

MedGOOS

**Memorandum
of
Understanding**

12 March 1999

MedGOOS

An informal association fostering co-operation

on the Global Ocean Observing System in the Mediterranean

The MedGOOS Memorandum of Understanding

12 March 1999

This Memorandum of Understanding (to be known in brief as the MedGOOS MoU) serves as the initial document for MedGOOS, as an informal association whose members seek to foster co-operation on the Global Ocean Observing System in the Mediterranean. MedGOOS is established with full recognition of the importance of existing systems in research and operational oceanography at national and regional scales and of the activity successfully initiated by EuroGOOS and will also take full advantage of advances made by other regional GOOS groups such as GOOS-Africa, Black Sea GOOS and NEAR-GOOS, and by the various GOOS design panels. By signing the MoU organisations become members of MedGOOS, and agree to co-operate in promoting GOOS in the Mediterranean basin.

Aims of MedGOOS

Members of MedGOOS will co-operate to establish a concerted approach to the following goals: contributing to international planning and implementation of GOOS and promoting it at national, regional and global level; identifying regional priorities for operational oceanography, promoting the development of the scientific, technology and computer systems for operational oceanography, finding means to ensure the most effective use of existing technologies related to operational oceanography and marine meteorology, assessing the economic and social benefits from operational oceanography.

Activities

MedGOOS activities will be designed to foster operational oceanography in the Mediterranean basin, and to collaborate with and maximise the benefits from existing activities of EuroGOOS, GOOS-Africa and Black Sea GOOS, promoting the integration of these activities within the framework of GOOS.

Members of MedGOOS will collaborate and support the following groups of activities:

Policy in promoting GOOS

- i) To develop policies for the furtherance of GOOS and co-ordinating the best Mediterranean participation in GOOS, identifying where greatest value is added by collaboration.
- ii) To promote collaboration between existing regional multi-national agencies, programmes, organisations, and initiatives having expertise in oceanography, operational systems, and remote sensing of the ocean.
- iii) To promote collaboration with EuroGOOS, GOOS-Africa and Black Sea GOOS through joint projects and activities.
- iv) To promote capacity building and exchange of know-how and personnel.

- v) To promote studies and evaluation of the economic and social benefits produced by operational oceanography.
- vi) To co-operate as appropriate with organisations concerned with the assessment of climate change, global environmental research, and the impacts of climate variability and climate change.
- vii) To provide, as appropriate, expertise, WGs, consultants, etc., to IOC, J-GOOS and I-GOOS.
- viii) To publish findings of meetings, workshops, studies, and other documents commissioned by the MedGOOS members, joint representation at and submission of documents to international meetings related to GOOS, and collective representation of GOOS to regional and national Agencies, when requested by members.
- ix) To co-ordinate GOOS data acquisition with existing regional and national data gathering under Agreements and Conventions.

Advancing Mediterranean operational oceanography

- ix) Promoting development of Mediterranean regional operational oceanography, taking into account the Modules of GOOS for the Coastal Zone, Health of the Ocean, Living Marine Resources, Climate, and Ocean Services.
- x) Promoting development of common operational data procedures and services, including data quality control and data management for operational oceanography.
- xi) Promoting research and pre-operational research that will solve problems relating to operational oceanography.
- xii) Promoting development of common infrastructure to implement Mediterranean operational oceanography.
- xiii) Promoting pilot studies in GOOS operations, local, regional, or global.
- xiv) Promoting development of common Mediterranean operational oceanographic services and products of maximum value to the Mediterranean countries to attain sustainable development.

Promotion of Instrumentation and Technology

- xv) To promote the development of low cost efficient operational instrumentation, observing systems, data acquisition and data management systems, processing and interpretation systems, as well as data exchange.
- xv) To support operational oceanography and services in collaboration with public and private sector organisations, NGOs and programmes concerned with ocean technology in the Mediterranean.

Aid and Capacity building

- xvi) To promote aid, technology transfer, and collaboration among Mediterranean countries within the framework of GOOS.
- xvii) To strengthen the collaboration with EuroGOOS working group on capacity building and with similar work stimulated through GOOS-Africa and Black Sea GOOS.

Membership

MedGOOS Members will be national organisations (authorities, agencies, institutes) willing to advance GOOS in their country and actively contribute to its extension at the Mediterranean level. Each country will be represented by a maximum of two Members. The initial list of Members will be the organisations listed in Appendix 1 invited to sign this MoU. MedGOOS Members will participate in the activities listed above (section headed Activities) and contribute to the costs of running those activities. Where there is more than one agency in a country wishing to join MedGOOS and entitled to join, the institutes and agencies in that country will designate a lead agency or authority which will be their representative at the Annual Meetings.

Members of MedGOOS other than the national lead agency or authority shall be designated Associate Members. New Members, either Members from countries not yet represented or new Associate Members, shall be designated by the Annual Meeting. Multi-national organisations of the Mediterranean region and NGOs with a Mediterranean emphasis, or components or subsidiaries of such organisations, provided that they have aims and objectives consistent with this MoU, may be invited to become Observers at the discretion of the Members.

