# WIGOS Implementation in the regional association i (Africa)

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

1. **RA I – 16 (February 2015)**

The Association adopted Resolution 8 (RA I-16) – WMO Integrated Global Observing System Implementation Plan for Regional Association I (Africa)[[1]](#footnote-1). The Association agreed that the implementation of R-WIP-I should be supported by all the Members of the Region, and that it should be guided, supervised and monitored by the Management Group of RA I, with periodic reports from appropriate subsidiary bodies in charge of WIGOS. In this regard, the Association emphasized that commitment by Members to WIGOS is essential and urged its Members to support the implementation of WIGOS in their territory, including the provision of sufficient resources. In particular, the Association urged Members to make experts available to contribute to relevant regional working groups.

The Association further agreed that R-WIP-I should be further revised to accommodate new projects which would be submitted by Members, and authorized the president to approve any necessary revisions of R-WIP-I during the intersessional period in consultation with the Management Group. In this regard, the Association agreed that the list of regional WIGOS projects should be expanded to accommodate also sub-regional and national projects.

1. **Cg-17 (May 2015)**

Congress decided that the development of WIGOS will continue during its Pre-Operational Phase in the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019) building upon and adding to those key building blocks of the WIGOS Framework that have already been implemented, while shifting the emphasis from the global level toward implementation activities at the regional and national levels. The goal is to have Members and their partners benefit from a fully operational system from 2020.

The highest priorities for the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase will be: (a) National WIGOS implementation; (b) WIGOS Regulatory Material complemented with necessary guidance material to assist Members with the implementation of the WIGOS technical regulations; (c) Further development of the WIGOS Information Resource (WIR), with special emphasis on the operational deployment of the OSCAR databases; (d) Development and implementation of the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System; (e) Concept development and initial establishment of Regional WIGOS Centres.

Congress acknowledged the key integrating role that NMHSs must play at a national level in the WIGOS implementation, both through strengthening their own national observing systems and by building national partnerships.

WIGOS plays an essential role in the implementation of GFCS, weather and disaster risk reduction services, capacity development, aviation services and other WMO key priorities. WIGOS, together with WIS, provide the essential infrastructure for acquisition and dissemination of observations, on which the capability of the Members to provide critical services to their citizens is built.

Congress approved Volume I, Part I – WIGOS, of the WMO *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49) and its Annex - M*anual on WIGOS*, with effect from 1 July 2016. Congress recognized the urgent need for accelerating the development of corresponding WIGOS guidelines and guidance material to facilitate the implementation of WIGOS technical regulations as specified in Volume I, Part I and the *Manual on WIGOS* by Members. In order to assist Members to implement WIGOS regulations, Congress requested the Secretary-General to develop and publish a set of guidelines incorporated in an initial *Guide to WIGOS* to be provided to WMO Members by 1 July 2016, to be progressively revised and enhanced through the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase.

Congress affirmed that a key principle of WIGOS is an inclusive approach to the integration of observations from a diverse range of observing systems, both NMHS and non-NMHS owned, into a composite set of observations to help Members improve their services across all WMO application areas.

Congress recognized the essential role of external (non-NMHS) observations in supporting WMO Programmes and the associated application areas, and the importance of establishing partnerships with non-NMHS entities to increase the overall volume of observational data available in WIGOS. Congress further emphasized the importance of the leadership of NMHSs in the building of WIGOS partnerships, and noted that this represents an opportunity for all Members, both to strengthen their national observing networks and to enhance their national leadership in relation to other WMO priority outcomes, such as GFCS and DRR.

In conclusion, Congress agreed that WIGOS, supported by WIS, should continue as one of the WMO key priorities for the next financial period. Noting the difficulties in implementing WIGOS in some of the less and least developed countries, Congress agreed that increased priority be given to supporting the capacity development for WIGOS in these countries. It requested the Executive Council, RAs and TCs involved in the WIGOS implementation to give particular attention to work together in providing assistance and technical support to LDC, LLDC and SIDS Members.

