of Switzerland, Germany, Ireland.
(more in item 7.4)

No regional workshops organized due to lack of resources

Pacific Islands - 2000
Eastern and Southern Africa – 2001
Central America and the Caribbean– 2002
East and Southeast Asia - 2002
Western and Central Africa - 2003
South America - 2003
South and Southwest Asia – 2004
Central Asia - 2004
Mediterranean Basin – 2005
Eastern and Central Europe -2005
Sout America - 2012
Pacific SIDS – 2017
East Africa – 2018
Caribbean - 2019

GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

- The GCM is the system improvement and resource mobilization activity of the GCOS programme. It has been established following a decision by the UNFCCC SBSTA in 2004 (UNFCCC Decision 5/CP.5) in order “to enable developing countries to collect, exchange, and utilize data on a continuing basis in pursuance of the UNFCCC”.
- Since then, approximately 4 million USD was raised to accomplish projects dedicated to improving climate observation systems.

Contributions to the GCM (Examples)
2007/08 : 780kCHF (Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, UK, Spain, Australia & Canada)

20014/15 : 230kCHF (Germany, Japan & UK)

2021/22 : 30kCHF (Germany)



Training – Instrument Maintenance

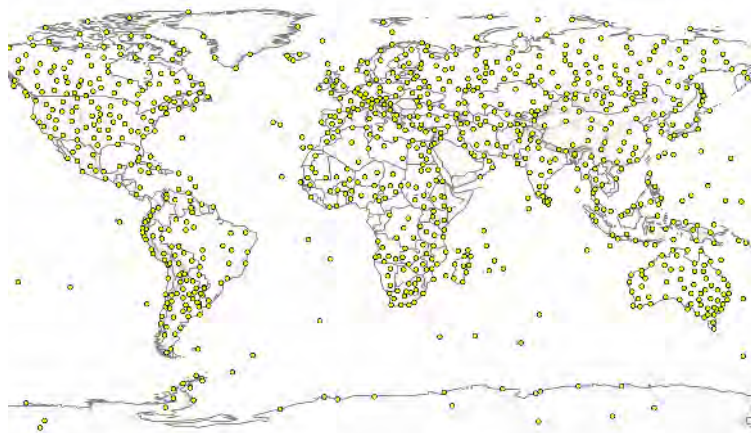


Testing – Radiosonde System



Training – Communication

GUAN and GSN



GCOS Surface Network (GSN) 2023		
RA-I	154 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-II	258 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-III	101 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-IV	178 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-V	153 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-VI	139 Stations (0)	No Changes
ANTON	42 Stations (0)	No Changes
TOTAL	1025 Stations (0)	

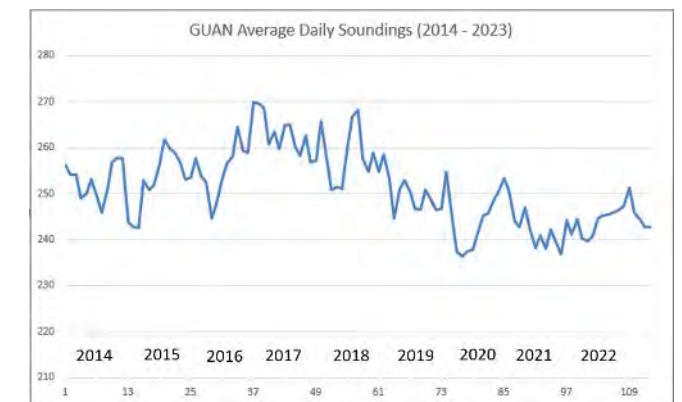
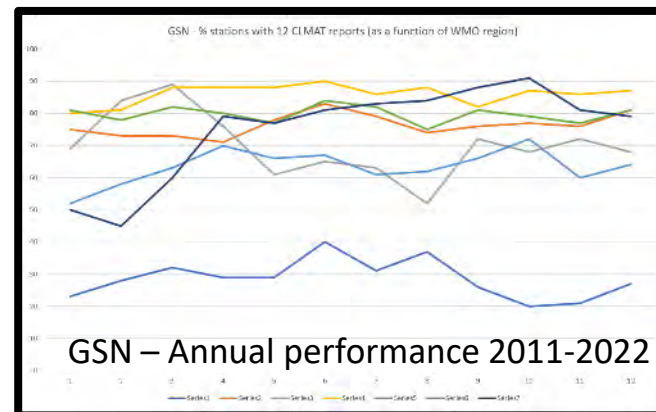


GCOS Upper Air Network (GUAN) 2023		
RA-I	23 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-II	38 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-III	18 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-IV	24 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-V	39 Stations (0)	No Changes
RA-VI	24 Stations (0)	No Changes
ANTON	12 Stations (0)	No Changes
TOTAL	178 Stations (0)	

Networks implemented in 1994.

