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| **World Meteorological Organization**  **Eighth Session** | **ICG-WIGOS-8/**[Category] |
| Submitted by: RAIV  24.01.2019  **Draft** |

**4. STATUS OF THE PRIORITY AREAS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN FOR THE WIGOS PRE-OPERATIONAL PHASE (PWPP)**

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

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  The document provides the status of the implementation of Regional WIGOS Centres in Region IV |

Requested action: That you come to ICG-WIGOS-8 ready to report on the arrangements for establishment and operation of your region’s Regional WIGOS Centre/s.

Response from the Representative of the President of RAIV

* **What is your region’s approach to its RWCs**
  + The CMO Headquarters and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) have agreed to explore co-hosting a Regional WIGOS Centre for the English-speaking Caribbean, if the required technical resources are available.

**Background Information**:

At a side meeting of the 40th Session of the RA IV Hurricane Committee in Martinique (9-13 April 2017), the Coordinating Director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) and the Director of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) and Permanent Representative with the WMO had a discussion on both entities, jointly hosting a Regional WIGOS Center in pilot mode.

Subsequently, at the 58th Meeting of the Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC58) in St. Kitts (15-16 November 2018), the Council:

**Agreed** that theproposed concept of establishing a joint *Regional WIGOS Centres* (RWC) for the English-speaking Caribbean involving collaboration between the CMO Headquarters and the Meteorological Service of Trinidad and Tobago should be explored with authorities in Trinidad and Tobago and the WMO Secretariat, then brought back to Council for its further consideration;

In 2018, the heads of both the CMO and TTMS retired. With the transition in both organizations, the incoming heads had to quickly try to understand the RWC requirements and their envisioned responsibilities before the ICG-WIGOS meeting. In the past week, the incoming CMO Coordinating Director and Acting Director of the TTMS agreed to continue exploring the feasibility of this project. The Acting Director of the TTMS indicated that TTMS would require additional resources to support this pilot project at this time.  He is willing to co-host the RWC if those additional technical resources become available.

* **What has been planned, trialed, assessed etc**
  + The current plan is to share responsibilities as follows:
    - TTMS would provide evaluation function (performance monitoring and reporting of monitoring results);
    - CMO Headquarters would deal with incident management and supporting Members in improving data availability and quality
* **What has worked and what barriers were encountered**
* The project was new information to the incoming director of the TTMS. This precipitated the need to quickly gather information on the RWC; understand the requirements and their responsibilities; and make a decision to continue with the concept.
* The TTMS has began assessing their technical resources
  + Their initial determination is that the TTMS will need to upgrade their network connection and computer server capacity in order to co-host the RWC.
* **What RWCs are functioning and what are their responsibilities**
* **What are your next steps**
  + With approval of our respective governing bodies, provide to the WMO formal documentation of the planned collaboration between CMO Headquarters and the TTMS.
  + Review the mandatory requirements and daily tasks and identify any tasks that can be done with current capability.
* Request assistance from the WMO in identifying potential funding sources to improve the technical capabilities of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service. The TTMS has discussed the project informally with their Ministry but do not expect the Ministry to be able to fund the resources that TTMS have determined are needed.
* Review the plan and resources needs for an RWC for the English-speaking Caribbean with the WMO Secretariat office.
* The search will continue on the part of the Presidency of the RA IV for another country or countries that can assume the role of the regional center for the other sub-regions of the RA.
* **What assistance do you need**
  + Funding to upgrade the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS) technical infrastructure
    - The TTMS has obtained estimated costs for augmenting their technical capacity, namely:
      * Computer server and operating systems ($107486 USD) and the associated power supply and generator, construction work, and installation ($57128 USD)
      * Monthly recurring charge of license for a 1G dedicated internet link ($14724 USD per month)
  + Review and guidance from the WMO and other experienced regions on the structure of the proposed RWC for the English-speaking Caribbean.
  + Capacity building
    - Training on workflow from existing RWCs
    - Training on Webtools used for evaluation