The GLOBE Program Intensive Observation Periods

What is an IOP?

Intensive Observation Periods (IOPs) are focused periods of time where participants are encouraged to collect and enter data into the GLOBE database, contributing to a focused data collection and education effort. IOPs originate only from GLOBE community members (individual or group) and may involve several GLOBE countries. IOPs may be individual initiatives or be included as part of a GLOBE campaign. The data collected during an IOP provides GLOBE students, scientists, researchers and educators with large amounts of concentrated data over a short period of time, a strategy also referred to as "Data Density." Some IOPs may also result in a robust set of observations that can be paired with measurements from NASA satellites or airborne instruments. IOPs consist of one-week to one-month long data collection periods that may occur multiple times over a span of one-to-three years.

IOP Criteria Checklist Overview

The GLOBE Implementation Office (GIO) requires that each IOP proposal be submitted with clear explanations and details, as described in the criteria listed below. Once submitted, the GIO will review the proposal and contact the proposer within one week to acknowledge the proposal submission. Initial feedback will be communicated within one month from the submission date. If you have any questions regarding IOP criteria, please reach out to the GIO Campaign Team at: globecampaigns@ucar.edu.

The proposal must include*:

1. A clear Science and Educational Plan; for example, what the science and educational objectives of the GLOBE IOP are;
2. A clear Communications Plan, including an overall timeline, social media, webinars, blogs (at least two per year) and online presence needs (including requests for webpages, following specific style guidelines provided by GIO);
3. The GLOBE Program highly encourages Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): please provide information on any DEI objectives you plan to include in your GLOBE IOP. For example, how you plan to ensure accessibility, language access and diverse participation;
4. Three-to-four observation periods per year, each lasting from one week to one month (please provide planned data collection periods throughout the calendar year);
5. The use of at least two existing GLOBE protocols;
6. The proposed involvement of three-to-ten GLOBE schools in at least one GLOBE country;
7. The proposed support of GLOBE Country Coordinator(s). If the campaign involves another country or multiple countries, approval will be required from each country’s Country Coordinator(s) as well;
8. The proposed participation of citizen scientists and /or science professionals;
9. The proposed support from GLOBE educators and GIO staff; and,
10. Updates sent to GIO following each observation period (see details below).
*Note: The above criteria are for US IOPs only. GIO is not at liberty to dictate how IOPs are conducted in other GLOBE countries or regions. However, we do encourage the inclusion of the above guidelines.

GIO Support for IOPs

GIO is here to facilitate the success of the IOP and will provide support based on available resources, including financial, technical and personnel support. Resource availability may impact GIO’s efforts in communications, outreach and technology updates. To provide this assistance, GIO requires updates about the IOP and its outcome(s) (see below). GIO will occasionally share these updates externally through social media, in the GLOBE News Brief or on the GLOBE website and will use them internally as a means of monitoring and reporting on IOP progress.

IOP Updates for GIO

As mentioned above, GIO will require updates about the IOP for external and internal purposes. Please send the following updates to the GIO Campaign Team (globecampaigns@ucar.edu) following each observation period:

- The number of participants;
- The type of participants (for example students, teachers, professional and/or adult citizen scientist);
- The names of participating GLOBE schools from each participating country;
- The number of observations collected per protocol used (by user type, if applicable);
- The number of observation sites (by user type, if applicable); and
- Information regarding the achievement of education, science, and/or DEI goals.

To submit all the required information for your IOP proposal, please fill out this Google Form once you have all the information ready.