

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV (NORTH
AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA AND
THE CARIBBEAN)**

Second Session of the RA IV Management Group

Geneva

6 June 2009

FINAL REPORT



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION**

**RA IV MANAGEMENT GROUP
Meeting No. 2**

(Geneva, Switzerland 6 June 2009)

The second meeting of the Regional Association IV Management Group was held on 6 June 2009 from 8:00 to 9:00 hours with attendance by:

Mr. David Grimes – Canada (Acting Chairman)

Mr. Eduardo Planos – RA IV Hydrological Adviser

Mr. Bruce Angle – Canada

Mr. Michael Crowe- Canada

Ms. Joanne St-Cœur - Canada

Mr. Jack Hayes – United States of America

Mr. Dan Thompson – United States of America

Mr. Fred Branski – United States of America

Ms. Caroline Corvington – United States of America

Mr. Fred Sambula – British Caribbean Territories

Mr. Michel Rosengaus – Mexico

Mr. Robert Masters – WMO

Mr. Miguel Rabiolo – WMO

Mr. Oscar Arango – WMO

Mr. Andres Orias - WMO

The following issues were discussed:

- Task Teams to be established
- Population of RA IV Task Teams
- Actions to be initiated immediately

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The meeting was informed that the President of RA IV has not yet sent the request to Permanent Representatives to populate the task teams until the Management Group takes the final decision on those to be established. Permanent Representatives will be asked to confirm their experts aligned to the task teams. The President of RA IV will be consulted previously, since it falls under his responsibility the activation of the task teams.
2. The Management Group also stated that they need to take into consideration the action items as outlined in the *RA IV Action sheet* prepared by the Secretariat to ensure there is congruency between the outcomes of the XV RA IV Session and the charges to the teams.
3. Given that there is limited representation of the Members in this meeting, it was decided to have a round of consultations and ensure all RA IV Members are aware of the expectations and procedures.

DEVELOPING THE TASK TEAM CHARACTERISTICS & PROCEDURES

4. The Management Group decided on the following basic guidance for the development of the task teams characteristics and procedures:
 - The lifespan of the different teams is variable.
 - The President has the authority to create a task team at any time, each of which will be established with a clear charge that is time bound.
 - It was noted that the CBS model may be emulated with a small core group of 6-8 charged with carrying the bulk of the work with additional associate members to participate as required. The MG develops the high level charge and the team then polishes the scope and defines the work plan.
 - The general timeline foreseen is;
 - **Immediate** - Secretariat will canvass the PRs for candidates

- **Early Fall** - A MG teleconference and to have the list of experts. Arthur Rolle will choose the leads. The first task of the teams is to refine the ToR.
 - **November** - Secretariat will provide precision on resources. To date CHF 30000 is clear but there are other funds that may be leveraged. Action; Rob Masters with Miguel Rabiolo.
 - **December** - Follow-up MG teleconference.
 - **January** - Launch teams with frequent interaction will be supported (Telecons etc.).
- Action; David Grimes will inform Arthur of the discussions upon return to Canada.

OTHER MATTERS UNDER INVESTIGATION

5. D/DRA noted that the meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations and Presidents of Technical Commissions during EC LXI will help provide clarity on how the Commissions and regions interact with timescales and milestones.

6. There is thought of providing some IT solutions to improve interactions (e.g. e-bulletin board), but e-mail will be a starting point. The WMO Office in San Jose will be key to success.

7. USA noted that one face-to-face meeting can assist in getting things launched, but also noted this is not budgeted. Canada stated that with a more defined focus, it creates opportunity to leverage opportunities within the context of WMO Departments other than DRA (e.g. Obs, or DRR). D/DRA noted that with four groups, availability of funds may be more feasible. There are WMO funds allocated to meetings of groups that no longer exist; these residual funds need to be re-allocated in the new context.

TASK TEAMS ESTABLISHED

- **Strategic & Operational Planning Task Team;** The President of RA IV will lead this team; USA offered an expert to help and suggested Canada's Permanent Representative support given his role on the EC WG SOP; Mr. Michael Crowe is identified for Canada. Task to be completed by June 2010.
- **Aviation Task Team;** The charge needs to be "polished". Canada will take responsibility for this working with the President of the Commission on Aeronautical Meteorology, Mr. Carr McLeod. This team will be in place until 2012.
- **DRR pilot projects Task Team** (Focus on hydrology; DRR - Hydrology); It was noted that the World Bank funding is not secured as yet. Some Members had expressed concern that the project only focuses on Central America. However synergies are being investigated with

project proposals being developed by Finland and the Ibero-American Climate project. This must be designed to serve all Members' needs.

It was further noted that although flash flood may be the emphasis, there is a need to link in other service delivery matters. For example, groundwater may need to be considered. The Permanent Representative of Mexico noted that many NHS are not service orientated and this could help improve that situation with products delivered to the public and decision-makers. The team has to provide guidance on what Members need.

Action; Eduardo, Curt and Maryam Golnaraghi to develop the charge. The definition work and scope of the WB will define it.

- ***Radat Demo project Task Team***; The USA has transferred \$100k (VCP funds) to the TrustFund.

Action; Fred Branski will develop the charge to the task team.

OTHER POTENTIAL TEAMS

Concerning other priorities identified by the MG, task teams will be established later on. For Regional Climate Centre, it was decided to await the outcomes of the WCC – 3 and the scope of the GFCS is better defined. On training needs and gaps, more discussion on emphasis and scope needs to occur.