MedGOOS Officers

The first MedGOOS Chairperson and Executive Committee have been appointed by IOC at the Malta GOOS Workshop on Capacity Building in the Mediterranean Region on November 1997. The Executive Committee has appointed the first Secretary. The Members at the Annual Meeting will appoint the Chairperson and five Officers providing a balanced representation of Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries. The Chairperson and Officers will serve for three years, and be responsible for all MedGOOS activities between Annual Meetings. The Officers will meet as necessary. They will be eligible for re-appointment for up to a maximum of three successive turns. The Chairperson may give notice one year in advance of his/her intention to retire, and in that case the following Annual Meeting shall appoint a new chairperson. The MedGOOS Secretary will be appointed by the Officers. He/she will be responsible for ensuring the satisfactory implementation of all decisions made by the Annual Meeting and between Annual Meetings by the Officers, for the MedGOOS Office, and for the management of MedGOOS funds. The Secretary will report to the Chairperson and to the Officers. He/she will prepare papers for the Annual and other meetings and represent MedGOOS at international organisations as required by the Officers. The GOOS Project Office Director will be invited to attend the MedGOOS Officers meetings. The EuroGOOS Chairperson and Director will be also invited to provide continuity in the action of EuroGOOS for the Mediterranean and co-ordination in the activities of the two organisations.

MedGOOS Office

The MedGOOS Office will be established at a leading oceanographic research establishment in the Mediterranean. The Secretary and staff will be based at the Office. The costs of the MedGOOS Office shall be met by one or more Members offering to provide accommodation, support services, and/or professional staff. Members or Associate Members may second additional staff to the MedGOOS Office. The day-to-day functioning of the Office will follow the practice of the host establishment. The location of the Office may be rotated from one Member to another by agreement of Members at an Annual Meeting at least one year in advance of the date of transfer.

Annual meeting

MedGOOS will hold regular yearly meetings (called Annual Meetings) in order to define the overall policy of MedGOOS, review the progress of ongoing activities and suggest new operational programmes. Decisions will be taken jointly by MedGOOS Members at the Annual Meeting. The attendance at the Annual Meeting will consist of one representative per country, being the designated MedGOOS Member for that country agreed by the Associate Members from that country. Each representative at the Annual Meeting will act as the intermediary between MedGOOS and the Associate MedGOOS Members in his/her country. For meetings other than the Annual Meeting (Plenary Meetings) the Associate Members may participate in the proceedings directly. The EuroGOOS Chairperson and Director, the GOOS-Africa and Black Sea chairpersons, the GOOS Project Office Director and the Observers will be invited to participate to Plenary Meetings. Each Member organisation entitled to attend will nominate one delegate to participate in the Annual MedGOOS Meeting.

Other Meetings

MedGOOS activities will include meetings of delegates of member organisations, other informal meetings of experts as required, workshops, seminars, and pilot projects.

MedGOOS funding

Members and Associate Members shall bear their own costs for attending meetings and participation in the activities of MedGOOS. As may be agreed and defined by Members at an Annual Meeting, Members and Associate members may be asked to make an annual contribution, on a voluntary basis, to a MedGOOS Central Fund to support the general activities and operations of MedGOOS including commissioned reports and surveys, organisation of meetings, hosting of WWW site, support to the MedGOOS Secretariat. Members and Associate Members shall contribute to the costs of MedGOOS by contributions in kind to activities such as hosting meetings, organising workshops, ad hoc study groups or pilot projects, consulting services to national and multilateral bodies, employing consultants, financing publications, providing for their own costs of communications, and other items as agreed upon by Members at the Annual Meeting. MedGOOS will endeavour to raise funding to support the listed activities and meetings.

Signature of the MoU

The Chairperson of the MedGOOS Executive Committee established by IOC in November 1997 will invite representatives of organisations listed in Appendix 1 to attend the First Meeting of MedGOOS to sign the MoU in March 1999. A minimum quorum of 6 signatories (at least 3 non-EuroGOOS members) shall be sufficient to approve the Memorandum of Understanding: The First Meeting will approve the MedGOOS strategy and an initial programme of work.

Duration

MedGOOS will continue until such time as an Annual Meeting of Members decides that it should end or the number of Members falls below six.

ADDENDUM 1

List of Organisations invited to join MedGOOS

Algeria:

Laboratoire D'études Maritimes
30 Rue Asselah Hocine
Alger
ALGERIA

Croatia:

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries
Mestrovcevo setaliste 63
21000 Split, P.O. Box 500
CROATIA

Cyprus:

Lab. Of Physical Oceanography
Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resource and Environment
Dept. Of Fisheries
Aeolou 13
1416, Nicosia
CYPRUS

Egypt:

Alexandria University
Dept. Of Environmental Sciences
Moharram Bey
21511 Alexandria
EGYPT

France:

IFREMER
155, rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau
92138 Issy-Les-Moulineaux
FRANCE

Greece:

National Centre for Marine Research
Agios Kosmas
Hellinikon 16604
Athens
GREECE

Israel:

Israel Oceanographic and Limnological
Research Ltd.
Tel Shikmona
P.O. Box 8030
Haifa 31080
ISRAEL.

Italy:

Consiglio Nazionale Delle Ricerche
Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7
00185 Roma
ITALY

ENEA
Via Anguillarese 301
00060 Santa Maria di Galeria Roma
ITALY

Lebanon:
National Centre for Marine Science/CNRS
P.O. Box 534
Batroun
LEBANON

Malta:
IOI-Malta Operational Centre
University of Malta
Msida
MALTA

Morocco:
UFR "Integrated Coastal Zone Management"
Mohamed V University
Faculty of Sciences
BP 1014, Rabat
MOROCCO

Slovenia
National Institute of Biology
Marine Biological Station Piran
Fomace 41
Piran 6330
SLOVENIA

Spain:
Puertos del Estado
Clima Maritimo
Antonio Lopez 81
E-28026 Madrid
SPAIN

Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia
Corazón de María, 8
28002 Madrid
SPAIN

Tunisia:
Institute National des Sciences & Tech de la Mer
28, Rue 2 Mars 1934
2025 Salambo
TUNISIA

Turkey:
METU Institute of Marine Sciences

P.O. Box 28, Erdemli 33731
T-ICEL
TURKEY