

DEFINITIONS AND MANDATORY FUNCTIONS OF WMO REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTRES (RCCs) AND RCC-NETWORKS

From the Manual on the GDPFS, Part II, new APPENDIX II-10 (as of EC-LXI 2009)

1. A multifunctional centre that fulfils all the required functions of an RCC for the entire region, or for a sub-region to be defined by the Regional Association may be designated by WMO as a 'WMO Regional Climate Centre' (WMO RCC). A group of centres performing climate-related activities that collectively fulfil all the required functions of an RCC may be designated by WMO as a 'WMO Regional Climate Centre Network' (WMO RCC-Network). Each centre in a designated WMO RCC-Network will be referred to as a 'Node'. A Node will perform, for the region or sub-region defined by the Regional Association, one or several of the mandatory RCC activities (e.g. long-range forecasting (LRF), climate monitoring, climate data services, training). Only centres or groups of centres designated by WMO will carry the title 'WMO RCC' or 'WMO RCC-Network' respectively. Recipients of RCC products and services will be NMHSs, other RCCs and international institutions recognized by the Regional Association and will be referred to as 'RCC Users'. WMO RCCs and RCC-Networks shall follow Guidance published by the Commission for Climatology on technical, climate-related matters.

2. In order for a centre or a group of centres in a cooperative effort to be officially recognized as a WMO RCC (Regional Climate Centre), or a WMO RCC-Network, it shall perform the following minimum¹ set of functions, criteria and products for which are defined in Appendix II-11:

- **Operational Activities for LRF²:**

- Interpret and assess relevant LRF products from Global Producing Centres (GPCs) (some of which can be obtained through the Lead Centres for LRFMME - see Attachment II-12), make use of Lead Centre for Standard Verification System on LRF (see Attachment II-8), distribute relevant information to RCC Users; and provide feedback to GPCs;
- Generate regional and sub-regional tailored products, relevant to RCC User needs, including seasonal outlooks etc.;
- Perform verification of RCC quantitative LRF products, including the exchange of basic forecasts and hindcast data;
- Generate 'consensus' statement on regional or sub-regional forecasts (see Appendix II-11 for details);
- Provide on-line access to RCC products/services to RCC Users;
- Assess use of RCC products and services through feedback from RCC Users.

- **Operational Activities for Climate Monitoring:**

- Perform climate diagnostics including analysis of climate variability and extremes, at regional and sub-regional scales;
- Establish an historical reference climatology for the region and/or sub-regions;
- Implement a regional Climate Watch.

- **Operational Data Services, to support operational LRF and climate monitoring:**

- Develop regional climate datasets, gridded where applicable;
- Provide climate database and archiving services, at the request of NMHSs.

¹ Additional requirements for RCC functions may vary in detail from Region to Region. A list of 'highly recommended', but not mandatory, functions is given in Attachment II-10. An RCC is not necessarily an NMHS, but a non-NMHS candidate for RCC designation must be nominated by the Permanent Representative of the concerned country.

² Both dynamical and statistical, within the range of 1 month to 2 year timescale, based on regional needs.

- **Training in the use of operational RCC products and services**
 - Provide information on methodologies and product specifications for mandatory RCC products, and provide guidance on their use;
 - Coordinate training for RCC Users in interpretation and use of mandatory RCC products.