

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Second Meeting of the Task Force on Socio-Economic Applications of Meteorological and Hydrological Services

Geneva, Switzerland (11-13 July 2007)



FINAL REPORT



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I INTRODUCTION

The Second Meeting of the Task Force on Socio-Economic Applications of Meteorological and Hydrological Services was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 11 to 13 July 2007. On behalf of the Secretary General, **Mr Dieter Schiessl**, Director of Strategic Planning Office and Coordination of Cross-Cutting Activities (SPC) in WMO, opened the meeting. He expressed his appreciation, for the achievements of the Task Force (TF) following the first meeting in May 2006, and for their active participation in the process leading to the WMO International Conference on Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, held in Madrid Spain in March 2007. The meeting was presided over by **Prof. Donald Wilhite**, (National Drought Mitigation Center, University of Nebraska, USA) who is also the Chair of the TF.

2. The main objectives of the meeting were to:
 - a. Review and update the work of the task force since it's the First Meeting (Geneva, May 2006);
 - b. Review the action plan developed during the first meeting;
 - c. Review the recommendations of the 15th Session of Congress (May 2007) and those of the Implementation Coordination Team (ICT) on OPAG on PWS (Muscat, June 2007);
 - d. Develop proposals on how best to implement the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) and provide guidance to NMHSs, so as to achieve a major enhancement to society in 5 years;
 - e. Review the structure and Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the Task Force and, in order to ensure that all sectors are sufficiently addressed in the implementation of the MAP, recommend a suitable membership to the Task Force, ensuring that colleagues in weather, climate, and water take part in the activities of the Task Force;
 - f. Re-examine the title of the Task Force and suggest a suitable name to reflect the outcomes of the Madrid Conference and the activities associated with the implementation of the MAP.

II UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE TASK FORCE

3. The meeting noted that the inventory of decision support tools, case studies and the presentations made during the first meeting of the Task Force were already uploaded on the WMO website and were accessible from links on the webpage, <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/socioeconomic.htm>. The meeting discussed how to make people more aware of the website. It was decided that communication would be made with the NMHSs to make them aware of the information available on the website and also to link this information more prominently in order to make it more accessible. It was also decided to revisit the website and ensure that all tools and case studies submitted so far are included on the website.
4. It was pointed out that, under the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) programme, a gap analysis has been conducted by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) to determine products and data available in Africa. Best practices by NMHSs were also addressed. This effort was supported by the African Development Bank. Results of this initiative will be useful to the TF.
5. It was pointed out that a group at the National Centre for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) was doing a user needs assessment. The results will be ready in draft form by early autumn and will be made available to the Task Force members. It was suggested that this document, when finalized, be posted on the PWS website in association with TF activities.
6. **Dr. Jeff Lazo** (NCAR) gave a presentation providing some background on the WAS-IS (Weather and Society-Integrated Studies) programme of NCAR. The programme is a grassroots movement to effect change within the weather enterprise by fully integrating social science into meteorological research and practice in a comprehensive and sustained way. The WAS-IS mission is to empower practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders to forge new relationships and to use new tools and concepts for more effective socio-economic applications and evaluations of weather information and products.
7. It was reported that a primer (introduction) on economic methods currently being prepared with NOAA funding will be available by autumn. **Dr Lazo** agreed to consider the establishment of a web site similar to the inventory on economic assessments that is on the WMO Web site.
8. Action items and outcomes of the Madrid Conference need to be coordinated together with the recommendations of the Espoo Conference that was held in Finland, 17-21 July 2006. There are similarities in some cases so the Espoo meeting summary, when available, will help strengthen some elements of the MAP.

III THE MADRID ACTION PLAN

9. The meeting noted and discussed the in-depth review provided by **Dr. Zillman** of the WMO International Conference on Safe and Secure Living, Madrid 2007 (See Appendix 3). It further noted the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) that came out of the Madrid Conference. Included in the MAP are calls for follow-up actions. It recalled that the TF was the main group mandated with guiding the process of the implementation of the Plan, advising WMO on service delivery and on a wide range of other issues in connection with the Conference. This is an open ended mandate to the TF, which noted that a second international conference on social-economic issues is expected to be held in 5 years' time.

