



**COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION
SAFETY IN AFRICA (AFI PLAN)**

**TWENTIETH AFI PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
(Montreal, Canada, 07 December 2017)**

Agenda Item 1: Review of the Status of Implementation of AFI Plan Projects

(Presented by AFI Plan Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the status of implementation of the AFI Plan projects which were approved by the AFI Plan Steering Committee at its 17th meeting in May 2016.

Action: The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Provide further instruction and guidance as deemed necessary.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Steering Committee at its 17th meeting approved funding for projects related to Aerodrome Certification, ANSP Peer Review, SSP Implementation and Search and Rescue (SAR) organization.

1.2. This paper presents an update on the status of implementation of these projects and in particular, the progress made since the 19th meeting of the AFI Plan Steering Committee.

2. AFI PLAN PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS – SUMMARY REPORT

2.1 During its 19th meeting, the Steering Committee reviewed the progress made in the implementation the AFI Plan projects and noted with satisfaction that the four (4) projects were progressing. Accordingly, the Steering Committee requested the AFI Plan Secretariat to continue coordinating and monitoring implementation of these projects and to report back on progress archived to its 20th SC meeting.

Aerodrome Certification

2.2 The aerodrome certification project designed to support 16 African states to certify at least one of their International aerodromes was launched in August 2016, in both ESAF and WACAF Regions. In accordance with the project schedule, meetings with Directors General of CAAs and CEO of Airports of the beneficiary States as well as supporting States were conducted to sensitize them on the importance of the project and secure the required support. Following the high level meetings three aerodrome certification workshops were conducted in Accra, Lomé and Nairobi for the benefit of Regulatory and airport personnel of both supporting and beneficiary States.

2.3 In accordance with the outcomes of the workshop, beneficiary States prepared and submitted their action plans to the two Regional Offices. Most States are progressing in the implementation of their plans, although some are behind schedule. Implementation assistance and progress monitoring missions were conducted by the project team. So far 5 international Airports in 4 beneficiaries States (Abidjan, Bamako, Lagos, Abuja and Windhoek) have been certified. On the basis of the lessons learned so far and intensive engagement of the project team planned for 2018, better implementation progress is expected at the end of the project duration.

State Safety Programme (SSP)

2.4 The SSP implementation project was initially developed to support twenty-four (24) eligible States in their efforts to implement SSP on the basis of the establishment of a sound safety oversight system as evidenced by their attainment of the 60% EI. Such States are encouraged to further promote aviation safety by embracing safety management principles with a view 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 Within the framework of the project, beneficiary States will be provided with safety management training to their regulatory and service provider staff involved in the implementation of SSP and SMS with an understanding of operational safety management processes and practical examples.

2.6 The project, through the ICAO Regional Office Safety Teams (ROSTs) assists beneficiary States in the conduct of SSP Gap Analysis and the development of the SSP implementation plans. 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.

2.7 Since the inception of the project two additional States (Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda) met the project eligibility criterion of 60% EI. This development calls for a review of the approved project budget to accommodate these newly qualified States.

Search and Rescue (SAR) Organization

2.8 The SAR project was primarily developed to support thirty (30) African States (18 WACAF and 12 ESAF) in the establishment and provision of effective and operational Search and Rescue services in the Region through collaboration. Following its launching in 2016, a SAR survey was conducted, on the basis of which a gap analysis on the status of SAR implementation was completed. The Regional Offices established a Technical Experts Team which developed Templates and Samples of SAR documentation in collaboration with the Regional Offices and conducted assistance missions to States.

2.9 In accordance with the project schedule, a 'wrap up' workshop was held at the ICAO ESAF Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya from 13 to 15 November 2017, to review the progress of the Search and Rescue (SAR) project during the last twelve months, in the twelve beneficiary States of Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The outcome of the workshop and status of the ESAF project is as follows:

- a. Ten out of the twelve States (83%) have developed SAR legislation but only six (50%) have actually promulgated their legislations. Promulgation for the remaining six is expected between December 2017 and the second quarter of 2018;
- b) Eleven out of the twelve States (92%) have developed SAR regulations but only five (42%) have promulgated these regulations. Promulgation for the remaining seven expected between December 2017 and the second quarter of 2018;
- c) Apart from Somalia, all remaining beneficiary States (92%) have established their RCCs with focus on building capacity to fully support 24 hour operations;
- d) Four States (33%) have fully developed and approved SAR plans of operation. Six States (50%) have developed SAR plans which are expected to be approved between December 2017 and June 2018. Two States (Namibia and Somalia), are yet to develop their SAR plans; and
- e) Fifteen SAR agreements are currently in force and twenty-three new agreements have been developed awaiting signature from the respective States' Administrations.

2.10 The workshop recommended that the project be extended to the remaining twelve ESAF States for implementation by the end of 2019. It was also recommended that States are urged to follow-up directly with their State counterparts and arrange for signing of their SAR agreements developed during the workshop based on the agreed timelines and to inform ICAO Regional Offices of such progress.

2.11 For the WACAF region, eleven (11) States (i.e. 46%) have developed national SAR Plans, whilst preparations are ongoing to assist the remaining States in 2018.

2.12 Only one (1) WACAF State has signed SAR Agreements with all neighbouring States; nine (9) have completed and signed SAR Agreements with some but not all neighbouring States; and twelve (12) have draft SAR Agreements pending finalization and signature.

2.13 Technical Assistance missions were planned for six (6) WACAF States in 2017, out of which 5 (Burkina Faso, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Mali and Gabon) responded positively and received missions. Additional SAR assistance missions to the remaining States are planned for 2018.

2.14 The unavailability of SAR Technical Expert Team members to assist and conduct missions and the low response rate of States to correspondences have been major challenges and constraints in meeting targets and timelines.

2.15 On the basis of the Declaration and Plan of Action for the improvement of SAR services in Africa, adopted at the High Level SAR Conference organized by AFCAC with the support of ICAO (Lome, April 2017), the continent wide SAR project to be developed and implemented by AFCAC will complement the achievements of the AFI Plan project.

Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP) Peer Review

2.16 During the 39th session of the ICAO Assembly a working Paper (A39-WP456) was presented by ASECNA on behalf of African ANSPs. The Assembly was informed that the African Air Navigation Services Providers (ANSPs) Peer Review Programme was launched in February 2015 by the ICAO Council President. The Assembly was also informed that the aim of this initiative which is to establish a regional framework of cooperation and peer review mechanism to improve air navigation operational performance in Africa, and some ANSPs have initiated trials and drawn useful lessons.

2.17 The Terms of reference of the ANSP Peer Review Programme Coordination Team of Executives have been established in June 2015. Immediately following on the 18th AFI Plan SC meeting, an AFI ANSPs Coordination Meeting chaired by ICAO Council President was held on 1st October 2016 in Montreal, and formulated recommendations concerning the way forward.

2.18 A successful follow up meeting on these recommendations which was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 3-5 May 2017, developed and endorsed a Programme Reference Manual as well as a Cooperation Framework and a Roadmap for 2017-2018, to govern the implementation of the African ANSP Peer Review Programme, among other cooperation activities in the areas of air navigation services. The next steps include selection and training of reviewers, conduct of pilot reviews, development and implementation of corrective action plans and project evaluation.

3 CONCLUSION

3.1 Since the 19th SC meeting there has been encouraging progress in implementing the AFI Plan funded projects. In addition to these on-going projects, proposals for two new projects, recommended during the 19th SC meeting, have been developed and will be presented under DP /07 for the SC's consideration.

3.2 The Steering Committee is invited to:

- a) Note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) Provide further instruction and guidance as deemed necessary.