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**Ninth Session of the Global Ocean Observing System
Scientific Steering Committee (GSSC-IX)**
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**Proposal for the Architecture Task Area
Targets AR-06-07 and AR-06-08**

Submitted by the IOC on behalf of the I-GOOS and POGO

Objectives

GOOS has been recognized as the oceans component of the GEOSS and is implemented, under the oversight of the I-GOOS, by JCOMM and GOOS Regional Alliances.

GOOS has 6 societal goals that address all 9 GEOSS benefit areas as they apply to oceans, coastal waters and estuaries and the system is being designed to provide data and information required to address all six goals, i.e., it is being designed and implemented as an integrated system of systems. However, the architecture and functions of GOOS do not map directly to the emerging GEOSS architecture or to all of the tasks for the nine societal benefit areas and transverse activities. Thus, to the extent that the GEOSS is to be a cost-effective enterprise established by incorporating existing earth observing systems, it is essential to systematically address two related questions:

- To what extent do the goals and objectives of GOOS address the goals and objectives of GEOSS as related to the oceans as an integral part of the Earth system of systems?
- To what extent will implementation of GOOS satisfy GEOSS requirements for the provision of data and information on oceanic and coastal waters?

The first question relates to the vision and aspirations of GOOS relative to GEOSS. The second relates to the question of whether the GOOS architecture, once fully implemented, will provide the data and information (products) needed to address the nine GEOSS benefit areas.

Methods

To address these questions, the I-GOOS and POGO partnership propose to conduct a “gap analysis” of GEOSS against GOOS using the following documents as points of departure:

1. The GEOSS 10-Year Plan, Work Plan for 2006 and associated Work Packets;
2. Global physical ocean observations for GOOS/GCOS: An action plan for existing bodies and mechanisms; Implementation Plan for the Second Adequacy Report; Implementation Plan for the Global Ocean Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC; COOP Integrated Design Plan and Strategic Implementation Plan for the Coastal Module of GOOS;
3. Strategic Plan and Principles for GOOS, 1998;
4. GOOS design principles, 1998.

A team will be established with representation from I-GOOS, POGO and the GEOSS Committee on Architecture and Data to conduct this analysis with a final report due to the GEOSS Secretariat by 1 November 2006.

This proposal relates to tasks **AR-06-07** (Produce an inventory of existing *in-situ* observation networks [including airborne], beginning with the networks of GEO Members and Participating Organizations, and associate them with societal benefit areas as appropriate) and **AR-06-08** (Advocate additional resources for the maintenance and expansion of *in-situ* observing systems in cooperation with major national and international organizations and programmes).