Recommendations by Congress

10. The meeting noted that at its last session, (Cg-XV of May 2007), Congress had stressed that more cooperation and interaction were needed between providers and users of environmental information to make such information more relevant and useful in decision-making. It had fully supported the contribution of public weather services to the social, environmental and economic benefits provided through the work of NMHSs to user sectors. In this regard, Congress welcomed the setting up of the "Task Force on Social and Economic Applications of Public Weather Services". It strongly supported the work of the Task Force to specifically assist Members in the evaluation and demonstration of the social, environmental and economic benefits of their public weather services to user sectors. It requested that the Task Force continue its work on addressing the critical Provider-User issues.
11. It was also noted that Cg-XV had, further, requested the active engagement of the PWSP and the Task Force in the implementation of MAP.

Recommendations by the ICT of PWS

12. **Mr. Gerald Fleming** (Met Eireann, The Irish Meteorological Service), Chair of the Implementation Coordination Team (ICT) of PWS, briefed the meeting and recalled the development of the Strategy for Public Weather Services at an ICT meeting in Dublin (October 2005). The existence of this TF flows from this strategy, and is broadly defined in the context of researching and providing information on social and economic aspects of weather services.
13. The meeting was informed of the activities of the three Expert Teams within the OPAG on PWSP which address: Disaster mitigation; Advancement of technology and services that NMHSs can provide; and Communications.
14. At the ICT Meeting held in Muscat, Oman (June 2007), the ICT had considered ways in which it could extract maximum benefits from the guides that had been produced over the years by these teams and had agreed that:
 - a. The OPAG should embark on a Pilot Project whereby a coordinated training and mentoring programme might be devised which would focus on a small group of neighboring countries, and which would draw on the expertise available through the Expert Teams as well as that provided through the Secretariat;

- b. The focus of the Pilot Project would be on “Learning Through Doing”; the aim being to work with the staff of the relevant NMHSs in assisting them to improve their communication with users in a defined range of sectors, and to develop and deliver an improved range of products and services which would enhance the socio-economic benefits provided through the NMHSs to Members; and
 - c. The Pilot Project should have a timeline for implementation, and set out actions (and related milestones) which would need to be undertaken. While the focus of the project would, in all likelihood, be in the developing world, the ICT established a number of criteria which a candidate country would need to meet in order to engage with the Pilot Project
15. The meeting noted that such a project would address actions 3, 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the Madrid Action Plan, well within the mandate of the TF.
16. It was felt that the TF should consider the use of pilot studies in one or more regions/countries. Two Pilot projects were proposed: One from the OPAG recommendation with UK Met Office participation with a focus on Africa; and the other in Latin America relying on resources from the WMO trust fund for Latin America.
17. The TF should incorporate within the pilot project a Learn-Through-Doing strategy for assisting NMHSs in increasing the reach of their Weather, Climate, and Water services to rural communities, taking into consideration (and building upon) the initiatives that are already in place such as the RANET Initiative etc.

Other Points of Discussion

18. The meeting was informed the meeting of the International Symposium on Public Weather Services planned to be held in Geneva in December.
19. The meeting agreed that the Espoo experiences following the WMO Conference on Living with Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks held in Espoo, Finland (July 2006), should be coupled with the action items/conclusions of Madrid where there is commonality.
20. The meeting agreed that a potential way of ensuring success is to keep in mind how the pilot projects are tied to the various actions in the MAP. Two categories of actions were identified:
- a. Those projects that are planned already; and
 - b. Those that are not planned but are important for the achievement of the goals of the MAP.
21. The meeting agreed that it was important to define clearly how the concept of a pilot project could be taken to NMHSs and be adapted in other locations, issues, and sectors. The pilot project can also be extended or stretched or adapted to developed and developing world.
22. The meeting recommended the assembly of available studies and datasets on economic assessments of weather, climate and water services and to prepare a template on how to conduct these studies.

