**G E B C O**

GENERAL BATHYMETRIC CHART OF THE OCEANS

   

**41st Meeting of the GEBCO Guiding Committee (GGC41)**

 **Nadi, Fiji**

4, 7 & 8 November 2024

Talei Room – Tanoa International Hotel

**Meeting Report**

1. **OPENING REMARKS AND ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**
2. Opening Remarks and Introductions

 Chair welcomed participants and noted that the GGC was quorate. He thanked the Fiji Navy Hydrographic Office for hosting GGC42, noting that this was the first time that the GGC had ever been held in the pacific islands. He invited all participants to introduce themselves.

1. Opening remarks by parent bodies

IHO Director Luigi Sinapi (**LS**) provided opening remarks on behalf of the IHO, welcomed participants and acknowledged the significance of GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project (SB2030) being represented in the region. He noted that the Pacific being the largest ocean was a clear frontier for our quest to map the ocean, and that it was therefore serendipitous that earlier in 2024 Kiribati became the 100th Member of the IHO.

Julian Barbière (**JB**) provided some opening remarks on behalf of IOC. He noted the growing relevance of GEBCO and seabed mapping in the context of international oceans policy. He drew special attention to the role that GEBCO will play in underpinning critical developments such as BBNJ and challenge 8 of the UN Ocean Decade.

1. Working Arrangements

IHO Secretary went through the working arrangements and general administration for the meeting. He noted that all documents received had been uploaded and requested that outstanding material be supplied as soon as possible.

1. Administrative Arrangements

Covered in previous agenda item.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and approval of report from GGC40

The agenda and GGC40 report were approved.

**Decision 1. GGC41 meeting agenda adopted**

**Decision 2. GGC30 meeting report approved**

1. Review of Action Items from GGC40

Action Items form previous GGC meeting were reviewed with actions identified that would be covered in the following agenda items.

1. Report from IRCC16 (Report) and IOC EC-56

The Chair provided an update on what was reported back to IRCC. Key issues included:

- Review of meetings of the GGC held in the reporting period

- Progress against the work plan

- Updates to the GEBCO Grid

- Seabed 2030 Progress

- Updates to the GEBCO Website

- Work of the Sub-Committees

Chair reported that a key outcome of IRCC16 was the endorsement of the GEBCO Strategy and Governance review, and the action on the GGC to develop an Implementation Plan.

**JB** gave a verbal update on the outcome of IOC EC-56. Key issues included:

* GGC Chair report to EC-36
* The report of the review of GEBCO Products

**JB** reported that EC-56 had approved the GEBCO Governance review and Strategy and requested that the GGC develop an implementation plan to be presented back to EC-36

1. **REPORTS FROM PARENTAL AND SUBORDINATE BODIES**
2. IHO update – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41_2024_EN_2.1_IHO%20update%20REV2.pptx)

Director Sinapi provided a report on key updates from the IHO bodies meeting in the intersession period.

On the topic of the IHO Project Team on Fund Generation, the GGC nominated David Millar (**DM**) to represent the GGC in this group.

**Action 1. Chair to contact Chair of IHO Funding PT requesting a member of GGC be appointed as rep.**

1. IOC update – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41_2024_EN_2.2_IOC%20update%20.pptx)

**JB** provided an update on IOC activities.

On the topic of the IOC wide Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Strategy Working Group, it was suggested that this Working Group should have GGC representation.

**Action 2. Nominate GGC rep to the IOC Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management Strategy Working Group**

On the topic of the work of the Ocean Decade Corporate Data Group Data Sharing Guideline, it was agreed that this should be available on the GEBCO Website.

**Action 3. - Add link to Bathymetry Data Sharing Guideline to GEBCO Page**

1. Financial update, including funds status report

This agenda item was deferred until agenda item 10.

1. BODC Report - [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-2.4_2024_EN_BODC_report.pdf)

Helen Snaith (**HS)** provided an update on BODC activities.

On the topic of the utility of the GEBCO Google Workspace, **HS** noted that the resource is not being used as fully as it might, and that this was service that is being paid for. Therefore, if the issue was that colleagues did not have login details then they should contact **HS** for support. Further, it was noted that some colleagues may be unfamiliar with how the Google Workspace works, in which case a training workshop would be useful.

