



# GUE Project Definition

Version 1.0



# GUE PROJECT DEFINITION

## 1. GUE PROJECTS, GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **DEFINITION:** A GUE Project is a goal-oriented scientific, educational, explorational, and/or conservational endeavor. Projects require a team of divers and support personnel who use advanced planning techniques, unique diving skills, and/or appropriate technology to realize their objectives. These activities may be recreational or focus on technical and/or cave skill sets, as defined below.
- 1.2. **GOALS:** A GUE Project has defined goals with specific, measurable, relevant, and well-structured deliverables.
  - 1.2.1. Project goals should be defined within at least one of the following categories:
    - 1.2.1.1. Exploration (including scouting, searching, and prospecting);
    - 1.2.1.2. Documentation (e.g., photo/video, survey, photogrammetry);
    - 1.2.1.3. Sample collection (e.g., data and/or specimens for scientific research); and/or
    - 1.2.1.4. Conservation (e.g., beach cleanup, ghost net removals, planting sea grass, coral restoration).
  - 1.2.2. The goal should be clearly defined before the start of the project. Appropriate goals are specific, measurable, reasonably attainable, and relevant to GUE's mission. They must reflect assigned responsible parties and a clear timeline. Clearly defined goals maximize project efficiency and effectiveness while providing room for flexibility and contingency management.
- 1.3. **RESOURCES:** A GUE Project should have well-defined resource requirements (specific time frame, financial requirements, appropriate personnel, and qualified participants).
- 1.4. **TIMEFRAME:** A GUE Project may be a one-time event or recurring over long periods (e.g., quarterly or annually ). Regardless of the frequency or duration, a GUE Project establishes discrete timelines with relevant deliverables at specific points along those timelines.
- 1.5. **ADMINISTRATION:** GUE Projects are led by a Project Manager (or team of Project Managers). Project Managers are responsible for efficiently and thoroughly administering a GUE Project.
  - 1.5.1. GUE Projects should be registered with GUE Headquarters prior to being promoted as such. Approved GUE Projects are listed on the GUE website.
  - 1.5.2. All Participants must sign appropriate liability releases, medical forms, and other documents as required by GUE. Project Managers work with GUE Headquarters to develop appropriate forms for the Project.

- 1.5.3. All GUE Projects should be governed by a thorough Risk Management Plan and Crisis Response Plan, which Project Managers must review with each Participant before any Project activities commence.
- 1.5.4. GUE Project Participants should follow all relevant GUE General Diving Standards as defined in the operative version of GUE's General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures; GUE's Standard Operating Procedures; and GUE guidelines and safety protocols.
- 1.5.5. GUE Projects and their Participants shall positively represent GUE at all times.
- 1.6. **DELIVERABLES:** GUE Projects should be designed and administered with clearly defined, specific deliverables, including a Project Report to be submitted to GUE Headquarters.
  - 1.6.1. The Project Report detail and length are flexible and may be simple or complex as appropriate for the nature of the project and the stated goals.
  - 1.6.2. The Project Report should be finalized and shared with GUE Headquarters within twelve weeks of the Project's completion. Project Managers and GUE Headquarters will undertake a joint effort to publish the Report.
  - 1.6.3. The Project Report should contain, at a minimum:
    - 1.6.3.1. Name of the project;
    - 1.6.3.2. Name & contact (email address) of Project Manager;
    - 1.6.3.3. Date, location, and number of participants;
    - 1.6.3.4. Short description of the project;
    - 1.6.3.5. Collaborators involved with the Project and their role, including but not limited to research centers, scientists, dive centers, and other entities.
    - 1.6.3.6. Short description of the targets (goals) and what was achieved during the project (deliverables);
    - 1.6.3.7. Potential prospects and plans for the future; and
    - 1.6.3.8. Media to be used for social media, articles, GUE.tv, and/or historical documentation (e.g., photos, videos, maps, drawings).

## 2. PROJECT TAXONOMY

- 2.1. **GENERALLY:** GUE supports two types of Projects: Recreational and Technical/Cave projects.
- 2.2. GUE General Diving Standards apply to all GUE Projects (regardless of taxonomy or equipment configuration used) and cannot be waived unless stated differently later in this document. The general diving standards are defined in GUE's General Training Standards, Policies, and Procedures; GUE's Standard Operating Procedures; and GUE guidelines and safety protocols.

- 2.3. Project Managers and Project Participants must be certified to the level of planned Project diving with relevance to the type of project detailed below.

