

Note from the meeting on the organisation of OceanGliders meeting.

A small group of the Ocean Gliders Steering Committee met on 26 July. The topic for the discussion was plans for a meeting in 2022.

Attendees : Grace Saba, Charitha Pattaratchi, Brad De Young, Karen Heywood, David Hebert, Dan Rudnick, Victor Turpin

Overview:

General agreement on the need to reduce carbon footprint due to traveling (it is interesting to note that COVID travel restriction is not the main reason for this discussion).

In consequence there is a demand to reshape the way we envision meetings in the future. We should change our culture of meetings instead of stepping back onto the tread-mill of endless travel and meetings.

It was agreed, however, that there was real benefit from meeting together and there are benefits from in-person gatherings. There was general consensus that early career researchers in particular benefit from in person contact. At the same time, the virtual meetings have allowed much greater participation by early career researchers. Any in person meeting held now should at least be hybrid in form

The equation we need to solve is : How to reduce the carbon footprint of the OceanGliders community without losing the benefits of meeting in person?

What do we value in an in person meeting ?

- Scientific results and discussions,
- Technological innovation,
- Networking (early career, cross generation too)
- Engagement in OceanGliders (recruiting)

The benefits of personal connection are not easily reproduced through online meetings.

There was also discussion both the need to build the global glider community and that some regions need particular attention, areas where there is interest but still developing capability, e.g. Asia, Africa and South America.

Some meetings are worth the travel, others aren't. People will decide whether or not they will attend in person meetings in the future depending on the benefits they expect from it.

Suggested Meeting objectives :

- Showcase unpublished scientific results within glider research and technology advancing

- Networking and engagement
- Expand OceanGliders program
- Encourage cross network activities (BOON, Storms, ...)

Hybrid meeting :

- Both virtual and in person
- In two places at once (region meeting / GOOS regional alliance), e.g. on different sides of the planet with overlapping virtual sessions
- Linked to other network (Argo, OceanSites, AniBOS) or science meetings
- Linked to training sessions (PLOCAN)

Example: A hybrid organizational meeting (a mixture of in person and online) combined with a dispersed geographic setting (two or more locations for the simultaneous in person events, linked online).

Example: Another approach to holding a meeting would be to reach out to other potential partners, for example other Networks within OCG (Ocean Sites, Argo, HF Radar,...) to see if there are other opportunities to build a meeting. If we did this, then we could have a three day meeting where half the meeting overlapped with another group and half did not.

Other topic : Suggestion to organise a zoom meeting by the end of this year.

Comment from the chat :

“You could make an argument that a future in person meeting somewhere that **doesn't** currently do gliders would be worthwhile - e.g, Africa. Capacity building. In later years.”

“Hybrid” could also mean - linking online events between regional “nodes” - the UG2, the EU, the Asian, the South American, African, Australian groups meet in clusters. The meeting is still in person, networking takes place, ... people meet in a hotel and synchronize also in terms of time zones...”

“Virtual meeting makes it difficult to connect with the “not already connected” glider groups (e.g. Asian glider groups).”

“Using GOOS structure (OceanSites, OceanGliders, Argo) Combining with other OCG network international meetings.”

“Maybe there is an update of [“What can GCOS contribute to achieve the Paris Agreement: What can GCOS contribute to reduce our carbon footprint?”](#) somewhere?”

What to do next :

- 1) Contact the different partners to update on their agenda and suggest a common new approach for a community meeting
 - UG2/IOOS, Victor/Brad/Dan?/Grace? Contact Bill Lingsch (UG2 coordinator).
 - OceanGliders Canada, Brad, David
 - EuroGOOS Glider TT, Victor,Pierre,Johanness, Karen
 - OCG network, Johannes,Brad
 - IMOS/ANFOG, Charitha
 - CSIR/SOCCO, Victor contact CSIR/SOCCO glider team
 - other GOOS regional Alliance - Emma
- 2) Draft a meeting objectives document (see paragraph 1 - Steering team)
- 3) Shape a proposal for a new approach for OceanGliders meetings and beyond (based on the answer from other groups)
- 4) Suggestion : Assess carbon footprint of previous community meeting ? (Traveling assessment only Victor, if audience available)