GOOS Project analysis

Motivation:

GOOS Projects currently range in scope from basin scale to specific type of infrastructure. The time that the Projects were accepted by the SC also varies from over 10 years to 2 years. There are only a few documented requirements for Projects which has led to some confusion on expectations from GOOS, SC, and Projects.

Specifically the three main advantages of being a GOOS Project according to the original documentation set expectations for the Projects that may or may not be currently met.

> ***Advantages of being a GOOS Project:***
> - *Increased opportunities for interaction with GOOS programme structures and the ocean observing community,*
> - *Recognition that the legacy of the project should be incorporated into GOOS where possible, and*
> - *Increased visibility through website links and other communications.*

Process:

GOOS Projects were interviewed to learn their perspectives of being a Project and how they are benefitting from such a status. They were also asked about any challenges they have faced while being a Project. The SC members were sent a survey to answer similar style questions from their perspective.

Results:

> *Increased opportunities for interaction with GOOS programme structures and the ocean observing community,*

The majority of responses from SC and Project leads agreed that Projects do not have high visibility within GOOS and could benefit from a more structured reporting or interaction space. Both groups would like to see better coordination with GOOS and how GOOS and Projects benefit each other. Current reporting is high level and does not allow for much discussion between the SC and Projects (or other parts of GOOS).

> *Recognition that the legacy of the project should be incorporated into GOOS where possible,*

There is not currently a path for how this may happen. Many responses mention the lack of clarity and say that there should be a defined path.

Increased visibility through website links and other communications.

Not all of the current Projects are listed on the GOOS website and it has not been well maintained. This has mainly been due to the limited number of people that work at the GOOS office. The majority of SC members responded that they did not promote Projects at other venues when they are representing GOOS.

Moving forward:
1. There needs to be a more structured manner for Projects to report to the SC and to have increased interaction with other parts of GOOS.
    a. *Suggestions*:
        i. GOOS to host annual meetings (could be in conjunction with SC) specifically with the focus of having the different parts of GOOS interact–Projects, Panels, and Networks
        ii. OR Half day / whole day session at in person steering committee for project to present an update and SC to make a decision based on criteria if it can evolve
    b. ***Suggestion:*** Projects to have a standard template for reporting to be able to measure progress over time.
2. The pathway towards becoming integrated into GOOS or not…
    a. Many agree that Projects should be time bound. What makes the most sense?
        Suggestions:
        i. Set time with annual reporting and evaluations every 3 years by the SC/GOOS Management Team
        ii. If Projects are not moving towards their goals, then possibly no longer be recognized as a project
            1. evaluation procedure needs to have some criteria and decision making related to the criteria - is it still a project / is it finished / can it be evolved be evolved into programme / emerging network etc
        iii. Or if the Project is only meant to prove an idea, then have a set time when it will sunset
    b. Incorporating into GOOS:
        Suggestions:
        i. Become a Program/Component that supports multiple parts of GOOS (e.g. Co-Design) and specific goals to achieve this with milestones and bound time; unique; stability in funding; GOOS representative would need to be / could be on SC of program / or the programme chair/lead should be represented at GOOS SC ex officio (reporting process?);
        ii. Become a GOOS Network under Observations Coordination Group
        iii. Decade projects—they will need homes after the Decade
            1. Need specifics of how to do this
        iv. GOOS-related or recognised temporary (time bound but longer than Project) component (eg. OBPS)

3. Considering not all of the SC members are well familiar with the GOOS Projects, there is a logical leap that they are not all known in the larger community.
    a. *Suggestion*: Increased promotion by GOOS and SC members when they are representing GOOS. Possibly have a standard slide deck with all parts of GOOS represented that is required to be used.