



**GREPECAS Programmes and Projects Committee (PPRC) Fifth Virtual Meeting
 (ePPRC/05)
 Online, 20 – 21 April 2023**

Agenda Item 2: Review of the Programmes and Projects of the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS)

2.1 Programmes and Projects reviewed by GREPECAS

FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROJECT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) SERVICE FOR THE CAR/SAM REGIONS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
<p>This Working Paper presents the details of the preliminary actions carried out by the ICAO SAM and NACC Offices to comply with the Project on the Implementation of the Search and Rescue Service (SAR) for the CAR/SAM Regions and requests the guidance to deemed pertinent for its execution.</p>	
Action:	Suggested actions are included in Section 5.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final report of the Twentieth Meeting of the CAR/SAM Regional Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/20), Salvador, Brazil, 16 – 18 November 2022

1. Introduction

1.1 The ICAO CAR and SAM Regions have proposed a renewed strategy to promote the implementation of Search and Rescue (SAR) services, as a fundamental element for the sustainable development of air navigation in these Regions.

1.2 The fulfilment of the responsibilities of the States with respect to the provision of SAR services merits a joint approach between both Regions, as well as the carrying out of activities that allow adequate guidance and follow-up.

2. Background

2.1 Conclusion GREPECAS/19/04 instructed the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices to evaluate the current challenges regarding the provision of SAR services in the CAR/SAM Regions, identify opportunities for improvement in order to promote joint SAR work between the CAR/SAM Regions and develop a Project proposal that supports SAR activities, to GREPECAS' consideration at the GREPECAS/20 Meeting.

2.2 Decision GREPECAS/20/02 approved the projects on the implementation of the search and rescue service for the CAR and SAM Regions, with the objective of enabling greater visibility and support for related activities, communicating to the ICAO Council in a more objective manner the progress of SAR implementation in the CAR/SAM Regions.

3. Current situation

3.1 *CAR Region*

3.1.1 SAR implementation in the CAR Region is guided by the Search and Rescue (SAR) Implementation Task Force of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/SAR/TF). This group must integrate into its work program the activities required to carry out the SAR implementation project for the CAR Region.

3.1.2 The Fourth Meeting of this Task Force is scheduled to take place at the ICAO NACC Regional Office from 6 to 8 June 2023.

3.1.3 Due to the short time that has elapsed since the approval of the Project on the implementation of the SAR service for the CAR and SAM Regions, the proposed activities of this project have not being specified. Preliminarily, support activities by the Secretariat have been maintained, with special emphasis on SAR coordination for the Eastern Caribbean.

3.2 *SAM Region*

3.2.1 In the SAM Region, coordination and virtual meetings are advancing to update or sign SAR cooperation agreements. After the technical discussion stage in charge of the SAR specialists, electronic signatures and/or digital signatures are being used to facilitate the validation of the documents by the designated Authorities. In December 2022, the SAR agreement between Ecuador and Peru was signed. In March 2023, the SAR agreement between Colombia and Venezuela was signed.

3.2.2 It is planned to organize a SAR Meeting/Workshop for the SAM Region, tentatively for the third quarter of 2023. Additionally, in coordination with the Regional Office of Mexico, SAM States are invited to participate as observers in the NACC/WG/SAR/TF Meetings.

4. Conclusions

4.1 It is expected that with the approval by GREPECAS of the Project on the implementation of the SAR service for the CAR and SAM Regions, a harmonized work programme can be implemented to benefit both Regions, allows planning of joint activities, as well as a more objective monitoring of these.

5. Suggested actions

5.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the activities scheduled to follow up on the Project on the implementation of the SAR service for the CAR and SAM Regions;
- b) Make recommendations that serve to expedite the implementation of this project; and
- c) Take any additional action deemed necessary.

— END —