**Action 4. - All to advise HS if they need access to their google workspace**

**Action 5. - Organize a workshop on the use of the shared google workspace**

On the topic of the broader utility of the GEBCO website, a question was posed as to whether it the analysis of traffic to website could be used to understand and promote the needs for global training requirement. It was agreed that in principle, this could be possible but may require further website upgrades.

1. DCDB update, including relevant CSBWG and ASMIWG issues – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-2.5_2024_EN_IHO%20DCDB_Report.pdf)

Jenn Jencks (**JJ**), Director DCDB gave an update on activity relating to the DCDB.

On the topic of Rewards and Recognition, **DM** noted that there is work that is being undertaken under work item L of the Crowdsourced Bathymetry Working Group (CSBWG) that may be of use to IOC.

**Action 6. Share information relating to reward and recognition investigation being undertaken by the CSBWG with IOC**

1. NF related activities and programmes – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-2.6_2024_EN_NF%20Activities%20and%20Related%20Programmes%20Report.pdf)

Robin Falconer (**RB**) gave an update from the perspective of the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Projects Management Committee (NFPMc). The report covered:

* The history of the relationship between GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation
* A very brief orientation on SB2030
* Introduction and background to the UNH Training Programme
* Hunga Tonga Hunga Hap’ai volcanic eruption response
* The latest status of the NFPMC

Rochelle Wigley (**RW**) provided a detailed update on the Nippon Foundation – GEBCO Training Programme, delivered by UNH. The update included signposting the ad hoc. opportunities that became available on the RV ODIN and RV Pressure Drop. Particular note was paid to the course review which was being undertaken. A question was posed as to whether the review was internal or open to external parties. In responding **RW** confirmed it was internal at present but could be potentially opened up externally in the future.

**Action 7. Submit findings of the review to the IBSC for inclusion in the review of the S-5 CAT A programme**

**Action 8. SCET to consider how applications for assistance can capture contact details for future use.**

1. **DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS**
2. Document Review Status

The Chair asked for updates relating to the Bathymetric publications that GEBCO is responsible for. He noted that the intention was to report by exception.

**B-9 – GEBCO Digital Atlas**. IHO Sec recapped that with the cancellation of B-9 digital Atlas, an issue has been identified with regard to the formal designation of the GEBCO digital Grid. He noted that the work to establish a mechanism for the B-9 designation to be attributed to the grid, but reminded the group that a management regime needs to be proposed to IRCC. GGC39 Action 12 therefore remains open.

**B-10 – History of GEBCO.** It was noted that despite sustained effort, it has been difficult to get volunteers to contribute to the update of key sections of B-10. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that given the key anniversary of 120 Years of GEBCO had passed, that it would be difficult to justify continued effort that would likely result in further delays.

**Decision 3. Work on an update of B-10 to be paused.**

1. Cookbook Editorial Board report - [**Report**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-3.1.1_2024_EN_GEBCO%20Cookbook%20report.pdf)

George Spoelstra(**GS**) gave an update on the GEBCO Cookbook. He noted that Christie Reiser (**CR**) had stepped down from the role. He explained that she had done a lot of work and thanked her for her contribution. However, it was noted that she had struggled to find contributors and they question as to why had been posed. Attempts to fond a new Chair of the editorial board had failed, but that Thierry Schmidt (**TS**) would lead a piece of work to investigate what the potential usage and modern audience for the Cookbook might be. It is thought that this information might help focus the development/update of the cookbook in the right direction. The IHO Sec. advised the GGC that other groups such as the Hydrographic Surveys Working Group (HSWG) were exploring innovative formats to deliver publications such as the Manual on Hydrography (C-13) and that there may be useful experience and insights that could be shared.

**Action 9. Connect B-11, C-13 and B-12 teams to consider a joint proposal for a wiki type format to HSSC/IRCC**

**Action 10. Investigate how educational entities are using B-11**

1. ToRs and RoPs review, to include annual check of GGC ToRs and approval of any proposed amendments to subordinate body ToRs.

The ToRs and RoPs were signposted but a detailed review was deemed premature, ahead of the analysis of the Governance review.