23. The Meeting considered items in the MAP and concluded that some actions will be undertaken by the TF while others will be suggested to commissions, OPAGs, etc for action.
24. The TF members discussed and recommended that the Madrid web site should evolve in a Madrid follow-up web site since WMO will be closing down the current Madrid web site.
25. Consideration should be given to the proposal to develop an expert team on economic assessments to be housed in one of the OPAGs or within the TF.
26. In order to have a basis for measuring progress in achieving a 'quantum change' in the way that weather, climate and water information are produced, used and communicated (as advocated in Action 2 of MAP) the TF needs to benchmark where we are today in this respect.
27. The meeting recalled an assessment of the state of Meteorological services done by WMO about 7 years ago. This information is included in a WMO Bulletin published in October 2002. It noted that another questionnaire was being prepared on the same subject and agreed that the TF should offer to assist in the formulation of questions as an important exercise in benchmarking.
28. The meeting stressed the importance of engaging more people in areas where the TF did not have members to either build or improve interactions with users, in such sectors as health, tourism etc.
29. In order to eventually be able to present results of economic assessments to governments and donors, (Action 11 of MAP) monitoring and evaluation should be incorporated in the pilot projects that the TF may undertake or recommend to be undertaken.
30. The Meeting agreed that it was important to identify persons or groups to help identify diseases that are linked to climate and answer the following questions: What are the mechanisms to interact with different user communities? What is the right way to interact with them? How do we create the interface between user and provider? We must know country by country and sector by sector how they work.
31. The Meeting recognised the need to address the area of integrated urban and health, multi-hazard systems. Dr Tang Xu offered to provide a proposal to the TF.

IV GUIDANCE TO NMHSs

32. The meeting agreed on the importance of determining the skills necessary for NMHS staff to work with users. This is an important consideration and effort should be invested in providing information to NMHSs so they are more aware of these needs.
33. It was agreed that the TF should adopt development of procedures or guidelines as an effective way of assisting NMHSs.
34. Key case studies that exemplify the best management practices/examples of working with users should be identified. This action would be extremely helpful to the NMHSs as they invest more time/resources on the recommendations forthcoming from the TF.
35. **Dr. Herbert Puempel** (Chief of the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme (AEM) of WMO) made a presentation exemplifying Aeronautical Meteorology as a proven good practice. He stated that this was the first sector to develop the strong provider-user interface and represents a very good model for the TF to follow as it proceeds to implement its action items under the Terms of Reference. It was pointed out that aviation has a safety culture and that the industry has invested in quality management. There is a standard methodology on how to work/interact with customers and how to develop guidelines.
36. It was decided to check the current WMO training syllabus and verify what it has on training on how to work effectively with users. This issue should be investigated since knowledge of this content would be helpful in formulating a revision of these guidelines. It was suggested that the TF should design a training course on how to work with clients.
37. The meeting considered what would happen if NMHSs did not invest in training on how to address client/user needs. It noted that there is a window of opportunity of re-directing NMHSs to new activities in this area.
38. The TF recommended interacting with users to determine their needs and to determine how they can be helped. This represents a user driven approach, and is a paradigm shift from what currently exists.
39. The concept of a Customer Day with presenters coming from user groups was proposed as one way in which NMHSs could raise awareness and strengthen cooperation with users.
40. The TF identified as a fundamental institutional issue, how meteorological services are provided free versus cost-based services.
41. It was indicated that, from a user perspective on the mitigation of health impacts, NMHSs are seen as reacting to events rather than anticipating them. Personnel in meteorological services should be ready to tackle user problems at source. For example, they should be prepared to interact with personnel working in areas where there might be famine/food security issues and determine the needs of these users in terms of services.

42. It was also indicated that access to meteorological data is difficult because, in some cases, the data were sold expensively to users, such as health services, who often do not have the resources to meet these costs.
43. The need for a project on policy development and implementation to ensure consolidation of social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services was discussed and agreed upon. As an example, the meeting noted that before the establishment of UNEP, there were no ministries of environment in Africa. However, within 15 years, all 51 countries in Africa had ministries of environment.
44. **Dr Stephen Connor** (IRI) made a presentation of a case study related to Malaria and climate services in Southern Africa. He presented an example of how, through the RANET communication system, the National Meteorological Agency of Ethiopia was disseminating weather related health information to rural communities. This project was made possible through the collaboration with the Ministry of Health which provided funding to the Meteorological Department, in exchange for access to meteorological data. The meeting appreciated this as a good example that the TF could encourage for other countries to reduce the problem of access to data.
45. The meeting agreed that the TF should look for ways to take advantage, or use as a model, the success of the Climate Outlook Forum (COFs) as a lesson learned on the interactions between NMHSs and various user sectors.
46. A Subgroup of the TF on Health Related Aspects of Social-Economic Benefits comprising **Dr David Rogers** (Health and Climate Foundation), **Dr. Connor**, **Dr Fanjasoa Rakotomanana** (Institut Pasteur de Madagascar) and **Dr Brendan P. Kelly** (Senior Scientific Expert, GEO Secretariat in WMO), agreed to develop or propose a pilot on how to interact effectively between health agencies and NMHSs. Again, need was expressed to determine how to build on experiences of Ethiopia and apply to Madagascar and other countries.
47. The meeting was informed that World Climate Programme, in collaboration with PWSP, was working on a guidance document with regard to partnership development, 'climate and health risks for the public'. This is in response to the need for intercommunity education, i.e. joint health and climate training. The Commission for Climatology is also putting together a health curriculum in cooperation with Costa Rica.

