

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Distr.: RESTRICTED

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS

CBS/MG-IV/Doc. 3.1(2)
(3.VI.2003)

CBS MANAGEMENT GROUP
Fourth session

ITEM: 3.1

Langen, Germany, 13-16 October 2003

ENGLISH only

OPAG on Integrated Observing Systems

Future activities of the Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG) of COSNA

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

This document provides background information regarding SEG/COSNA activities and their possible continuity within CBS.

DISCUSSION

1. The transition of COSNA activities to the European Composite Observing System (EUCOS) programme of EUMETNET has been discussed at various WMO levels. The material presented below summarises major recommendations made in this respect by bodies concerned. The emphasis is given to the future of Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG) of COSNA which activities have been most closely related to the OPAG on IOS.

Recommendations made by XIII-RAVI

2. During thirteenth session of RA VI (Geneva, May 2002), the Association was informed that at some point in the near future, probably in 2003, COSNA would be absorbed by EUCOS. It was also informed that in the meantime, the Coordination Group for COSNA (CGC) should continue to exist, with unchanged terms of reference until:

- (a) EUCOS becomes an operational system;
- (b) Satisfactory arrangements are made for the marine component of EUCOS;
- (c) Adequate provision is made for the monitoring of the operation of the entire system;
- (d) Arrangements are made for scientific evaluations to be continued under the aegis of WMO/CBS-CAS and/or EUMETNET/EUCOS;
- (e) Contacts and coordination are assured between EUMETNET/EUCOS and other bodies dealing with observing systems and networks.

3. As regards COSNA Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG), the Association noted the view of CGC that it could develop into a group which monitors and partially coordinates the work being carried out worldwide on observing system impact studies and observing system evaluation projects, makes recommendations to relevant WMO bodies for future work and provides input to CBS expert teams on the further development of an integrated observing system. The Association recommended to incorporate the group in an appropriate way into the working structure of CBS, if possible.

Recommendations made by CBS-Ext.(02)

4. During its extraordinary session (December, 2002), the Commission recalled that Resolution 5 (EC-XLII) — Composite Observing System for the North Atlantic (COSNA), endorsed the organization of the Coordination Group on the Composite Observing System for the North Atlantic (CGC) having as its primary goal the efficient management of the environmental data from the North Atlantic to ensure that they met the established standards for timeliness, quality, coverage and utility. CGC, through its Scientific Evaluation Group (SEG), had encouraged and, as appropriate, had sponsored scientific evaluations and studies, which assisted in establishing and maintaining the acceptable performance for COSNA, and had guided its future development. The Commission noted that although SEG focused on the North Atlantic, the impact studies were mainly undertaken on a global scale. The SEG also organized or co-sponsored workshops on data-impact studies (Geneva, April 1997 and Toulouse, March 2000).

5. The Commission further noted that CGC-XIII (Reykjavik, August 2002) supported the views of RA VI and expressed the hope that they would be considered favourably by CBS, so that continuation of the scientific evaluation work would be assured within the OPAG on IOS framework.

6. The Commission noted with appreciation the comments on SEG provided by Dr Bottger (ECMWF), chairman of SEG. The Commission underlined that the data-impact study work of the

SEG and the related workshops were considered to be valuable contributions towards the monitoring and development of the GOS. The Commission was pleased to note that CGC agreed to co-sponsor another workshop on impact studies in 2004. It also recognized that global NWP centres were best placed to assess the relative contribution and value of various components of the GOS and to provide feedback on data requirements and input for the redesign of the GOS. In particular, the evolution of the satellite observing system capabilities and the utilization of those data in skilful data assimilation systems should be monitored and supported through a well-organized programme of observing system experiments (OSEs) involving the major NWP and GDPS centres of the WMO Members from all Regions. The Commission felt that the OPAG on IOS - through the Expert Team on Observational Data Requirements and Redesign of the GOS and its rapporteurs on global and regional NWP - appeared to be best placed to organize in close collaboration with the OPAG-DPFS the OSE work and arrange future NWP impact study workshops. That would enable more effective exchange of results from OSE studies and provide feedback to the operators and managers of the GOS on the performance of their systems and future data requirements.

7. In light of the above, the Commission reconfirmed in principle its current working structure dealing with OSE/OSSEs, and requested its Management Group to review the working arrangements within the OPAG-IOS with respect to retaining in the OPAG the tasks and expertise of the SEG, which are carried out by the global NWP Centres.

Recommendations made by CGC Management Group (CGC MG)

8. The fourteenth session of CGC MG (Geneva, March 2003) recalled the views of CGC-XIII that the situation was on course for a final decision on the transfer of CGC activities to EUMETNET to be taken at its session in August 2003. CGC MG at its current meeting, was requested to review any further progress by EUCOS in developing an organizational structure for the management of the marine component and in implementing a procedure for monitoring the operation of the entire system. Based on this review, CGC MG was requested to make a recommendation to CGC-XIV on the decisions to be taken.

9. Noting, in particular, the arrangements being made for the management of the marine component of EUCOS and for the monitoring of the entire observing system, CGC MG agreed that it would soon be unnecessary for COSNA to exist as an independent entity and that, consequently, after CGC-XIV, there would no longer be a need for the CGC to oversee the COSNA management, coordination and monitoring, the main reasons for which CGC was established in 1990.

10. Furthermore, with regard to scientific evaluations, CGC MG was pleased to note that the membership and terms of reference of the EUCOS Scientific Advisory Team (E-SAT) were such that the work of the SEG as far as the European area of interest was concerned would be continued much as before. As regards the SEG activities for the coordination of impact studies on a global basis and the organization of related workshops, the Extra-ordinary session of CBS, in December 2002 had agreed that they would be continued within the CBS structure.

11. Taking all the above into account, CGC MG decided to recommend that the next session of CGC be its last and that the CGC be dissolved soon thereafter when all the necessary administrative and financial formalities had been completed. (It was noted that, depending on the final CGC decision regarding the use of the Trust Funds, it maybe mid-2004 before the final balance of the Fund would be known and steps taken for its closure).

12. The MG is invited to consider the above information and decide upon working arrangements within CBS to retain SEG/COSNA activities.