2001 : 987 GSN and 150 GUAN

2023: 1025 GSN and 178 GUAN

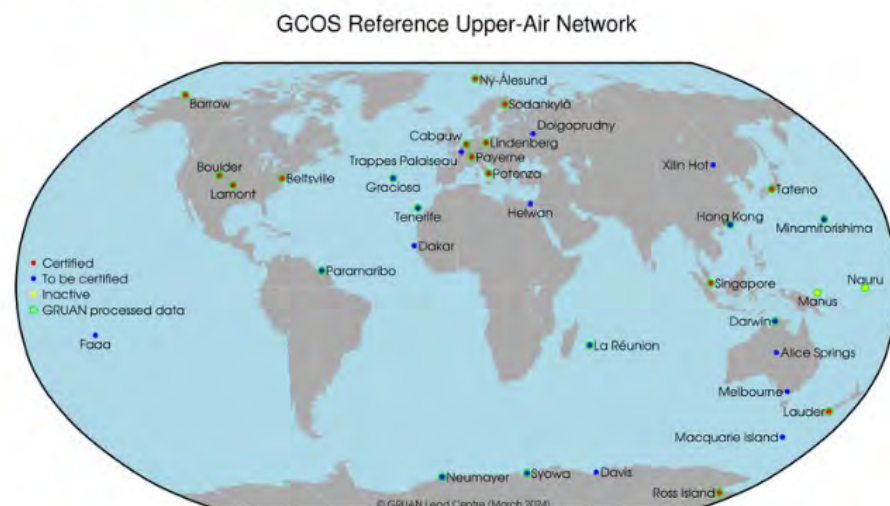


GCOS Reference Upper-Air Network

Established in 2008

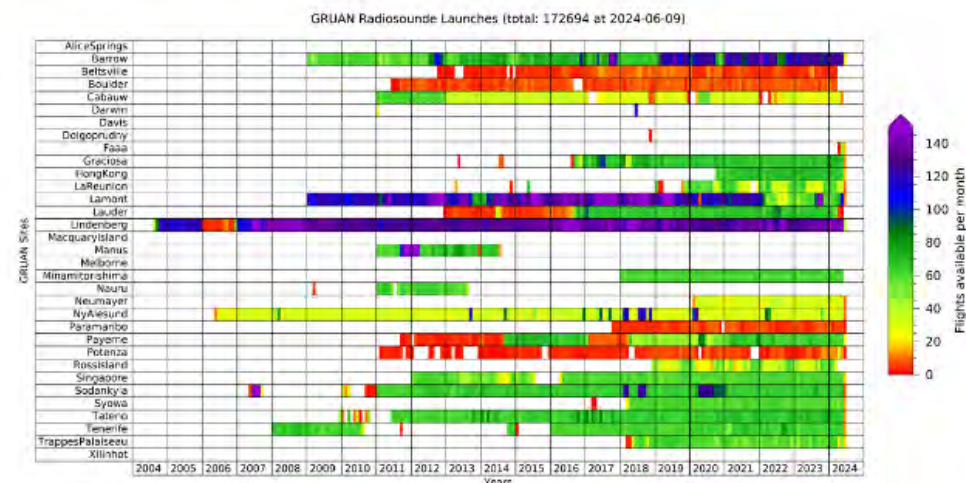
First 6 stations: Cabauw, Netherlands; Lindenberg, Germany; Potenza, Italy; Payerne, Switzerland; Sodankylä, Finland; Xilin Hot, China (2009)

Status of GRUAN sites



GRUAN is envisaged as a global network of eventually 30-40 measurement sites. To the extent possible, it builds on existing observational networks and capabilities. As at March 2024, GRUAN comprises of 33 sites, 14 of which have been GRUAN certified.

