



# GEBCO Guiding Committee

Report to IRCC16

Santa Cruz Island - Galapagos, Ecuador  
10 – 12 June 2024

By Evert Flier

GGC Chair



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# Highlights

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1. New GEBCO Strategy
2. GEBCO Governance Review
3. Celebration 120-year anniversary
4. Ocean Mapping focus at Barcelona April 2024 + Nice June 2025
5. SB2030
6. Sub-Committee highlights
7. GGC41 in Fiji, jointly with SB2030 Pacific RDACC



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# New GEBCO strategy

## Vision:

To bring knowledge about our planet's seabed to everyone

## Mission:

To produce free, open and complete seabed data and information for the world's oceans.

This is achieved by enabling and inspiring seabed mapping efforts through international collaboration, technological innovation, capacity development, and education.



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# GEBCO Governance Review

## SCOPE

- Mapping of GEBCO organizational and functional structure, detailing the nature of any relationships, reporting lines, obligations or liabilities;
- Review of the legal structure and framework with a statement on the current and recommended future status (if change is deemed necessary);
- Review of financial arrangements with a statement on the current and recommended future status (if change is deemed necessary);
- A gap analysis of the current governance instruments (e.g. MoUs, ToRs etc.);

**GGC will now start to organize implementation (if + how + priority)**

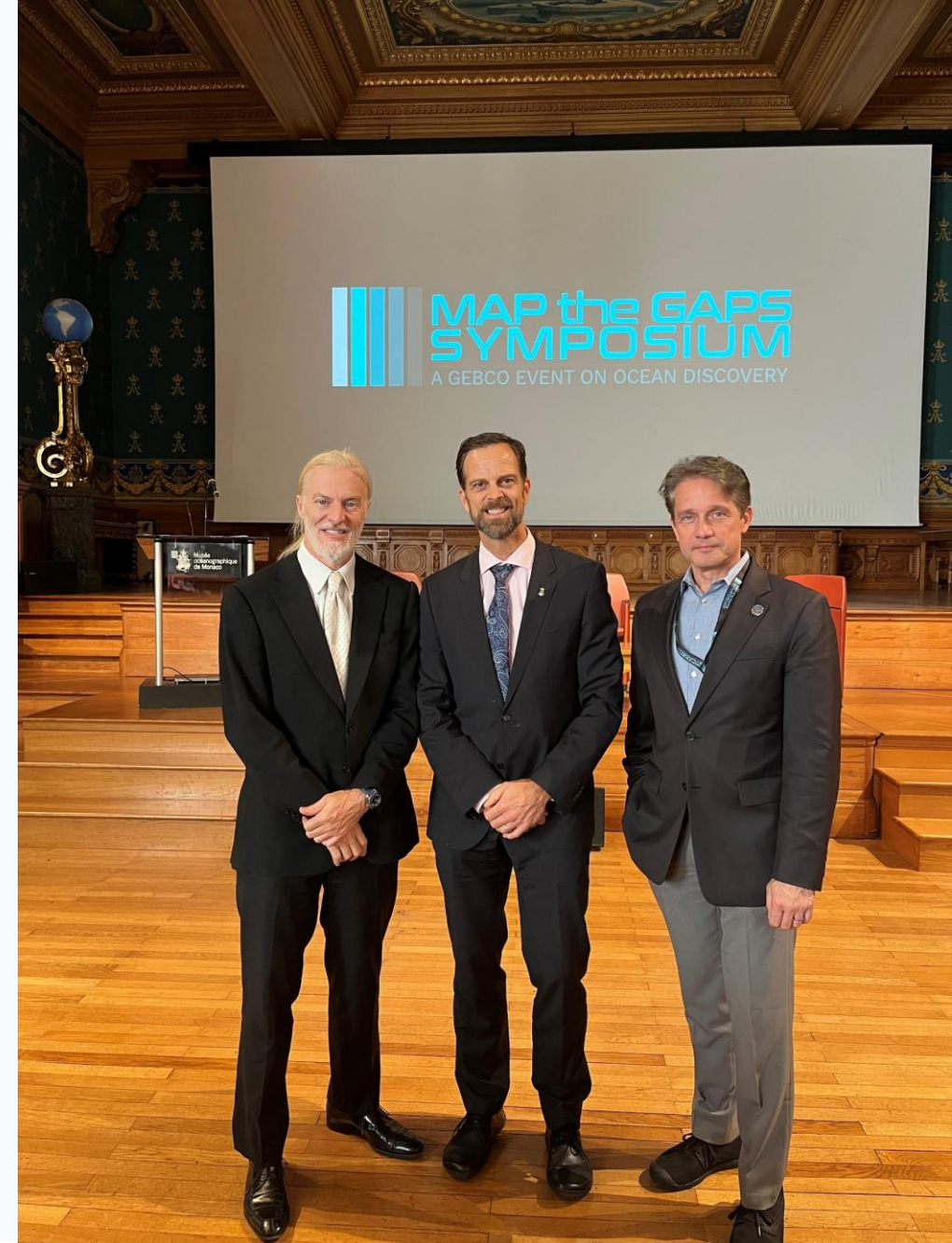


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# Celebration 120 years continued

- At IOC Assembly
- At GGC40



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# Ocean Mapping focus

...is increasing as more people from different disciplines, countries and decision levels are becoming more aware of the relationship between seabed knowledge and:

1. Improved climate modelling
  2. Marine biodiversity discovery and monitoring
  3. Offshore wind planning process
- UN Ocean Decade conference Barcelona April 2024
  - UN Ocean Conference Nice June 2025
  - New IOC Executive Secretary



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## REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEBCO PRODUCTS 2024

- 63 responses from 38 countries
- Highly supportive of GEBCO, 90% valuing GEBCO gridded bathy sets, 70% GEBCO web-service, >60% undersea feature names + Cap. Dev. aspects of GEBCO
- Request for higher resolution products
- Interest in expanding scope of GEBCO products
- Request for greater choice of file formats, including better visualization tools
- Request for an international seabed data users group



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# Seabed 2030

- Increased to 24.9% of the world's oceans directly measured and mapped, anticipated an additional
- As Decadal Flagship program, works alongside UN Decade team and other global initiatives
- 14 new MoU's among which with NHC as first RHC
- Organized the NF GEBCO UNH training alumni conference July 2023 in Tokyo





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# Highlights GEBCO Sub-Committees

- Improved cooperation / harmonization between SC's, work from new strategy
- SCUFN: max 25 naming proposals per country per year, max 250 total, South China Sea no-og area for undersea feature naming
- TSCOM: work on improving availability, discoverability and accessibility of bathymetric data
- SCRUM: Supporting regional CSB/SB2030 coordinators
- SCOPE: new tasks and comms strategy under development
- SCET: Identify relevant institutions that provide ocean mapping and oceanography courses, work in progress.



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# Proposals

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IRCC is invited to:

- Note the report
- Note the funding challenges faced by the GEBCO programme
- Endorse the GEBCO strategy
- Endorse the GEBCO Governance Review report