

4.1 GCOS main outputs: ECVs, Status Report and Implementation Plans

31st Session of the GCOS Steering Committee *Geneva*, 2-5/07/2024

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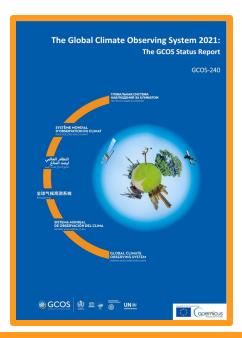






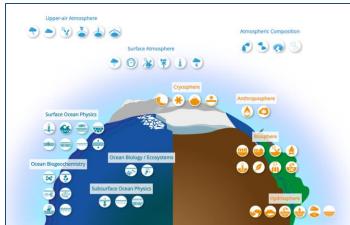
GCOS: main activities and outputs

Cycle of 5 years

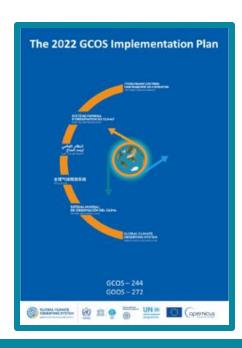


Assess if the Status of the observing system meets those requirements (GCOS Status Report)





Identify what we need to measure (ECV requirements)



Propose actions to improve the observing system for climate (GCOS Implementation Plan)





















Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)

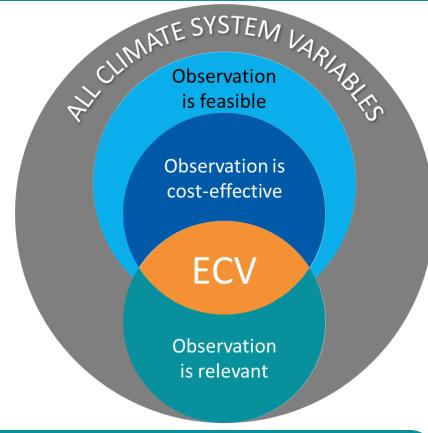
Essential Climate Variables (ECVs)

- are physical, chemical or biological variables that critically contribute to the characterization of Earth's climate.
- are not stand-alone variables; they are part of a wider concept.
- are founded on climate science and observational capability and infrastructure.

ECV datasets provide the empirical evidence

- to understand and predict the evolution of climate,
- to guide mitigation and adaptation measures,
- to assess risks,
- to enable attribution of climatic events to underlying causes,
- to underpin climate services.

SOURCE: Bojinski et al. 2014



ECVs should meet these principles

Free and Open.

data is openly available to all users

Transparent,

methods and assumptions are clear, with standardised metadata, where

Accurate, climate

data needs high accuracy to distinguish small trends from larger annual variab. **Useful**, there should be a clear demand from users

