

ANNEX 2**Designation Process of RSMC ASDF
to be included in SDS-WAS Implementation Plan**

Transition to operational activities: Standard designation procedure as Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre with activity specialization in Atmospheric Sand and Dust Forecasting (RSMC-ASDF)

An institution can be designated as Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre with activity specialization in Atmospheric Sand and Dust Forecasting (RSMC-ASDF) if its regional node has reached a high level of maturity in dust forecasting and it is also capable of producing operational dust predictions in real time 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. The mandatory functions of RSMC-ASDF are described in the Manual on the Global Data Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) (WMO-No. 485). If a group of institutions share the RSMC functions, they can be designated as RSMC Network with activity specialization in ASDF. Such institution(s) concerned shall go through the following designation procedures:

- step 1. The institution concerned should express its intent to be designated as RSMC-ASDF to the SDS-WAS Regional Steering Group (RSG) of its regional node and shall prepare a technical report to outline the institution's operational capabilities as well as to demonstrate the quality of dust forecasts for operational use in the region following criteria and recommendations documented in the GDPFS Manual (WMO-No. 485). Model evaluation and inter-comparison studies by the SDS-WAS regional node shall be described in detail. The proposal, including the technical report, requires the approval by the SDS-WAS RSG.
- step 2. The institution concerned should express its intent to be designated as RSMC-ASDF to the President of the Regional Association (P/RA) through, and with the endorsement of, Permanent Representative (PR) of the country in which it is situated to ensure commitment to provide the information as described in the Manual on GDPFS and shall obtain the approval of P/RA on this designation proposal.
- step 3. The Chair of the SDS-WAS RSG should convey the intent of the institution concerned to SDS-WAS Steering Committee (SC) with the technical report. The SDS-WAS SC shall review the proposal, including the technical report. The proposal requires the approval by the SDS-WAS SC.
- step 4. The Chair of the SDS-WAS SC should submit the technical report and propose the nomination of the institution concerned to the Scientific Steering Committee of World Weather Research Programme (WWRP SSC). The proposal requires the approval by WWRP SSC.
- step 5. The Chair of WWRP SSC should submit the technical report and propose the nomination of the institution concerned to the President of the Commission of Atmospheric Science (CAS) (P/CAS). When P/CAS approves the proposal, P/CAS shall recommend the proposal, including the technical report, to the President of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) (P/CBS).
- step 6. P/CBS shall request the Expert Team on Emergency Response Activity (ET-ERA) through the Chair of Open Programme Area Group on DPFS (OPAG-DPFS) to review the proposal and the technical report. The proposal, including the technical report, requires the approval by ET-ERA.

- step 7. When the proposal of the institution concerned is approved by relevant experts of CAS and CBS, the institution will be invited by CBS to present the proposal (in the form of an amendment to the Manual on the GDPFS) at one of its sessions for decision. The presentation of the proposal shall be complemented by the respective demonstration of capabilities, through documentation as well as oral presentation. WMO Secretariat will assist in the development of the proposed amendment to the Manual on the GDPFS.
- step 8. With the approval of the Members of CBS, the amendment to the Manual will be put up to WMO Congress or to WMO Executive Council for approval.
- step 9. With this final WMO approval, the Manual on the GDPFS will be revised and the institution concerned will be formally designated as RSMC ASDF.
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