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 Oostende, 5 March 2021

English only

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

(of UNESCO)

**Twenty-sixth Session of the IOC Committee on International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE-XXVI)**

**online, 20-23 April 2021**

**NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS: AQUADOCS**

All IODE projects and activities must serve the objectives of the IODE Programme and IOC High Level Objectives. Projects or activities that serve only the needs of a sub-community of IODE and are not linked to the main objectives and strategic goals of IODE and IOC are not sustainable. Every new project needs to justify its resourcing from IODE by explaining how it meets these objectives.

Proposals for new projects and activities are considered by the IODE Committee and included in the IODE work plan and budget. The IODE Committee must balance the work plan with available financial and human resources. As the demand for resources is likely to be higher than available resources it is important to “score” submitted proposals so they can be ranked in accordance with their score. New IODE project proposals must meet the evaluation criteria described in IOC Manuals and Guides 81 (*Procedures for Proposing and Evaluating IODE Projects and Activities (Revised edition)*) and will be evaluated annually by the IODE-MG Executive.

The following New Project/Activity submissions as been received:

1. [AquaDocs](#_AquaDocs) - to replace OceanDocs
2. Ocean Data and Information System (ODIS)

The new project form is attached in Annex I.

The ODIS project proposal is discussed under agenda item 6.1.1.

**ANNEX I. IODE NEW PROJECT/ACTIVITY SUBMISSIONS**

#  AquaDocs

*1.Title of project/activity and acronym*

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| AquaDocs   |

*2.Detailed description*

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| SEE [**AquaDocs Project Proposal**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mVWbCQpY-h553olcDutAvmrNNEyVtw9q/view?usp=sharing) **(ANNEX 2)**AquaDocs will be a new repository of merged content from the existing OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons repositories. Both repositories have been in existence for more than 12 years with continuing deposit and search activities from global stakeholders . Although both repositories have been successful in providing access to ocean and aquatic publications and other research outputs, maintaining two repositories with many of the same constituents and similar foci is not a sustainable solution and in September 2019 the decision was made to merge. AquaDocs will be a comprehensive and subject domain-specific e-repository providing high visibility to content and authors, covering ocean, freshwater, brackish and what is now starting to be called Urban water within the coastal zone. It will be curated (including advanced quality control) by skilled marine and freshwater information professionals and will complement commercial journals and bibliographic databases/ repositories by focusing on grey literature. It is anticipated that AquaDocs will have approximately 33,000 records after merging the two repositories and removing duplicates. The repository will grow with content from the existing and expanding community of contributors and future FAO-ASFA Trust Fund projects.Acknowledging the available limited IODE IT support a new outsourced hosted solution has been contracted and we are grateful to IODE and FAO-ASFA for funding the initiative whilst IAMSLIC provides in-kind repository management. |

*3.Scope (include outcome, deliverables, training*

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| AquaDocs will be a comprehensive and subject domain-specific e-repository providing high visibility to content and authors, and remain inclusive for ocean, freshwater, brackish and what is now starting to be called Urban water within the coastal zone. It will be curated (including advanced quality control) by skilled marine and freshwater information professionals and will complement commercial journals and bibliographic databases/ repositories by focusing on grey literature. The primary outcome and deliverable is to provide a free trusted open access repository operating under FAIR Principles. Deliverables apart from the repository, will include new advocacy materials, training courses (some organized through the IODE Ocean Teacher Global Academy) and conference presentations supported by a dynamic communication strategy utilizing modern communication technology.  |

*4. Does the project/activity enhance IODE activities and have endorsement or support from the IOC/IODE community or other national, regional, or international programmes? (provide references)*

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| IODE activities are supported by AquaDocs objectives which will: * Make aquatic and marine science information FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) for all.
* Offer a repository platform to those organizations and individuals without the infrastructure to support their own.
* Provide a capacity development opportunity for IODE, IAMSLIC and the global information community.

AquaDocs will be a repository of merged content from OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons. Both of the previous repositories have been in existence for more than 12 years with continuing deposit and search activities by global stakeholders, Beneficiaries of AquaDocs are: * researchers in aquatic or marine sciences
* students in aquatic or marine sciences
* managers of data and information services
* government officials involved in aquatic or marine management
* policy-makers involved in aquatic or marine policy or decision-making

ICAN, SEAFDEC, IOC, FAO deposit into the existing repositories and AquaDocs will be a target resource for, JERICO-S3 e-infrastructure, Ocean InfoHub and ODIS |

*5. Describe the commitments from IODE stakeholders for the project deliverables*

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| The primary AquaDocs deliverable is a sustainable open access global repository populated with ocean and freshwater publications and multimedia generated by the global research community.   Sustainability of AquaDocs requires a commitment by the 3 partners (IODE, IAMSLIC, FAO) to seek continual funding and provide *in-kind* support and this is already agreed. The Repository users have previously demonstrated their support for OceanDocs and Aquatic Commons by continuing to use and deposit documents and through a survey of stakeholders in 2019. We expect support from global stakeholders to increase with the new repository functionality. |

