

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

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.

Process for applying for a Project:

1. Project must submit a written proposal 30 days before the annual in person GOOS Steering Committee meeting that includes the following:
 - a. Timeline of project (specific end date)
 - b. Scientific question being researched
 - c. Deliverables—including products, outreach,
 - d. Funding possibilities (including current available and any grants being applied for)
 - e. Data Management plan—how it will integrate with GOOS practices
2. GOOS Steering Committee will have a special session when projects are being proposed. These sessions will allow the Projects to provide an overview and be available for questions (in person or virtually) during the meeting.
3. GOOS SC has 3 months after the meeting to come to a consensus on whether to adopt the project or not.
4. If chosen as a Project, then the
 - a. Project leads agree to:
 - i. Have the GOOS logo on any presentation or printed materials
 - ii. Use the term “GOOS Project” when discussing their project in addition to other requirements from other sponsors
 - iii. Agree to provide a written update report annually to the SC
 - iv. Promote the GOOS Project to their Member State representative when appropriate
 - b. GOOS agrees to:
 - i. Publish a short article about the new GOOS Project and publish on website
 - ii. Keep up to date links on their website to the Project main website
 - iii. Promote all GOOS Projects when representing GOOS at functions

Annual review process:

1. Each project will be reviewed annually at the GOOS SC meeting.
2. Written reports documenting progress will be submitted annually. If there are questions about the progress of a project, it should be addressed at the in-person meeting with a follow-up discussion at an inter-sessional virtual meeting (if needed).
3. All decisions about Projects will be documented in SC reports.

For Projects at the end of their timeline

1. GOOS SC will invite Projects nearing the end of their timeline to the annual meeting (in-person or virtually) to discuss the progress and updates.
 - a. If the project needs more time, that will be a discussion point and whether the SC agrees.
 - b. If the Project has finished, then the SC will thank the Project formally (with letter).