1. **SEABED 2030**

Progress brief on activities of Seabed 2030 Project against agreed Business Plan, including funding state, RDACC and GDACC activities, outcomes from interaction with IOC and IHO Secretariats and endorsement of Work Plan 2024-2025:

1. Recap of SB2030 reporting processes and governance arrangements

The Chair explained that the SB2030 governance documents had been updated to reflect how the project has evolved and is now being managed. Further, he advised that the SB2030 Governance Documents had been submitted, but a question remained about how these should be reviewed, given that that they are not the sort of document that should be public facing. The GGC agreed that a small task team should be formed to review the documents in light of the ongoing work to implement the GEBCO Strategy and insights yielded from the Governance review. Note: the members of the task team can be found in the GGC41 Actions document.

**Action 11. Task team to review SB2030 Governance documentation**

1. SB2030 Year 7 report - [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-4.2_2024_EN_SB2030%20Y7%20Annual%20Report.zip)

Jamie McMichael-Phillips (**JMP**), Director Seabed 2030, provided an update of Year 7 activities by each of the 5 work packages:

WP1 – Data

WP2 – Systems and Tools

WP3 – Technology Innovation

WP4 – Mapping Activities

WP5 – Management

In providing the update, it was noted that one of the challenges is the mismatch between the GGC and the SB2030 funding cycles – this means he was only able to report on activity up to the 31st July.

On the topic of the improved STR15, a question was posed as to whether specific metrics can be generated to help track progress.

**Action 12. Liaise with Scrips to understand whether it is possible to generate metrics for the relative improvement of the grid**

1. Presentation of draft Year 8 Work plan and proposed funding bid - [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-4.3_2024_EN_Appendix_3_SB2030%20Year%208%20WP.pdf)

Director SB2030 presented a summary of the draft Year 8 work plan, providing an overview of each of the 5 work packages. He noted that once finalised, it will be posted on the GEBCO website for GGC members to review. He also noted that the quarterly reports were now being shared via the GEBCO secretary, and it was requested that these be posted on the IHO website.

On the topic of novel data sources, a discussion was had regarding the need (or not) to seek permission before undertaking SDB in waters under national jurisdiction, and the potential onward challenges for ingestion of such datasets into the DCDB and the GEBCO Grid. A range of opinions were expressed and it was acknowledged that whilst anecdotal, the understanding is that Space Law only requires the Sensing party to inform the Sensed State of the activity and to provide them with a copy of the data, this did not mean that some States may still have opposing views. By extension, this could pose a policy issue for ingestion of this data into the DCDB. Whilst it was noted that there is more than one such initiative either being undertaken or being planned, this would need to be explored carefully.

On the topic of SDB2030 MoUs, a question was raised as to whether these agreements need to be reviewed periodically to see if they are fit for purpose and delivering benefit. It was acknowledged that this will be a consideration as the project matures.

1. **REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC OCEAN MAPPING MEETING**

.1 Key outcomes - Report

Kevin Mackay (**KM**) gave an overview of the discussions and deliberations that had occurred over the two days of the 6th Pacific Ocean Mapping Meeting. He explained that he had canvased opinion from the Pacific region participants on the GEBCO Strategy. He provided a summary of their observations:

* What is meant by “seabed data” and bathymetry “derivatives”? Does this mean that GEBCO is going to take an interest in other datasets like backscatter, geomorphology, geology, benthic biology?
* Has any thought been given to CARE principles, especially in data from coastal waters?
* Has any thought been given to CARE principles, especially in data from coastal waters?
* GEBCO is poorly known in the Pacific. So, getting active Pacific participants is difficult due to financial constraints, internal resourcing limitations, lack of awareness of GEBCO and senior levels for any approval process.
* Where does national agencies, NGO, other projects and regional bodies like SPC fit into the objectives of s3.4? Are they “general public”?

The Chair thanked **KM** and the Pacific Region Stakeholders for their input, and noted that many of them were present so would be able to provide further input through the planned SWOT analysis.

1. **GEBCO GOVERANCE REVIEW AND STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**
2. Development of Implementation Plan

[**Governance Review and Strategy Implementation Introduction**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-6.1a_2024_EN_GEBCO%20Gov%20Review%20and%20Strategy%20Implementation%20Introduction.pptx). The Chair introduced the topic and reminded participants that having endorsed the Strategy and Governance Review, IHO IRCC16 and IOC EC-56 had requested that the GGC develop and implementation plan. He explained that some intersession work had been undertaken by **GS** on the Strategy and by **IHO Sec** on the Governance Review, in readiness for discussion at GGC41 and gave a high-level overview of how the interactive session would be run.