Timely & Long-

term, aim to maintain and/or develop long-term climate data records

Based on best available science











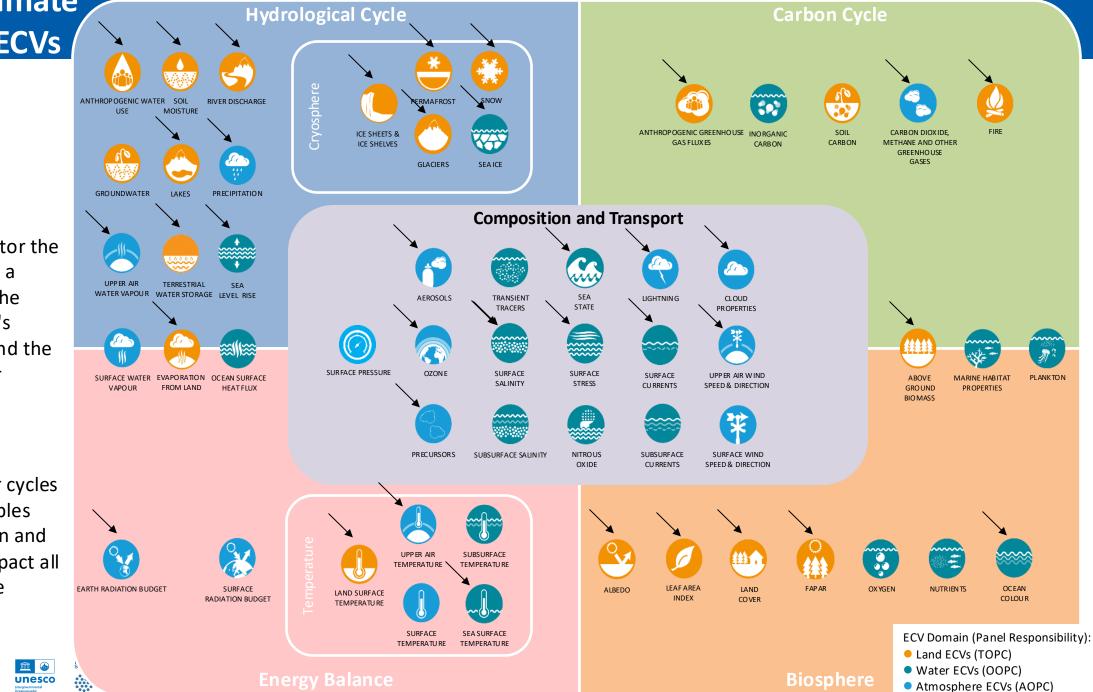


Essential Climate Variables - ECVs

55 ECVs -37 can be measured from space

ECVs aim to monitor the climate system as a whole, covering the interlinked Earth's energy balance and the carbon and water cycles.

Biosphere is very important for the carbon and water cycles while many variables cover composition and transport that impact all aspects of climate change



