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| **INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS-6)** |  | Submitted by: | | RA-III |
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**5. PLANNING THE PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR THE WIGOS PRE-OPERATIONAL PHASE**

**5.5. CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND INITIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRES**

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRE IN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III**

(Submitted by the President of RA-III)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  This document provides preliminary views on the concept for establishing and operating the RWC in Region III, considering the regional needs, priorities and existing capabilities/facilities. |

**Action proposed**

The session will be invited to note and provide comments on the document.

**Reference:** [Final Report from ICG-WIGOS-5 (Geneva, 25-28 January 2016)](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIGOS-WIS/reports/ICG-WIGOS-5_Final-Report_2016.docx)

**DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REGIONAL WIGOS CENTRE IN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III**

**(January 2017)**

1. **Introduction**

1.1. The RA-III Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan (R-WIP-III) was adopted by the sixteenth session of the Association in September 2014. Its implementation, as well as the WIGOS national components will follow guidance from the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase (2016-2019).

1.2. The RA-III Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan will consider the experience gained through the WIGOS-SAS/CP Project, and will focus on the five priority areas defined in the WIGOS Pre-Operational:

1. National WIGOS implementation;

1. WIGOS Regulatory Material;
2. The operational deployment of the OSCAR databases;
3. Development and implementation of the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System;
4. Concept development and initial establishment of Regional WIGOS Centres (RWC).

1.3. The establishment of the Regional WIGOS Centre will receive special attention, for its key role in the implementation of the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase on both regional and national level. The proposal for implementation of the RWC in RA-III will consider the Concept Note on establıshment of WMO Regıonal WIGOS Centres adopted by EC-68 as the principal guideline.

1.4. The current stage of implementation of observing networks and systems is not uniform in RA-III. To address these differences, the RWC must use resources available in different sub regions, requiring a type of virtual RWC, addressing specific regional needs, with well-defined functions to be executed by different Members willing to commit their participation and having required capabilities. The concept of one physical Centre meeting all regional needs has been discarded in all preliminary discussions about RWC in the Region.

1.5. Synergies will be sought to benefit from existing facilities, such as the GISC-Brasilia, the DCPC and Regional Instrument Centre in Buenos Aires and other centres in the Andean and Northern part of South America. All of them will be considered during the process for the selection of RA-III RWC components.

1. **Functions of RA-III RWC**

2.1 The main functions of the RA-III RWC will be accomplished by adding specific functions to a network of existing regional centres/facilities, preliminary identified as follows:

1. Technical support on WIGOS implementation

* RWC will provide the necessary guidance for the National WIGOS Implementation and will provide answers to technical and implementation questions.

1. Full integration with GISC-Brasilia and DCPC-Buenos Aires

* RWC will cooperate with these centres to ensure appropriate collection and distribution of regional data

1. Management of the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON)

* RWC will coordinate the design of RBON, selection of stations to RBON, will document identified gaps and develop an action plan to deal with those gaps. It will also develop guidance on inclusion of the observing systems operated by parties other than NMHSs into WIGOS and RBON

1. Education and training for WIGOS implementation, with a special attention to the implementation and maintenance of the RA III metadata in OSCAR/Surface

* RWC will organize capacity development activities such as workshops, training courses and, expert exchange.

1. Documentation of good practice examples of regional and national applications of WIGOS implementation

* RWC will develop a database of good practices for use by Members

1. Perform the RA III WIGOS monitoring and incident management (WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System)

* RWC will follow-up with data providers on data quality issues

1. RWC will cooperate to integrate the regional radar network

* RWC will manage the regional radar database and could generate and distribute composite products

1. Cooperation with the Regional Climate Centres (CRC-SAS and CIIFEN)

* RWC will cooperate with RCCs and inform Members

1. Cooperation with the Regional Instrument Centre in Buenos Aires

* RWC will cooperate with RIC and inform Members

1. Cooperation with the regional hydrological groups (e. g. Plata Basin)

* RWC will cooperate with hydrological regional groups and inform Members

1. Cooperation between WIGOS and other stakeholders, such as the research institutes, universities and academia

* RWC will assist Members to prepare agreements with other stakeholders and inform Members on collaboration with other stakeholders

1. Coordination and communication functionality

* RWC will cooperate with the relevant bodies, namely: WG-ITD, Regional Office for the Americas (RAM), WIGOS Project Office (WIGOS PO), and RWCs in other Regions
* RWC will develop necessary tools for the communication, outreach and capacity development, including the regional WIGOS Web page

1. **Capabilities of RA-III RWC**

3.1. To fulfill the required functions candidate(s) RWC(s) shall:

a) Have the necessary Information and Communication infrastructure;

b) Have sufficient human and financial resources;

c) Commit for its functioning for a long-term period;

d) Maintain a web page access to its services for Members and authorized users;

e) Allow for the assessment of its capabilities by appropriate WMO bodies;

**4. Initial concept for RA-III RWC**

4.1. RA-III envisages to establish a virtual RWC, with **Participants (e. g. P1, P2, P3)** from Members, the exact number to be defined, considering the capabilities and facilities already available in the Region.

4.2. Each Participant (P1, P2, P3) will be assigned a set of specific mandatory and/or optional functions as recommended in the guidance provided by EC-68. A Member can be responsible for one or more RWC component (P1, P2, etc.), once the designation conditions are fully met.

4.3. Each Participant will be fully responsible for supporting and managing assigned component(s).

4.4. The RA-III RWC is the aggregate of Participants (P1+P2+P3) and the Coordination Committee (CC), resulting in a distributed number of physical centres/facilities, with a governance model that ensure autonomy to each Participant and an overall coordination provided by a designated small regional committee.

**5. Process for the establishment of RA-III RWC**

5.1. The consultative process for the establishment of RA-III RWC is proposed as follows:

a) An initial proposal for the establishment of RWC will be submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on Infrastructure and Technology Development (WG-ITD) to the President of RA-III, for presentation to ICG-WIGOS-6.

b) After ICG-WIGOS-6, the initial proposal will be submitted to RA-III MG, during EC-69, for the review and endorsement. It will include a suggestion to create a small Task Team (TT-WIGOS\_RA3) to elaborate a detailed proposal.

c) TT-WIGOS\_RA3 will propose a process for selection of candidates for RWC functions, in cooperation with WG-ITD, and submit to RA-III MG for consideration.

d) A final proposal of the Concept of RA-III RWC and the process for selection of candidates will be submitted to RA III Session for adoption.

e) Members will be invited by the president of RA-III to submit their proposals for candidacy to operate RWC components, with an indication of their commitment and responsibilities.

f) TT-WIGOS-RA3 will analyze candidates for RWC components and submit the proposal to RA-III MG for endorsement.

g) The president of RA-III, on behalf of RA-III, will establish RWC with identified functions and responsibilities.

**6. RA-III RWC Governance**

6.1. Each component (P1, P2, P3) of the RA-III RWC will work autonomously, considering the mandatory and optional functions assigned to it. A small Coordination Committee (CC), formed with representatives of P1, P2, P3 will be designated by RA-III MG, constituting the overall RWC coordination body. CC will define its operating procedures and will be chaired by a representative of one of the Participants (P1, P2, P3), on a rotational basis.