Status of data flow

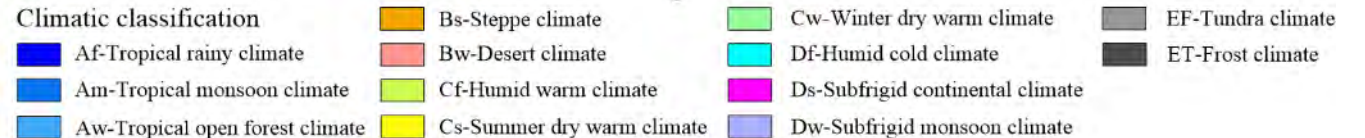
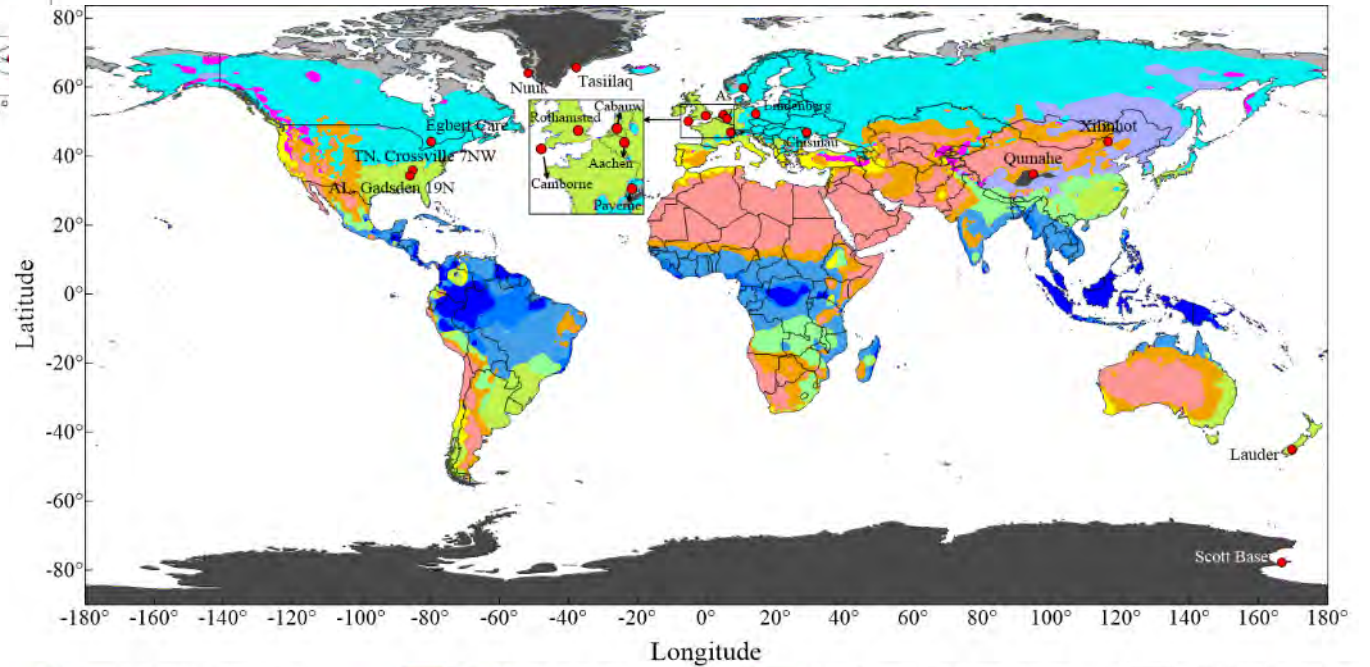


