

**Mediterranean Oceanography Network for the Global  
Ocean Observing System****MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

Memorandum of Agreement, dated 26/10/2021, by and among the signatories listed in Annex I here to, as may be amended from time to time (each a "Member").

**PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded in 1999 to create an association that promotes partnerships and capacity building for the Global Ocean Observing System in the Mediterranean ("MedGOOS") recognized as a GOOS Regional Alliance;

WHEREAS a Memorandum of Understanding creating the Mediterranean Operational Oceanography Network ("MOON") was concluded in 2005 as an evolution of the EuroGOOS Mediterranean Task Team to consolidate the operational observational and modelling system in the Mediterranean Sea and to demonstrate the usage of the marine environmental prediction system for integrated management of open ocean and coastal marine areas;

WHEREAS MedGOOS and MOON have worked closely for several years, contributing complementary expertise toward mutually beneficial endeavours in furtherance of Operational Oceanography in the Mediterranean Sea;

RECOGNISING the many benefits to society of reliable and accurate oceanographic observational and modelling data, and that the provision of such data is greatly improved when MedGOOS and MOON efforts are combined;

WISHING to build on their complementarity to better meet the needs of intermediate users and service providers in support of environmental and maritime user groups;

WHEREAS on Abdelmalek Essaadi University a MOU was concluded between the members of MONGOOS and the parties have recently expressed their desire to reformulate the content in part, drafting this new agreement;

NOTED that the stipulation of this new MOA will be resolved the previous one;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the mutual undertakings and benefits set forth herein, the signatories agree as follows:



**ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1.01. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (“MoA”) is for the Members to:

collaborate to further develop operational oceanography in the Mediterranean Sea by integrating their activities under the name of Mediterranean Oceanographic Network for the Global Ocean Observing System (“MONGOOS”);

promote partnerships and capacity building for GOOS in the Mediterranean Sea; and

elaborate a continuous working framework with EuroGOOS and GOOS Africa to define common roles and activities in the Mediterranean Sea, and foster collaboration with all the GOOS Regional Alliances.

**Section 1.02. Objectives.**

MONGOOS shall engage in activities related to the scientific promotion, production and use of operational oceanography services (“Services”), as set forth in Annex II (Activities), in furtherance of five principal objectives:

**Promote marine Science.** Enhance a science-oriented view of the Mediterranean Sea to foster applications for societal benefits.

**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.

**Increased Downstreaming.** Enhance the usability of the Services and their usefulness for policy implementation, societal needs and science.

**Improved Capacity Building.** Support the planning and implementation of international initiatives involving operational oceanography and promote the participation of non-EU Mediterranean countries in producing the Services.



**ARTICLE II**  
**MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

**Section 2.01. Members.**

(a) MONGOOS members are national research institutions that are involved in oceanography and that fully share the goals and principles of MONGOOS. Members may join the network upon approval by the Assembly in accordance with Section 4.02

(b) Each Member, at the moment of signature of this MoA, shall appoint a representative to participate in the Members' Assembly (each a "Member Representative").

**Section 2.02. Associate Members.**

(a) Other stakeholders not eligible to become Members under 4.02, including private companies, may participate as Associate Members of MONGOOS.

(b) Associate Membership may be initiated by invitation or request of the candidate, and subject to the approval of the Assembly.

(c) Associate Members may participate in MONGOOS by:

- (i) attending Assembly meetings as non-voting observers;
- (ii) participating in the *ad hoc* and/or standing committees created under Section 2.03;
- (iii) signing side agreements; and
- (iv) other activities as decided by the Members' Assembly, as defined below.

**Section 2.03. Members' Assembly.**

(a) A Members' Assembly ("Assembly") shall be formed by each Member Representatives.

(b) The Assembly shall meet at least once each year and shall hold additional meetings at the request of at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the Members. Decisions shall be taken by consensus or, if necessary, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  supermajority.

(c) The Assembly shall be responsible for:

- (i) defining MONGOOS strategies and initiatives;
- (ii) approving new Members and Associate Members application;
- (iii) ratifying Executive Board decisions;
- (iv) electing the two Chairpersons;
- (v) approving amendments to this MoA;
- (vi) establish its internal rules and procedures.



(d) The Assembly may create *ad hoc* Working Groups (WG's hereafter) to effectively realize the purpose and objectives of MONGOOS, and shall set term limits and renewal clauses when creating any WG.

(e) MONGOOS will appoint ambassadors to each of the EuroGOOS Task Teams (TT hereafter) and WG's (see section 2.04).

#### **Section 2.04 EuroGOOS Ambassadors.**

(a) MONGOOS will assign one person to serve as ambassador per EuroGOOS TT's and WG's. The selected persons for this role should be part of MONGOOS institutions.

(b) Ambassadors will act as the liaisons, aiding communication and conveying information, promoting the coordination and synergy between MONGOOS and the different EuroGOOS TT's, WG's and other Regional Operational Observing Systems (ROOS). Ambassadors will acknowledge the developments taking place at EuroGOOS TT's and WG's level (i.e. standards definitions) and will establish actions to transfer the potential benefits to MONGOOS community.

