

## Summary of the Main Conclusions and Recommendations of TT-RCCs of the WGCMA held in Geneva, Switzerland from 31 January – 4 February 2011

The RA 1 Task Team on Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) held its last meeting in Geneva, Switzerland from 31 January to 4 February 2011 and arrived at the following conclusions and recommendations.

### **Conclusions:**

- (1) *That all five North African countries operationally perform a range of functions relevant to RCCs at the national scale and are considered to have the potential and intent to provide one or more of the RCC functions for the entire North African region.*
- (2) *That the main focus of a North African RCC-Network should also include collaboration opportunities in order to provide as many as possible highly-recommended RCC functions as defined in the Manual on the GDPFS.*
- (3) *That NMHSs of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia will work together to implement a RCC-Network for North Africa. Each country will participate in this Network and will contribute or lead a Node in the performance of the respective RCC functions for the entire North African region as per details in the table below.*

	<b>Mandatory functions</b>				<b>Highly recommended functions</b>
	<b>Long Range Forecasting</b>	<b>Climate Monitoring</b>	<b>Data Services</b>	<b>Training</b>	
<b>Lead</b>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Libya</i>	<i>Egypt and Tunisia</i>	<i>Morocco</i>
<b>Co-lead</b>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Tunisia</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia</i>

Table 1: Distribution of functions for the North African RCC-Network

- (4) *The establishment of a suitable joint project amongst all the five countries under the overall coordination of Mr A. Mokssit (Morocco) was proposed. The project will comprise preparations for, and conduct of, the demonstration phase as defined in the WMO RCC designation process.*
- (5) *The development of an outlined project plan within the next 2 months (February – March 2011, now belated time frame). It will contain a clear description of timelines, responsibilities, modes of collaboration and communication as well as work packages in order to implement all mandatory RCC functions for the region as well as highly-recommended functions. In this respect all the five countries agreed to meet/communicate regularly to facilitate the preparation and conduct of the project. In order to facilitate this process it was proposed to consider using opportunities of the Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) mechanism as well as relevant projects being implemented already or to be implemented in the region.*
- (6) *The clarification that two different aspects are involved in the decisions made during XV-RA I with regard to ACMAD: one concerns the formal designation of ACMAD as an African RCC and the other requests ACMAD to fulfil a co-ordinating role among all RCCs in RA I. Whilst the first decision requires to follow the formal designation procedure for WMO RCCs, the second decision is not part of the formal designation procedure. It was felt that co-ordinating activities -*

such as sharing of experiences- can immediately be started for the benefit of an accelerated and smooth implementation of RA I RCCs.

- (7) That ACMAD already performs most of the mandatory RCC functions operationally. Open issues to be tackled concern (i) the development of a RA I-wide regional data set, which is updated on a monthly basis and which includes quality control procedures following respective CCI guidance, and (ii) the extension of ACMAD’s RCC-relevant operational LRF activities for temperature as well as precipitation to cover the entire RA I.
- (8) That ACMAD is already in a position to start the demonstration phase to function as the African RCC and the open issues as listed above can be resolved during this demonstration phase.
- (9) Noted AGRHYMET’s interest in providing RCC services as well as existing collaborative arrangements between AGRHYMET and ACMAD and agreed that AGRHYMET and ACMAD could jointly fulfil all the required mandatory RCC functions for the ECOWAS region through an RCC-Network approach in view of the complementary strengths and capabilities of the two organizations both of which are located in Niamey, Niger. Therefore, Table 2 was proposed for the distribution of functions between AGRHYMET and ACMAD, for the ECOWAS RCC-Network

	<b>Mandatory functions</b>			
	<b>Long Range Forecasting</b>	<b>Climate Monitoring</b>	<b>Data Services</b>	<b>Training</b>
<b>Node Lead</b>	ACMAD	AGRHYMET	AGRHYMET	AGRHYMET

