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| **WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**  COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS OPAG on DPFS  **MEETING OF THE CBS (DPFS) EXPERT TEAM ON OPERATIONAL PREDICTIONS FORM SUB-SEASONAL TO LONGER-TIME SCALES (ET-OPSLS)**  BARCELONA, SPAIN, 2 AND 4 TO 6 JUNE 2018 |  | DPFS/ET-OPSLS/Doc. 4.5 and 5.4  (15.V.2018)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agenda item : 4 & 5  ENGLISH ONLY |

**REPORT OF SUB-TEAM 4: SCOPING/IMPLEMENTATION OF LONGER THAN SEASONAL FORECASTS**

*(Submitted by Jeff Knight/Richard Graham)*

##### Summary and purpose of document

This document reports on activities relevant to the sub-team, specifically efforts to develop and implement an operational framework for climate forecasts on annual to decadal timescales.

##### Action Proposed

The meeting is invited to discuss the document and consider the recommendation that ST4 be discontinued now that designations of LC-ADCP and GPC-ADCP are reaching completion.

**Annex(es):** -

**Reference(s):**

GDPFS Manual : https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc\_num.php?explnum\_id=4246

**SCOPING/IMPLEMENTATION OF LONGER THAN SEASONAL FORECASTS**

1. The sub-team has overseen very good progress towards its goal of establishing an operational WMO framework for prediction on annual to decadal timescales, to mirror the existing structures for long-term prediction on seasonal timescales. In summary, this framework has been officially adopted and designated centres are currently being selected.
2. Events since the 2016 Beijing meeting of the Expert Team are as follows.
3. An amendment to the GDPFS Manual was tabled at EC-69 (May 17) to include recognition of a Lead Centre for Near Term Climate Prediction (LC-NTCP) and Global Producing Centres for Near Term Climate Prediction (GPC-NTCP). The proposed amendment detailed the roles and responsibilities for each of the LC-NTCP and GPC-NTCP, including the process by which centres can obtain these designations.
4. EC-69 confirmed these amendments on the condition that the name of the activity - Near Term Climate Prediction (NTCP) - be changed due to potential confusion when this terminology was translated from English into other UN official languages. A change of terminology to Annual to Decadal Climate Prediction (ADCP) was agreed by IPET-OPSLS and adopted in the latest edition of the GDPFS Manual as an editorial amendment after EC-69. The terminology ADCP replaces NTCP in all contexts, resulting in LC-ADCP and GPC-ADCP to refer to designated participants.
5. A resolution was tabled at EC-69 for the designation of the Met Office (the UK NMHS) as LC-NTCP (now referred to as LC-ADCP). This was adopted. The Met Office had demonstrated the capability to carry out the defined roles and functions through operation of an informal exchange and display of decadal forecasts for a number of years. It was felt premature (at that time), however, to consider designation of GPC-ADCP alongside the definition of roles and functions.
6. The new edition of the GDPFS Manual was published in late 2017 (see references for link). The manual states that it is a function of the LC-ADCP (the Met Office) to oversee the selection of GPC-ADCP with the approval of IPET-OPSLS. LC-ADCP is responsible for assessing whether candidate centres demonstrate the capability to meet the requirements of a GPC-ADCP as specified in the manual. Preliminary applications for GPC-ADCP were considered for endorsement by IPET-OPSLS in 2016, and endorsement was recommended in all cases, pending demonstration by the centres of full compliance with the manual in terms of verification information.
7. LC-ADCP requested full applications for GPC-ADCP status from centres in Spring 2018. So far, full applications for GPC-ADPC designation have been received from the same centres as examined by IPET-OPSLS in 2016 including the LC-ADCP, specifically Barcelona, Canada, Offenbach and Exeter. Having considered these applications, LC-ADCP recommends each of these for endorsement by IPET-OPSLS, as previous non-compliances have been remedied. Endorsement by IPET-OPSLS will permit CBS to recommend EC designates the centres as GPC-ADCP.
8. The Met Office has made some initial progress in developing the necessary infrastructure for LC-ADCP. Use of dedicated storage at the UK Centre for Environmental Data Analysis (CEDA) has been negotiated to store prediction data from contributing centres. This arrangement has the benefit of providing a stable and well-curated data environment looking years ahead. In addition, first steps have been taken towards developing a website to display individual and multi-model forecasts. Work to finalise these aspects will be complete by December 2018, in time to receive the first forecast data in early 2019.
9. With the designation of the LC-ADCP complete and efforts towards the designation of GPC-ADCP well advanced, it is timely to consider the future requirement for ST4. ST4 has been responsible for scoping and then implementation of the operational framework for ADCP (as it has become known). Now this has been established, routine administration of ADCP is the responsibility of LC-ADCP, with oversight from IPET-OPSLS. It is not clear that the task of overseeing the LC-ADCP is sufficiently large to need a specific sub-team. It is proposed, therefore, that this activity is suitable for consideration by IPET-OPSLS in plenary, and that the sub-team be discontinued.