

SIBER and the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition

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Abstract

SCOR, IOC, and the Indian Ocean GOOS program (IOGOOS) are coordinating a new phase of international research focused on the Indian Ocean, which began in late 2015 and will continue through 2025. The goal is to assist ongoing research and stimulate new initiatives in this time frame as part of the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition - IIOE-2. This initiative, which was motivated by IMBeR's Sustained Indian Ocean Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research (SIBER) program, has been highly successful, but has not yet achieved all of its stated objectives. In particular, there is still work that needs to be done to fully examine the biogeochemical and ecological impacts of anthropogenic influences on the ocean and how these will, in turn, impact coastal marine environments and human populations. There is also a need to focus more on coastal monitoring and management, data sharing, scientific engagement of Indian Ocean rim countries, and capacity development. The COVID-19 pandemic led to the cancellation and postponement of numerous planned meetings and research cruises during 2020–2022. However, there has been a rapid resumption of cruise activity since the COVID-19 lockdown. Given the current momentum of IIOE-2 and the clear need to address the remaining challenges, the IIOE-2 community is seeking to extend IIOE-2 for an additional 5 years to 2030.