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| **INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS-3)** |  | Submitted by: | Rep. RA IV |
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**Wigos implementation IN REGIONS**

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

(Presented by Tyrone W. Sutherland, EC Focal Point and Rep. RA IV)

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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 IV WIGOS Implementation Plan](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/Principal_Docs/R-WIP-IV-v0.9_RA-IV-16-d04-4%281%29-WIGOS-approved_en.doc)

**RA Iv WIGOS BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. The first draft of the RA IV WIGOS Regional Implementation Plan resulted from a joint RA III and RA IV Workshop held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2012. Elements of the draft Plan were discussed during the 3rd ICG-WIGOS meeting in March 2013. After several regional iterations, the draft RA IV R-WIP was presented to the 16th session of the Regional Association IV, which met in Curaçao in April 2013.
2. In the process of approval, the Association reviewed *Resolution 50 (Cg-XVI) – Implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems*, as well decisions of EC-64 and CBS-15 on the WIGOS implementation, and the early work of the ICG-WIGOS. The Association also reviewed the WIGOS implementation actions to be undertaken by its Members and subsidiary bodies as part of the R-WIP.
3. The Association emphasized that strong support and close collaboration among Member States were needed to advance scientific knowledge and technical infrastructure to meet the regional WIGOS requirements. The Association also underlined that WIGOS implementation at national and regional levels would require initial investment, specifically for improvement of coordination and technological infrastructure. This investment should be a significant component of WIGOS implementation plans of individual NMHSs.
4. However, the Association recognized that while one of the aims of WIGOS implementation was to bring about improvements in data quality and availability, it noted with concern that the RBSN and RBCN monitoring results for 2012 show a slight decrease both in the number of stations and in availability of both RBSN and RBCN reports in RA IV.
5. The Association recognized the close link between the implementation of WIGOS and the *WMO Information System* (WIS) at global, regional and national levels. It also recognized that it was imperative for the R-WIP to receive continuous guidance from CBS and CIMO. The Association therefore reinstituted its joint *RA IV* *Task Team on WIGOS/WIS* with renewed Terms of Reference. The Task Team comprises nine regional experts, co-chaired by the *British Caribbean Territories* (BCT) and the *USA*.
6. At the same time, the Association requested its Members to nominate national focal points, tasked to be active participants in and to monitor the national aspects of the EGOS-IP, report on implementation issues, and provide feedback to the Association and to CBS through the WIGOS Project Office in the Secretariat.
7. The Association therefore approved ***Resolution 4/1 (RA IV-16) – Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan.*** The detailed **RA IV Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan** was provided to the Secretariat by the WMO Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean.
8. The Association decided that the *RA IV Management Group* would be responsible to the Association for the development and implementation of regional WIGOS matters through its *RA IV* *Task Team on WIGOS/WIS,* with primary support from the WMO Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean and the WIGOS Project Office in Geneva. The Association recognized that while the goal was to have WIGOS operational by 2016, the actual WIGOS implementation would be a continual process well beyond 2016. Therefore there would be a strong need to continually review the R-WIP, continuously monitor regional requirements, identify regional gaps, and identify capacity development projects within the Region to address those gaps. In this regard, the Co-Chairs of the *RA IV* *Task Team on WIGOS/WIS* would report on progress to the Management Group at least on an annual basis.

**ELEMENTS OF THE RA IV WIGOS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ACTIVITIES IN 2013-2015**

1. Within the RA IV WIGOSImplementation Plan, the following activities were considered for the period 2013-2015:
2. RA IV Members to appoint National Focal Points and submit reports on progress of implementation of national plans;
3. Compile information from Members, other relevant partners and WMO sources as input to existing national observing systems in RA-IV;
4. Task Team to assess the EGOS-IP and other WMO observing system implementation plans, to identify actions relevant to RA IV Members; assign priorities to these actions;
5. Strengthened the collaboration with TCs and develop a feedback mechanism;
6. Create an inventory of the existing Regional Networks, including a process for its ongoing maintenance;
7. Improving availability and utilization of AWS data not already commonly shared, both existing and silent;
8. Implementation of the Regional Radar Mosaic Project.

**CHALLENGES OF WIGOS IMPLEMENTATION IN RAIV**

1. The 13th RA IV Management Group Meeting was held in Atlanta, USA on 4 February 2014 on the margins of the Annual Meeting of the *American Meteorological Society* (AMS). During the discussion on the WIGOS Implementation Plan for RA IV, the following challenges were discussed:
2. To get the Permanent Representatives of Members to understand the importance of WIGOS to their Services and have them name their focal points;
3. The development of human capacity to implement WIGOS;
4. The compilation of Nation Observing Systems since it had been observed that many national organizations with observing systems did not communicate with each other;
5. The need for decisions on where to store the data on National Observing Systems and the cost of database management and website development;
6. How to get data from Automatic Weather Stations onto the GTS; i.e. station numbers, data format, frequency of observations, etc.;
7. Implementation of web-based Open Data Archives by National Services for the harvesting of metadata by the designated regional Global Information System Centre (GISC).
8. Through its Co-Chair, the Task Team sought guidance from the Management Group on the method to be used in developing a database management system (DBMS) for the storage, secure access and updating of the inventory of National Observing Systems. Two scenarios were presented:
9. Make use of an existing capacity of an NMHS to host the DBMS and the attendant web interface;
10. Develop the DBMS and the web interface which could be hosted by a selected company.
11. During the discussion, the following three training opportunities were identified, for:
12. The creation of WIGOS metadata for National Observing Systems;
13. Building capacity in the Region for implementation of Open Archives via national websites to support the harvesting of metadata by GISC Washington;
14. Developing capacity in the exchange of data between GISC Washington, National Centres (NC) and the Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPC).
15. Mexico offered to host the workshop which would develop the capacity for the exchange of data between the GISC, NCs and DCPCs.
16. To follow-up on some of the above challenges, the Task Team identified several initiatives would require correspondence from the President of RA IV to Permanent Representatives for their action, such as:
17. The naming of National Focal Points;
18. The request for an inventory of National Observing Systems, starting with observing system owned and operated by the NMHS;
19. To provide information on WMO’s method of assigning station numbers to automatic weather stations for the transmission of observations on the Global Telecommunication System. The correspondence must include information on how to inform WMO and RTH Washington on the changes to their observing stations and telecommunications respectively.

15. The RA IV Management Group planned to hold its 14th meeting on the margins of EC-66, at which time it anticipated that further guidance from EC and the ICG-WIGOS would be available.

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