Congress adopted Resolution 23 (Cg-17) – Pre-operational phase of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System. By this Resolution, Congress requestedthe regional associations:

(1) To assign high priority to the implementation and further development of WIGOS in the Region, including at the national level;

(2) To update their Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans in accordance with the decisions of Congress and Executive Council;

(3) To strengthen their role in managing and supervising the implementation and further development of WIGOS in accordance with these Plans;

(4) To coordinate WIGOS implementation activities with the implementation of the WMO Information System (WIS) and other WMO key priorities in their operating plans and work programmes;

(5) To collaborate on the development of the concept, and establishment of the Regional WIGOS Centres;

(6) To provide regional support to Members in accordance with the Regional WIGOS Implementation Plan and in a response to their requests (subject to availability of resources/funds);

(7) To continue to promote capacity development, communications and outreach activities to assist Members in the implementation of WIGOS.

1. **EC-68 (June 2016)**

EC-68 through Resolution 2 (EC-68) adopted the Plan for the WIGOS pre-operational phase 2016-2019, as contained in the Annex[[2]](#footnote-2) to this Resolution; and requested Members, the regional associations and the technical commissions to organize their activities so as to realize WIGOS goals and associated outcomes as described in the Plan.

1. **Way forward for the implementation of WIGOS in the Region**

The most critical actions are as follows:

* The nomination process of the national WIGOS and WIS focal points, respectively be completed as soon as possible;
* Consider and draft two national/sub-regional 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) (RA-I/WG-OTI);
* Investigate, with support by CIMO experts, the functionality of the RICs in the Region and based on the findings draft the proposal on how to improve a current situation (RA-I/WG-OTI);
* Collect information about existing calibration facilities in their respective countries that could be used by other Members (PRs of the Region providing RA-I/MG with the information);
* Draft the project on establishing a common platform for sharing observation related best practices and procedures (RA-I/WG-OTI);

*Q: What else is missing here in the list?*

1. **Practical steps**
2. Ensure consistency of R-WIP-I with the “Global” WIP (e.g. the names of the 10 KAAs),
3. Consider carefully section 4.1 Activities, Deliverables, Milestones, Costs and Risks of the current R-WIP-I, i.e.:

### Deliverable desirable to be achieved,

### Activities needed to achieve it,

### Realistic Deadline / Timeline,

### Responsibility,

### Realistic estimation of resources needed,

### Potential risks to be dealt with;

1. Update R-WIP-I, taking into account:
   1. decisions by Cg-17, mainly Resolution 23 (Cg-17), and decisions by EC-68 (specifically Resolution 2 (EC-68)),
   2. progress achieved so far in implementing WIGOS in the Region (R-WIP-I), such as national/sub-regional WIGOS related projects (e.g. Congo Brazzaville, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Zimbabwe),
   3. better understanding of WIGOS, lessons learned, experiences (e.g. those Members listed above, but some others),
   4. priorities for the RA I,
   5. resources (expertize and funds) available.
2. *Q: What else is missing here in the list?*

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**References:**

1. Sixteen session of the Regional Association I (Africa) (3–9 February 2015) (WMO-No. 1151); ([R-WIP-I\_en](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/Principal_Docs/R-WIP-I_v1.0_RA-I-16-d04-4%281%29-WIGOS-approved_en.docx); [R-WIP-I\_fr](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/Principal_Docs/R-WIP-I_v1.0_RA-I-16-d04-4%281%29-WIGOS-approved_fr.docx))
2. Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress ( 25 May - 12 June) (WMO-No. 1157)
3. Plan for the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase (PWPP) (EC-68) ([PWPP\_en](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/Principal_Docs/PWPP_EC-68-d05-1%281%29-WIGOS-approved_en.docx); [PWPP\_fr](https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/wigos/documents/Principal_Docs/PWPP_EC-68-d05-1%281%29-WIGOS-approved_fr.docx))

1. See Reference (1) below [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Reference (3) below [↑](#footnote-ref-2)