

GOOS Project Endorsement Framework

Terms of Reference for GOOS Endorsed Projects

Purpose

The endorsement process recognizes projects that contribute directly to GOOS goals, foster collaboration, and promote open, sustainable ocean observing.

1. Eligibility Criteria

Projects seeking endorsement must:

- Have a clear **project plan** with objectives, timeline, milestones, and deliverables.
- Demonstrate **sufficient resources** (e.g., external funding, in-kind support) to implement activities.
- Align with at least one **GOOS strategic goal**, such as:
 - Observation system integration, design, or delivery
 - Data integration and delivery
 - System implementation (national, regional, applications)
 - Outreach and communications
 - GOOS Reform
- Commit to **open data sharing** in line with IOC and WMO policies.
- Address a critical observing system **gap or need** within the GOOS system.
- Engage in **capacity development** for under-served communities (e.g., SIDS, Africa).

Preferred (but not mandatory):

- Involve a **GOOS SC, Expert Panel, or GRA member** in the project team.

2. Application and Review Process

1. Project submits an **endorsement application** (application form in annex I)
 2. GOOS Secretariat reviews application for completeness.
 3. GOOS Steering Committee (or designated subcommittee) evaluates against eligibility criteria (above) and can request supplementary information if necessary.
 4. GOOS Steering Committee may:
 - Endorse the project,
 - Request revisions, or
 - Decline endorsement.
 5. Final decision rests with the GOOS SC.
-

3. Commitments of Endorsed Projects

Endorsed projects agree to:

- Use the **GOOS logo** and the term “*GOOS Endorsed Project*” in communications.
 - Submit an **annual update report to the GOOS Steering Committee** with:
 - Contact person and contact information
 - Website and relevant links
 - Progress and deliverables
 - Alignment with GOOS goals
 - Future plans
 - Intention to continue as a GOOS Endorsed Project or evolve within GOOS, either by transitioning to a GOOS Partner or by integrating into the existing structure.
 - Promote GOOS work where possible, including with Member State representatives.
 - Communicate to the GOOS SC of any important change that could affect the GOOS
-

4. Commitments of GOOS

GOOS will:

- Announce and promote endorsed projects via the **GOOS website and communications**.
 - Maintain **up-to-date links** to project websites.
 - Highlight endorsed projects in GOOS outreach to Member States, partners, and stakeholders.
 - Encourage collaboration between endorsed projects and GOOS components.
-

5. Review and Transition

- Endorsement is valid for **three years**, after which projects are reviewed for continuation.
 - Projects may suggest to evolve to a GOOS Partner or transition to formal incorporation within GOOS structures if appropriate. The GOOS Steering Committee will be asked to evaluate such suggestions and can request more information, e.g. plan for uptake.
 - Endorsement may lapse if the project repeatedly fails to comply with their commitments. Specifically, if the project misses 2 consecutive reporting deadlines without sufficient justification, GOOS may review its status and withdraw endorsement.
-

6. Review of TORs

- These **TORs will be reviewed** by the GOOS SC every 3-5 years as needed and assessed for continuation or revision as appropriate.

Annex I

GOOS Project Endorsement Application Form

Project Title:

Lead Institution / Organization:

Contact Person (name, email, role):

Project Website (if available):

1. Project Overview

- **Summary (max 200 words):**
 - **Project Start and End Dates:**
 - **Geographic Scope (global / regional / national):**
-

2. Project Plan

- **Objectives:**
 - **Work plan and milestones (short outline):**
 - **Deliverables:**
-

3. Resources

- **Funding sources / in-kind support:**
 - **Key partners and collaborators:**
-

4. Alignment with GOOS Goals

Which GOOS goal(s) does your project address? (select one or more)

- ☐ Observation system integration, design, or delivery
- ☐ Data integration and delivery
- ☐ System implementation (national, regional, applications)

- ☐ Outreach and communications
- ☐ GOOS Reform

Explanation (2–3 sentences):

5. Open Data Commitment

Please describe how your project shares data in line with IOC and WMO policies.

6. Contribution to GOOS System

- **Gap or need addressed:**
 - **Involvement of GOOS SC / Expert Panels / GRA members (if applicable):**
-

7. Endorsement Benefits and Future Plans

- **How will endorsement help your project?**
 - **Do you intend to transition results/activities into GOOS in the future?**
-

8. Declaration

By submitting this application, we agree to comply with the Terms of Reference for GOOS endorsed projects, including:

- Use the term “GOOS Endorsed Project” and GOOS logo in communications
- Provide an annual progress update
- Promote GOOS work where possible

Signature / Name / Date