

Submission from the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) to SBSTA 43 on agenda item 8 (a) Research and systematic observation

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The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

GCOS Secretariat, c/o WMO, 7 bis, avenue de la Paix, P.O. Box 2300, CH-1211 Genève 2, Switzerland
gcos.wmo.int

Status Report of the Global Observing System for Climate

(3rd Assessment of the Adequacy of the Global Observing System for Climate and the
Progress made in the Implementation of the 2010 GCOS Implementation Plan)

SBSTA 37¹ invited the GCOS secretariat to provide the third report on the adequacy of the Global Observing System for Climate to SBSTA 43.

GCOS started its third assessment cycle at the end of 2013. A Status Report has been prepared for submission to GCOS' sponsoring organizations and Parties to SBSTA 43 in 2015. It reviews the overall status of each Essential Climate Variable, assesses progress against the GCOS Implementation Plan of 2010 and identifies gaps.

It was prepared under the overall guidance of the GCOS Steering Committee with contributions from panel members and external experts, compiled and coordinated by the Lead Author, supported by the GCOS Secretariat.

The report performs two functions. It assesses the progress made against the actions set out in the GCOS Implementation Plan of 2010 while also providing a more generic assessment of the overall adequacy of the Observing System. It makes use of a wide range of supporting GCOS material published since the last Status Report of 2009, many resulting from specialized workshops or working group meetings.

A draft version of the full report was submitted to public review from 24 July to 7 September 2015, and was available for open comment on the GCOS website. It was also sent to about 350 institutions and experts, including GCOS sponsors, main WMO programmes, partner institutions, GCOS panel members and experts, inviting them to

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25

comment and to redistribute further as they felt appropriate. The WMO Secretary General invited all WMO Members to send their comments to GCOS Secretariat. It has thus been subjected to wide review.

The GCOS review team received some 400 comments from individuals, scientific groups, institutions and national responsible agencies. General comments on the scope and content of the report were overwhelmingly positive, with a few remarks on the need to complement or further justify some aspects.

These have been reviewed and addressed in the final version of the full report (GCOS-195). The comments will also help in preparing the next GCOS Implementation Plan in 2016.

An Executive Summary (GCOS-194) has been prepared to summarise the full report and to give an aid to decision-makers and their scientific-technical advisors.

Annexes:

Annex 1 - Status Report of the Global Observing System for Climate, Full Report, GCOS-195, October 2015.

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/GCOS-195_en.pdf

Annex 2 - Status Report of the Global Observing System for Climate, Executive Summary, GCOS-194, in English, October 2015.

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/GCOS-194_en.pdf