

## **Second SCOR Meeting on Coordination of International Marine Research Projects**

### **Request for Background Information**

Please submit the following written documentation by **30 November 2006**. The availability of this information will help meeting participants prepare for the meeting.

To Projects:

#### **Data Management Discussion**

1. Please present the status of your project in terms of management of data and/or metadata. Three projects--GEOTRACES, IMBER, and SOLAS--have been asked to make oral presentations about the status of their data management activities, but it would also be helpful to have written statements from other projects.

Raymond and Sophie are preparing this!

2. Has your project done anything to encourage visualization of project data?

No.

3. Is your project keeping track of project cruises and collecting any information about the cruises?  
Yes, it is the intention to collect information about cruises. Sophie is in charge of following up with the endorsed projects on this and data management.

4. Has your project discussed data archiving with a World Data Center yet and/or involved in WDC staff in your data management discussions?

IMBER has started discussing about collaboration with BODC. There has also been an approach from the PANGEA group to IMBER to assist with data management within IMBER.

#### **GOOS Discussion**

1. Does your project have ongoing interactions with GOOS?

We do. There has been an ongoing dialogue between IMBER and GOOS particularly the OOPC and Coastal panels.

2. Have you had any GOOS scientists or staff attend a project SSC meeting, or have any project SSC members or IPO staff participated in a GOOS meeting?

OOPC was asked to send a representative to the IMBER meeting this year. This proved difficult but a presentation was prepared for the meeting and given by the Chair of the meeting on behalf of OOPC. One of the Vice Chairs of IMBER has attended two GODAE meetings and there is currently a proposal for a joint IMBER/GODAE meeting on Paris in 2007 to discuss possible joint activities.

3. Do you have a link to any element of GOOS on your project Web site?

Yes, we have a link to GOOS website.

4. Has your SSC discussed what is, or will be, available from GOOS and other observing systems?

We have identified clearly in the SPIS that long term observations are going to be a key to the success of IMBER.

5. Has your SSC identified any specific GOOS observations to which your scientists would like access?

No this is more likely to be done at the national level rather than the international level.

6. What research observation systems would your project like to see become operational?

IMBER SSC members have been actively involved in the development of a white paper on the incorporation of oxygen sensors on to Argo floats.

IMBER answers to request for information

### **Time-Series Stations**

1. Will implementation of your project require observations from time-series stations? If so, in what locations?

Long-term continuous open-ocean observations are required for quantifying and understanding interannual-to-decadal changes in ocean circulation, water properties, water mass formation, and ecosystems, for quantifying the role of the oceans in the global carbon cycle, for observing episodic events and their impact, and for providing reference sites for atmospheric time series and quantifying air-sea fluxes. In that regard, IMBER will require observations from time-series stations.

Long term existing time-series stations like BATS, HOT, or OSP should be a priority as they can already provide very extensive datasets however there are a number of nation that are developing new sites that will be very beneficial to IMBER science

2. How will such stations be supported?

The support for these stations will be national or regional.

3. Has your project identified time-series sites (either existing or new) that are a priority for achieving project goals?

Again this is more likely to occur at the national or regional level.

### **Southern Ocean Research and Observations**

1. What activities has your project undertaken or planned for the Southern Ocean?

ICED is a new international multidisciplinary initiative that will develop a coordinated circumpolar approach to understand climate interactions in the Southern Ocean, the implications for ecosystem dynamics, the impacts on biogeochemical cycles and development of management procedures.

Have you coordinated your Southern Ocean research with other projects?

ICED is a coordinating project for IPY and as such is developing strong links with a significant number of other projects and national initiatives.

Do you have any special plans for the 3rd International Polar Year in 2007-2009 or later?

During the International Polar Year (IPY) there will be a number of ICED-IPY cruises with the aim of providing new insights into some of the mechanisms controlling biogeochemical cycles and ecosystem structure in the Southern Ocean. ICED submitted a proposal ([ICED-IPY](#)) to the International Polar Year committee that was successfully endorsed and will link and coordinate >10 closely-related Expressions of Interest (EoI). In addition, ICED-IPY will be the primary link to other related Consortia and EoIs.

2. What is the status of planning and funding for your project's Southern Ocean cruises, observations, and experiments?

A key feature of the ICED website is to provide maps of the cruise tracks to assist other researchers in planning their own activities and to improve coordination.

### **Education and Capacity Building**

1. What activities, plans, and ideas does your project have in relation to education and capacity building?

The IMBER capacity building measures will primarily target those countries that have already existing infrastructure and human resources, further taking into account their strategic location for understanding the processes of interest to IMBER. The focus of IMBER capacity measures should be interdisciplinary, emphasizing linkages within global change sciences and societal responses. Coordination of our activities with the efforts already supported by SCOR and IGBP is essential for optimal resource allocation and utilization.

IMBER answers to request for information

Amongst the proposed components are: Floating University activities, summer schools, links with the network of Aquaria that has been developed in Europe by EUR-OCEANS

2. How are you funding your education and capacity-building activities?

We have no funding at this point for capacity building activities.

### **Satellite Availability and Needs**

1. Is your project using satellite data or does it plan to do so?

IMBER is collaborating with coordinated international activities sponsored by organisations such as International Ocean-Colour Coordination Group (IOCCG), IGOS-P and national space agencies.

2. Which satellite observations are most crucial for your project to meet its goals?

Satellites can be used to quantify upper ocean biomass and ocean primary productivity and to provide a synoptic link between the ocean ecosystem and physical drivers. The linkage between ocean colour and ecosystem variables, including chlorophyll-a, remains weak, however, and enhanced in situ sampling of ocean colour, bio optical properties (e.g., backscatter, CDOM), and ecosystem variables from time series stations, autonomous platforms, and VOS networks is required to further develop and evaluate algorithms. IMBER will collaborate with IOCCG and IGOS-P to implement for a sustained and continuous deployment of satellite sensors and research and analysis; integrate in situ needs into VOS carbon network and Ocean SITES time series network. The time-frame estimated for global coverage with consistent sensors; number of in situ stations providing regular ground-truthing data is 2009.