*6. Expected duration*

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| Start date: **expected March 2021** End date: **open ended**    |

*7. Name and email of project leader and project team*

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| Project leader:  **TBD-**  likely to be co-PMs   Project team members:  membership from the **IODE OceanDocs Steering Group** (Pauline Simpson, Lisa Raymond, Arame Keita, Kateryna Kulakova, Saida Messaoudi, Jennifer Walton, Andrea Cristiani, Susana Macanawai), **IAMSLIC Aquatic Commons Board** (Sally Taylor, Stephen Alayon, Angela Clark-Hughes, Amanda Whitmire), **FAO ASFA** **Secretariat** (Maria Kalentsits, Tamsin Vicary) and **IODE Project Office** (Arno Lambert). |

*8. Workplan and Budget*

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| * Estimated total budget of the project/activity (US$):   **see table below**
* Description of activities, expected results and deliverables to be produced during the next biennium:

***Repository curation; repository training courses; repository advocacy material; repository recruitment - continued and increasing conten*t.*** The Budget requested from IODE during the next biennium (starting after the next IODE Committee Session) (US$):  **see table below**
* Expected IODE Project Office management staff time requested during the next biennium (person-months): **1 month**
* Other resource contributions identified (financial or in-kind including staff): **FAO-ASFA - US$5k per annum until 2023; In-Kind = Volunteer SG-AquaDocs; IAMSLIC (Repository Management);**
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| **AQUADOCS(AD) WORK PLAN AND BUDGET** | **2021** | **2022** |
| **WP1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT** |  |  |
| Project Manager  | in-kind  | in-kind  |
| AD operational management: ***Repository curation; repository training courses; repository advocacy material; repository recruitment - continued and increasing conten*t.** 2021 - a huge metadata quality control and deduplication exercise | in-kind | in-kind |
| SG meeting (ONLINE) | 0 | 0 |
| **WP2: TECHNICAL OPERATION** |   |   |
| Outsourced Hosting & Maintenance ( incl VAT)  | 16300 | 16300 |
| **WP3: CONTENT SOURCING AND CURATION** |   |   |
| ASFA to AquaDocs Export script **(REQUESTED IN ASFA VRE CONTRACT)** | in-kind |  0 |
| **WP4: TRAINING** |   |   |
| Development of online guides for depositors and editors | 0  | 0  |
| Development of video training | OTGA? |   |
| IAMSLIC/ASFA pre-conference training session (with OTGA) | OTGA?  |   |
| **WP5: COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH** |   |   |
| participation in meetings (includes travel support for IAMSLIC Annual Conference) | Virtual or contributed by IAMSLIC | 3000 |
| Advocacy Material design (logo, poster, brochure, etc) | 2000 | 0  |
| **IODE** | **18300** | **19300** |

*9. Explain how the project/activity will target one or more IODE or IOC objectives*

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| AquaDocs will support all 5 of the [IODE Objective](https://iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=385&Itemid=34)s . AquaDocs will:* Promote free and open access to oceanographic data and information by making aquatic and marine science information FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) for all.
* Improve ability to integrate national, regional and global information.
* Enhance the capability and functionality of systems in the centres managing oceanographic data and information.
* Address the needs of both the scientific users and society at large for the demand for access to quality ocean information.
* Strengthen capacity to manage oceanographic data and information.

AquaDocs supports the same beneficiaries as IODE:* 1. researchers in aquatic or marine sciences
	2. students in aquatic or marine sciences
	3. managers of data and information services
	4. government officials involved in aquatic or marine management
	5. policy-makers involved in aquatic or marine policy or decision-making
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*10. Describe the governance model for the project/activity (e.g. working group, advisory group.*

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| The AquaDocs Steering Group shall have the following membership:* Project Manager/s
* IODE IT Advisor
* Invited Experts from the IODE, IAMSLIC and global information communities
* Representatives of the IODE Secretariat and IAMSLIC Executive Board and FAO-ASFA Secretariat

Chair (or co-Chairs) to be appointed by the Steering Group from its membership, term limit of two sessions.**Terms of Reference**1. Propose the vision, strategy, work plan, and timetable for AquaDocs Project.
2. Advise on technical aspects such as user interface, back office, etc. to the technical service provider.
3. Report to the IODE and IAMSLIC (and to other partners/sponsors) on the progress of the AquaDocs Project.
4. Advise on the creation of task teams as needed, e.g. copyright/permissions, promotion, recruitment, and training.
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Signed by Project Leader.      Pauline Simpson

Date.   11 December 2020

*For IODE use only.*

Date received: 2020-12-12