V PLAN OF ACTION OF THE TASK FORCE

48. The meeting considered the inventory of decision-support tools and case studies and decided on the following points of action:

- a. **Members of TF** were requested to review the list and resubmit missing tools and case studies so that they can be added to the web site.
- b. A gap analysis, similar to the one completed in Africa (ClimDev) was proposed for Latin America. If funds are provided, IRI will assist in the completion of this study and it could also become part of the inventory. The results from Africa should be available to the TF. **Dr David Goodridge** (Director of Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) in WMO) will be advised of this request.

(Action: **Mr. M. S. Boulahya**; Deadline: **12 October 2007**)

- c. TF members are encouraged to continue to add new tools and case studies to the inventory. New members are especially encouraged to submit these items.

(Action: **TF members**)

- d. The Decision Support Tools and Case Studies template developed by **Dr Stewart** will be circulated to all TF members.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **30 September 2007**)

49. An edit of existing Tools Inventory and Case Studies will be done. The goal is to provide an explanation of these tools and case studies on the web site and also to identify essential elements common to successful Provider-User interactions. This is a carry-over action item from the May 2006 TF meeting.

(Action: **Mr Fleming**; Assisted by: **Dr Lazo** and **Dr. Pai-Yei Whung**; Deadline: **31 January 2008**)

50. TF members discussed the need to market/publicize the availability of the Inventory and to improve the access of this information on the WMO web site. It was decided that access to the Inventory/Case Studies on the WMO web site should be improved.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **Done**)

51. It was also agreed that the Inventory/Case Studies should be publicized further by sending them to the PWS Focal Points in the NMHSs.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

52. It was agreed that **Dr. Bruce Stewart** would be requested to take lead on screening future Inventories.

(Action: **Secretariat** to inform Dr Stewart; Deadline: **30 September 2007**
Dr Stewart to act; Deadline: **Ongoing**)

53. The list of inventories to be carried in future PWS guides.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **Ongoing**)

54. Articles on the availability of the Inventory and Case Studies will be developed for appropriate journals directed at applications of meteorological/climatological/hydrological information. In this connection, it was agreed to develop an article for the WMO Bulletin to better communicate this information to NMHSs.

(Action: **Dr Lazo** and **Mr Fleming**; Deadline: **31 January 2008**)

55. It was also decided to document the experiences and outcomes of the WAS-IS program currently offered by NCAR as an example of training provided to early career meteorologists on social science methodologies, for publication in the Bulletin of American Meteorological Society (BAMS). The NCAR training course can also serve as a template for developing such a course for NMHSs.

(Action: **Dr Lazo**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

56. The TF needs to develop a standard methodology (key questions) on how to work/interact with users in product/tool development. We can identify key case studies that exemplify the best management practices/examples of working with users.

(Action: **Dr Connor**; Deadline: **31 December 2007**)

57. A training course should be developed to demonstrate how to work with users. In doing so, it should be verified whether such a course exists in the NMHSs and if so, use any experiences available as input.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **28 February 2008**)

58. Aviation Meteorology has developed a strong Provider-User Interface. What can we learn from their vast experience in this area? There is a need to document these experiences

(Action: **Dr Puempel**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

59. Preparation of Chapter 3 of Madrid Conference document: **Prof. Wilhite** will prepare initial draft and will share it with **Ms Kootval**, **Dr Adebayo** and **Dr. Zillman**. The draft document will then be distributed to rapporteurs of each of the 6 sessions and the WMO representatives who provided support for these sessions.

(Action: **Prof. Wilhite**; Deadline: **Done**)

60. The creation of a complimentary Web site on economic assessment of weather, climate and water services was agreed upon.

(Action: **Dr Lazo**; Deadline: **31 December 2007**)

61. **Dr Lazo** is completing a manuscript/primer on economic methods that will be provided to **Ms Kootval** for distribution on the WMO TF Web site.

(Action: **Dr Lazo**; Deadline: **30 November 2007**)

62. The meeting discussed establishing a benchmark for the current status of meteorological and hydrological interactions between providers and users. In this connection, the TF decided to provide additional input for a planned WMO questionnaire to NMHSs. **Ms Kootval** was requested to solicit contributions which would be sent to **Dr. Adebayo**, who will lead the process of sending them to NMHSs.

(Action: **Ms Kootval/Dr. Adebayo**; Deadline: **30 March 2008**)

63. The TF supports the creation of two pilot projects, one with the assistance of the UKMO that focuses on Africa; and the other on Latin America. The TF supported the offer from Spain to connect the group to Latin American trust fund. The process to actualise these projects should be initiated.

(Action: **Secretariat**; Deadline: **30 September 2007**)

64. **Dr Jaako Helminen** will look at the outcomes/recommendations of the Espoo conference for commonalities with the MAP and will communicate this information to **Ms Kootval** and **Prof Wilhite**.

(Action: **Dr. Helminen**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

65. Consideration should be given to the establishment of an expert team on economic assessment.

(Action: **Prof Wilhite/Ms Kootval**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

66. Regarding development of a template for the economic assessment of NMHSs, it was decided that we should get information from those NMHSs that have taken this action, e.g., Finland, Russia and UK.

(Action: **Dr Helminen**; Deadline: **31 March 2008**)

67. The sub-group comprising **Dr David Rogers** , **Dr. Connor**, **Dr Rakotomanana**, and **Dr Brendan P. Kelly** to develop or propose a pilot project on how to interact effectively between health agencies and NMHSs. **Dr Rogers** to take lead of the process.

(Action: **Dr Rogers**; Deadline: **31 March 2008**)

68. It was brought to the notice of the meeting that the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) was looking for topics for a technical conference. The meeting decided that it would be a good idea to couple a user forum to that event, tentatively scheduled for late 2008. The process in this regard should be initiated.

(Action: **Mr. Fleming**; Deadline: **31 October 2007**)

VI STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE TASK FORCE

69. The meeting agreed that there needs to be a broader representation on the TF by discipline and/or geographical regional representation. There should also be more representation from the user community. A greater emphasis on issues such as water should be taken into consideration as well.
70. The meeting recognised that its mandate related to the work of several of the EC working groups. It was therefore felt that the TF should offer to serve as the overall expert and advisor to WMO in the follow up to the Madrid Conference, supporting the Secretariat and these working groups of the EC. In so doing the TF will integrate their TORs with the Madrid Action Plan.
71. The TF should focus its concern on all types of information services, both the social and economic dimensions, how to enhance applications and benefits. The TF has to respect the fact that it is a high-level floating group meeting once a year and must integrate with OPAGs and other WMO activities.
72. The fact that the TF should exist for at least 5 years in order to prepare for the next user conference was noted as an important point to consider when deciding on its future.
73. The meeting identified the following as the thrusts of follow-up actions of the TF:
 - a. Reviewing and redefining TF mission, working mode and membership;
 - b. Capacity building, including training workshops;
 - c. Identifying and prioritizing concrete actions based on the proposals offered from different WMO departments, as well as additional ones not included in such proposals.
74. The meeting considered that the TF should be a dynamic platform that could be easily approachable by the user community. It should have sub-teams.
75. The TF can point specific actions to specific groups, commissions, and regional associations and determine what recommendations should be picked up by EC working groups. It will be necessary to determine how the TF can feed the MAP into the WMO institutional framework and specifically to the EC working group programs, and establish a monitoring system to track work being done on the action items.
76. The TF noted that Members had not provided financial backing for the follow up actions to the Madrid Conference. It will therefore have to consider the question of resource mobilization.
77. The meeting agreed that the TF activities should be linked with GEO.