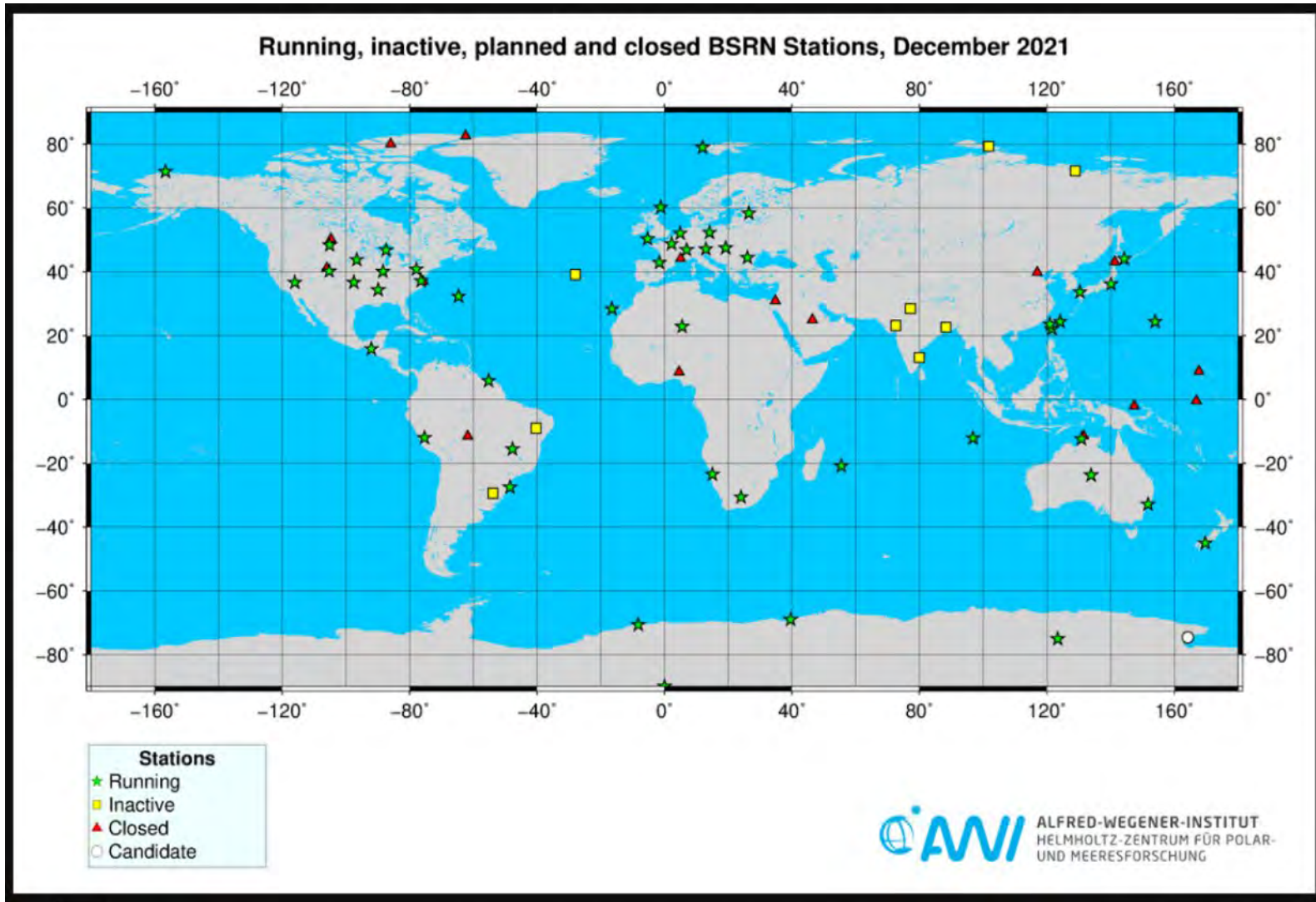
A comprehensive volume of measurement data has been collected by GRUAN since 2008. The archive includes raw data and related meta-data. For the Vaisala RS41 & RS92 and the Meisei IMS-100 & RS-11G radiosondes, GRUAN Data Products (GDP) have been fully implemented and certified. Further GDPs are in certification process or under development.



Task Team for the implementation of the GSRN established in 2021
 Lead Centre (CMA) established in 2022
 Pilot Phase of GSRN started in 2023
 1st Kick-off meeting 5th February 2024

GSRN Ref No.	Station Name	Country
01	Egbert CARE	CANADA
02	TN, Crossville 7NW	USA
03	AL, Gadsden 19N	USA
04	Cabauw	THE NETHERLANDS
05	Chisinau	Republic of Moldova
06	As	NORWAY
07	Aachen	Germany
08	Lindenberg	Germany
09	Camborne	UK
10	Rothamsted	UK
11	Qumahe	China
12	Xilinhot	China
13	Payerne	Switzerland
14	Scott Base	New Zealand
15	Lauder	New Zealand
16	Nuuk	Denmark
17	Tasiilag	Denmark





GTN-R – Global Terrestrial Networks for Rivers (part of the GRDC – Global Runoff Data Centre)

October 2004:

- **GCOS-IP*** Proposed as a GCOS Baseline River Discharge starting with ≈ 380 reference stations near the downstream end of the largest rivers of the world, capturing $\approx 70\%$ of the global freshwater flux to the oceans.
- Subset of GRDC stations to provide climate-relevant data for global assessments and models.