PROPERTIES

NUTRIENTS

OCEAN

COLOUR

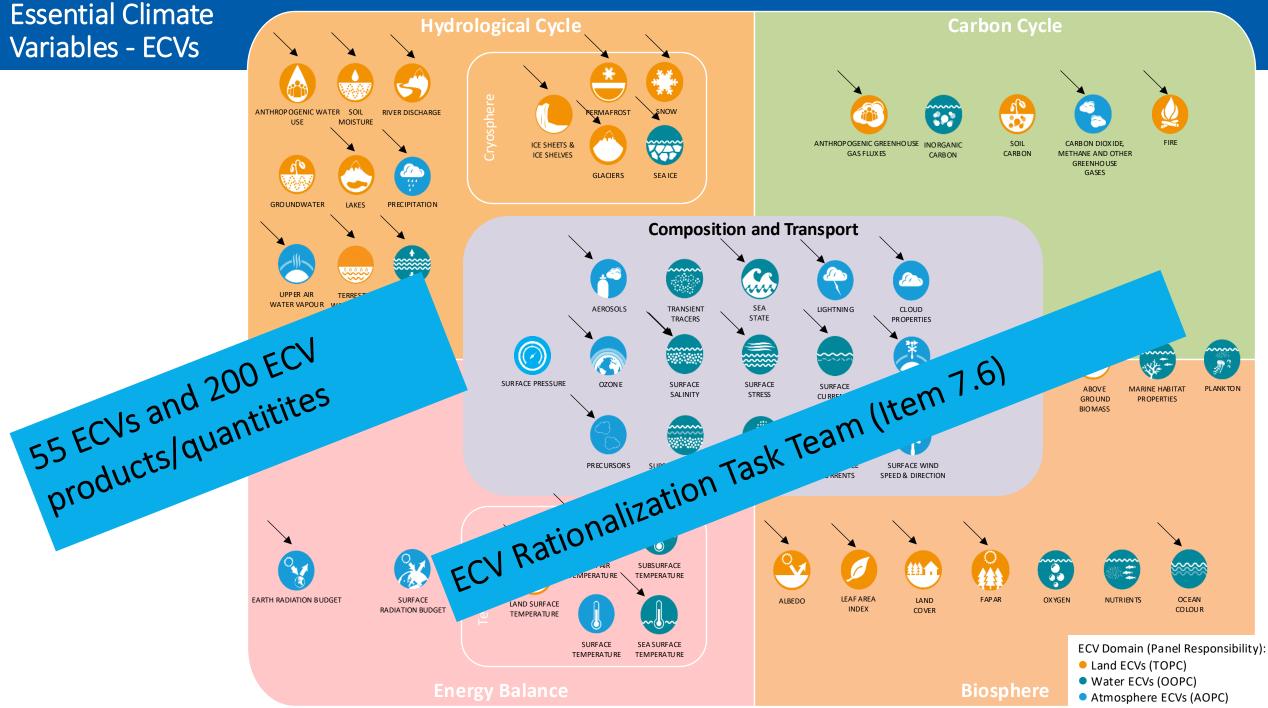




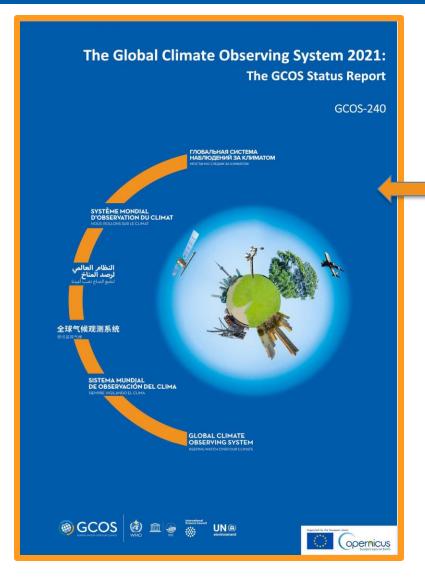




Essential Climate Variables - ECVs



The GCOS Status Report



- Submitted to UNFCCC
- Assessment of the fitness for
 purpose of the global observing system for climate.
- The assessment focuses on the ECVs – observational gaps
- It also assesses how much progress has been accomplished for each of the Actions presented in the previous Implementation Plan



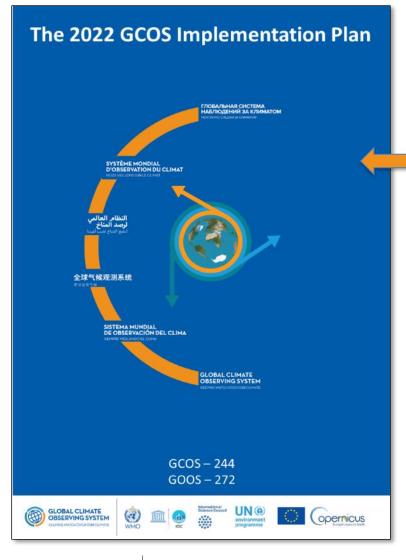




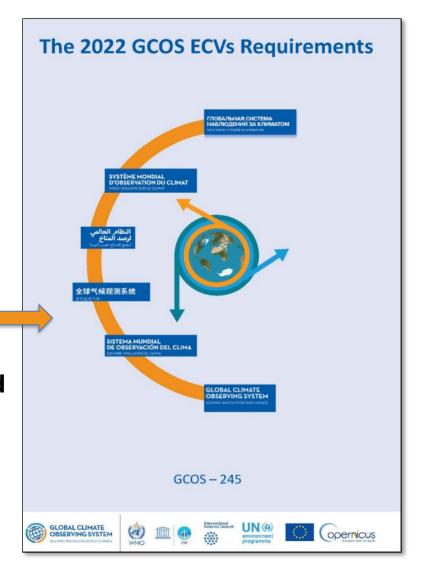




The GCOS Implementation Plan and ECVs Requirements



- Published every ≅ 5 years
- Submitted to UNFCCC
- Actions for addressing gaps and improvements of a fit for purpose Global Climate **Observing System**
- Published jointly with the **2022 GCOS IP**
- Provides the observational requirements for 55 ECVs (and more ECV products)

















Producing GCOS Implementation Plan

GCOS has a 5 year cycle of monitoring the climate observing system → GCOS Status Reports → GCOS Implementation Plans based on extensive consultation and public review

> 2022 GCOS **2022 GCOS Implementation** Plan 2021 GCOS Status report

mplementation Plan

Consultations **GCOS Status** Report GCOS expert Panels get inputs from their 2021 communities Preparation of Drafting COP27 supplements Led by a writing for specific Adopts a decision team welcoming GCOS IP Panels identify main communities. actions needed in next 5-10 years **Publication** Revision Review Published by GCOS comments Submitted to addressed Broad public review Sponsors and final checks by (400 comments) UNFCCC GCOS experts