(c) Ambassadors will serve one three-year term that can be renewed up to one more period upon confirmation of the Assembly

#### **Section 2.05. Executive Board.**

(a) An Executive Board ("Board") shall be established, composed by the chairs, working group leaders and ambassadors. Relevant international bodies shall be invited to attend Board meetings as observers.

(b) The Board shall be responsible for, *inter alia*:

(i) the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategic Plan;

(ii) executing Assembly decisions, in consultation with the relevant advisory group(s);

(iii) organizing the implementation of MONGOOS projects, initiatives and other activities;

(iv) proposing candidates for Chairpersons;

(v) proposing MoA amendments to the Assembly.

(c) The Board shall meet at least every six months. All decisions of the Board shall be taken by consensus. Votes may be held (i) during Board meetings or (ii) at any time via e-mail or other written, time-stamped communication. Any matter to be put to a vote shall be presented to all Board members at least 15 days in advance.

**Section 2.05. Chairpersons.**

(a) The Members' Assembly shall elect two Chairpersons, to serve one three-year term that can be renewed up to one more period upon confirmation of the Assembly. Either Chairperson may give three months' advance notice of his or her intention to resign early, in which case a new Chairperson shall be appointed at the following Members' Assembly meeting to serve out the remainder of the outgoing Chairperson's term. In the event and only in the event that a new co-chair is not appointed, the network activity may continue with a single chair until he/she is elected in a new assembly.

(b) The Chairpersons shall carry out the following duties, jointly or individually according to expertise:

- (i) calling, setting the agenda for, and conducting Board meetings;
- (ii) following up on decisions taken at Board meetings;
- (iii) receiving requests and notices from Members and communicating them to the Board, for information or action as appropriate;
- (iv) acting as spokesperson for the Members' activities under this MoA at international meetings; and
- (v) informing the Assembly on the progress achieved and the decisions taken under this MoA.

**Section 2.06. Bureau and Secretariat.**

(a) A Bureau shall be established to support the Chairpersons in carrying out their duties. Each Bureau shall comprise the Chairpersons of the immediately preceding term

(b) A Secretariat shall be organized by the Chairpersons to facilitate implementation of MONGOOS activities by, among other things, supporting preparations for meetings and workshops, including invitations, logistical arrangements, and publicity; keeping and distributing minutes of meetings to all Members; and acting as focal point for relations with other institutions and agencies, the press, government ministries, and other entities that may request or provide relevant information.



**ARTICLE III**  
**FINANCIAL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

**Section 3.01. Contributions.**

(a) Members shall bear their own costs for attending meetings and participating in the activities of MONGOOS.

(b) Members shall support MONGOOS activities and meetings and may help cover such costs by hosting meetings; organising workshops, *ad hoc* study groups or pilot projects; providing consulting services to national and multilateral bodies; covering their own communications costs; and other activities that Members offer to undertake under this Agreement.

**Section 3.02. No Partnership.**

(a) Nothing in this MoA shall imply any partnership or other formal legal relationship among the Members or Associate Members.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this MoA or under a separate agreement, no Member or Associate Member may:

- (i) act for, or assume any obligations on behalf, of any other Member or group of Members; or
- (ii) benefit from any other Member's or group of Members' rights under any agreement or entitlement, unless agreed in writing among the Members concerned.

(c) No Member shall be held liable for the default of any other Member or Associate Member unless expressly agreed in writing.

**Section 3.03. Survival of Rights and Obligations.**

The rights and obligations of each Member under pre-existing agreements shall survive the effectiveness of this MoA.



**ARTICLE IV  
OTHER MATTERS**

**Section 4.01. *Effectiveness and Term.***

This MoA shall become effective upon its signature by at least two Members from different countries and shall remain effective until terminated by consensus among the Members.

**Section 4.02. *Entrance and Exit of Members.***

(a) The participation of new Members shall be subject to a super-majority vote by the Assembly, following a candidate's request made in the form and manner specified in Annex III.

(b) Any Member may withdraw from participation in MONGOOS, for any reason, by providing three months' advance written notice to the Chairpersons, who shall promptly communicate such notice to all other Members.

(c) The participation of any Member may be terminated for any reason by unanimous vote of the Assembly, excluding that of the Member in question.

**Section 4.03. *Amendments.***

Any amendment to this MoA shall be made in writing and signed by all Members.



