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| https://sites.google.com/a/wmo.int/amdar-news-and-events/_/rsrc/1413886291470/config/pagetemplates/amdar-newsletter-template/wmo_logo_windrose_130_161.png | **WMO INTEGRATED GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM NEWSLETTER** |
| February 2015 | Volume 1, Number 1 |
| Contents   1. **Welcome** 2. **Global Activities** 3. **Regional Activities** 4. **National highlights** 5. **Science Focus: WIGOS Monitoring** 6. **Other Meetings** 7. **Coming Events**   Contacts:  [WIGOS Webpage](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/contact.html)  WIGOS email  Contacts:  [WIGOS Webpage](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/contact.html)  WIGOS email | Welcome from the co-Chairs of ICG-WIGOS *Dear Colleagues in the WMO Community and others interested in the development of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System, or WIGOS, ….* 2. Global Activities**WIGOS Regulatory Material in preparation for the 17th World Meteorological Congress**  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Key Comp | One of the main goals of the WIGOS Implementation Phase as decided by the 16th World Meteorological Congress in 2011 was to put in place the necessary global framework for the implementation of WIGOS to be able to proceed at regional and national levels. A key building block in the framework is the WIGOS Regulatory Material, the role of which is to spell out what the WMO Members have agreed to do via their decision to implement WIGOS. |   At its second session in 2013, the Inter-Commission Group on WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS) decided that the WIGOS Regulatory Material was to consist of two elements. One is the WIGOS part of the WMO Technical Regulations (WMO 49, Part I), the other is the Manual on WIGOS. ICG-WIGOS then formed a Task Team on WIGOS Regulatory Material (TT-WRM) and assigned to it the responsibility for drafting these two documents.  Since ICG-WIGOS-3, the main task of TT-WRM has been to refine the contents of the WIGOS Technical Regulations (TRs) (Volume I, Part I) and Manual on WIGOS taking into account feedback from several review processes as well as updated input from other teams.  … 3. Regional activities**WMO RA I Task Team on WIGOS, Second Session, Harare, 25-27 November 2014**  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Balloon Man | The initial draft of the Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan for Region I (R-WIP I) was developed over a series of Sub-Regional Workshops held during 2013 and 2014. The full RA-I Task Team met in Harare in Novermber 2014 with the following two main goals:   1. To consolidate and finalize the RA-I WIGOS Implementation Plan (R-WIP-I) ahead of the 16th Session of Regional Association I in Cape Verde, February 2015. 2. To review existing WIGOS implementation activities in Region I and to brainstorm and encourage further activities along these lines. |   Results from the work of the five Sub-Reigonal RA-I Workshops on WIGOS were presented by members of the RA-I WIGOS Task Team. The purpose of these Workshops were to develop Sub-Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans, recognizing that the geographic and cultural diversity of Africa would render a single unified R-WIP impractical and undesirable. One of the main tasks of the Workshops was to develop a Sub-Region specific version of the action list included in the R-WIP-I as Table 2, and the presentations were in fact centred around this table.    A number of common denominators for all sub-regions could be identified: Support for migration to TDCF, calibration of instruments was needed; rehabilitation of networks, in particular upper air stations was needed; support for development of AWS networks (specification, procurement, installation, calibration, operation) was needed. Guidance on how to develop and exploit partnership agreements was also requested, and several examples of potential pitfalls regarding data policy issues and potential conflicts of interest were discussed. Several of the issues emerging in the discussion were found to affect WIS, or in some cases both WIS and WIGOS (e.g. regarding telecommunications failures), and the point was made that WIS and WIGOS needed to collaborate even more closely in the Region in order for both to be successful.  Following the presentations from the sub-regions and the subsequent discussion, a consolidated table, eliminating redundant entries and drawing on the common elements was developed. This consolidated Table 2, to be included in the draft R-WIP-I submitted to RA-I-16, is included here as Annex III.  The proposed Working Structure includes both volunteer-based elements (Task Teams and Expert Teams), and dedicated full-time elements, known as WIGOS Centers. Central to this new Working Structure is the concept of WIGOS Regional Centers (WRCs). The WRCs are intended to help bridge the gap between the WIGOS Project Office at the WMO Secretariat and the individual WMO Members, recognising that many Members are requesting support from WMO for the implementation efforts and that it is unrealistic for the WIGOS PO to do this on a country by country basis.  The general area of responsibility of the WIGOS Regional Centers would be to support the national implementation efforts, and among specific activities for which the Centers could provide such support, the following were highlighted: Observational network design, procurement of new systems (specifications, tendering, evaluation,…), installation, calibration and maintenance of new systems, data processing and training. It was recognized that their might be areas of overlap with existing WMO Centers, in particular the Regional Instrument Centers (RICs) and Regional Training Centers (RTCs), and that this relationship will need to be clarified during the further development of the concept. Finally it was noted that a critical element of the WIGOS Regional Centers will be a rigorous auditing and review process, not only for initial approval of a WRC, but also for revoking the credentials in case a Center does not fulfil its agreed and approved responsibilities.  The meeting recommended that TT-WIGOS be re-established for the next Inter-Sessional period, with revised Terms of Reference to should include the responsibility to “guide, oversee and review” the implementation of WIGOS at the Regional, Sub-Regional and National level. The meeting further voiced very strong support for the concept of WIGOS Regional Centers, and some of the countries represented at the meeting expressed interest in hosting or co-hosting such Centers. The WMO Secretariat was requested to showcase the concept at the upcoming 16th Session of Regional Association I in Cape Verde - including at the preceding Regional Conference and at side events where possible - with the aim of soliciting further support as well as indications of interesting in hosting or co-hosting the WRCs. |

