**Status of Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans – RA-IV**

*(Submitted by RA-IV Representative)*

**Status of Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans – RA-IV**

**Introduction**

1. The current WMO Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) Strategic Operating Plan (2010-2013) was prepared to articulate a strategy based upon the Top-level Objectives and Strategic Thrusts introduced in the WMO Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011. The RA IV Strategic Plan served to identify the regional priorities and areas of strategic interests in order to inform the WMO strategic planning process and ensure regional integration.

2. A set of RA IV deliverables were associated with each of the WMO Expected Results and were designed to guide the regional development and implementation in line with the WMO Operating Plan. Under the **WMO Expected Result 4 -** *Integration of WMO observing systems,* the RA IV session in 2009 set up a *Task Team on Regional WIGOS Implementation.* One of the deliverables at the time was:

“Deliver one regional WIGOS Demonstration Project (WDP) as proof of concept to pilot the establishment of a comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable system of observing systems, ensuring interoperability between its components.”

3. With the adoption by Congress in 2011 of the new ***WMO Strategic Plan 2012-2015***, and considering that the Regional Association IV will meet for its 16th session in April 2013, the RA IV Management Group took into account the relevant decisions of Congress, the Executive Council and ICG-WIGOS for the development and implementation of WIGOS. It recognized that that Regional Associations were requested to:

1. Develop their Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans (R-WIPs);
2. Coordinate WIGOS implementation activities with the WIS in their operating plans and work programmes,
3. Promote capacity-building and outreach activities to assist Members in the implementation of WIGOS, and
4. Coordinate and manage the WIGOS implementation in their Region.

4. Considering that the Regional Association will have to play the key role in WIGOS implementation in the Region, taking into account all WMO future priorities, such as GFCS and DRR, the *RA IV Management Group* decided to broaden the focus of its *Task Team on Regional WIGOS Implementation.* A proposal will be put to the Regional Association in April 2013 that the *RA IV Task Team on Regional WIGOS Implementation*, under guidance from ICG-WIGOS and the RA IV Management Group, and with the support, where required, of the WIGOS Project Office in the WMO Secretariat, will be responsible for:

1. The development of the Regional WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan (R-WIP);
2. The integration of WIGOS regional network components; and
3. The evolution of their regional networks according to the implementation plan for the evolution of global observing systems (EGOS-IP).

5. The RA IV Management Group had been advocating close collaboration with Region III on the implementation of both WIGOS and the *WMO Information System* (WIS). In this regard, a joint RA III/RA IV Workshop on *Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WIGOS) *Implementation Plan* (R-WIP) was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 26 to 30 November 2012.

6. The goals of the Workshop were to:

* Raise the awareness and understanding of the WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan (WIP) and the expected contributions from and benefits to both RA III and RA IV, particularly amongst the experts contributing to the RA III *Sub-group on Integrated Observing Systems* and the RA IV *Task Team on WIGOS*.
* Develop a first draft version of the R-WIP-III/IV, taking into account a range of stakeholder’s input to identify priority actions for the Region

**RA IV WIGOS Implementation Plans**

7. The Workshop discussed the relevant decisions of Congress, the Executive Council and ICG-WIGOS in the development and implementation of WIGOS. As the focus of the Workshop was the development of the R-WIP, the RA IV experts at the Workshop utilized the framework Implementation Plan (WIP) that was adopted by EC-64, and highlighting two aspects:

1. The ten Key Activity Areas that need to be addressed in order to implement the WIGOS framework; and
2. The table of WIGOS Implementation Activities, which lists specific work to be done in each of the ten Key Activity Areas. Some of the work needs to be done at a Regional and/or National level.

8. In developing the draft RA IV WIP for consideration of the Regional Association, the following regional activities will be proposed as the important focus:

* Regional Flood Forecasting Project;
* Improving availability and utilization of AWS data not already commonly shared, both existing and silent;
* Regional Radar Mosaic Implementation Project;
* Capacity Development focused on Quality Management Practices.

9. The draft RA IV WIP will be put to the Regional Association for consideration and approval. In addition to the identification of risks for the development of a Risk Management Plan (RMP), it will point out to the Regional Association several other challenges and areas of concern, such as:

1. Compilation of the Regional observational requirements including from:

* The Hurricane Committee’s Technical Plan;
* Marine Programs including buoys and offshore platforms;
* Expanded space based observations including NESDIS activities;
* Expanded agro-met observations including USDA activities;
* Strategy for the architecture for climate monitoring from space.

1. Validation of the user requirements documented by the global RRR process against:

* Regional user requirements;
* National user requirements for WMO systems;

[Use the results to update the RRR user requirements database and to fine tune the EGOS-IP and observing system plans.]

1. Evolve as feasible, existing Regional observation networks to meet WIGOS standards;
2. Develop real-time monitoring and reporting capability, to support operations;
3. Develop a process to monitor and report on the level of regional compliance with WIGOS standards;
4. Establishment of a Regional WIGOS Trust Fund in the event that the Secretariat is unable to provide funds for WIGOS Projects.

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