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| **INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS-5)** |  | Submitted by: | | Secretariat |
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# 4.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF WIGOS

# 4.2(1) REVIEW OF WIGOS ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES FROM WMO RA I

**OUTCOMES OF the WMO RA I Workshop on WIGOS**

**(English-speaking countries)**

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  This document provides information on outcomes of the WMO RA I Workshop on WIGOS. |

**Action proposed**

The session will be informed on the outcomes of the WMO RA I Workshop on WIGOS to be taken into account when considering the relevant Agenda Item.

**References:**

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**4.2(1) REVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM THE WMO RA I Workshop on WIGOS**

* + 1. The WMO RA I Workshop on WIGOS (English-speaking countries) was held in Walvis Bay, Namibia, from 2 to 4 November 2015. There were four main purposes of the Workshop: (a) to brief participants about the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase; (b) to advise them on WIGOS implementation at the regional and national levels; (c) to consider a way forward; and (d) to develop recommendations for AMCOMET-4 in 2016, so that WIGOS receives also the political support that is absolutely vital for its success.
    2. Many presentations were followed by a fruitful discussion, during which participants shared their experiences and lessons learned. The participants agreed that there is a clear need to implement WIGOS because the observational basis for the provision of services to users and society needs to be improved. All of the available expertise at the disposal of the Members should be used for the implementation of WIGOS; a similar approach should be undertaken as the one used for the implementation of QMS in RA I. In this respect, communication of benefits should be improved.
    3. The general view was that focusing on services that are directly relevant to economic needs and to the society is critical to the success and continued viability of the NMHSs, and that these should do their best to be relevant to national policies and programmes. The participants agreed that WIGOS can and will help the NMHSs and the Members at large to meet user and society requirements.
    4. Several participants indicated an urgent need for assistance and guidance from the Secretariat on how to start with implementation of WIGOS at the national level, and on how to develop a National WIGOS Implementation Plan. Special emphasis was put on the Regional WIGOS Centres (RWC) to be established during the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase in all WMO Regions in order to support the national and regional implementation efforts of the respective Region. In this regard, the concern was raised that currently there are several types of WMO regional centres, many of which are not functioning at all or only in a very limited way. Therefore, the concept of RWC should be considered in a holistic way, so as to make a very careful and wise decision. The participants were of the opinion that functionality of some types of already existing regional centres could be extended towards WIGOS. It was further noted that two other aspects should be also considered carefully: The status of the implementation of WIGOS in the Region, and relevant legislation of the respective country. The PR of Tanzania suggested initiating this development with a specific pilot project on RWC. A strong request for more detailed information on the expected functionality and technical infrastructure and the required resources (both in terms of expertise and financial resources) was made by several participants.
    5. General guidance and dedicated regional workshops on two specific subjects were requested by the participants numerous times during the discussions: (a) AWS networks; (b) working with partners and stakeholders.
    6. The PR of Namibia provided information on establishing of a certified calibration laboratory (CL) in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 with an offer that the CL can be used by all Members of the Region to calibrate their instruments as needed.
    7. The participants agreed on the way forward for the implementation of WIGOS in the Region. The most critical actions are as follows:
* All PRs participating at the workshop were requested to nominate their national WIGOS and WIS focal points, respectively, if not done yet; the Self-assessment Check-list should be provided by WIGOS focal points; Deadline: immediate action;
* Dr Makarau (as president of RA I) will make a request to the Secretary General that technical workshops on AWS networks in Region I be held in 2016;
* RA I/TT-WIGOS with assistance by WIGOS-PO will consider two national WIGOS pilot projects on RWC: one for an English speaking country (South Sudan is proposed), and one for a French speaking country (to be identified during the RA I WIGOS workshop for French Speaking Countries in 2016);
* TT-WIGOS with support by CIMO experts will investigate the functionality of the RICs in the Region and based on the findings it will draft the proposal on how to improve a current situation;
* The PRs will inform RA-I/MG about existing calibration facilities that could be used by other Members;
* TT-WIGOS will draft the project on establishing a common platform for sharing observation related best practices and procedures;
* WIGOS-PO will provide more detailed information on a concept of Regional WIGOS Centres.

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