Statement of intent to strengthen collaboration between POGO and GOOS

Accelerating progress towards UN Ocean Decade Challenge 7
"Expanding the Global Ocean Observing System"

February 2022

At the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO), held virtually from 24th to 27th January 2022, the members of POGO and Co-Chairs of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) discussed how to better define the differences as well as the synergies between POGO and GOOS, in order to develop a plan for more effective collaboration and maximised use of each organisation's resources. The following statement of intent to work more closely together was agreed as an outcome of the session.

Origins of GOOS and POGO

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) was created by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO in 1991, in response to calls from the Second World Climate Conference in 1990. The Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) was created 8 years later during an Exploratory Meeting convened by the Directors of Southampton Oceanography Centre, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution, hosted by IOC in March 1999, and followed swiftly by the first Annual Meeting of POGO members in December 1999.

POGO was established with strong support by both IOC and GOOS, as a complementary organisation, that could form the "intellectual and implementation" partnerships, complementing the "business and governmental partnerships" - all of which are required to work together to support the larger societal effort of building a global ocean observing system. IOC viewed capacity building and education as areas in which POGO could make an important contribution, as well as innovation, particularly in the areas of biological and chemical sensor development for autonomous systems, and improving and lowering the cost of observing technology.

Funding and governance

POGO is a membership organisation, where research institutions, not-for-profits and universities subscribe membership dues that support the core operations of POGO. POGO has always had its own legal status, initially as a Canadian not-for-profit Society, and since 2018 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in the United Kingdom. This allows POGO to receive grants from philanthropic foundations to support specific activities. POGO is governed by a Board of Trustees, which has the power to make financial and other decisions on behalf of the membership. The members meet annually to review progress, agree priorities and set budgets. This structure provides a high level of agility and autonomy to the organisation.

GOOS is part of the UN system and receives its core funding from the UNESCO budget, although it can also apply for grants from other sources such as the European Commission. Although led by IOC, GOOS is also co-sponsored by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), UN Environment, and the International Science Council (ISC). GOOS is governed by a Steering Committee (SC), the membership of which is approved by the four sponsors of GOOS. IOC nominates SC members from the IOC Regions and approves the GOOS Work Plan and activities annually. Being part of the UN system provides a high level of visibility and authority to GOOS, as well as strong links to other parts of the UN system (WMO, UN Environment, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Convention on Biological Diversity CBD, etc). In addition to its SC, GOOS consists of three expert panels, the Observations Coordination Group, the Regional Alliances, National Focal Points and the Expert Team on Operational Ocean Forecast Systems (ETOOFS). The majority of the GOOS core team (expert panels etc.) receive most of their funding from outside IOC/UNESCO.

Complementarity between POGO and GOOS Missions

The overarching goals of GOOS and POGO are very similar. POGO's goal is *"to have by 2030, world-wide cooperation for a sustainable, state-of-the-art global ocean observing system that serves the needs of science and society"*. That of GOOS is *"to lead the ocean observing community and create the partnerships to grow an integrated, responsive and sustained observing system"*. Both mission statements underline the importance of working through partnerships to achieve a global ocean observing system.

Among the Strategic Objectives of GOOS, there are areas of particular synergy under each of the 3 areas:

- ***Deepening engagement and impact*** - Build advocacy and visibility with stakeholders though communicating with key users and national funders.
- ***System Integration and Delivery*** - Sustain, strengthen and expand observing system implementation through GOOS and partner communities, promoting standards and best practice, and developing metrics to measure success.
- ***Building for the Future*** - Support innovation in observing technologies and networks; develop capacity to ensure a broader range of beneficial stakeholder participation; and extend systematic observations to understand human impacts on the ocean.

The three Pillars of POGO's Mission can provide direct support to further those Strategic Objectives:

1. ***Lead innovation and development of the crucial components of the ocean observing system*** - supports *Building for the Future and System Integration and Delivery*.
2. ***Identify and contribute to the development of the key skills, capabilities and capacities needed to achieve the vision*** -supports *Building for the Future*.
3. ***Work with governments, foundations and industry, to articulate the benefits to society and required funding to build and sustain the system*** -supports *Deepening Engagement and Impact*.

Areas where collaboration already exists, but could be strengthened

- **Innovation in Ocean Observing:** POGO established a Biological Observations Working Group in 2017, which includes representatives of the GOOS Bio Eco Panel. In 2021, POGO proposed a new programme to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, called the Ocean Biomolecular Observing Network (OBON), which is also closely linked to GOOS Bio Eco.

There are however other areas of POGO's work that could be better linked to GOOS, such as various projects on developing low-cost observing technologies, and citizen science initiatives.

- **Human impacts:** POGO co-sponsors the International Quiet Ocean Experiment (IQOE) with the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). A POGO WG proposed the Ocean Sound EOV to GOOS, which was accepted in 2018, and an Implementation Committee has been working on the Implementation Plan for the EOV throughout 2021. This is an important contribution to the use of systematic observations to understand human impacts (in this case anthropogenic sound) on the ocean and its ecosystems.

Agreed way forward

During the POGO-23 Meeting, POGO and GOOS agreed the following steps to enhance their collaboration, maximise the effectiveness of both organisations, and ultimately advance our joint mission of achieving a sustained, global ocean observing system:

- **Advocacy:** POGO and GOOS can reach different stakeholders and target audiences, and should work together on joint and/or aligned messaging and communications, particularly for high-level events such as UN meetings (UNFCCC, CBD, UN Ocean Conference, etc).
- **Capacity development:** POGO has a strong track record of capacity development in observational oceanography and has a long-standing partnership with the Nippon Foundation, which provides generous support for such activities. GOOS could benefit from POGO's capacity development efforts (e.g., through co-badging/co-sponsorship) and provide guidance to POGO on capacity development needs that are highlighted by the IOC Members States.
- **Innovation:** POGO to work on developing maturity of new areas of ocean observing and bringing them into GOOS (e.g., biomolecular observations, ocean sound). GOOS and POGO to engage in dialogue on innovation needs for ocean observing.
- **UN Decade:** POGO and GOOS will need to confer on UN Ocean Decade Actions and to define how both organisations may play a coordination/implementation role for the Decade while avoiding duplication of effort.
- **Ongoing communication:** There will be a need to continue the exchange between POGO and GOOS on a regular basis, e.g., through one or more joint Working Group(s).
- **GOOS Roadmap:** POGO can support a review of the GOOS Roadmap to propose areas where POGO should be listed as a potential partner.

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