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**Mediterranean Oceanographic Network  
for the Global Observing System**

Pr. Bouchta EL MOUMNI

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(Full name of signatory)

Pr. Bouchta EL MOUMNI

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(Name of authorised signatory)

(Signature)

  
Le Président de l'Université  
Bouchta EL MOUMNI

(Date) 26 OCT 2021





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**Mediterranean Oceanographic Network  
for the Global Observing System**

**ANNEX I Initial List of Members**



**ANNEX II MONGOOS Activities**

**1. General**

- (a) Organise user forums and stakeholder consultations to assess policy implementation impacts and societal needs, and to ensure the usability of the Services;
- (b) Increase the free and open access to operational oceanography products for the entire community of users, including for the research community to advance scientific understanding of the Mediterranean Sea ecosystem dynamics;
- (c) Organise workshops and training initiatives to plan the upgrade and innovative development of the services and products of its members;
- (d) Promote the participation of members in projects and scientific initiatives to implement the MONGOOS strategy;
- (e) Encourage the use of operational oceanography products and services in growing the blue-green economy;
- (f) Promote the development of risk assessment and adaptation plans to pollution, the effects of climate change and other natural and man-made hazards;
- (g) Promote links between operational oceanographic services and the maritime sector;
- (h) Development of MONGOOS data center and MONGOOS showcase tool and catalogue for operational services and applications;
- (i) Active participation of MONGOOS members in forums and outreach activities.

**2. National Level**

- (a) Strengthen and upgrade national operational monitoring and forecasting services;
- (b) Respond to national user groups by providing specialized services;
- (c) Coordinate national and regional contributions to GOOS and GEOSS.

**3. Regional Level**

- (a) Identify pan-regional Mediterranean priorities for operational oceanography;
- (b) Support training, education and technology transfer in operational oceanography of the Mediterranean Sea;
- (c) Improve Northern African Countries participation in MONGOOS;
- (d) Facilitate linkages with regional organisations, agencies and programs and support their education in and ability to use the Services;
- (e) Organise the representation of MONGOOS as the Mediterranean Regional Alliance for GOOS;
- (f) Design services to support countries in implementing regional conventions, in particular the Barcelona Convention and Galway Declaration;



- (g) Contribute to the consolidation of the MONGOOS oil spill observing and forecasting system.

#### **4. European Level:**

- (a) Link with and contribute to GMES Marine Services;
- (b) Contribute to EMODnet and the Integrated Maritime Policy;
- (c) Collaborate with European and regional meteorological offices;
- (d) Act as a ROOS for EuroGOOS in the Mediterranean and nominate ambassadors;
- (e) Work with European agencies, including EEA, EMSA, EUMETSAT UNEP-MAP, UfM, REMPEC, JCOMM, Marine Board, JPI-Ocean, CIESM, and ESA and harmonize MONGOOS and EuroGOOS initiatives to their mutual benefit.
- (f) Promote the further development and integration of MONGOOS members Operational Oceanography systems. This will be done through:
- (g) Promotion of EU funded projects with the participation of MONGOOS members;
- (h) Fostering adoption of good practices, integration of systems, data sharing and exchange of information in the framework of Copernicus and EMODNET initiatives;
- (i) Publish a MONGOOS reference publication into EuroGOOS;
- (j) Consolidate the activities in support to EU Blue Growth strategy.

#### **5. Global Level:**

- (k) Facilitate linkages with international and regional organisations, agencies and programs;
- (l) Contribute to the international planning and implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System;
- (m) Promote inter-regional cooperation through GRA's
- (n) Coordinate and harmonize the development of a sustainable Integrated Observing System at the basin and shelf/coastal scales;
- (o) Contribute to JCOMM observing systems;
- (p) Strengthen relationships with other IOC and WMO programs.



**ANNEX III Form of Request to Participate in MONGOOS**

Name, Address of Institute or Organisation : Abdelmalek Essaâdi University, Quartier M'haneche II, Avenue 9 avril, B.P : 2117, Tétouan, Morocco

Official Mandate and Activities:

Abdelmalek Essaâdi University is a public institution created by law in accordance with article 46 of the Moroccan Constitution, and is endowed with legal personality and administrative and financial autonomy; Its main missions are: Initial training and continuing education, development and dissemination of knowledge, knowledge and culture, preparation of young people for integration into working life, in particular through the development of know-how, scientific and technological research, carrying out expertises, contributing to the overall development of the country, contributing to the promotion of universal values. Given its spatial extent on the territory of the Region of Tangier, Tetouan, Al Hoceima, and its geographical location bordered by the two Atlantic and Mediterranean maritime facades, the university is active from a scientific research point of view in the field of science, the sea, in particular through:

- 5 Research teams / Laboratories: With more than half of the activities dedicated to marine sciences.
- 15 other laboratories and research teams that are closely or distantly related to marine sciences.
- 4 masters degrees dedicated to Marine and Coastal Sciences.
- Doctoral theses in marine sciences (2012-2021): Out of 348 theses defended in sciences: 20 in marine sciences (6%).

Proposed Contribution to MONGOOS Objectives:

Coordinate / Conduct research activities in marine sciences  
Organization of workshops, scientific days or other type of event around marine science  
Support MONGOOS in the organization of scientific events at the national level

Declaration of No Conflict of Interest: No Conflict of Interest

  
Le Président de l'Université  
  
Bouchta EL MOUMNI