



ICAO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

**FOURTH MEETING OF THE REGIONAL AVIATION SAFETY GROUP
FOR AFRICA - INDIAN OCEAN (RASG-AFI/4)**

(Nairobi, Kenya, from 12 to 13 October, 2017)

Agenda Item 6: ICAO “No Country Left Behind (NCLB)” Initiative and Assistance to AFI States

6.2 Status of Implementation of the AFI Plan Projects

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY
This paper provides an update on the status of implementation of the various AFI Plan projects for Aerodrome Certification, Air Navigation Service (ANS) Peer Review, State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation and Search and Rescue (SAR) Organization.
REFERENCE(S): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP)• Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP)• AFI Plan Document• AFI Plan Steering Committee (SC) meeting reports• AFI Plan SC19/Dec 06: Development and Implementation of AFI Plan Projects• AFI Plan Project Documents : Aerodrome Certification, ANSP Peer Review Programme, State Safety Programme (SSP) and Search and Rescue (SAR)
Related ICAO Strategic Objective(s): <p>This Working Paper relates to the Safety Strategic Objective of ICAO.</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Conference of African Ministers of Transport held in July 2012 in Abuja, Nigeria adopted a set of continental aviation safety targets that were aligned with the goals of the Global Aviation safety Plan (GASP). The targets include certification of all international aerodromes and implementation of State Safety Programmes (SSP), amongst others. Similarly, regional air navigation targets were adopted through APIRG for implementation continent wide.

1.2 To support the achievement of the broader safety goals, the 17th meeting of the AFI Plan Steering Committee approved funding for a number of projects ranging from Aerodrome Certification, Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSP) Peer Review, State Safety Programme (SSP)

Implementation to Search and Rescue (SAR) Organization. These projects were subsequently launched in the second half of 2016.

1.3 Through two of the projects States that have achieved a safety oversight Effective implementation level of at least 60% are being assisted to develop their capacities to certify their international aerodromes and establish and implement SSPs by the end of the year 2017, respectively. On the other hand, over half of AFI States are also being assisted to effectively organize SAR whilst an effective Peer Review Mechanism is being put in place through collaboration between African ANSPs.

1.4 ICAO Regional Offices in Nairobi and Dakar are responsible for the supervision of the projects within their respective regions and also establish and maintain coordination with all relevant stakeholders including high level Government officials during implementation of the said projects. To this end, the Regional Office Safety Teams (ROSTs) conduct assistance missions to review the progress in the implementation of these projects and provide assistance and guidance as necessary. Local experts from States in the region have been co-opted and utilized in the Project Teams, following appropriate briefing and orientation.

2. DISCUSSION

Aerodrome certification project

2.1 Considering the low number of certified international aerodromes in the AFI Region as at end of 2016 and the numerous deficiencies identified in the certification process of airports already certified, the AFI Plan Steering Committee directed the implementation of the aerodromes certification project within the context of the "No country left behind" initiative. As a target, at least 45% of States were required to develop capacities to certify their international aerodromes by the end of 2016. In this regard and based on the established criteria, sixteen priority States/airports of the AFI region were identified for assistance in the certification of one international aerodrome in each identified State.

2.2 The Aerodrome certification Project was launched in Dakar and Nairobi in August 2016. The launching in each case, was attended by DG CAAs and CEOs of airports of beneficiary States, donor States, as well as Regional Organizations. Familiarization workshops were conducted soon after, during which beneficiary States developed and submitted their respective action plans for timely resolution of deficiencies identified through the ACI-APEX review of their airports.

2.3 Sixteen States that have met the eligibility criterion (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Uganda, and Zambia) were identified for assistance in the certification of one international aerodrome. So far through the project, 3 out of 10 airports (30%) in WACAF beneficiary States viz: Abidjan, Bamako and Lagos, have been certified, whilst 1 out of 9 airports (11%) in ESAF beneficiary States viz: Windhoek, have been certified. Greater progress is expected at the end of the 18 months' project duration.

