

**Component / Task team:**

Task Team on GOOS Projects

**Report submitted by:**

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**Date submitted:**

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## Report on workplan progress

### Introduction/Background

Including links to relevant documents, mandates etc.

The GOOS Endorsement of projects offers an official recognition that the project is part of a global effort to meet the GOOS vision. It is meant to heighten visibility for the projects and hence seek opportunities to access new sources of support as well as for GOOS to access communities of observers or support initiatives of relevance to the system.

The proposed project endorsement process and criteria are described in the [GOOS Endorsed Projects Framework document](#) and the endorsement process is illustrated below:

The SC-14 was presented with the [proposed approach to GOOS endorsed projects](#). The SC recommended the task team to revise the proposal based on discussions and provide the revised proposal to the GOOS SC for review. Followingly, the [proposal](#) was updated and presented for the GOOS SC in September 2025 along with proposed next steps. This led the Steering Committee to ask the Task Team to:

- 1) Reach out to the current GOOS projects ([AtlantOS](#), [DOOS](#), [IMDOS](#) and [TPOS](#)) to discuss the new endorsement process
- 2) Discuss potential procedures for inviting new projects and research existing UN endorsement processes

This document presents the progress on these **two actions**.

### Updates on work

### **Progress against workplan:**

#### **Action item 1: Current GOOS projects**

The Task Team have consulted the four current GOOS Projects with the following outcomes:

TPOS: TPOS **agreed to be endorsed** as a GOOS endorsed project. The TPOS 2020 Project has been concluded and the outcomes are now being implemented providing a pathway for TPOS.

IMDOS: IMDOS **agreed to be endorsed** as a GOOS Project. IMDOS is expected to run as a project until 2029. The conversation with IMDOS highlighted the need to investigate how IMDOS can integrate with GOOS components. IMDOS is developed in collaboration with UNEP.

AtlantOS: AtlantOS is going to be part of [AAORIA](#) and is no longer going to be a GOOS project. Instead, it is suggested that GOOS SC can endorse AAORIA projects if relevant to GOOS and that GOOS can develop a partnership with AAORIA.

DOOS: The configuration of DOOS does not match the ToRs for GOOS endorsed projects, instead DOOS would like to evolve into a GOOS Partner.

#### **Action item 2: Inviting new projects**

The Task team suggested the possibility of GOOS identifying priority areas that could benefit from project work. One suggestion was for GOOS to then provide an open call to the community to reach a broad target group allowing connection with new communities of users, observers or interdisciplinary groups not yet associated with GOOS.

The call inviting new projects can highlight the requirements of GOOS endorsement and has the possibility to highlight topics of certain interest to GOOS, aligned with its priority setting.

The task team suggests having the call open through the GOOS community, especially with focus on the GRA's and National Focal Points to ensure Member State engagement, and to use the GOOS website and potentially IOC and WMO communication channels for a wider reach, if possible. By using the existing communication channels through the GOOS community the GOOS can have direct access to the observing communities, which allows for the GOOS Endorsed Projects to work as a melting pot for ocean observing.

The task team suggests having the call every 2 years depending on the amount of projects endorsed and the capacity at GOOS. Priorities and information regarding the process can be added to the GOOS website.

### **Top 5 outcomes from the last year, and the impact for GOOS:**

- **Proposal developed and updated:** ensuring clear ToR for GOOS Endorsed Projects. The endorsement will allow GOOS to interact with relevant projects and ocean observing communities in a more structured approach.
- **Current GOOS projects consulted:** current projects have been prepared for implementation of the GOOS endorsed projects framework. TPOS and IMDOS to be suggested as the first GOOS endorsed projects.
- **Easy-to-fill Endorsement Application Form:** There is a clear and easy way to become a GOOS Endorsed Project, making the process transparent and facilitating it both for the applicant Project and the GOOS SC.
- **Realistic Expectations:** The reviewing process has allowed to develop realistic expectations bilaterally, providing clear commitments and options to move forward

## Looking ahead

### Prioritised deliverables (2026-2027)

- Proposed: Finalize endorsement for the first GOOS Endorsed Projects
- Proposed: Update ToR for Endorsed Projects to include GOOS reform updates

### Expected outcomes for GOOS

- Streamlined process for uptake and collaboration with GOOS Endorsed projects
- Expansion of the Global Ocean Observing System as the endorsement process is promoting projects to become part of GOOS (some of them will, others won't)
- Improved visibility of GOOS for stakeholders (Member states, private sector)

## Considerations for the GOOS SC

DOOS and AAORIA have been proposed as potential GOOS partners. GOOS SC and discussions under the reform could provide clarity to develop a clear prioritisation for partner engagement. The task team noted that potential GOOS partners have very different structure and governance and that needs to be considered in a potential Letters of Agreement.

### *Proposed action/decision*

- The Steering Committee adopted the GOOS Endorsed Projects proposal
- The Steering Committee agreed to endorse TPOS and IMDOS as GOOS Endorsed Projects and requested the TT to finalize the endorsement process

- The Steering Committee invited the task team on GOOS Projects to present an updated ToR for GOOS endorsed projects adapted to reform proposal changes to the SC-16