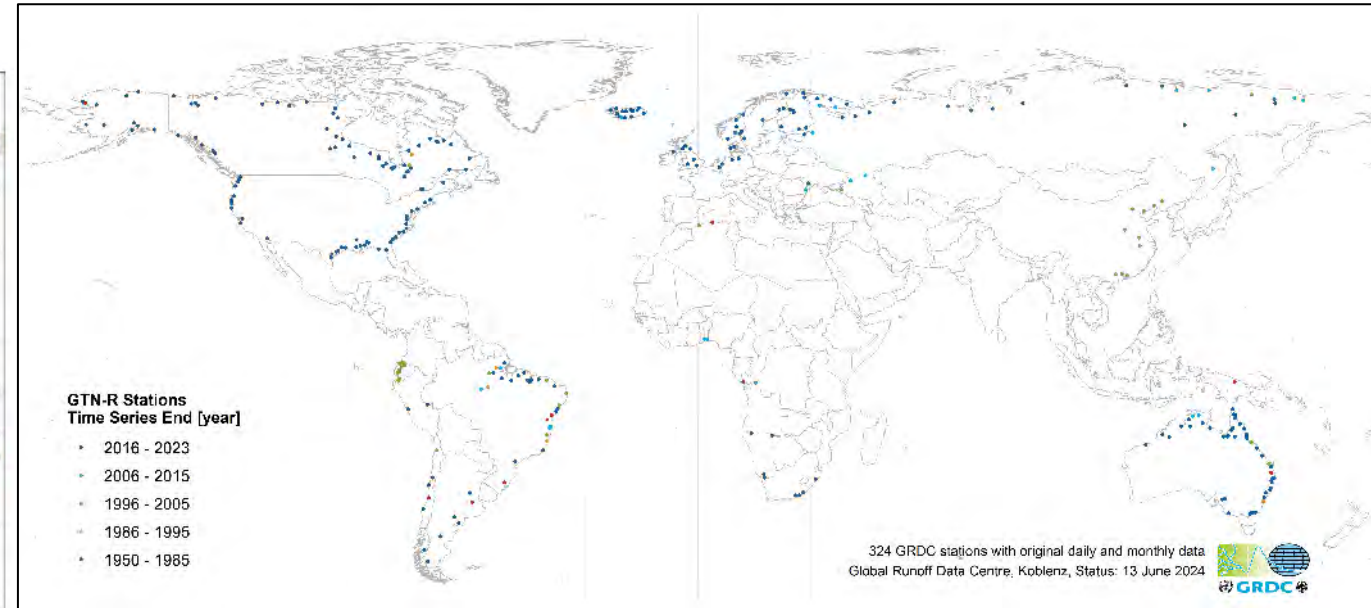
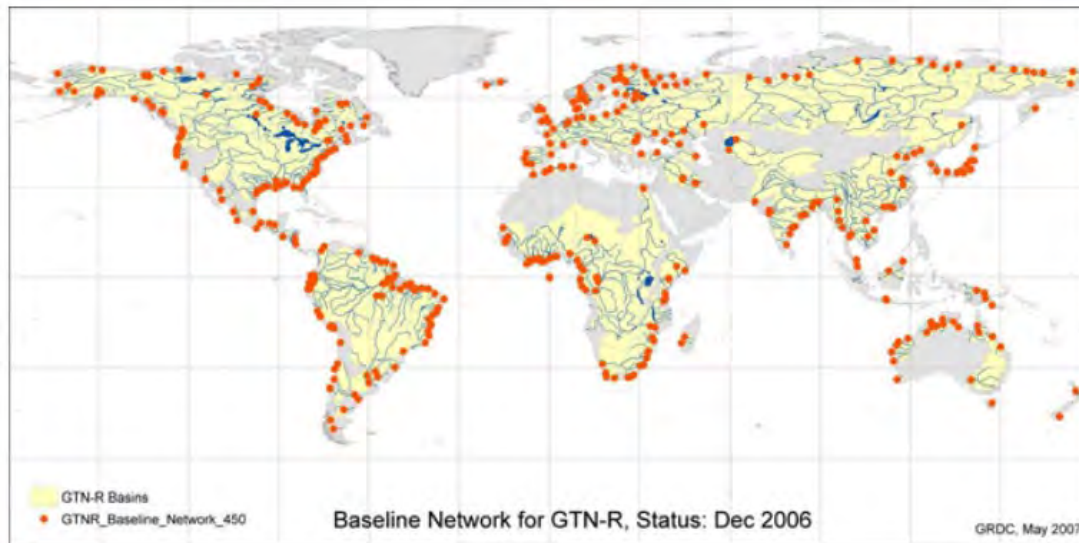
April 2005: GCOS secretariat sent out a data request and support letter

July 2007: 21 countries replied positively / 75% no reply

July 2024: 324 stations (instead of the planned > 400)

June 2024: 324 stations

Planned baseline network: 450 stations



* Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC October 2004, GCOS-92 (WMO/TD No. 1219)

Ocean Observations

1990

- Ocean observing system remained relatively sparse and regionally-focused until the 1990s
- Several reviews that culminated in the Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment.
- Consensus to undertake an internationally coordinated sustained global ocean observing effort.
- Altimeter constellation measures sea level globally

2000

- The use of autonomous *in situ* platforms revolutionizes the ocean observing system: ARGO floats
- Increased use of data standards, ocean data in the GTS
- More global networks established: Ocean SITES (moorings) –ocean data meeting climate standards

2010

- Biogeochemistry and biology become part of the global ocean observing system and start to be measured systematically – GO-SHIP network.
- Remote sensing to measure salinity, currents, waves
- Advances in technology make the description of the state of the large-scale ocean circulation becomes possible
- Data sharing starts also for biogeochemical and biological variables

2020

- More technological developments and change of paradigm: multiplatform approach.
- Autonomous vehicles that allow to reach deeper and farther.