Renaming the Task Force

78. The meeting agreed that it was necessary to re-examine the title of the Task Force and suggest a suitable name to reflect the outcomes of the Madrid Conference and the activities associated with the implementation of the MAP. It in particular noted following:

- a. That Action 4. of MAP called for “Fostering increased recognition by governments and other stakeholders of the contribution that NMHSs and their partners are making to secure and sustainable living”;
79. That Action 7. of MAP called for “Facilitating and strengthening dialogue and collaboration between providers and users of weather, climate and water information through international, regional and national platforms and programmes”
 80. The following points were also agreed upon regarding the new name of the TF. That:
 - a. It should reflect the enlargement of the mandate of the group;
 - b. It should be inviting to users;
 - c. It should contain the words “WMO”.
 81. The term “Forum” was recommended, opening up the group and making it a platform for users. The following titles were suggested:
 - a. WMO Forum on Applications and Benefits;
 - b. WMO Forum: Social and Economic Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate, and Water Services;
 - c. WMO Open Forum: Social and Economic Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate, and Water Services;
 - d. WMO User Forum: Social and Economic Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate, and Water Services;
 - e. WMO Forum on Social and Economic Applications and Benefits;
 - f. WMO Social-Economic Forum: Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate, and Water Services.
 82. Following consultations between the Chair of the TF and the Secretariat, the final title agreed upon was “**WMO Forum: Social and Economic Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate, and Water Services**”.

VII TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE FORUM

83. The meeting noted the need to evaluate the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Forum, to reflect what has been accomplished to date and to address future activities/actions associated with the implementation of the MAP. The following (ToRs) were agreed upon:
- a. The Forum will support the implementation of the Congress decisions on the Espoo Statement and Madrid Action Plan;
 - b. Core membership of the Forum will consist of invited experts in the provision and application of weather, climate and water services;
 - c. The Forum will assess opportunities to improve the interactions between the providers of weather, climate and water information and the users of these products and services;
 - d. Members of the Forum will continue to build an inventory of the existing decision-making tools, which incorporate weather, climate and water information. The Forum will also continue to assemble case studies of the use of weather, climate and water information in decision-making together with assessments of the related social and economic values;
 - e. The Forum will provide WMO with recommendations and guidance for assisting NMHSs to more fully assess and enhance the socio-economic benefits of weather, climate and water information through the full range of user communities;
 - f. The Forum will liaise with GEO and other stakeholders relevant to the mandate of this Forum;
 - g. The Forum will facilitate approaches to national governments, donors and the private sector with a view to mobilize resources;
 - h. The Forum will facilitate development of guidance on economic methods and applications;
 - i. The Forum will facilitate pilot projects supporting service delivery through NMHSs and enhance provider-user dialogue;
 - j. The Forum will develop plans for the follow-up conference (Madrid+5) proposed in the Madrid Action Plan;
 - k. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and amended as required.

Second Meeting of the Task Force on Socio-Economic Applications of Meteorological and Hydrological Services

Meeting Room C2, WMO Secretariat

Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 July 2007

AGENDA

Wednesday, 11 July 2007

1. Opening of the Meeting **(09:00 hrs)**
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Background, Objectives and Expected Outcome of the Meeting:

Leader of the session: Donald Wilhite (DW), TF Chair

- (i) Review of the Action Plan adopted by the First TF Meeting **(DW)**
- (ii) Update on the work of the Task Force since the First TF Meeting (Geneva, May 2006), Decision making tools inventory, Case studies, etc (H. Kootval **(HK)**)
- (iii) Review of the structure and TORs of the TF : Expanded role and structure of the TF and new proposed structure in the form of sub-committees or working groups based on a cluster of issues and/or regional requirements **(HK & DW)**
- (iv) General discussions followed by Breakout sessions
- (v) Breakout session leaders report back in plenary (2 / 3 groups)

Thursday, 12 July 2007

4. WMO International Conference on Safe and Secure Living: Madrid, March 2007

Leaders of session: John Zillman (JZ) and Gerald Fleming (GF)

- (i) Review of the outcome of the Madrid Conference and the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) **(JZ)**
- (ii) Review of the decisions of the WMO Fifteenth Congress as regards the WMO actions on the topic on Socio-economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services and in particular the MAP: Strategies for the implementation of the Congress and ICT decisions, and MAP **(D/CCC & SPLA Office)**
- (iii) Review of the recommendations of the Implementation Coordination Team (ICT) on OPAG on PWS (Muscat June 2007) in relation to the OPAG structure and its implications for TF, including the proposed Pilot Project on implementing the MAP **(GF)**

- (iv) The Role of the TF in relation to the Congress and ICT decisions **(DW & GF)**
- (v) Breakout groups to reassemble to discuss further the issues raised on Wednesday in the light of the information presented and discussions on Thursday

Friday 13 July 2007

- 5. Building on Existing Initiatives and Identifying New Opportunities (Discussions in plenary on the outcome of the breakout sessions of Wednesday and Thursday).

Leaders of session: TANG-Xu (TX) and Stephen Connor (SC)

How the TF can in a practical way;

- (i) guide and contribute to the efforts of NMHSs in identifying, communicating and working with users to assess their service and products requirements
- (ii) provide guidance to NMHSs in assessing the socio-economic benefits of their services and products to the user community
- (iii) Plan, organize and contribute to training workshops on the above issues

Discussion in Plenary

- 6. Long Term Plan for Activities

Leaders of session: Laurent Dubus (LD) and Vladimir Tsirkunov (VT)

- (i) Future structure of the TF
- (ii) Operational mechanisms
- (iii) Roadmap, milestones and timeline
- (iv) Required resources, resource mobilization and sustainability
- (v) Role and mode of operation of the TF
- (vi) Reporting mechanisms

- 7. Other Business

- 8. Closing

Note: The Leaders are expected to open the discussion or make presentations if they wish to. However, all participants are expected to contribute to all sessions. Leaders of sessions may wish to make contacts with their co-leaders to identify which particular topics they wish to especially address. The overall meeting however will be informal and the leaders and the participants should feel free to bring examples into the discussion if they wish to.

Review of the WMO International Conference on Safe and Secure Living: Madrid, March 2007

(i) Review of the outcome of the Madrid Conference and the Madrid Action Plan

The Task Force reviewed the organization of, and outcome from, the Madrid Conference on “Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services” held on 19-22 March 2007. It considered, in particular: the proposed role for the Task Force in preparation of the core chapter of the Conference publication based on its Members’ roles as session rapporteurs; and its possible longer-term role as a high-level whole-of-WMO expert steering group to support the Secretariat and Executive Council Working Groups in achieving effective coordinated implementation of the Madrid Action Plan as endorsed by the Fifteenth Congress.

As a basis for its consideration of these two issues, the Task Force was briefed on the general organization and conduct of the Conference (including, in particular, on the preparation of the “Madrid Conference Statement and Action Plan”), and on the subsequent Congress and Executive Council decisions, by the Co-Chair of the International Steering Committee (ISC) and the Director of Strategic Planning Office and Coordination of Crosscutting Activities (D/SPC) respectively. Overall the Conference was seen as very successful, with a good program of speakers, constructive discussion and a well-focussed Conference Statement and Action Plan adopted by consensus by the 450 (approx.) participants. Task Force members had played key roles as session rapporteurs in preparing both short summary texts for the Conference Statement and longer sectoral summaries for the proposed Conference publication. Although the Madrid Conference had, to some extent, diverted attention away from other aspects of the Task Force’s work program, it had, in fact, provided a major lift to the profile of the issues being addressed by the Task Force and a major acceleration of its work via the Congress and Executive Council endorsement for implementation action on the Madrid Action Plan.

The Task Force agreed to assume responsibility for preparation of the core chapter (on “Sectoral experience and perspectives”) of the Madrid Conference publication based on its rapporteur reports on the six sectoral sessions of the Conference as follows:

- Agriculture, water resources and the natural environment (D. Wilhite);
- Human health (B. Murphy);
- Tourism and human welfare (J. Church-WCRP);
- Energy, transportation and communications (Pai-Yei Whung);
- Urban settlement and sustainable development (Tang Xu);
- Economics and financial services (G. Fleming).

Either directly or through the Secretariat (Y. Adebayo), members agreed to provide draft 2-3 page texts to the Chairman who would integrate these into a consolidated first draft of the chapter for further review by the ISC Co-Chair (J. Zillman) and the Secretariat (H. Kootval, Y. Adebayo). Each sector-based section should:

- Summarize the key points from the lead presentations;
- Summarize the major issues that arose during the moderated discussion; and
- Set down the main sector-specific conclusions from the Conference.

It was noted that while the six sections and the chapter as a whole would not be listed as individually authored, a full listing of Task Force members and their rapporteur responsibilities would be included in the Conference publication.

With the object of having a near final text of the chapter (including, as appropriate, a small number of illustrations) completed by the end of September for integration with the rest of the publication as a basis for preparation of the final chapter on conclusions, rapporteurs agreed to provide their 2-3 page drafts to the Chairman (D. Wilhite) by the end of August.

The Task Force was pleased to have played a key role in the preparation for, conduct of, and immediate follow-up to the Madrid Conference which it saw as substantially advancing its overall work program and giving effect to a number of important initiatives identified at its initial meeting of May 2006.

(ii) Review of the decisions of the WMO Fifteenth Congress and implications for the future role and work program of the Task Force

D/SPC provided a briefing on the Congress decisions on the Madrid Action Plan under two main items (Evolution of NMHSs and WMO; and Public Weather Services Programme) and on the subsequent decisions of the Executive Council to include terms of reference relating to implementation of the Plan in several of its Working Groups established to operate until Sixteenth Congress. He canvassed a range of options for the role of the Task Force in supporting the coordinated implementation of the Madrid Action Plan involving the various constituent bodies of WMO, including importantly the Regional Associations.

The Task Force discussed, at length, its role and modus operandi in serving as the primary WMO steering mechanism for follow-up to the Madrid Action Plan on the time scale up to the proposed follow-on "Madrid + 5" Conference recommended in the Plan. There was general agreement that it should:

- Subsume the follow-up to its earlier work on applications of public weather services into its broader responsibility as a high-level steering mechanism assisting the WMO Secretary-General and Executive Council in coordinating all aspects of implementation action on the Madrid Action Plan;
- Cover both social and economic (and, as appropriate, also, environmental) applications and benefits of weather, climate and water information and services;
- Focus its efforts primarily on strategic level advice on services-wide issues and encourage, recognize and respect the existing and new activities in support of the Madrid Action Plan carried out within the various WMO constituent bodies and their subsidiary mechanisms;
- Give particular priority to education, training, and capacity building aspects of the overall WMO-wide plan for implementation of the Congress decisions on the Madrid Action Plan;
- Strengthen the user sector input to its work;
- Integrate, as appropriate, the consideration and actions arising from the July 2006 *Espoo Conference on Living with Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks* into the follow-up action on the Madrid Action Plan;
- Channel its coordinated advice on matters related to implementation of the Madrid Action Plan to the Secretary-General and, as appropriate, through the Executive Council Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning, to the Executive Council; and
- Offer to develop preliminary plans by 2010 for the proposed Madrid + 5 Conference.

The Task Force agreed that in order to ensure a coordinated approach to implementation of the Madrid Action Plan, it would be appropriate to ask the various constituent and subsidiary bodies to give priority to certain actions and follow-up on others as appropriate. It prepared a first draft of such an assignment of responsibilities (See Annex 1).

Suggested Assignment to WMO Constituent and Subsidiary Bodies

Suggested Assignment to WMO Constituent and Subsidiary Bodies of "Priority" (x) and "As Appropriate" (●) Responsibility for Implementation of Action Items of Madrid Action Plan

WMO BODIES	MADRID ACTION PLAN ITEM														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BODIES															
EC Panel on Education and Training			x							●	x			●	
EC Panel on Antarctic Meteorology	●								●			●			
EC Panel on Gender Mainstreaming	●		●						●					●	
WG on Strategic and Operational Planning	x	x	●	x	●	●	●	●	●		x		x	x	x
WG on WIGOS and WIS		●									x	x	●	●	
WG on Capacity Building	x	x	x	●			x	●	x	●	x		●	●	
WG on Climate		●	●				x	●	●	●	●			●	
* WG on Disaster Risk Reduction	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●				●	
Audit Committee	●												●		
WMO/IOC/ICSU JSC-WCRP					x						●	x			
WMO/IOC/UNEP/ICSU SC-GCOS					x						●	x			
TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS															
Basic Systems (CBS)	x	x	x	●	x	●	x	x	x	x	●	x	●	●	
Atmosphere Sciences (CAS)	●	●	●		x	x		x	●	x				●	
Instruments and Methods Obs (CIMO)		●			x										
Climatology (CCI)	x	x	x	●	x	x	x	x	x	x				●	
Agriculture Met (CAgM)	x	x	x				x	x	x					●	
Aeronautical Met (CAeM)	x	x	x				x	x	x					●	
Hydrology (Chy)	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x			x		●	
Oceanography and Marine Met (JCOMM)	x	x	x		x		x	x	x			x		●	
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (ALL)	x	x	!!	x	●	●	x	x	x	●	●	●	●	●	

All would become X if Working Group is made responsible for Service

* Delivery

!! Especially in RAs I, II, III and V

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