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| **INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS-5)** |  | Submitted by: | | President RA I |
| Date: | | 25.I.2016 |
| ***FIFTH SESSION***  GENEVA, SWITZERLAND  25-28 January 2016 | Original Language: | English | |
| Agenda Item: | 4.2 | |

# 4.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF WIGOS

# 4.2(1.2) REVIEW OF RA I WIS ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES FROM WMO RA I WIS WORKSHOPS

(Submitted by the President RA I)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  This document provides information on outcomes of the WMO RA I Workshops on WIS and outline of WIS plans for 2016. |

**Action proposed**

The session will be informed on the outcomes of the WMO RA I WIS activity as an important component towards an effective WIGOS in the region to be taken into account when considering the relevant Agenda Item.

**References:** <http://wis.wmo.int/page=WIS-RA-I>

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**4.2(1.2) RA I Implementation of WIS**

Following recommendations of WIGOS workshops in Cote d'Ivoire (12-15 November 2013), Casablanca, Morocco (18 – 22 November 2013) and Brazzaville, Congo (29 April - 2 May 2014), RA I conducted a meeting in Pretoria, South Africa of the ad hoc RA-I Task Team on WIS Implementation (21-26 September 2014). The ad hoc RA I WIS implementation team developed a regional WIS implementation plan that was approved by Res 11 (RA I -16). Based on this plan, a series of four workshops were planned with an aim to assist Members to implement WIS. These workshops included the following:

1. The first meeting was the RA I WIS RTH Training and Planning Workshop from 26 to 30 October 2015 at GISC Casablanca, Morocco (<http://wis.wmo.int/page=WIS-RA-1m1>).
   1. The primary aim of the workshop was to bring RTH experts from RA I up to date on the new functionalities of WIS, the staff competencies required by Members to be able to implement and use WIS, and to clarify the role of the RTHs and GTS within WIS. RA I RTH experts were joined by WIS experts from northern Africa to refine the RA I WIS implementation plan with a focus on GISC services in northern Africa.
   2. The workshop also aimed to assist participants in establishing national WIS implementation plans and to provide participants with some tools for training others in WIS.
   3. Participants included staff from Morocco, Algeria, Congo, Egypt, Senegal (NMHS and RTH), Tunisia, WMO Secretariat (HQ and RA I regional office) and the president of RA I.
   4. The workshop was conducted with English and French interpretation. GISC Casablanca staff also supported training in Arabic on a one on one basis when necessary.
   5. Output form the meeting included a draft update to the Regional WIS Implementation Plan (<http://wis.wmo.int/file=1983>). Updates included the addition of indicators showing what must be achieved for an NMHS to be considered as having implemented WIS. They are listed in Table 1 “Performance Indicators.”

Table 1 Performance Indicators

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| Performance indicators for the initial implementation of WIS at an NMHS   1. A centre’s ability to edit and manage their GTS discovery metadata using GISC infrastructure    1. Registered access to GISC for a NMHS    2. At least basic training to allow maintenance of valid metadata for GTS records    3. Can create valid discovery metadata for national products 2. NMHS has a working WIS Implementation Plan    1. National WIS focal point    2. Managerial sign off and commitment    3. Have co-signed commitment between NMHS and principal GISC    4. Include a working structure for managing the implementation plan    5. Include a training programme or objectives/strategy    6. Have an internal communication plan for WIS 3. NMHS should have a reliable internet access with sufficient capacity to work on GISC interface    1. Bandwidth should be sufficient to allow smooth and quick response |

* 1. Participants identified the current situation of WIS implementation in their country and recommended actions to be included in their national WIS implementation plans. National actions were then prioritised and the responsible action officer identified. Priority areas for WIS national implementation plans included:
     1. Training activities: WIS, metadata, Telecom, information systems maintenance and security;
     2. WIS Software;
     3. Telecom Network (Internet access mainly);
     4. Outreach activities;
     5. Dedicated human resources, and
     6. Management involvement
  2. They were also tasked with reviewing the tables in the Regional WIS implementation plan and in providing a draft national WIS implementation plan for their country to the WMO Office for North, Central and West Africa before the end of the year.
  3. A key requirement identified at the workshop was the need to make WIS training material prepared by the WIS Project Office available in other languages as well as in English. Participants requested the secretariat provide material in French and Arabic for the region as well as English.

1. The second development meeting was the RA I WIS RTH Training and Planning Workshop from 02 to 06 November 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.
   1. The primary focus of the workshop was on WIS implementation across central, eastern and southern Africa emphasising the role and partnership of RTH Nairobi with GISC Pretoria and GISC Casablanca. The workshop aimed to bring WIS/GTS experts from RA I up to date on the new functionality of WIS, the staff competencies required by Members to be able to implement and use WIS, and to clarify the role of the RTHs and GTS within WIS.
   2. The workshop was in English.
   3. Participants reviewed the RA-I WIS Implementation Plan and updated the contents, in particular to correct the details of the international telecommunications available in their countries. They also produced draft National WIS Implementation plans that could be used as a starting point for implementation of WIS (where the country did not already have a plan).
   4. Participants included staff from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the WMO secretariat (HQ and the Office for Eastern and Southern Africa).
   5. The workshop identified several lessons learned. Key issues were as follows:
      1. Nairobi can only provide metadata services for centres it supports as an RTH if those centres have the same principal GISC. At present, Nairobi’s is the only centre in RA I whose principal GISC is Offenbach.
      2. Many centres would need additional support before they made full use of WIS. The main source of assistance should be through the GISCs, but they would need to plan how they could provide that support and resource its delivery. The workshop recommended that the RA-I WIS Implementation Task Team should ask Members to notify their GISCs by the end of January 2016 their requests for support. This would give the GISCs an opportunity to plan their training.
      3. Topics of particular concern were the migration to Table Driven Code Forms and creating and updating WIS metadata records. Participants asked if some on-line training materials could be produced to assist them with their planning and implementation of these.
2. The third workshop is planned to be conducted by GISC Pretoria, tentatively scheduled for the week of 11 April 2016.
   1. The workshop will be aimed at training countries’ that have Pretoria as their Principal GISC and those English speaking countries in RA I that have not attended WIS training. The workshop will further refine the regional WIS implementation plan and assist participants in creating national WIS implementation plans.
   2. The workshop will be in English
   3. Participants are expected to be from Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe along with the WMO Secretariat (HQ and the Office for Eastern and Southern Africa). The workshop will need to include countries that missed their planned workshop (such as Cabo Verde was unable to attend GISC Casablanca)
3. The fourth major workshop location has yet to be determined.
   1. The president of RA I recently sent a letter to all RA I Members seeking a host for the fourth RA I WIS implementation workshop targeting French speaking Members.
   2. Participants are expected to be Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and the WMO Secretariat (HQ and RA I regional office). The workshop will need to include countries that missed their planned workshop (such as Cabo Verde was unable to attend GISC Casablanca).

RA I continues to find that the completion of WIS implementation is essential if the region is to make effective progress on other WMO priority areas, in particular WIGOS and GFCS. Communications must remain a priority. As such the above workshops and on-going training with support from GISC Casablanca and Pretoria is also essential.

Links to the above meeting and documents are online at <http://wis.wmo.int/page=WIS-RA-I>.