

MONGOOS strategic plan for the years 2015-2018

Introduction

The Mediterranean Operational Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (MONGOOS) has been established in 2012 to further develop operational oceanography in the Mediterranean Sea. MONGOOS comprises the previous activities of MOON and MEDGOOS.

After 3 years of development, it has been found convenient to renew the strategic plan in order to focus properly MONGOOS actions. This document contains this update.

MONGOOS generic objectives

The MONGOOS generic objectives, as defined in the MoA, are:

- (a) Improved Fitness for Purpose. Continuously advance the scientific understanding and technological development upon which the Services are based.
- (b) Greater Awareness. Promote the visibility and recognition of the Services with governmental agencies and private companies, encourage their integration at national, regional, European and global levels.
- (c) Increased Downstreaming. Enhance the usability of the Services and their usefulness for policy implementation, societal needs and science.
- (d) Improved Capacity. Support the planning and implementation of international initiatives involving operational oceanography and promote the participation of non-EU Mediterranean countries in producing the Services.

These generic objectives will be fulfilled in the mentioned period via the following more specific strategic plan.

Strategic plan for 2015-2018

The following strategic line will be specifically promoted, each one including specific actions to be carried out:

1. Increase the level of collaboration and exploitation of synergies with EuroGOOS, AfricaGOOS and Black Sea GOOS. To achieve these objectives the following actions are foreseen:
 - Set up collaboration agreement with EuroGOOS;
 - Reinforce the presence of EuroGOOS and AfricaGOOS in MonGOOS annual meetings and other MonGOOS promoted workshops;
 - Explore the possibility of mimic EuroGOOS task teams, fully coordinated and mutually serving the EuroGOOS existing ones;

2. Improve Northern African Countries participation in MONGOOS. The following actions are foreseen
 - Explore the link with Union for Mediterranean activities in order to attract Northern African countries;
 - Invite new partners through AfricaGOOS;
 - Visit relevant partners when required;
 - Invite potential partners to MONGOOS meetings and workshops;
3. Improve collaboration with other organizations, such as UNEP-MAP, UfM, REMPEC, EEA, EMSA, IOC, WMO, JCOMM, EUMETNET, Marine Board, JPI-Ocean, CIESM, etc. Actions:
 - Set up a collaborative action plan with UNEP-MAP;
 - Renew the MONGOOS-REMPEC Agreement;
 - Propose new agreement with other Organizations and UNEP/MAP regional centers;
 - Develop a strategic plan with IOC;
 - Enforce the participation and integration with JCOMM;
 - Reinvigorate the collaboration with EUMETNET;
4. Promote the further development and integration of MONGOOS members Operational Oceanography systems. This will be done through:
 - Promotion of EU funded projects with the participation of MONGOOS members;
 - Fostering adoption of good practices, integration of systems, data sharing and exchange of information in the framework of Copernicus and EMODNET initiatives;
 - Publish a MONGOOS reference publication into EuroGOOS;
 - Consolidate the activities in support to EU Blue Growth strategy;
 - Contribute to the improvement of the observing and forecasting system via the promotion of specific projects;
 - Contribute to the consolidation of the MONGOOS oil spill observing and forecasting systems;
 - Further develop the working groups, including renovation when required;
 - Develop the science, operation, technology and application strategic plan;
5. Increase visibility and recognition of MONGOOS and its members through:
 - Development of MONGOOS data center and MONGOOS showcase tool and catalogue for operational services and applications;
 - Active participation of MONGOOS members in forums and outreach activities;
 - Contribute to the EUROGOOS, Africa GOOS and Black Sea GOOS initiatives and activities;