2.3 The main challenges faced by States in the certification process are related to the resolution of deficiencies found at airports. This requires allocation of resources and commitment of both the CAAs and airport operators. The unavailability of trained technical personnel at both the CAAs and the airport Operators as well as the lack of adequate Experts for the Project Team are additional constraints.

State Safety Programme (SSP) Implementation Project

2.4 The SSP implementation project is supporting eligible States in their efforts to ensure aviation safety by embracing safety management principles to proactively address emerging safety risks by using consistent, data-informed approaches to implement smarter, system-level, risk-based safety oversight. The project was launched for a duration of 24 months with the following beneficiary States: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.

2.5 In the framework of the project, ICAO has offered to conduct safety management training to provide regulatory and service provider staff involved in the implementation of SSP and SMS with an understanding of operational safety management processes and practical examples.

2.1 2.6 The project includes Gap Analysis to be conducted by each participating State with assistance and guidance from the ICAO Regional Office Safety Teams (ROST) s and the development of the SSP implementation/action plan. To date, assistance missions have been conducted in the framework of the SSP implementation project in 11 out of 24 States (46%) namely; Botswana, Cameroun, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Togo, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

African ANSP Peer Review Programme

2.7 The AFI Plan Project on the implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme was launched in May 2017. It is intended to help ANSPs improve the safety and quality of air navigation operations in the African Region. The Project is working closely with the African ANSP Steering Group tasked with developing and promoting a regional framework and a mechanism for improving ANS safety performance in Africa, including peer review, and is composed of the following members: ASECNA, ATNS of South Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Nigeria ANSPs, Roberts FIR, CANSO, ICAO and AFCAC.

2.8 A successful coordination meeting of African ANSPs was held from 3 to 5 May 2017 in Freetown, Sierra Leone under the ANSP Peer Review Project, and led to the adoption of a regional Framework of Cooperation, the Peer Review Programme Manual to guide the operational implementation of the Peer Review Programme, and an African ANSPs Cooperation Roadmap for the period 2017/2018. The next steps include selection and training of reviewers, conduct of pilot reviews, development and implementation of corrective actions plans and project evaluation.

Search and Rescue Organization

2.9 The AFI Plan SAR project is aimed at assisting States establish an effective and operational Search and Rescue organization. Following the launching of the project, to which about 30 States have now adhered, a workshop was conducted in Nairobi for the beneficiary States. The workshop has successfully provided the participants with essential information and knowledge on the objective and scope of the project. A SAR survey was conducted with a high response rate from States, on the basis of which, the gap analysis, on the status of SAR implementation in region has been completed. In a broader context of SAR in Africa and without limiting to the project scope, the Regional Offices established a Technical Experts Team. The project team provided support for the High Level SAR Conference organized by AFCAC, in Lome, in April 2017 resulting in a Declaration and Plan of Action for the improvement of SAR services in Africa.

2.10 Templates and Samples of relevant SAR documentation in English and French which were developed by the SAR TET working collaboratively with the ICAO Regional Offices have been sent to States. Assistance missions have been conducted to States and additional missions are planned in the fourth quarter of 2017. Some States have requested the assistance of ICAO for the organisation of SAR awareness seminars at the national level to help with understanding of roles and responsibilities. These are being considered within the framework of the project.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 At its 19th meeting held in Gaborone, Botswana in May 2017, the AFI Plan Steering Committee decided that implementation of the approved projects should be pursued and monitored in order to facilitate attainment of the related annual regional goals and improve overall aviation safety in the region (SC19/Dec.06). In addition to these on-going project, proposals

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information in this working paper;
- b) recognize the important support being provided to States by the ICAO AFI Plan in Aerodrome Certification, State Safety Programme Implementation, African ANSP Peer Review and Search and Rescue organization;
- c) urge State CAAs, Airport Operators, ANSPs and all stakeholders to strengthen their commitment and intensify efforts in the implementation of the respective projects, and ensure timely resolution of existing deficiencies and accomplishment of the set objectives; and
- d) provide feedback on the on-going project activities and propose additional areas of possible intervention to better address emerging safety priorities.

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