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. 12**

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##### OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS

(Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

**Introduction**

1. Weather, climate and water are at the heart of the environmental issues affecting the planet. National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) in the Caribbean and the world over must provide accurate information, analyses and timely forecasts of hazardous weather-related conditions that affect the sustainable development of their nations in the short term. At the same time, the NMHSs must provide the appropriate data and scientific-basis for studies on the long-term potential impacts of both natural and human-induced climate change on the environment. The contribution of meteorology and related sciences to these global studies is driven by the constant adaptation to and use of technological changes and opportunities.

2. In this regard, many of the projects being undertaken or planned have observational and scientific data information components involving the use of new or modern technologies. This is primarily an information document intended to keep the Council up-to-date on the progress of implementation on any on-going projects of this nature, which involve CMO Member States and partner organizations, such as the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO) and the *Association of Caribbean States* (ACS). The document provides information on the following:

(a) Finland Initiative –COPS - Complementary Project to the SIDS - Caribbean Project and SHOCS I and II

3. Council will recall that, between 2001 and 2004, the Government of Finland funded the SIDS-Caribbean Project titled “*Preparedness to Climate Variability and Global Change in Small Islands States, Caribbean Region*”. This was followed by a *needs assessment and feasibility study project* entitled ***“Strengthening Hydrometeorological Operations and Services in the Central America and the Caribbean (SHOCS)”***. The Project was implemented by the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) under the direction of the *Association of Caribbean States* (ACS), in collaboration with WMO and CMO. The CMO is a member of the Project Board, along with the ACS, WMO, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and FMI.

4. The feasibility phase of SHOCS, called Phase I, was implemented between 2010 and 2012 with a budget of 0.5 million Euros. A Phase II, called SHOCS-II, commenced in 2013 with a budget of one Million Euros. The CMO Member States that participated in SHOCS-II are Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. The other States that participated are Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname. Regrettably, Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago, which participated in the early phases of SHOCS-I, were no longer eligible for assistance in SHOCS-II due to their development ranking by the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development* (OECD), which is used by the Government of Finland. The beneficiaries of the Project have been the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and Disaster Management Agencies of the above States, along with the CIMH as a regional institution.

5. SHOCS-II came to a close at the end of 2015. The Key outcomes of this project can be summarized as follows:

* Increased Capacity in the Caribbean on the development of methods for Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems and Disaster Risk Reduction:
* The network of SmartMet weather forecast workstations and production system was established, by installing the system in 8 new countries in the region;
* SmartAlert tool for issuing and disseminating weather warnings was piloted in three countries.
* Increased capacity in developing Quality Management Systems (QMS).
* Increased capacity in communicating the weather to large audiences and TV weather presentation:
* Installation of TV weather presentation software in INSMET Cuba;
* A TV weather presentation workshop was held for participants from 16 countries.
* Increased amount and quality of the observation data:
* Spares for non-working and old weather observation sensors were provided to 11 countries.

6. The final meeting of the SHOCS-II Steering Committee, combined with a workshop with representatives of participating countries, took place in Barbados on 18 November 2015. It drew conclusions from the results of the SHOCS-II phase of the Project and discussed the identified priorities for capacity building during a continuing phase, which was expected to begin late in 2016 or early 2017. This continuing phase is being called the ***Complementary Project to the SIDS - Caribbean Project and SHOCS I and II* (COPS)**.

7. In this regard, there will be approximately 130,000 Euros available for COPS. These funds allocated by Finland are actually residual funds from the SIDS Caribbean Project that were held in trust by WMO. With these limited funds, COPS will continue directly from the activities of SHOCS II, among others, to ensure the sustainability of the systems installed in the region. It was agreed that consideration would be given to some radar training during COPS. It happened that Belize had organized a training event for radar technicians in April 2016, with training experts from its German radar supplier. Belize offered to make training slots available to technicians from the other radar sites in the CMO Radar Network. Therefore, the CMO Headquarters organized for COPS to utilize some funds to enable two radar technicians from Trinidad and Tobago to participate in the Belize training, despite the fact that Trinidad and Tobago was technically no longer a recipient of assistance from Finland.

**(b) Other CMO Project Proposals/Involvement**

(i) **Regional component of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)**

8. Under *Agenda Item 6*, Council was provided with the latest stage for implementation of the Region's component of the *WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WIGOS). WIGOS is an all-encompassing approach to the improvement and evolution of WMO’s global observing systems. The implementation of WIGOS is very closely related to the ***WMO Information System*** (WIS), both of which are essential to all technical and scientific activities of Meteorological Services in the Caribbean and worldwide. The CMO Headquarters plays a major international and regional role in the implementation of WIGOS and WIS. The CMO Coordinating Director is one of two WMO Executive Council’s Focal Points on the *Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS* (ICG-WIGOS), which guides the global WIGOS activities, while *Mr Glendell De Souza* of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization Headquarters is the Regional Task Team leader for WIGOS and WIS. In this regard, regional activities have increased from 2016 onward as WIGOS entered its **Pre‑operational Phase (2016–2019).**

(ii) **Severe Weather Demonstration Project**

9. Under *Agenda Item 6*, Council was also informed of WMO plans within the region to introduce a *Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project* (SWFDP) for the region. The regional conceptual phase of SWFDP was developed and coordinated primarily by the CMO Headquarters. The Project was expected to be developed by the WMO Secretariat in close partnership with the WMO Regional Association IV, and will involve the CMO Headquarters, the CIMH and a number of CMO Member States.

**ACTION PROPOSED TO COUNCIL**

10. **The Council is invited to**:

**Note** the updated information and provide any guidance necessary on:

1. The Finland-funded Project Complementary Project to the SIDS-Caribbean Project and SHOCS I and II (COPS);
2. Other projects involving the CMO Headquarters.

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CMO Headquarters

October 2016