

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CBS/OPAG-IOS/ET-SBO-1/6.2.6

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

07.VII.2013

EXPERT TEAM ON SURFACE-BASED OBSERVATIONS
FIRST SESSION

UPDATED: 10.VII.2013

ITEM: 6.2

Original: ENGLISH

Geneva, Switzerland, 9-12 July, 2013

WORK PLAN AND TASKS

ET-SBO Member Reports and Recommendations

Promoting Best Practices
(Submitted by [Henry Karanja, Kenya])

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

To provide the session with the zero draft report of the “promotion of best practice” towards understanding of the TOR for the ET SBO

ACTION PROPOSED

Members are invited to contribute to discussions on the report

References

1. WIGOS framework IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (WIP) Version 2.0 (17/05/2013)
-

PROMOTING BEST PRACTICES

1. Introduction

The WMO Technical Regulations comprise standard practices and procedures and recommended practices and procedures as defined in WMO technical regulations 49. Guidance to Members will be provided by WMO via the standards and best practices described in the Regulatory Materials such as the WIGOS Manual and Guide and the respective Manuals of the WIGOS component observing systems (e.g., GOS, GAW, WHyCOS and GCW)

The Surface Based Observing systems are generally owned by the NMHSs or other organizations within the WMO Member countries and are responsible for operating and maintaining their systems and for complying with the regulations of the WMO and co-sponsored observing systems to which they contribute.

In promoting best practices among WMO members, it will be necessary to note that the members will fall into two categories.

- Members who are well funded and will be aiming at improving on their already good quality service.
- Members with very limited funding to support operations

Taking into account the ongoing rapid progress in technology that will continue to provide a basis for further improvements in the capability, reliability, quality and cost effectiveness of observations, Members must utilize international standards and best practices set by WMO and partner organizations.

2. Understanding the terms of reference

The terms of reference is understood to comprise the following:

- Monitoring the status of the operational networks of SBO systems in order to explore best practices currently employed.
- Evaluation of best practices required for the SBO systems
- Documenting the best practices for members
- Establishment of a SBO portal as part of the WIGOS Information Resource (WIR) to provide a centralized point of access to technical advice documents to members
- Populating the SBO portal with national best practice documents.

3. SBO Operational standards and practice

Members will plan, implement, operate and maintain their national surface based observation networks based on the standards and best practices of WMO and co-sponsored observing systems.

WIGOS involves, between observing systems, a process for sharing of operational experiences, practices, ideas, sharing of expertise and for pooling resources for joint activities. The benefit is to realize synergies and greater efficiencies.

Sharing of operational experiences, practices and ideas could be at national level (between organizations collaborating with the NMHyS), at regional level or at Global levels. In doing so, the members who are well funded and will be aiming at improving on their already good quality service will be able to supplement members with very limited funding to support operations to adopt best practices.

The following areas of operational standards and practices have been identified where members can collaborate and build synergies in adopting best practices:

- Management , operations and Maintenance of stations and networks
- Calibration and traceability
- Instruments and methods of observations (observations and metadata)
- Procurement process of surface based observing systems
- Performance Monitoring and evaluation of observing systems
- Network planning
- Quality monitoring and management practices
- Compilation and publication of national good practices
-
-other areas

4. SBO web Portal

Establishment of a SBO portal as part of the WIGOS Information Resource (WIR) will provide a centralized point of access to best practice advice documents to members.

- Members will be responsible for populating the SBO portal with national best practice documents.
- The SBO portal will respond to requests for advice from members.
- The Web Portal will contribute highly to the required coordinated capacity-development effort at global, regional and national levels, to enable the developing and least Developed members to develop, improve and sustain their observation components.