## 4. National Activities

## **National WIGOS Implementation Workshop of Cote d’Ivoire, Abidjan, 16-17 December 2014**

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| Balloon Man | One of the main outcomes of WIGOS is to put the WMO Members and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, in a position to better serve their citizens and user communities with information and data products related to weather, climate and similar environmental issue.  In order to achieve this outcome, WIGOS aims to deliver better integrated observing systems, in which data are shared among different disciplines, different application areas, and different organizations.  The latter area, integration across agency boundaries within the same national government, is being pioneered by Cote d’Ivoire. |

Cote d’Ivoire is a medium-sized country in West Africa, and similar to many other countries around the world, a multitude of entities, both public, private and international, operated various types of weather, climate or water observing system within its borders. Recently SODEXAM, the National Meterological Service of Cote d’Ivvoire has taken the first steps toward developing formal partnership agreements with the other operators, with the ultimate aim of setting up a national WIGOS network for Cote d’Ivoire that will ultimately deliver more observational data to all partners within the network.

A kick-off National Workshop on WIGOS Implementation in Cote d’Ivoire took place in Abidjan on December 16-17 2014 and brought together representatives from most government agencies from Cote d’Ivoire with activities or interests in observing systems for weather, climate and water ….

## 5. Focus area; WIGOS Monitoring

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| Balloon Man | Monitoring of the actual performance of the observational assets under the WIGOS umbrella is a key activity, without which no meaningful optimization or redesign activities can take place.  A wide range of NWP centres undertake global or regional observational monitoring tasks. This is broadly defined within the GDPFS Manual, with specific practices at various centres being documented locally.  …. |

The main gap in the current monitoring processes appears to be the link between the outcomes of the observations monitoring undertaken by the NWP Monitoring Centres, the coordinating activities of the Lead Centers and engagement of the appropriate staff in each Met Service to solve the problems, or at least gain a better understanding of the root cause. There are some examples of good practice but equally a number of observational data quality problems identified many months or even years ago have not been addressed.

The main driver behind the effort to modernize the WIGOS monitoring is the improvement in the quality of the observational data provided for use by Application Areas, as defined in the WMO Rolling Review of Requirements process. While this activity will be focussed on the utilisation of data by NWP centres, due to their O-B feedback, it is believe all application areas will benefit from the improved performance of the observational networks.

The currently defined systems for monitoring both observational data quantity and quality (Manual on GDPFS and Manual on Codes) predominantly rely on the concept of communications via the GTS and do not take advantage of more modern communications methods and associated tools such as the Internet and E-mail.

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## 6. Other Meeting Activities;

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| Balloon Man | CEOS Plenary  GEO Plenary ….  OSDW-2 …  GAW-TT …  RA-I-16 and RECO  ICG-WIGOS-4  … |

(other meetings of relevance in which WIGOS participated or were featured; one paragraph each)

## 7. Coming Events

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| Balloon Man | CGMS-43, Boulder,  Joint RA-II/RA-V Workshop on WIGOS for Disaster Risk Reduction  GRUAN ICM  GCOS AOPC, OOPC, TOPC  … |

(other meetings of relevance in which WIGOS will participate or be featured; one paragraph each)