Table 2: Distribution of functions for the ECOWAS RCC-Network

- (10) Noted AGRHYMET’s offer to act as the ECOWAS RCC-Network Co-ordinating Focal Point and the strength of AGRHYMET in the provision of sector-specific application services, on account of its mandate and long experience. It was also noted that AGRHYMET already serves some of the RCC highly-recommended functions.
- (11) That ICPAC already performs most of the mandatory RCC functions operationally. Open issues to be tackled concern (i) the further development of a regional data set in terms of introduction of a Database Management System including automated quality control; (ii) further stimulation of the regional data exchange to increase the number of stations in the data base; (iii) provision of respective on-line access to the data base; (iv) further strengthening of ICPAC’s computational infrastructure; and (v) implementation of a RCC-related Web Portal.
- (12) Those special climatic circumstances of countries within the region of its responsibility are adequately taken into account by ICPAC while implementing the IGAD RCC, to facilitate effective utilization of RCC products at the national level.
- (13) That ICPAC is already in a position to start the demonstration phase to function as the IGAD RCC, and the open issues as listed above can be tackled during this demonstration phase.
- (14) Noted the capacities of NMA of Ethiopia to provide a wide range of climate products at the national level, which closely match the typical RCC products. However, NMA’s mandate is essentially national.

- (15) *Recognised the specific climatic characteristics of Ethiopia, which differ from the common climate characteristics of the other parts of the Greater Horn of Africa region, and hence requires special attention in terms of climate services. That these aspects need to be taken into account when implementing the IGAD RCC.*
- (16) *Appreciated the enthusiastic offers expressed by ICPAC and NMA of Ethiopia to work closely together within the framework of the IGAD RCC in order to develop and showcase a model interface between WMO RCCs and NMHSs, which could be replicated in other parts of the world.*
- (17) *That further consultations are needed to identify an appropriate institution which could serve as a nucleus for the development of a CEMAC RCC. Until such time, ACMAD as the African RCC would meet the needs of climate information for the Members in Central Africa, as already decided by XV-RA I.*
- (18) *Noted the recommendation of the SADC Council of Ministers to assess SADC DMC's (now renamed as SADC Climate Service Centre, SADC-CSC) capacity requirements and to proceed to recruit staff in order to implement ClimDev Africa and also carry out the WMO RCC functions. It was agreed to take advantage of the current encouraging developments and to make concerted efforts to facilitate SADC RCC to be hosted by SADC-CSC.*
- (19) *Reviewed actions proposed in the context of GFCS implementation, which focus on capacity development of NMHSs worldwide and agreed on the need to specifically develop and strengthen capacities of NMHSs to convert regional and global climate products and information into national climate services.*

## **Recommendations:**

- (1) *That the RA I President invites Mr A. Mokssit, Permanent Representative (PR) of Morocco with WMO, to present the project proposal of a North African RCC-Network, as a coordinator and on behalf of all the participating countries, on the lines as agreed in the conclusions among the participating countries, by the 31st of March 2011 (belated now). The project proposal would include, among all other technical details, a written commitment from the PRs concerned to participate in the project and taking the responsibilities described in the project document for the entire North African region, extending beyond their respective national borders.*
- (2) *That ACMAD in its demonstration phase as an African RCC, formally express its intent to be designated as an African RCC in writing to the RA I President through the PR of Niger (referring to the related decisions of XV-RA I and following the RCC designation steps as adopted by WMO EC in 2009). This communication should include a starting date for the demonstration phase not later than 31 March 2011 (belated).*
- (3) *That once ACMAD starts its demonstration phase, it should inform the President of RA I and the WMO Secretary-General of this activity, provide appropriate visibility to the respective RCC services on their Web Site and facilitate effective use of the RCC-products by all RA I NMHSs.*
- (4) *That ACMAD should take as many as possible, highly-recommended RCC functions on board, even during the demonstration phase, considering that it already performs relevant activities in the domains of non-operational data services, coordination functions, research and development as well as training and capacity building.*