[**GEBCO Strategy Update**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-6.1b_2024_EN_GEBCO%20Strategy%20Update.pptx)**.** Geoffroy Lamarche (**GL**) gave an overview of the Strategy, covering both the process and the final components and structure.

[**GEBCO Gov Review Update.**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-6.1c_2024_EN_GEBCO%20Gov%20Review%20Update.pptx) **IHO Sec**. gave an overview of the GEBCO Governance Review, an explanation of the process and highlighted the key findings. **IHO Sec.** explained that he had been tasked by the Chair transfer the Governance Review Findings into a risk register and issues log, in preparation for the GGC undertaking the relevant analysis and associated scoring. The idea being that this would give an indication of priority for each of the findings. Unfortunately, hardly any feedback had been provided by the GGC during the intersession, meaning the scoring had yet to be completed. However, IHO sec finished by explaining that the approach to developing the implementation plan that would be proposed by **GS** would from incorporate the Governance Review from here on out.

[**Strategy Implementation process.**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-6.1d_2024_EN_Strategy%20Implentation%20process.pptx) **GS** gave an overview of the work that had been done during the intersession to find an implementation model that would work for an organisation like GEBCO. In doing so he explained the key components of an implementation plan and proposed an 11-step approach. He noted that with the work that had been done to develop a Strategy and undertake the Governance review, GEBCO was already at step 5 of this process. He went through each step in more detail:

STEP 1: Choosing the right time

STEP 2: Building the team

STEP 3: Reviewing your existing vision and mission

STEP 4: Analyzing the current situation

STEP 5: Developing your strategic plan

STEP 6: Aligning with the new strategic plan

STEP 7: Creating an operational plan

STEP 8: Risk management assessment

STEP 9: Collecting the right information for effective monitoring (KPIs)

STEP 10: Monitoring and control

STEP 11: Reporting on your performance

Following this brief, he proposed to the GGC that this methodology be accepted as the basis for developing the implementation plan going forward.

**Decision 4. 11 Step process for implementing the GEBCO Strategy approved by GGC41.**

[**SWOT Analysis**](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-6.1d_2024_EN_Strategy%20Implentation%20process.pptx)**.** Following approval of the proposed 11 step implementation process, **GS** led the group through a SWOT analysis of GEBCO’s current situation as relates to each of the 5 pillars of the Strategy. The results (Annex A) would be used as an evidence base to guide the onward implementation of the Strategy.

In terms of next steps, it was agreed that a task group should be established to develop the implementation plan.

**Action 13. Establish task Group to develop Strategy Implementation Plan**

It was noted that whilst the implementation plan was being developed, the GEBCO Strategy should be ‘launched’ officially. A number of options for doing this were considered, including the 3rd UN Oceans Conference (UNOC3) to be held in June 2025 in Nice, France.

**Action 14. Consider how to launch and make available GEBCO Strategy**

1. **FUTURE OF THE GEBCO SYMPOSIUM**
2. Update on GGC40 discussion on the future approach to the annual GEBCO Symposium

The Chair presented the background to the topic and recapped the discussion that was had at GGC40. He explained the informal discussions that he had with MtGs in the intersession and informed the group that MtGs would go ahead with a symposium located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in October 2025. He explained that there was the opportunity to co-locate GGC42 with MtGs, but the exact nature of any collaboration would need to be further discussed.

More broadly, the purpose of holding a symposium was discussed and the various drivers and benefits were identified. It was agreed that in principle, this had proven to be a highly successful undertaking that had delivered many benefits to GEBCO. However, it was also noted, that the association with MtGs had drifted over time and it had become more and more autonomous. It was felt by the group that future events such as symposia, should be done in a collaborative way and that GEBCO should maintain flexibility to partner with any organisation that had mutual interests.

Noting the conversation, it was agreed that MtGs should be advised that GEBCO wishes to proceed with 2025 partnership on the proviso that there is GGC representation on the organising committee and that a 2025 specific partnership arrangement is in place.

**Action 16. Advise MtGs that GEBCO wishes to proceed with 2025 partnership on the proviso that there is GGC representation on the organising committee and that a 2025 specific partnership arrangement is in place.**

Looking beyond 2025, and noting that Columbia has offered to host the GGC43 (together with a symposium), it was agreed that a parallel piece of work was required to agree what the future of the GEBCO Symposium should be.

