

Relationship Agreement between GOA-ON and GOA-ON Regional Hubs

1. The GOA-ON Role

How does the global network support the regional hub?

- a. **Provide secretarial support to the leadership team of the regional hub:** Secretarial support may include help organising Steering Committee meetings, promotion of events, document review, and more. Support is provided to hubs by priority of greatest need and is dependent on secretariat staff availability. Each hub has a designated focal point in the Secretariat.
- b. **Increase visibility of regional efforts across global events and platforms:** GOA-ON uses its online presence via its website, data portal, social media, and partners to strategically share information, promote events, and engage a wider audience.
- c. **Help facilitate the use of observational data to meet national reporting commitments:** Through mentorship, trainings, workshops, and guidelines which increase capacity and facilitate submissions of OA observational data towards SDG 14.3.1
- d. **Assist hub members to engage with the GOA-ON Pier2Peer program:** GOA-ON assists Hub members by connecting mentees from around the world to mentors matching their interests, supporting these mentor-mentee relationships, and fostering the transfer of knowledge.
- e. **Facilitate inter-regional communication and idea transfer across GOA-ON:** The GOA-ON Secretariat and EC provide avenues for the exchange of ideas and development of international and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- f. **Provide limited support for regional activities:** Support is generally logistical and includes help organizing and promoting events.
- g. **Foster activities at the science-policy interface:** GOA-ON will provide limited technical support to Hubs interested in developing and communicating policy on OA to regional stakeholders, tribes, and the public.

2. The Hub Role

GOA-ON relies on each hub to:

- a. **Establish a clear written plan or terms of reference (TOR):** provide an effective governance structure and leadership team to ensure the smooth running of the hub for the benefits of the members, including the

development of a hub strategy (including region-specific objectives). Define responsibilities and functions for different roles in the hub. The steering committee (or Executive Council) of each Hub are encouraged to include at least one ECOP (Early Career Ocean Professional: [“An ECOP is considered as a person that self-identifies as being early in their career \(10 years or less of professional experience\) in any field related to the ocean \(not only employed/ paid positions\). The term “professional” is used in order to be inclusive of professionals from many different sectors of society.”](#)).

- b. **Maintain an inclusive membership-based organisation with an up-to-date membership registry:** create an effective, open network in support of the delivery of GOA-ON objectives and global activities at a regional scale. In doing so, each hub will act as a local point of contact, working with the GOA-ON secretariat and actively reaching out to all researchers and interested parties in their region wishing to engage in ocean acidification monitoring and study.
- c. **Be self sustaining:** secure access to sufficient internal organisational and financial support (in kind or otherwise) to ensure the hub can be established and then sustainably maintained (letters of support would be welcome to evidence this for proposed new hubs).
- d. **Select people to be the point(s) of contact between the Hub, the secretariat and GOA-ON EC; and be responsive to requests for information:** maintain regular and effective communication with the GOA-ON secretariat (e.g., monthly meetings), co-chairs, and the EC to update on activities, progress, and future plans. One individual of the leadership team needs to represent the regional hub and all of its members on the GOA-ON EC, others may support this role such as by serving as the POC for the Secretariat, though roles should be clearly defined. Representation of ECOP in the GOA-ON EC is encouraged.
- e. **Learn what members’ needs are and plan activities that best serve their interests:** organize regular events, meetings, and activities that meet the specific needs of hub members (including collaborative research, communication projects, and in-person and/or virtual events).
- f. **Utilize effective communication tools:** use a range of effective media channels (including social media) to disseminate relevant information and resources to the region, and to recruit members. This includes the development of a hub website which can be hosted within the GOA-ON website. If externally hosted, the website should be linked to the GOA-ON website via the Regional Hubs page.

- g. **Work to increase the coverage and frequency of ocean acidification (chemical and biological) observations and monitoring:** engage in and promote training and capacity building activities to enable greater OA monitoring and observation. Actively seek out existing oceanographic monitoring and observation projects, support the development of new activities, and support network members to pursue funding that works to achieve this aim.
- h. **Support and encourage members to submit data to the GOA-ON data explorer and to the SDG 14.3.1 data portal (via the submission process):** increase the submission of these data *via* national channels to contribute to the SDG 14.3.1 data portal submission process.
- i. **Engage constructively with neighbouring regional hubs to deliver joint activities and initiatives:** with a focus on geographic areas of overlap, filling monitoring gaps, and an emphasis for how hub expertise may compliment each other.