- (5) *Urged AGRHYMET and ACMAD to formally confirm mutual agreement on the distribution of functions of ECOWAS RCC including the issue of the ECOWAS RCC-Network co-ordinator and submit an appropriate note to the Chair of the RA I RCC Task Team with copy to the WMO Secretariat by the 16 February 2011 (belated).*
- (6) Subject to agreement of ACMAD on AGRHYMET's role as the ECOWAS RCC-Network co-ordinator, the RA I President invites the Director-General of AGRHYMET to present a detailed ECOWAS RCC-Network implementation plan as agreed above by 30 April 2011. The implementation plan would include, among all other technical details, a written commitment from both organizations to participate in the ECOWAS RCC-Network and taking their respective responsibilities to fulfil the requirements for the mandatory functions.
- (7) In order to start the demonstration phase for IGAD RCC, ICPAC should formally express its intent to be designated as an IGAD RCC in writing to the RA I President through the PR of Kenya (referring to the related decisions of XV-RA I and following the RCC designation steps as adopted by WMO EC in 2009), with copy to WMO Secretary-General. This communication should include a starting date for the demonstration phase, not later than 31 March 2011 (belated).
- (8) That ICPAC, once the demonstration phase is started, informs the President of RA I and the WMO Secretary-General of this activity, provides appropriate visibility to the respective RCC services on their Web Site and facilitates effective use of the RCC-products by all IGAD NMHSs as well as the other NMHSs under its responsibility.
- (9) Encouraged ICPAC to take as many as possible highly-recommended RCC functions on board, considering that ICPAC already performs activities in the domains of climate prediction and climate projection, coordination functions, training and capacity building as well as research and development.
- (10) Keeping in view the proposal for a Showcase for RCC-NMHS interaction to be implemented in close liaison between ICPAC and Ethiopia, urged ICPAC to extend full cooperation and support to the development and implementation of the Showcase (see following section 9 of the report).
- (11) *Invited NMA of Ethiopia to draft a proposal for a showcase project on a WMO RCC-NMHS interface based on the desirable linkages between NMA Ethiopia and the upcoming IGAD RCC as well as optimal utilization of IGAD RCC products by NMA, and submit it to the RA I TT on RCCs by 31 of March 2011 in close co-ordination with ICPAC and WMO Secretariat.*
- (12) *Encouraged organising a meeting at SADC-CSC premises as soon as possible and before the next SADC Council of Ministers to specifically analyse the situation for implementing a SADC RCC. The outcome of the meeting is expected to be a situational analysis and a set of specific recommendations to facilitate the implementation of a SADC RCC at SADC-CSC. This outcome should be brought to the attention of the SADC Council of Ministers for further decisions. Accordingly, proposed to the President of RA I to invite SADC to convene a meeting with participation from SADC including SADC-CSC, WMO Secretariat, the RA I RCC Task Team, MASA and ACMAD.*

**Further overarching recommendations include:**

- (13) *The invitation of ACMAD and ICPAC to develop RCC implementation plans for the African- and IGAD RCCs, respectively. Such implementation plans should be elaborated within the first 3 months of the African and IGAD RCC demonstration phases following the general structure of*

*the RA VI RCC-Network implementation plan (cf. <http://www.rccra6.org>, button: documents). WMO Secretariat will facilitate this process by providing a respective template, which will also be distributed to all other RCC applicants.*

- (14) Noted the suggestions made by AGRHYMET to consider the definition of either an RCC on applications or the definition of application-related RCC functions. Also, took note of similar requests voiced during the set-up of the RA VI RCC-Network (cf. RA VI Training Seminar on Capacity Building in Climate-related Matters, WCDMP-63, WMO/TD 1386 of WMO, 2007). Accordingly, invited the CCI-CBS Joint Expert Team on Regional Climate Centres to consider this issue, taking into account the evolution of the GFCS and the strengths of institutions such as AGRHYMET in providing sector-specific regional climate services.*
- (15) That WMO Secretary-General informs all Members concerned as well as Presidents of CCI and CBS and GPCs, of the start of a RCC demonstration phase upon receipt of notification by the respective RCC candidates.*
- (16) In view of the decision of XV- RA I to mandate ACMAD to co-ordinate all the RCCs in RA I, urged all RCC candidates in RA I to regularly interact with ACMAD about their RCC-related activities.*

The RCC for Central African countries, which was approved by the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress will have similar template as other regions. The functions of this new RCC particularly by the concerned NMHSs can well be spelt out in this meeting.

Cheers