#### **2.4. RECREATIONAL PROJECTS**

- 2.4.1. Recreational GUE Projects are conducted within recreational diving limits: depth limited to 30 meters/100 feet in backmount open-circuit configuration and within minimum decompression limits. Recreational GUE Projects do not include the use of scooters, rebreathers, sidemount configuration, or any other specialized equipment requiring specialized training. Recreational GUE Projects are conducted in open water and do not require divers to enter environments like overhead, active shipping lanes, etc.
- 2.4.2. Recreational GUE Project Managers must be GUE-certified for the level of planned Project diving, at minimum. Project Participants must be certified by an internationally recognized agency commensurate with the diving being performed.
- 2.4.3. Recreational GUE Project Participants are not limited to GUE standard equipment configurations. Still, all configurations must adhere to GUE General Diving Standards, including using a balanced equipment configuration, gas limits (MOD, END), appropriate gas analysis, and tank markings.

#### **2.5. TECHNICAL AND CAVE PROJECTS**

- 2.5.1. Technical and Cave GUE Projects are more complex in nature and involve deep water, overhead environments, specialized equipment, and/or extended decompression obligations.
- 2.5.2. Technical and Cave GUE Project Managers should have relevant knowledge and experience to plan and supervise the dives planned within the Project and be GUE certified.
- 2.5.3. Technical and Cave GUE Projects require that approximately 90% of the divers be GUE-certified at an appropriate level. GUE defers the details of this decision to the Project Leader/Manager but requests that all consideration be given to the safety and quality of output for all Project Participants and other relevant stakeholders.
- 2.5.4. GUE Projects require the use of GUE standard gases. GUE standard equipment configurations are also required unless the environment, project goals, or unique circumstances necessitate variations, and such variations are explained in the Project registration with GUE Headquarters.

#### **2.6. MIXED PROJECTS:**

- 2.6.1. It is possible to run a mixed Recreational and Technical/Cave GUE Project, but the respective rules governing each activity (i.e., recreational or technical/cave) must be adhered to.
- 2.6.2. Project Managers must be clear about safety, expectations, limitations, and rules. No Project Participant may ever be permitted to dive beyond their

certification and/or competence, comfort, or other limitations on any GUE Project.

### 3. PROJECT VALUE AND BENEFITS

3.1. **VALUE:** GUE Projects should be designed and administered to provide value and benefit to various stakeholders. This includes but is not necessarily limited to:

- 3.1.1. Fostering public outreach and expanded visibility for the Project's goals;
- 3.1.2. Strengthening communities, growing their involvement and engagement;
- 3.1.3. Building upon the organization's foundation to support other projects;
- 3.1.4. Building international collaboration with scientific entities and individuals;
- 3.1.5. Developing scientific reports to be published in peer-reviewed journals;
- 3.1.6. Growing the next generation of scientists, explorers, conservationists, and professionals in the aquatic context;
- 3.1.7. Promoting and ensuring continued landowner relationships and site access;
- 3.1.8. Establishing resources or expertise that may benefit the local community;
- 3.1.9. Promoting the value and uniqueness of GUE while attracting other divers;
- 3.1.10. Building a platform for access to data, software, expertise etc.; and
- 3.1.11. Showcasing a globally-connected community of capable divers who can participate in a wide range of international scientific, exploration, and conservation projects.

3.2. **BENEFITS:** GUE Projects benefit from GUE's network of resources, including but not necessarily limited to:

- 3.2.1. Access to project tools, software, and expertise (GIS, Google, subject matter experts, etc.);
- 3.2.2. A broader platform for outreach (GUE.com, GUE.tv, Facebook and other social media accounts, existing collaborations with universities, organizations and institutes);
- 3.2.3. Support for building fund-worthy projects and the possibility of gaining GUE-related financial support; and
- 3.2.4. The benefit of a GUE community of divers, subject matter experts, and project managers.

### 4. CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE GUE PROJECT INITIATIVE

4.1. GUE's plans for developing GUE Projects include:

- 4.1.1. Creation of online and offline platforms for Project development;
- 4.1.2. Training resources for nuanced and speciality equipment, procedures, etc.;

- 4.1.3. Creation of online platforms that provide visibility for the Project, Participants, Management, etc. (in progress);
- 4.1.4. Project calendars, along with recruitment and registration tools (in progress);
- 4.1.5. Accessible Project Reports, drafting resources, templates, etc.;
- 4.1.6. Promotional opportunities on GUE marketing channels and those of GUE's affiliates and allies (in progress);
- 4.1.7. Documentation and support (waivers and release forms, medical forms, checklists, etc.);
- 4.1.8. GUE Project Risk Management Guide and included resources;
- 4.1.9. Insurance support with new and existing partners;
- 4.1.10. Guidance and support for grant and funding applications;
- 4.1.11. Potential funding avenues;
- 4.1.12. Licenses for ArcGIS, drone software, Ariane's Line, and/or other relevant software granted to GUE Projects; and
- 4.1.13. GUE NextGen Legacy Project that will support young scientists from our scholarship and community to grow their ability to help GUE communities and GUE Project Managers with creating meaningful projects locally and globally.