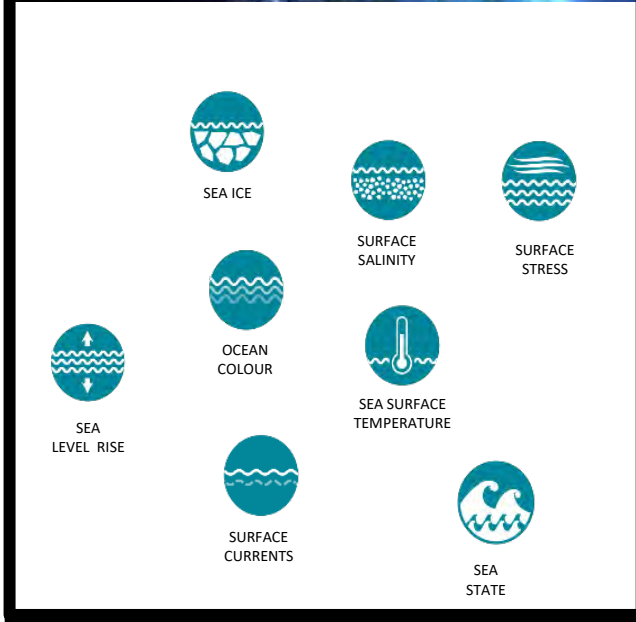
- Satellites provide high-resolution data in coastal areas



1990

No global in situ network, most of what we know about the oceans come from research cruises. Data not shared.

Satellites only measure **Sea ice extent** and **Sea Surface Temperature**



Satellite

2023

In situ

GOOS <i>in situ</i> networks ¹	Implementation Status ²	Data & metadata		Best practices ⁶	
		Real time ³	Archived high quality ⁴ Metadata ⁵		
🚢 Ship based meteorological - SOT	★★	★★	★★	★★★	★★
🚢 Ship based oceanographic - SOT	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★
🚢 Repeated transects - GO-SHIP	★★★	Not applicable	★★★	★★	★★★
📏 Sea level gauges - GLOSS	★★★	★★	★★★	★	★★
📍 Time series sites - OceanSITES	★★	Not applicable	★★★	★	★★
🚢 Coastal Moored buoys - DBCP	★★★	★★★	★★★	★	★★★
🚢 Tsunami buoys - DBCP	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★	★★★
🚢 Tropical moored buoys - DBCP	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★
📡 HF radars	★★	★	★	★	★★★
🚢 Drifting buoys - DBCP	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
🚢 Profiling floats - Argo	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★★
🚢 Deep & biogeochemistry floats - Argo	★★	★★★	★★★	★★★	★★
🚢 OceanGliders	★★	★★	★	★★	★★
🐬 Animal borne sensors - AniBOS	★	★	★★	★	★★

Earth Energy, Carbon and Water Cycles

3 papers published: 2020-22



Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 12, 2013–2041, 2020
<https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-12-2013-2020>
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Open Access
Earth System
Science
Data

Heat stored in the Earth system:
where does the energy go?

Karina von Schuckmann¹, Lijing Cheng^{2,28}, Matthew D. Palmer³, James Hansen⁴, Caterina Tassone⁵, Valentin Aich⁶, Susheel Adusumilli⁶, Hugo Beltrami⁷, Tim Boyer⁸, Francisco José Cuesta-Valero^{7,27}, Damien Desbryères⁹, Catia Domingue^{10,11}, Almudena García-García⁹, Pierre Gentine⁹, John Gilson¹², Maximilian Gorfer¹⁴, Leopold Haimberger¹⁵, Masayoshi Ishii¹⁶, Gregory C. Johnson¹⁷, Rachel Killick¹⁸, Brian A. King¹⁹, Gottfried Kirchhenger¹⁴, Nicolas Kolodziejczyk¹⁸, John Lyman⁶, Ben Marzoni¹⁹, Michael Mayer^{15,29}, Maeva Monier²⁰, Didier Paolo Monselesan²¹, Sarah Purkey⁶, Dean Roemmich⁶, Axel Schweiger²², Sonia L. Senéviratne²³, Andrew Shepherd²⁴, Donald A. Slater⁶, Andrea K. Steiner¹⁴, Fiammetta Straneo², Mary-Louise Timmermans²⁵, and Susan E. Wijffels^{21,26}

Reviews of Geophysics

REVIEW ARTICLE
10.1029/2021RG000736

How Well Do We Understand the Land-Ocean-Atmosphere
Carbon Cycle?

