

SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects, Venice, September 2004

LOICZ II Response to SCOR Request for Background Information

1. Data Management Discussion

The need for data management was recognized as a priority at the LOICZ SSC Meeting, Singapore, June 2004. The meeting resolved that a dedicated workshop on data management should be convened as soon as possible. That workshop will consider the recommendations of the SCOR/IGBP Meeting on Data Management. The development of global databases and typologies for coastal systems will play a major role in LOICZ II implementation and synthesis across all themes. To succeed, LOICZ II must have a strategy to deal not only with management and delivery of “new” data acquired through LOICZ core and associated coastal projects, but with collation, quality control and analysis of large and diverse existing coastal data sets. Because of its location at the interface of ocean, terrestrial and atmospheric domains, LOICZ will need to draw on datasets covering all these domains, some of which may be produced by other IGBP / SCOR projects. In order that this be done efficiently and effectively, it is important that arrangements are set in place to facilitate exchange of data between projects, as well as management of data within projects.

2. Interaction with GOOS

Since the late 1990s, through Jozef Pacyna (current vice Chair) and the IPO Executive, LOICZ has been represented extensively at Coastal GOOS SSC meetings and vice versa, as well as in certain workshops, e.g., IOC-WMO-UNEP-ICSU Coastal Panel of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Third Session, Accra, Ghana, 13 – 15 April 1999 – GOOS report 76). There the issue of collaboration between C-GOOS and LOICZ was explicitly addressed and reported. In practical terms LOICZ has participated in the preparation of a major document, the Strategic Design Plan for the Coastal Component of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), edited in October 2000 (IOC/INF-1146 and GOOS report No. 90) which identifies LOICZ as an enabling research project calling for a high level of integration into the C GOOS development.

This concept of cooperation between GOOS and LOICZ was developed based on the assumption that GOOS should provide long term monitoring data, while LOICZ should be able to provide the results from short term research projects in order to interpret the meaning of the coastal ecosystem changes as monitored within GOOS. Major exchange and relevance was seen to derive from the LOICZ I biogeochemical budgeting activities and in particular the typology development. ICAM, in its role as pilot project contributing to the implementation of C-GOOS identified the LOICZ-Basins assessment as an activity that is mutually beneficial to the two.

However, while LOICZ I was entering its synthesis phase, and in parallel started to develop a plan for the next decade of LOICZ research following the mandate given by the IGBP SC in Cuernavaca and Chiang Mai (2000/2001), contacts with the current

GOOS slowed down. It is expected, however, that this will switch back to a more operational involvement in the future based on the concept of collaboration outlined before and recognizing that the draft LOICZ II SPIS identifies interaction and collaboration with GOOS as a critical part of LOICZ II implementation in multiple themes. The LOICZ Chair is co-chair of the IGOS Coastal Theme. Further points of contact and interaction with GOOS are expected to develop as the Implementation Plan is rolled out. We expect strong interaction between LOICZ researchers at national and regional scales, and the development and implementation of coastal ocean observing strategies at these scales. The new LOICZ regional IPO nodes are well-positioned to facilitate this integration. Among other specific instances, there has been discussion of LOICZ – GOOS collaboration at the recent CZAP meeting in Brisbane in September 2004 likely to be followed up in 2005, and participation by the LOICZ Theme 4 Coordinator in the GODAE Symposium in Miami in November.

As mentioned before, LOICZ I identified certain core observations required for coastal biogeochemical budgets. The LOICZ II SPIS has identified among its priority activities the further development of coastal budget and modelling methodologies, and this is expected to lead to revised recommendations on coastal observations. The typology is expected to receive increased LOICZ II attention and this can obviously be a major area of cooperation where indicator development, testing and application will be supported by a coastal classification that needs to be issue based. Over all mutual benefit is expected to be in the fact that LOICZ II with its mandate to be truly interdisciplinary between natural and social sciences can design and carry out enabling research that anchors the human dimensions appropriately in the implementation of long term observation efforts such as C-GOOS whereas GOOS in return provides a global platform for the application, testing and review of these scientific results and concepts.

3. Southern Ocean Research

LOICZ has had little involvement in Southern Ocean research, and this is not expected to be a priority in LOICZ II.

4. Time series stations

The need for long-term sustained coastal time series has been identified in LOICZ II. However, given the diversity and spatial complexity of coastal systems, this is likely to require a different strategy to that adopted for open-ocean time series sites.