**Action 17. Establish a task Group to develop proposal for future approach to the GEBCO Seminar beyond 2025.**

1. **DEPTH AS A GOOS ESSENTIAL OCEAN VARIABLE**
2. Brief on the IHO Submission of Depth as a new GOOS Essential Ocean Variable and implications for GEBCO – [Report to IHO Council 8](https://iho.int/uploads/user/About%20IHO/Council/council8/C8_2024_05.2.2C_EN_Depth_becomes_an_EOV.pdf)

**IHO Sec.** gave a brief on the background to proposing Depth be included as Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Essential Ocean Variable (EOV). He explained that this was an IHO Secretariat led initiative which had been presented to the 8th Session of the IHO Council (C8). C8 had requested that GEBCO take the lead on developing the proposal under the leadership of the IHO Sec. After a short discussion, GGC 42 agreed with the proposal.

**Action 18. Establish Task Team to investigate proposing Depth as an EOV and report back to IS meeting for approval to proceed.**

1. **3rd UN OCEAN CONFERENCE 2025**
2. Update on relevant preparations for UNOC25

**IHO Sec.** presented an overview of the UNOC3 and the various events associated with it. **JB** provided extra background on where the opportunities for GEBCO would be and specifically highlighted the One Ocean Science Congress, which will immediately preceded the UNOC3 week. It was agreed that GEBCO should submit an abstract to the OOSC and that associated costs could be provided from the GEBCO Fund.

**Action 19. GEBCO Abstract to be submitted to OOSC**

It was further noted that ‘townhall events’ (side events by another name) were being organised alongside the OOSC, and that this may present an opportunity for GEBCO.

**Action 20. Develop a submission to the Townhall event**

With so many events being planned during an alongside UNOC3, it was noted that communications about GEBCO would need to be consistent and coordinated.

**Action 20. Prof Larry Mayer and Nicholas Anderman to develop GEBCO messaging brief to support UNOC preparations**

1. **GEBCO ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**
2. Introduction and proposal for provision of administrative support to GEBCO

**IHO Sec.**  advised the GGC that it had been agreed that one of the seconded project officers to the IHO could be deployed to support GEBCO administration. This development was welcomed by the GGC.

1. **GEBCO WORK PLANS AND FUNDING**
2. **GGC Subordinate bodies’ Reports and Work Plans 2025**
	1. Annual Reports from Sub-Committees, approve funding requests and Work Plans, including outputs/deliverables for next period

The Chair introduced the agend item and explained that unlike previous GGC meetings, the reports from the SC Chairs will be presented at the same time as their annual budget requests. SC chair we requested to present their annual reports, draft funding requests and Work Plans for their Sub-Committee or Working Group; identifying outputs, deliverables and appropriate milestones for consideration and approval of the GGC.

IHO Secretary further explained the proposed budgeting process for 2025, namely that there would be quarterly reporting requirements that would allow for the better management of the limited budget.

With this in mind he suggested the key questions to ask when looking at budget requests are:

- Does the activity represent a commitment to onward routine spend?

- What are the onward costs associated with the activity?

- Can the activity be paused?

- Is the activity still relevant to the work plan and aims of GEBCO?

* + 1. SCUFN – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.3_2024_EN_SCRUM_Report.pdf) – [Work Plan and Budget](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.1_2024_EN_Draft_SCUFN_WP%20and%20Budget.pdf)

The SCUFN Vice Chair presented the annual report of activity and associated work plan and associated budget lines. The annual budget request for supporting the work on the Gazetteer was noted and ring fenced.

**Decision 5. The GGC approved the SCUFN Work Plan and budget allocations pending final reconciliation.**

**Action 21. SCUFN to review B6 on Specific terms considering specific alpha-numeric codes and dual naming, together with implications of the change properly articulated**

* + 1. TSCOM – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.2_2024_EN_TSCOM_Report.pdf) – [Work Plan and Budget](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.2_2024_EN_Draft_TSCOM_2025_WP.pdf)

The TSCOM Chair presented the annual report of activity and associated work plan and associated budget lines. In addition to the submitted budget, the TSCO Chair requested that EUR 10,000 was added to the GGC budget to employ a contractor to support the creation of the implementation plan. This was agreed and the budget was added to the SCOPE budget line.

