

Letter of Agreement

Between

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (herein called IOC) the Headquarters of which are situated in Paris, France

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (herein called SCOR) the Headquarters of which are situated in Baltimore, Maryland, USA

The IGBP-IHDP-WCRP Global Carbon Project (herein called the GCP) the Headquarters of which are situated in Canberra, Australia

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The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR), and the Global Carbon Project (GCP), recognizing the mutual benefit arising from increased collaboration, undertake to strengthen their cooperation on activities related to coordination of regional and national ocean carbon studies. For their part, the IOC and SCOR will coordinate these activities through their jointly sponsored advisory group, the SCOR-IOC Advisory Panel on Ocean CO₂ (herein called the CO₂ Panel).

Rationale

There is an immediate need to coordinate the large number of national and regional ocean carbon programmes and activities currently being planned, such as the re-occupation of WOCE hydrographic sections, new pCO₂ systems for a network of surface observations on ships of opportunity, and a time-series network pilot project. The SCOR-IOC CO₂ Panel, established with its current Terms of References in 2000, provides an international, program-independent mechanism for cross-cutting issues of data standards and formats, inter-comparison studies, modeling, measurement techniques and technology development, and observation network development needed to improve our understanding of the ocean's role in the global carbon cycle. It pursues this work through the development of technical background documents, workshops, special working groups, and conferences.

To facilitate the coordination of national, regional, and international ocean carbon activities, the GCP and CO₂ Panel will work together to: (i) develop and maintain a Web-based information clearinghouse on ocean carbon activities, building upon existing Web information, (ii) develop periodic, focused workshops to gather information on the latest observation and research plans and to identify programs that have possible conflicts or potential for better collaboration, and (iii), at the request of individual research or observation projects, provide other services to facilitate coordination of programmes and data products.

Role of Partners

Under the terms of the Agreement, the collaboration will operate under joint participation as follows:

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO will provide the part-time services of the Technical Officer of the CO₂ Panel to serve as the Technical Officer and Secretariat for the collaboration. Duties will involve (i) periodic Web updates and maintenance, (ii) workshop development in collaboration with one or more designated focal points of the GCP and CO₂ Panel as appropriate, and (iii) writing, compiling, and editing publications stemming from workshop and collaboration activities as necessary.

The Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research will serve as the principle financial administrator of the collaboration. External financial support for workshops and other collaboration activities will be directed to SCOR, unless otherwise required for GCP-contributed or acquired funds. SCOR will review the collaboration annually through its scientific and financial oversight of the CO₂ Panel and may suggest tasks for the partnership.

The IGBP-IHDP-WCRP Global Carbon Project will identify one or more focal points to serve on the planning committee of each workshop developed through the collaboration. This person will be expected to play a leading role in development of workshop objectives and agendas, and identification of participants. The GCP focal point for each workshop will be the principle partner responsible for identifying and acquiring external funds to support the work of the collaboration through contacts and proposal writing.

Patricio Bernal Executive Secretary IOC Assistant to the Director- General, UNESCO	Edward R. Urban, Jr. Executive Director, Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research	Josep Canadell Executive Officer, IGBP-IHDP-WCRP Global Carbon Project
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