



Agenda Item 2: Review of Project H2 - Implementation of the *International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW)*

Follow-up to the recommendations of the Third Meeting on MET Projects

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY	
This working paper presents the follow-up to the recommendations of the Third Meeting on MET Projects in relation to SIGMETs and volcanic ash.	
References: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annex 3 – <i>Meteorological service for international air navigation</i>• Report of the Third Meeting on MET Projects	
ICAO strategic objectives:	<i>A - Safety</i> <i>B - Air navigation capacity and efficiency</i> <i>E - Environmental protection</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 ICAO advised States about the entry into force of Amendment 79 to Annex 3, effective 20 July 2020, introducing aspects related to SIGMETs.

1.2 The Third Meeting on MET Projects of the SAM Region issued some recommendations on SIGMET implementation and tasks related to volcanic ash.

2. Discussion

Coordination with the Washington VAAC and SAM States associated to the VAAC

2.1 The Third Meeting on MET Projects requested the creation of a mechanism to coordinate work more closely between the SAM States associated to the Washington VAAC, in coordination with the ICAO NACC Office. The Washington VAAC established a coordination mechanism and other functionalities to facilitate communications between the VAAC and the States. A webinar will be held on 7 December to disseminate these VAAC functionalities.

Establishment of a TCAC for the South Atlantic

2.2 The Meeting on MET Projects, at the initiative of the WMO Tropical Cyclone Task Force, discussed the possibility of requesting the establishment of a tropical cyclone advisory centre (TCAC) for

the South Atlantic Ocean. The World Meteorological Organization had noted deep depressions off the coasts of Brazil and Argentina, and therefore considered recommending the requirement for a TCAC for the South Atlantic in the CAR/SAM Regional Air Navigation Plan.

2.3 The Secretariat forwarded this request to the PPRC/5 meeting. The PPRC/5 meeting approved this requirement, which was forwarded to the Air Navigation Commission for consideration and approval.

2.4 The requirement for the establishment of a TCAC is under consideration by ICAO and the technical aspects for its implementation are being studied.

Volcanic ash SIGMET exercises

2.5 The SAM Region conducted the volcanic ash exercise in December 2020. The results of the exercise will be presented by the representative of the Buenos Aires VAAC.

Cooperation agreements with the volcano observatories of the States

2.6 The Meeting should recall the need to establish operational agreements with the volcano observatories of the States, which should include the issuance of VONAs by these observatories.

2.7 The States that have entered into agreements are:

- Argentina
- Chile
- Ecuador
- Peru

2.8 The Secretariat invites States that have volcano observatories to enter into operational agreements with them.

Volcanic Ash Contingency Plans

2.9 In 2016, the Secretariat approved the Volcanic Ash Contingency Plan (VACP/1). This plan involves the ATM, AGA, AIM, and MET areas.

2.10 The Secretariat requests that information be provided on the status of the volcanic ash contingency plans, to which end it is requested that the table in **Appendix A** be completed.

3. **Suggested action**

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this working paper;
- b) complete the table in Appendix A;
- c) provide information on operational agreements with volcano observatories; and
- d) take any other action it may deem appropriate.

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Appendix A

Follow-up table for the implementation of Volcanic Ash Contingency Plans

Contingency Plans on Volcanic Ash – SAM Region			
State	Involved Areas	Validity Date	Actions to update
Argentina			
Bolivia			
Brazil			
Chile			
Colombia			
Ecuador			
Guyana			
French Guyana			
Panama			
Paraguay			
Peru			
Suriname			
Uruguay			
Venezuela			