**Decision 6. The GGC approved the TSCOM Work Plan and budget allocations pending final reconciliation, including EUR 10k for the Strategy Implementation Plan**

**Action 22. TSCOM to explore how/whether GEBCO Grid should/could be incorporated as an S-XXX Product Specification**

* + 1. SCRUM – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.3_2024_EN_SCRUM_Report.pdf) – [Work Plan and Budget](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.3_2024_EN_SCRUM_WP%20and%20Budget.xlsx)

The SCRUM Chair presented the annual report of activity and associated work plan and associated budget lines.

**Decision 7. The GGC approved the SCRUM Work Plan and budget allocations pending final reconciliation.**

**Action 23. Add SB2030 to the list of regional mapping projects on the GEBCO website**

* + 1. SCOPE – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.4_2024_EN_SCOPE%20Report.pdf) – [Work Plan and Budget](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.4_2024_EN_SCOPE_WP%20and%20Budegt.xlsx)

The SCOPE Vice Chair presented the annual report of activity and associated work plan and associated budget lines. It was noted by the GGC that SCOPE was currently without a Chair, and that the Vice Chair would be stepping down at GGC41. As a consequence, it was decided that until the Strategy implementation plan had be developed, SCOPE would be put into stasis until it was clear what the future requirements for communications and outreach were.

**Decision 8. SCOPE to be put into stasis pending the outcomes of the strategy implementation.**

**Action 24. US to provide legal review of IP statement**

**Action 25. GGC request SCUFN to confirm that changes made to the world map have been completed correctly and provide that assurance to the GGC**

**Action 26. Update slide template and webpage to incorporate new vision and mission**

* + 1. SCET – [Report](https://iho.int/uploads/user/Inter-Regional%20Coordination/GEBCO/GGC/GGC41/GGC41-11.1.1.5_2024_EN_SCET%20Report.pdf) – Work Plan and Budget

The SCET Chair presented the annual report of activity and associated work plan and associated budget lines.

**Decision 9. GGC approved the SCET Work Plan and budget allocations pending final reconciliation.**

1. **GGC Work Plan 2025**
2. Approve GGC funding requests and Work Plans including outputs/deliverables for next period

The **IHO Sec.** noted that there were no budget requests from the GGC itself, so the GGC work plan would comprise of the amalgamated work plans of the SCs.

1. **GGC AND SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**
2. Identification of GGC Members, whose terms are due to complete within the next two years

The **IHO Sec.** reminded GGC participants that at GGC40, it was noted that Marzia Rovere (**MR**) would finish her 2nd and final term on the GGC in 2024, but would finish her 3 year term on the GGC in 2023. It was agreed at GGC40 that Marzia continue for one further year of a second 3 year term on the GGC until she steps down at GGC41. The Chair thanked Marzia for her dedication and commitment to the GGC.

The **IHO Sec.** reminded GGC participants that at GGC40, it was noted that Evert Flier finished his first 3 year term as Chair of the GGC in 2023, and would complete his first 5 year term as a GGC member in 2024. It was agreed that he be elected as Chair for 1 further year as the GGC chair until 2024, where he will be nominated for a second 5 year term on the GGC.

1. Election of Vacant Office Positions
	1. GGC Chair/Vice Chair

As there were no other nominations, Evert Flier was simultaneously confirmed to serve a second five year term as a GGC Member, and to continue with his second 3 year term as Chair of the GGC.

It was noted that there were now three unfilled vacancies on the IOC nominated GGC members. In light of this, it was decided to defer the election of a Vice Chair until at least the Intersession meeting planned for April 2025.

* 1. Chair/Vice Chair of SCs

Nil

1. **NEXT MEETING**
	1. Discussion on future meeting phasing/schedule

Nil.

* 1. Dates and venues for GGC42, 43 and 44

It was noted that subject to satisfactory completion of GGC41 Action 16, GGC42 would be held in Victoria, BC, Canada.

It was further noted that Columbia had volunteered to host GGC43, which the GGC gratefully accepted.

As yet, no offer for hosting GGC44 had be received.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Nil.

1. **REVIEW ACTION ITEMS FROM GGC41**

List of actions were reviewed and agreed.

1. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

The chair closed the meeting and thanked all for their participation.