Earlier Status Reports and plans





Plan

2016 GCOS

Implementation



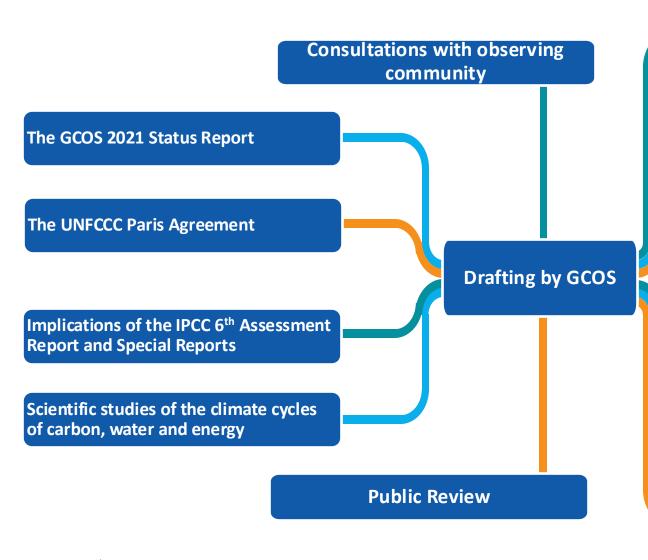




system



GCOS monitors performance of global climate observing



Ensuring Sustainability

Addressing in situ and satellite observations that are currently at risk.

Filling Data Gaps

Observations are consistently deficient in parts of Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, the deep oceans and polar regions.

Improving data quality, availability and utility, including reprocessing

Improvements in transforming observations into user-relevant information

Managing Data

Ensuring data is well-curated, discoverable, open and freely available and permanently archived

Engaging with Countries

Coordinating national efforts with global systems and support, understanding national needs.

Other Emerging Needs

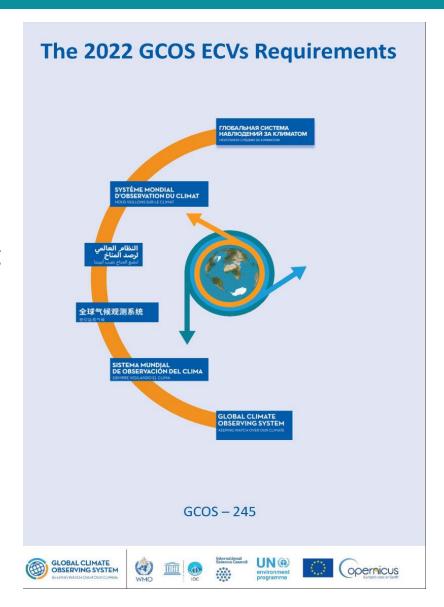
Some new needs can already be identified and adressed (e.g. for adaptation and mitigation)





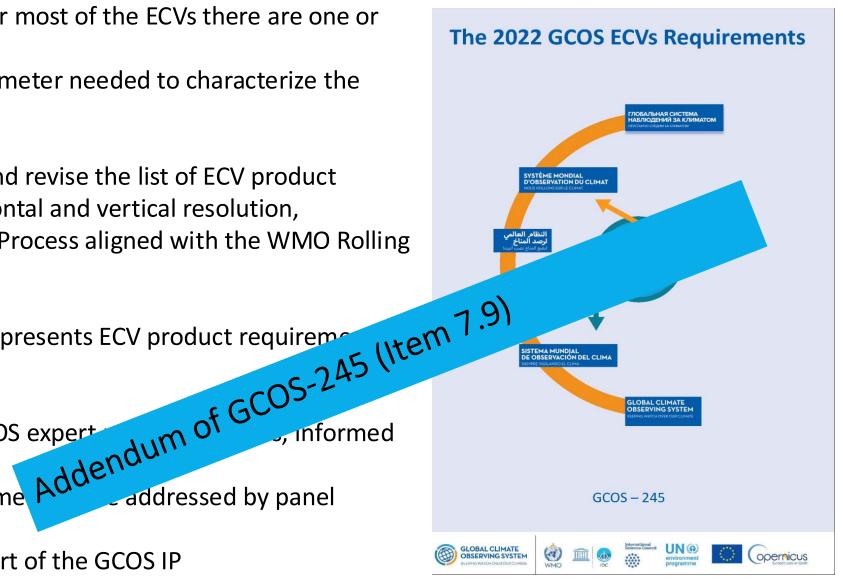
ECV Requirements

- GCOS specifies 55 ECV variables, for most of the ECVs there are one or more ECV products.
 - ECV product: measurable parameter needed to characterize the ECV.
- GCOS routinely maintain, review and revise the list of ECV product observational requirements (horizontal and vertical resolution, timeliness, stability, uncertainty..). Process aligned with the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements
- The 2022 GCOS ECV Requirements presents ECV product requirements covering all ECV products.
- Requirements were defined by GCOS expert panels members, informed by the wider community.
 - 1st public review in 2020: comments were addressed by panel members
 - 2nd public review in 2022 as part of the GCOS IP



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Thank you











