

Roles and Operations of RCCs in support of RCOFs Breakout Group 2



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

**WMO International Workshop on Global
Review of Regional Climate Outlook
Forums, Ecuador, 5 – 7 September 2017**

Provision of regular updates between RCOFs

Recommendations in blue

- Should be one of the requirements of RCC. Already provide LRF, and should extend to the updates...
- ...furthermore RCC should lead RCOFs...would help with this
- Need also to build capacity of NMHSs to be able to prepare their own updates. – came out of a discussion on consensus updates, not only RCOF updates
- ...So two approaches (i) RCC to update and send to NMHSs, (ii) NMHSs to share the forecasts with RCCs to come to a consensus.
- We have to be mindful that RCCs have different roles in each RCOF region.
- (In east Asia, where there is more than one RCC, consensus forecasts are not updated monthly. How might the updates be reconciled? Can this be part of the standardised process so that RCCs can provide updated regional based consensus forecast even if only for reference and maybe also guidance, involving greater consideration of the drivers? Should we be talking national consensus updates?)...



How can we address the common problem of the NMHSs ignoring RCOF products in favour of their own?

Do we need to

- **What does one mean by ignore?** One can decide not to go outside the RCOF suggestions after careful consideration. In those cases, was the RCOF forecast ignored?
- **RCOF should be an ensemble** and should therefore be more reliable than the single model of a country.
- **Recommend strongly that NMHSs CONSIDER RCOF forecasts and updates**, recognising that countries have a right to decide what forecasts to consider.



SWOT Weakness 1

- **Staff turnover** is not the responsibility of RCCs to deal with staff turnover...
- ...However, when decisions are made to send different people being sent to RCOFs for training. Can also include **national training workshops for many NMHSs staff** (instead of one or two). So that whoever is sent is a capable person. **How can training be made more efficient, and sustainable?** No matter how much one is trained, one needs to practice. **Participants need to know what goes into the forecast** (not just black box outputs).
- **NMHSs should have the (legal) mandate and organisational structure to deliver LRF and CS.**



SWOT Weakness 2

- How do we communicate the forecasts?
- Should we move toward a two category (above or below average)? Easier to communicate?
- Pursue capacity building for NMHSs on communicating forecasts with users, including understanding what the probabilities mean (even a possibility for the lowest possibility to be the end reality).
- Pursue co-designing, and co-producing communications packages – moving toward impacts based forecasts



SWOT Weakness 3

- Verification difficulties
- Better data management helps – pay greater attention.
- Quality control databases in NMHSs – training in the appropriate tool for quality control, and manage now their own high quality database, rather than RCC manage. RCC simply centralises.
- If RCC contribute to data network and data management systems in country, countries more likely to share with RCC
- Data rescue missions
- Donors to include RCCs in discussion over network facilitation in countries
- Maybe some of these details already being addressed (for example ET RCC).
- Build an understanding (demonstrate) within NMHSs the importance of having high quality data



SWOT Weakness 4

- Improved forecasting and downscaling tools
- Develop methodology for downscaling (techniques) – part of the capacity building for NMHSs
- Starts with high quality datasets – homogenous and high resolution data (relative to GPC)
- Best practice to downscale GPC data
- Consider several scenarios in your downscaling process (using observed and forecasted SSTs, precipitation) – an ensemble of experiments...
- ...do the several scenarios allow you to improve the forecast.
- Can be enhanced through research that RCCs should be a part of, one of the driving forces
- One of tasks of RCC should be to define/determine homogenous zones in their region – but the finer details by NMHSs
- Most important is the downscaling process (e.g. CCA), does not matter which software package is used (Matlab, CPT) .



SWOT Weakness 5

- Demonstrating the value of forecasts
- Pursue value both regional (RCOF) and national products.
- Move to more impact based forecasts
- Value economic, social and political – not just economic...
- ...More a matter of national
- Economic valuation more difficult for seasonal than weather
- ...easier to demonstrate with qualitative information
- Can we commission a project to value the seasonal forecasts



SWOT Weakness 6

- Resource Mobilisation
- Should be responsible for, or at least play a significant role on resource mobilisation for RCOFs
- Combine efforts with the CCA and DRR (preparation) communities – where funding available now...
- ...need to demonstrate to governments the role in adaptation, and engage these communities
- ...stress and demonstrate (via examples) these at inter-agency meeting



SWOT Weakness 7

- Sub-seasonal forecasting
- Tools or methodology for sub-seasonal forecasting, along with capacity building
- Can also focus on season onset and cessation date as sub-seasonal information
- An opportunity for RCOFs/RCCs to share best practices – can RCC/RCOFs interact and share such best practices?
- Recommend that sub-seasonal forecast be a part of RCC and RCOF (week 3 to week 4 forecasts included) – training would be necessary.



Thank you Merci



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale