

C A R I B B E A N

M E T E O R O L O G I C A L

O R G A N I Z A T I O N

**CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL** **Doc. 11**

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##### RELATIONS WITH OTHER BODIES

(Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

**Introduction**

1. TheCaribbean is considered quite a diverse area, with several languages and cultures existing side-by-side. Within the English-speaking Caribbean, collaboration among Member States with respect to weather, water and climate has been in existence for a long time under the ambit of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) and its predecessor arrangements. Some of the CMO Member States are also Member States of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), thereby providing a further avenue for collaboration. It is under the WMO umbrella that the Caribbean countries of differing languages are able to collaborate.

2. A missing element has been a mechanism to improve direct collaboration between States and/or agencies of differing languages within the region. The Eastern Caribbean island chain is made up primarily of English-speaking States – all CMO Members – as well as a smaller number of French and Dutch-speaking islands. No formal direct collaboration exists between these States with regards to meteorology and applied sciences.

3. CMO has a long history of collaborative relationships with meteorological agencies in non-CMO States within the region. For the most part, these have been Ad-hoc based on specific activities of common interest. This document presented to Council is a proposal to increase, improve and formalize the relationship and collaboration between the *Caribbean Meteorological Organization* and the *Meteorological Service of France* (Météo-France), through an agreed Working Arrangement.

**Past and Existing Collaboration and Arrangements**

4. Météo-France and the CMO have had several small-scale collaborative activities over the years. In the early 2000s, in arrangements with CMO, Météo-France funded and installed some automatic weather stations in a few CMO Member States. Météo-France collaborated quite extensively with CMO in the development phases of the current ***CMO radar network***, culminating with the creation and operation of *regional weather radar composites*, which was based on a *Memorandum of Understanding* (MoU) between the two Organizations. Under that MoU, the six radars in CMO Weather Radar Network; namely, radars in Belize, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Guyana, combined with French radars in Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana to form the basic Caribbean radar composite.

5. CMO and Météo-France also collaborated, along with other French agencies, in the Caribbean Islands Component of the major ***World Hydrological Cycle Observing System*** Project of the WMO. The Caribbean Islands Component, called **Carib-HYCOS**, was implemented between 2008 and 2012, involving CMO Members *Antigua and Barbuda*, *Barbados*, *Dominica*, *Jamaica*, *Saint Lucia* and *Trinidad and Tobago*, along with Guadeloupe and Martinique. The aim of Carib-HYCOS was the development of water resources information systems to assist Member countries to improve their water management, mitigate the impact of water-related disasters, such as floods and droughts, and contribute to regional and global studies of the impact of climate change on water resources. The CMO Headquarters and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) supported Carib-HYCOS, particularly to ensure that the Hydrological Services of its Member States played an integral part in this important activity.

6. More recently, collaboration between Météo France and CMO has been going on under the **Carib Risk Cluster project** of the General Council of Martinique, funded by the European Union, under which a major component was the implementation of Météo-France’s “**SHERPA intranet**” initiative. The collaboration between Météo France, CMO and the General Council of Martinique allows National Meteorological Services in CMO Member States in the Eastern Caribbean access to and use of Météo-France’s **SHERPA** as an operational monitoring and forecasting tool. In October 2013, Météo France conducted a SHERPA workshop at the CIMH in Barbados, which was attended by staff of eight NMHSs in the region.

7. In the near future, it is anticipated that Météo France and the Meteorological Services in CMO Member States will be required to increase and improve operational collaboration through a WMO *Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project,* which is now being considered for the WMO Regional Association IV for North America, Central America and the Caribbean (see Agenda item 5).

8. The CMO Headquarters and the Meteorological Service of France have been discussing and have agreed on the need to significantly strengthen and formalize regional collaboration and coordination in the many areas of common interest, for the mutual benefit of CMO Member States and the French West Indies and French Guiana. Both parties have decided to seek the endorsement of their own Governing bodies to strengthen this collaboration through a formal Working Arrangement. Specifically, the Working Arrangement is intended to enable CMO and Météo-France, through their various operational organs, such as the CMO Headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados, and the Inter-regional Directorate of Météo-France (Direction Interrégionale de Météo-France) in Martinique with its operational centres in Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Martinique, to collaborate closely on matters leading to improving the effectiveness of regional weather forecast and warning coordination, regional weather radar operations and other observing networks, and climate-related applications. A similar Working Arrangement is also the basis of the ongoing formal relationship between the CMO and WMO. Council is therefore asked to consider and endorse the formal Working Arrangement being proposed by the CMO and Météo-France, the text of which is shown in the **ANNEX** to this document. A coordinated French language version is also shown in the ANNEX.

**Action Proposed to Council:**

9. The Council is invited to:

1. **Discuss**the benefits of strengthening and formalizing regional collaboration and coordination between CMO and the Meteorological Service of France (Météo-France);
2. **Endorse** the formal Working Arrangement being proposed by the CMO and Météo-France, as shown in the **ANNEX** to this document or subject to agreed modifications if necessary;
3. **Authorize** the Coordinating Director to formalize the agreed Working Arrangement, on behalf of the CMO, with the managing Directorate of Meteo-France, through an exchange of letters between the President and Director-General of Météo-France and the Coordinating Director of CMO, or, if appropriate, with the joint signing of a single document;
4. **Request** the CMO Headquarters to make the concluded Working Arrangements available to the National Meteorological Services in CMO Member States and the CIMH.

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CMO Headquarters

October 2015

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**THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (CMO)**

AND

**THE METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF FRANCE (METEO-FRANCE)**

HAVE AGREED UPON THE FOLLOWING WORKING ARRANGEMENT:

1. CMO and Météo-France agree to act in close cooperation and to consult with each other regularly with regard to matters of common interest within the Caribbean area and the Guianas area of South America in the field of meteorology and climate.
2. Such cooperation shall be set up particularly for the purpose of effective coordination of activities and procedures relating to meteorological programmes of CMO and Météo-France within the areas of interest. This is with a view to ensuring optimum benefits for meteorological and hydrological operations and research, and maximizing the benefits from the application of these programmes in areas such as weather forecasts, early warnings, natural disaster reduction, climate, agriculture, water resources management, air, land and sea transportation, tourism, and environmental protection.
3. CMO and Météo-France will consult each other and collaborate closely in the implementation of regional aspects of programmes of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in such areas where a common interest has been demonstrated.
4. Specifically, CMO and Météo-France, through their various operational organs, such as the CMO Headquarters in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados, and the Inter-regional Directorate of Météo-France (Direction Interrégionale de Météo-France) in Martinique with its operational centres in Guadeloupe, French Guiana and Martinique, will collaborate closely on matters leading to improving the effectiveness of regional weather forecast and warning coordination, regional weather radar operations and other observing networks, and climate-related applications.
5. Météo-France and CMO agree to keep each other informed concerning all new programmes of work and projected activities in which there may be mutual interest.
6. Météo-France and CMO agree to invite the participation of each Organization, as observers, in the sessions and meetings of the other Organization which relate to items of common interest.
7. Météo-France and CMO will keep, as appropriate, their respective governing bodies informed of cooperative activities undertaken pursuant to this working relationship.

The above points set out the general framework of the Working Arrangement between CMO and Météo-France, the details of cooperation in specific fields and cases being left to further agreement.

This Working Arrangement shall enter into force upon the last date of signature of the parties and may be amended or terminated by mutual agreement of the Governing bodies of the Organizations.

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PROJET

**L’ORGANISATION METEOROLOGIQUE DE LA CARAÏBE (CMO)**

ET

**LE SERVICE METEOROLOGIQUE FRANCAIS (METEO-FRANCE)**

SONT CONVENUS DES MODALITES DE TRAVAIL SUIVANTES :

1. La CMO et Météo-France conviennent d’agir en étroite coopération et de se consulter régulièrement sur des sujets d’intérêt commun concernant la région Caraïbe et les régions guyanaises d’Amérique du sud dans le domaine de la météorologie et du climat.
2. L’instauration de cette coopération visera tout particulièrement à établir une coordination efficiente des activités et des procédures relatives aux programmes météorologiques de la CMO et de Météo-France dans les régions concernées. Elle aura pour objectif, de permettre aux deux entités de tirer le meilleur parti et bénéfices possibles dans les domaines météorologiques opérationnels et des études et de la recherche appliquée. Elle favorisera également la maximisation des avantages résultant de l’application de ces programmes pour les prévisions météorologiques, les systèmes d’alertes précoces, la mitigation des risques naturels, le climat, l’agriculture, la gestion des ressources en eau, les transports aériens, martimes et terrestres, le tourisme et la protection de l’environnement.
3. CMO et Météo-France se consulteront et collaboreront étroitement dans la mise en œuvre, à l’échelle régionale des programmes de l’Organisation Météorologique Mondiale (OMM), dans les domaines d’intérêt commun.
4. Plus spécifiquement, la CMO et Météo-France, par l’intermédiaire de leurs différents organismes opérationnels, tels que le siège de la CMO à Trinité-et-Tobago, l’Institut de météorologie et d’hydrologie des Caraibes (CIMH) à la Barbade et la Direction Interrégionale de Météo-France Antilles-Guyane à la Martinique, travailleront en étroite collaboration sur des sujets destinés à améliorer l’efficacité des prévisions météorologiques, de la coordination des alertes, du fonctionnement des réseaux d’observations tels que les radars ou autres équipements et des applications dans le domaine du climat.
5. Météo-France et la CMO conviennent de se tenir mutuellement informés de tout nouveau programme de travail et de tout projet d’activité susceptibles de présenter un intérêt mutuel.
6. Météo-France et la CMO conviennent d’inviter chaque organisation à participer, en tant qu’observateur, aux sessions ou réunions de l’autre organisation lorsqu’il s’agit de sujets d’intérêt commun.
7. Le cas échéant, Météo-France et la CMO tiendront leurs organismes dirigeants respectifs informés des activités menées en coopération et entreprises dans le cadre de cette relation de travail.

Les points mentionnés ci-dessus précisent le cadre général des modalités de travail établies entre la CMO et Météo-France, les détails de la coopération dans des domaines et dans des cas spécifiques devant faire l’objet d’accords ultérieurs.

Ces modalités de travail entreront en vigueur dès la dernière date de signature par les parties, et pourront être modifiées ou résiliées par accord mutuel des organismes dirigeants de ces organisations.

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