Key Points:
• Anthropogenic CO₂ emissions would have produced large atmospheric

David Crisp¹, Han Dolman^{1,3}, Toste Tanhua⁴, Galen A. McKinley⁵, Judith Hauck⁶, Ana Bastos⁷, Stephen Sitch⁸, Simon Eggleston⁹, and Valentin Aich¹⁰

Action B10: Identify gaps in the climate observing system to monitor the global energy, water and carbon cycles

1. Continue to periodically review observations of the Earth's energy, water, carbon cycles to identify gaps and areas of high uncertainty.
2. Review consistency of the underlying observations.
3. Develop plans to address the gaps identified in (1), if feasible.

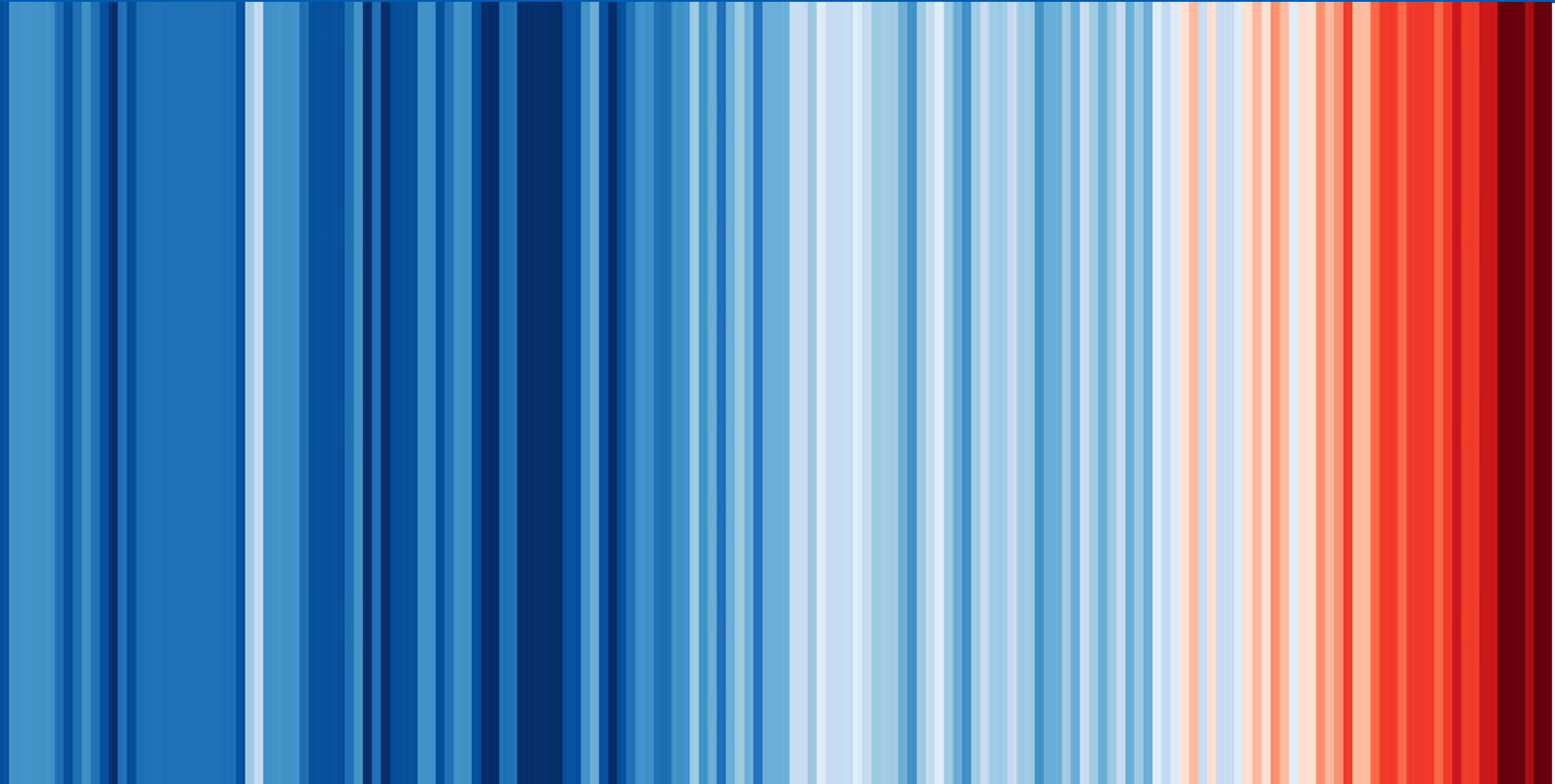
GCOS/WCRP WORKSHOP

June 2023

- identify challenges for research, modelling and observing system capabilities;
- identify key indicators for measuring, monitoring and modelling the cycles and indicate how they can be used in global assessment frameworks;
- identify key processes that need to be better understood & improve the monitoring of the cycles



The landscape of institutions around GCOS





futureearth



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11



REGULATIONS
REGULATION (EU) 2021/1119 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
of 30 June 2021
establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ("European Climate Law")

WCRP



CEN
INTEGRATED CLIMATE DATA CENTER
ICDC



Strategies



ICOS

Integrated Carbon Observation System

future earth
Projects
programmes

WCRP



Financing instruments



INTEGRATED CLIMATE DATA CENTER
ICDC

Data



UN Institutions



Other International Institutions



REGULATIONS

REGULATION (EU) 2021/1118 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 (European Climate Law)

Legal instruments



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11



NATIONAL CENTERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

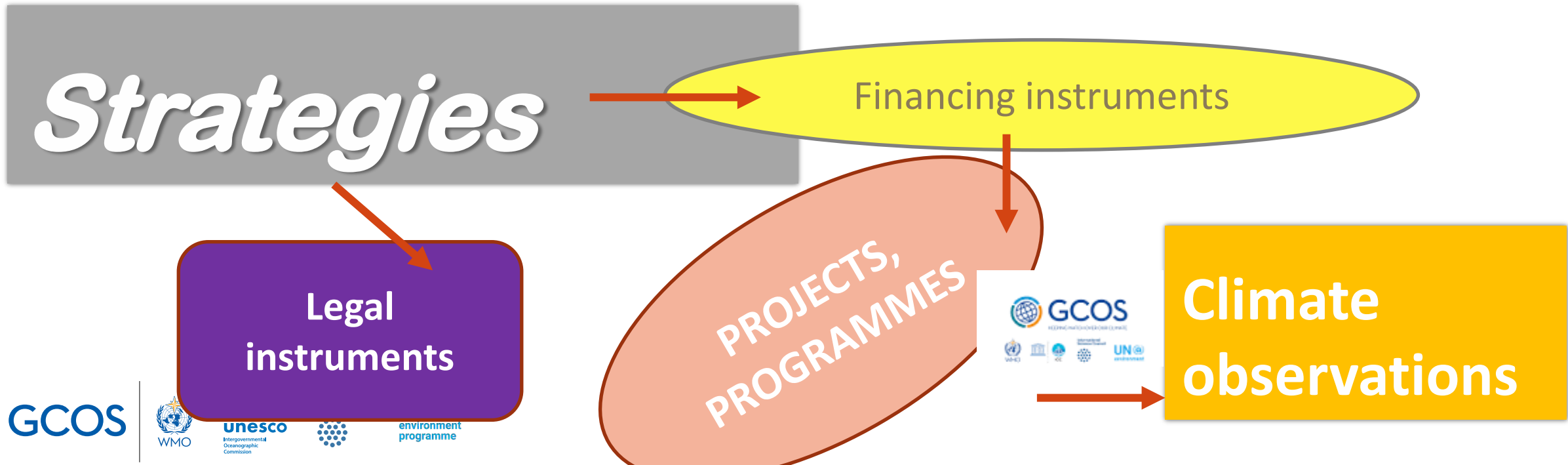
National Institutions



How do we get to climate observations?



INSTITUTIONS WITH CAPACITY TO ISSUE LAWS: UN EU, STATES...



GCOS and the landscape in 1990



Climate change starts to be discussed, it is recognized as a global issue that needs to be tackled at the UN level, only one International Convention (UNFCCC), two UN agencies, mainly three programmes (GCOS, WCRP supporting IPCC), no specific financial instruments, data landscape very scattered and research based, remote sensing in its infancy....

GCOS and the landscape in 2023

SOCIETAL
CHALLENGE...
SOCIETAL
URGENCY !!

Climate
observations

