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| **World Meteorological Organization** |  | **ICG-WIGOS-3/Doc.7.1(3)** | |
| **INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS-3)** |  | Submitted by: | Rep. RA III |
| Date: | 05.II.2014 |
| ***THIRD SESSION***  GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  10 – 14 FEBRUARY 2014 | Original Language: | English |
| Agenda Item: | 7 |

**Wigos implementation IN REGIONS**

**Status of Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans and Challenges of the WIGOS Implementation in Regions and Member Countries**

(Presented by José Arimatéa de Sousa Brito, Rep. RA III)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  The document presents a short summary of activities underway or planned concerning the RA III WIGOS Implementation Plan. It also contains comments on the Challenges facing WIGOS implementation. |

**Action proposed**

The session is requested to note the information and comments provided

**Reference:** [RA III WIGOS Implementation Plan](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/principal_docs/r-wip-iii_v0.9_en.doc)

**RA III WIGOS BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. The RA III WIGOS Regional Implementation Plan was prepared in the end of 2012 during a joint RA III and RA IV Workshop held in San Jose, Costa Rica. An implementation Road Map was also prepared. Since then, the Plan was distributed to several instances of WMO, including all Members of RA III for review and comments. The approval of the RA III R-WIP will take place during the coming session of RA III to be held in Asunción, Paraguay (September, 2014).
2. The working structure approved in the last session of RA III did not define very clearly the regional mechanisms for WIGOS implementation. Probably, this was in part due to the fact that the RA III R-WIP had not been even started at that time. This issue will be central to the discussions in the RA III session.

**CHALLENGES OF RA III WIGOS IMPLEMENTATION**

***Progress on the development of your R-WIP***

1. The RA III R-WIP will be approved in September 2014 during the XVI RA III session. Although the plan developed in San Jose has been distributed to all NMHSs of the Region, challenging them to provide comments, the feedback was not very encouraging. There is still a generalized lack of understanding of what WIGOS rally is and, consequently, of the benefits it may bring to them and to the community as a whole. The current priority, in many countries, continues to be maintaining the operation of existing GOS stations for use in weather forecast and climate-related activities.
2. Some WIGOS-related activities are under way in the Region, aiming to increase the amount of observation available to NMHS of both RA III and RA IV. As a result, more data from AWS are already being injected into the GTS in both BUFR and TAC formats. Also, the data base of meteorological radars in operation or planned for the Region has been updated. A common framework for radar data dissemination is under development.

***The next steps you have mapped out in your region to facilitate activation of the R-WIP and any specific challenges you foresee***

1. There are two coming activities that are considered crucial to activate RA III R-WIP. One is more exposure and involvement of senior experts from the Region with R-WIP during the session of the RA III Working Group on Infrastructure and Technology Development (WG-ITD) planned for April/May 2014. The other is the establishment of an adequate working structure during the next session of RA III focused on R-WIP. WG-ITD will submit a proposal to RA III.

***The process for capturing the lessons-learnt from project activities and how these will be consolidated into firm foundations for WIGOS in the Region***

1. For years NMHSs of RA III have been working in isolation. More recently, some common initiatives and projects have contributed to improve regional cooperation. While not directly connected to WIGOS, the development of the Regional Climate Regional Centre for the southern part of South America (CRC-SAS), is establishing a model of horizontal cooperation in the Region that may be applied to the implementation of WIGOS.

***How the R-WIP will be promulgated to Member level to guide national WIGOS implementation activities, including as appropriate through the regional association management group and the work of the regional WIGOS working group;***

1. First, R-WIP must be well understood and the real benefits of WIGOS demonstrated to PRs and senior managers of NMHSs. Second, one or two NMHS in RA III, should show leadership, providing convincing examples.

***Views on how to ensure productive linkages between regional experts and leaders in WIGOS and the technical commissions;***

1. While not many experts from RA III are involved in WIGOS development efforts, there is a full commitment of the Region to participate in such efforts, having at least one representative at sessions of relevant groups, (e. g. ICG-WIGOS and IPET-WIFI) responsible for the development and implementation of WIGOS. There is also a commitment to support the activities related to the protection of radio frequencies for Meteorology, Climatology and Earth observations, which is part of the RA III R-WIP.

***Any additional information, tools, assistance etc that is required to activate the R-WIP***

1. The idea of WIGOS was discussed and well accepted long before its concept was clearly understood and explained. Now, that the WIGOS concept is developed and the regional implementation plans are published, a great number of issues crucial to WIGOS implementation are still being addressed by Working Groups and Task Teams. The significant amount of time between WIGOS inception and where we are today has generated an expectation that a great number of field projects were to be demonstrated, perhaps operational. Probably this was not achieved because most NMHSs still lack a clear understanding of what to do in the ground, with clear examples.
2. NMHSs in RA III, at least the majority of them, probably will not act to activate the R-WIP until they have a clear picture of WIGOS and they are more precisely guided on what to do. In RA III, for example, the most concerted WIGOS-related regional effort was the making of the RA III R-WIP in San Jose in 2012, but only very few regional experts had a chance to participate due to internal travel restrictions. A dedicated regional workshop to explain R-WIP was planned, but not held yet. Without WIGOS regional wide-spread leadership, the implementation of R-WIP is almost impossible. Assistance is required to create this kind of leadership and the identification of national WIGOS “champions” to impulse its implementation at national and regional levels.
3. The next session of RA III, approving the R-WIP, should emphatically seek commitment of PRs on its implementation and create appropriate working structure with clear guidelines and definition of responsibilities.
4. It seems that to achieve real progress, at least in some Regions, a complete WIGOS implementation package is required, accompanied with an effective communication and outreach effort. While the WIGOS implementation responsibilities lie primarily on individual Members, RAs must understand WIGOS benefits and complexities to setup implementation priorities. Leading NMHSs will play a crucial role.

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